

CCA NEWSLETTER



Wendy's Chair's Report



I hope everyone had a lovely Easter break and isn't it wonderful that Spring has sprung – even if that maybe short lived!!

It's a wonderful time to own alpacas as the grass comes green again and birthing season is almost upon us – albeit via shearing which is probably no-ones real favourite activity truth be told!

Speaking of birthing, our first vet day of the year is just round the corner. A timely reminder of all things birthing related, Sarah Finch will be running the half-day session for us at Popham Farm – many thanks to Ben and Caroline for hosting. Please sign up for your places and make payment to the CCA bank account asap to secure it – it is £25 for members and £35 for non-members – a brilliant price which the CCA is pleased to subsidise for the group.

The Spring show season is also firmly underway with the National Show behind us and the 'new look' Cornwall Halter Show and the Fleece Show both ahead of us.

The Nationals were exhausting but great all at the same time, with some good results for both the Dark Sky and Little Acorn teams who were both there in force. Nigel was also captured 'batting for the other side' in the show ring helping another exhibitor show her Suri no less – we are not sure what we think about that.

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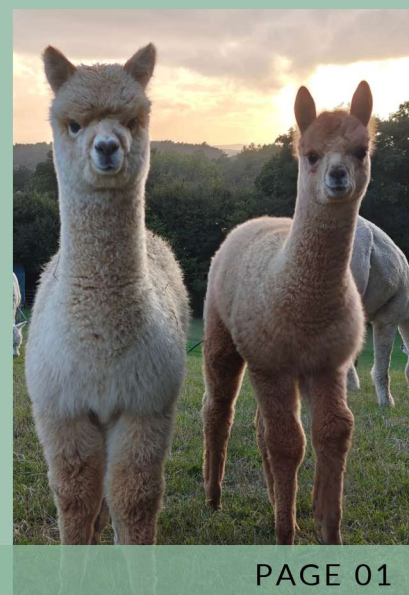
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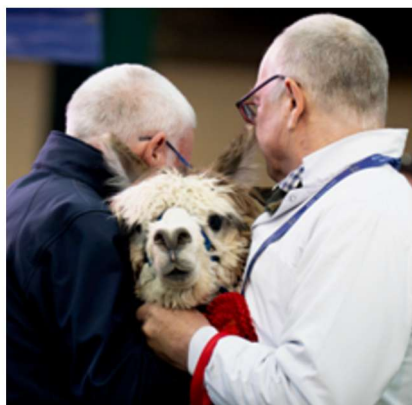
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Chair's Report - continued and CCA Halter Show



Looking ahead to the Cornwall Halter Show on Saturday 2nd May, we are delighted to have received 83 entries, including 2 new exhibitors and 3 herds outside the CCA – rosettes and sashes are ordered, and the judges, Caroline Barugh and Mary-Jo Smith are raring to go. Caroline is particularly excited as this is her first official show since qualifying as a BAS judge. Even if you haven't entered, it's a wonderful day out so do come and visit – we are at MA Griggs (who also have a wonderful restaurant and shop!!

For the Fleece Show on Saturday 18th July, I'm pleased to announce that Nick Harrington-Smith will be judging and we will be hosting at Dark Sky Alpacas. If you'd like to come along and help out with the show and also benefit from learning about fleece judging in the process, please let us know. Novices are completely welcome – full instructions will be provided.

Hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter – we have some lovely features from members and an advert for a zoom call that we are going to set up sometime over the summer with Far From Travel to whet your appetite!

Best of luck to all those who have cria due and don't forget that all your CCA friends are there to help and support in case of need.

All the very best

Wendy

CCA Halter Show 2026

Saturday 2nd May 2026

Get Directions:

M A GRIGG LTD, Pendennis, Lower Sticker,
St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 7JH

Excitement is building as we count down the final few weeks to the Cornwall Camelid Association halter show at Griggs—let's hope the weather is kind to us! It's always a fantastic day bringing together our community of breeders, exhibitors, and enthusiasts, and we're really looking forward to another great show this year.

We're currently inviting exhibitors and businesses to advertise in our show catalogue—an excellent opportunity to showcase what you do and support the event. We're also looking for friendly volunteers to help everything run smoothly on the day, whether that's setting up, assisting in the ring, or helping behind the scenes.

If you'd like to get involved in any way, please do get in touch with Hannah or Alex—we'd love to have your support and help make this year's show the best one yet!

Hannah Price, Little Acorn Alpacas

Birthing refresher workshop



Date & Time: 10am to 1pm, Saturday 18th April 2026

Venue: Popham Farmhouse, Hatt, Saltash, PL12 6RB

Cost: £25pp members, £35pp non-members (includes lunch)

It's that time of year again to unpack the birthing kit and queries and get yourselves set! This in-person workshop offers the opportunity to:

- ensure you are doing all you need to support the pregnant female and developing cria
- use a birthing simulator to practice assisted delivery
- a post-mortem to review anatomy and practice stomach tubing
- cria care and management
- emergency revival tips

Many of you have attended this regularly and the feedback is always that it is nice to have a refresher and feel ready! It is also invaluable for people to share knowledge and experience of the good and bad...which we all learn from.

It is likely that we will be using a dead lamb in the simulator as the cria I have is older and too big and will likely be reserved for the vet day later in the year - the principles and feel are very similar.

Any questions or suggestions for the event are greatly received!

Sarah

Teresa and Tracey - FECAL TESTING ONE DAY COURSE WITH SUE THOMAS Lyme Alpacas

We learnt at the recent CCA Vet Day how the seasons and hence parasite threats are changing, with parasites appearing when we're not expecting them and it becoming a more year-round issue. And having seen Charlotte's demonstration of how simple the process of preparing a faecal sample and looking at it under the microscope was, we felt it was time to bite the bullet and start doing our own faecal egg testing.

So Tracey and I decided to do the face-to-face course, for several reasons. I'm a little kack-handed, and I tend to like asking lots of "why" questions to aid my own understanding. Also, when I'd had a play with a microscope before I'd struggled to get the "plane of focus" right. Although it's a small amount of liquid you put in the slide, to a microscope it is VERY deep and you need to focus at the right depth/on the right "plane" (in this case the top of the sugar flotation solution). Tracey is much more practical/hands-on than me but had never used a microscope before and was more worried that she wouldn't understand the science. (And being very busy people, we just LOVE the chance of a day out together)!



But we needn't have worried....

The plane of focus was easy once Sue explained that the grid lines were printed on the underside of the top side of the slide and got us to focus on those (all the worm eggs would float and be pressed up against them). For anybody wondering about the online course, it includes a module to explain/demonstrate this. And having been a science teacher in a former career, Sue was very good at putting across the scientific information in a very relatable way. Tracey actually got really excited about the science (I never thought I'd see the day, she normally rolls her eyes when I try and explain the science behind some of the nutrition to her - but maybe that's more like trying to teach a family member)!

We learnt about and tried out the process for ourselves: making up the sugar solution to the right concentration (specific gravity): measuring out poo samples and mixing it with the right amount of sugar solution (if you're wondering, that's where the tea strainers come in); putting into the chambers on the slide; and very importantly, learning that we had to leave it for 5 minutes (which seemed an age) before we looked at it to give the heavier eggs a chance to float.

She went through the microscope and how to use it with us (and gave us buying tips). Then we got to actually look at our own animals poo samples (we had to take 5 or 6 each), with Sue stood at our shoulder advising us and mostly shouting out "Rubbish" as we queried every type of debris possible in the early stages. That certainly became the "word of the day" (and since when Tracey and I have done our FECs together). There was an amazing amount of debris to be seen (grass root hairs, bits of vegetation, pollen, etc.) as well as air bubbles (which were actually really handy to help with focusing as they too also floated to the top).

Once we'd cracked the focusing and got used to ignoring all the debris, the identification really wasn't difficult as the eggs stood out very clearly (and there's only a few types to worry about). Sue showed us lots of pictures - both of the different eggs and the different types of debris so that we knew what was important and what we could just ignore.

It was very funny how disappointed we both got when we were NOT able to find any eggs or oocyst (the official word for cocci "eggs") in a sample! Although that was what, as owners, we ideally wanted!

The whole day was fab! Sue and her husband (and their beautiful pointers) made us feel very welcome and kept us sustained with a lovely lunch.

The Benefits for Us

We are Able to do More Testing

We've always done FECs across a good percentage of our adult herd in the spring and autumn and only treat accordingly. Now we will be able to do more frequent monitoring and of more animals.

And if we have an animal that has lost weight, we are able to turn an FEC test round in 20-40 minutes rather than wait for 24 hours or more for a lab test (although we will still use this route if we have any concerns about the animal and as an occasional validation/calibration).

And it has already saved us money.

We have for many years, routinely treated our cria (as a precaution) at regular stages up to and after weaning. I particularly worry about cocci, especially as mine come indoors every night. Interestingly, the cria samples I took to the course were from cria at mine that were due for their regular treatment. But when we tested them they were absolutely clear and didn't need treating!

And when we sold some young boys recently, it was lovely to send our group of young boys off to their new home having done faecal egg counts on them all ourselves and KNOWING they were clear! We would normally give animals leaving our farm a quarantine/exit parasite treatment as a matter of routine but this time we KNEW it just wasn't needed.

So, not only is this going to save us money from testing, but hopefully on drugs too as we're hoping we can reduce those regular treatments. This will be better, not only for our pockets but also better for the animals, antibiotic resistance and the environment!



CHAT - CHy Lowen Alpacas Tregas

Mary Harvey



CHAT is a non profit project, dedicated to helping children and young adults with a variety of issues, using AAI (Animal Assisted Intervention)

If someone had told me that my retirement from teaching would involve cutting Alpacas' toenails I wouldn't have believed them!

I was all pencil-skirts & high heels; now it's jeans or jodhpurs, muddy wellies & waterproofs and I love it!

We have 3 Llamas, 7 Alpacas, 4 Miniature Horses and beautiful Lily Laskine our Exmoor Pony at CHAT our Animal Assisted Interventions project.

We've been established for approximately 20 years as a not-for-profit venture, so never charge for our services. We receive referrals from GP's Surgeries via Social Prescribers, schools & also private referrals who have heard about what we do.

Alpacas and Llamas are masters in defining personal space! Their innate step-away reflex is a great way to illustrate the difference between personal & intimate space; many of our students have experienced difficulties getting too close to other people, intruding on personal space so we can show that very clearly.

We also find that students who would otherwise not speak in a conventional Counselling situation will talk about issues whilst they are brushing a Llama, cuddling their favourite Alpaca or grooming a Pony.

Bereavement is an issue for many of our students; our culture doesn't tend to talk much about death or dying, whereas I have Italian friends who are much more open about the issue, so we provide a space where the students can talk openly about the issue if they need to.

Death is a fact of life; so if we have an animal that is terminally ill we are very open and honest about it with the students. When Wally our previous Exmoor Pony needed to be "put to sleep" we talked it through with any of the students who wanted to know and cried with them too when he "went over the rainbow bridge".

CCA members pages

There's lots of laughter to at CHAT too, usually at my expense when Theo Alpaca spits at me or I fall over again! (I have Joint Hypermobility so often fall unexpectedly!)

We welcome visitors so come and meet Sparkles the Unicorn aka Billy Pony!

Mary's contact details:

Mobile: 07886-529880

Email: maryharvey567@btinternet.com

I usually say text please as people often phone while I'm cutting an Alpaca's toenails and it's never a good time to answer.

We're on site 7 days per week 10am-1pm.



CCA members and frinds at the - 2026 BAS Nationals



Little Acorn Alpacas



Members and friends at the - BAS 2026 Nationals

Carpalla Alpacas

We didn't show any animals at the recent bas National show but I took some craft creations up. Very proud of our three second place rosettes achieved in sizeable classes.



Dark Sky Alpacas

Great weekend at the National Show for the Dark Sky team



Herd reduction

Due to ill health one of our members, in the Truro area is needing to reduce their herd numbers soon. Most of the herd are huacaya, the foundation genetics were, Popham, Inca, Rosecraddock, Fowberry and Patou.

All the males are now castrated, so would be a fleece producers or pets. The owner would like to find good homes at reduced prices for the younger females, aged 2 – 3 years, most have produced cria though there some non breeding girls there which could be aunties. The main colours are fawn, brown, black and potentially for sale in a group, grey.

The first group have left (photo below, a group of 4 boys enjoying their new home), a further group will be departing mid april so viewings can be arranged from then.

If you are interested, please contact me, Sandra Muriel on 07870 612559 or email alpacasofcornwallsm@gmail.com. I have direct contact with the owner and stockman so can convey enquiries or details.



FAR FROM

Work-for-accommodation is a model where trusted volunteers contribute a few hours of practical help each day in return for accommodation with you. No employer obligations, no complex arrangements. Just an extra pair of hands when you need them most.

What can volunteers help with?

On the land:

- Animal care; mucking-out/ feeding
- Harvest season
- General outdoor/ farm tasks
- Pasture maintenance

Around the property:

- DIY projects (Painting, decorating)
- Photography and social media
- Event and seasonal prep
- House and pet sitting

Example hosts:



Glamping on an Alpaca farm, Wales

• Kinnerton

• 2-3 hours per day • 2 days off per week

• Private Self-Contained Unit



Organic Farm in the Clun Hills

• Newcastle In Clun

• 3-4 hours per day • 2 days off per week

• Private Room & Private Bathroom



Glamping with Alpacas, rural Wales

• Newport

• 2-3 hours per day • 2 days off per week

• Private Room & Shared Bathroom



Exclusive webinar for CCA members – JUNE 2026

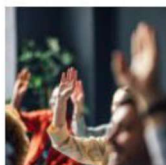
We'll cover how work-for-accommodation works in practice, what hosting involves day-to-day, and answering your questions. Exact date to be confirmed.

Sign up today

Use code **ALPACA26** to get an exclusive 30% off your host annual subscription – Unlimited volunteers for the year!

• www.farfromtravel.com
✉ hello@farfromtravel.com
📷 [@farfromtravel](https://www.instagram.com/farfromtravel)

CCA Planned Calendar of Events 2026



Tuesday January 27th
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Plus
Presentation on 'Caring for Aging Alpacas'
by Phillippa Hampson,
Coast to Coast Vets
Virtual meeting held by 'Zoom'
Time: 7pm to 9pm

- Review 2025 activities and accounts & agree 2026 plans
- Confirm committee members and officers
- After the AGM business, a presentation on Caring for Aging alpacas – a topic relevant to all members with some very practical insights from Phillippa who is an alpaca owner, CCA member and vet at Coast to Coast



Sunday March 1st
Members Dinner
Lunch at The Plume of Feathers, Mitchell TR8 5AX
Time: 12:30 to 3pm(ish)

- An opportunity to meet, have a good chat and enjoy a lovely lunch
- Great for new members to get to know other alpaca and llama owners and for long standing members to have a good old catch up too



Saturday April 18th
Birthing Refresher
Half day
Venue to be confirmed

- A timely refresher for all members expecting cria to be born on their farms from our honorary vet
- Practical and down to earth half day session including chance to use the birthing simulator
- A show where your alpacas will be judged by a BAS Judge
- Great opportunity to get some show experience locally before entering other shows
- Good friendly competition



Saturday May 2nd
Halter Show
Held outside at Griggs, St Austell PL26 7JH

- Enter the Cornwall Fleece show alongside BAS exhibitors from across the country
- Fleeces are judged by a BAS Judge and Champions are eligible to enter the National Champion of Champions show in March 2027



Saturday July 18th
Cornwall Fleece Show
Judging at Dark Sky Alpacas, St Breward PL30 4PG

- Learn more about caring for your alpacas from experienced alpaca Vets
- Share practical experience and information with other alpaca breeders



Late October / early November
Vet Day
Held at Carpalla Alpacas, Foxhole PL26 7FD