



*Wishing you and all your Alpacas and Llamas a
Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2026*

It's been another year packed with learning, fun and community for the CCA! Thank you to everyone for bringing your love of alpacas and commitment to supporting one another – it's great to have such a great group of people in the South West flying the flag for these wonderful animals.

Each year, our association is growing in numbers. We warmly welcome all the new members in 2025 and thank long standing members for their continued energy and commitment.

This year's programme has included all our favourite events. We kicked the year off with our **AGM** call in January and then our lovely **members lunch** in February. All are invited to participate in both again in 2026.

Our honorary Camelid specialist Vet, Sarah Finch, hosted this year's **Birthing Refresher** in April at her farm where members, old and new, tuned in to the birthing season and gained some valuable birthing practice using the simulator.

Hot on the heels in May was the **Halter Show** for members at Griggs in St Austell. The committee's hard work was recognised by all and even the weather shone down in approval! We were really pleased to have many members visit the show in addition to those who exhibited their alpacas.

Next up was the **Cornwall Fleece Show** in July – open to BAS members across the country and well supported as ever by CCA members including a great team of volunteers who helped to set up and run the show on the day. Helping out is a fabulous way to see lots of lovely fleeces and learn more about the judging process so do get involved in 2026 if that sounds interesting – no experience necessary.

In early October, we were invited to a talk on **Caring for the Aging Camelid** by CCA member and Vet Phillippa Hampson. Those who were able to go found it really informative so I'm very pleased to say that Phillippa has agreed to do a virtual version as part of our AGM on January 27th – a great opportunity for lots more members to benefit.

And then it was time for the annual **Vet Day**, hosted once again at Carpalla in early November. Sarah was ably assisted by fellow Castle Farm Vet, Charlotte Bain, and the topic was relevant to every single one of us – parasites. OK, so not very glamorous (!) but brilliantly brought to life and giving us all practical, actionable learning. (You can read more about this later in the newsletter)

Throughout the year, behind the scenes, Nigel Retallack has been the **Welfare** representative for the region, working with a network of regional group and BAS contacts across the country to assist owners and sometimes rehome alpacas. Please do let us know if you feel you would be able to assist with this important area next year.

As you can see, the committee have been hard at work and we all really hope that, if you were able to attend some or all of the events, you found them useful and enjoyable.

Next year's programme is now being planned and we will discuss and take additional ideas during the **AGM** – please do save the date if you are able to join via a Zoom call from **7pm to 9pm on Tuesday 27th January 2026**. We will also be reviewing the accounts, confirming committee members and finishing up the meeting with a talk on Caring for Aging Alpacas, as I mentioned earlier. All the papers and agenda will be emailed to you in early January along with the call details.

We have just a couple of articles for you in this short newsletter – a review of the Vet Day from Teresa Wilton-Way and Sandra Muriel's experience of the new Innovative Fleece Show which took place at Alpaca Evolution this autumn. This was an interesting new format show and Tom and I also entered some Dark Sky fleeces. We were particularly proud to be awarded Champion White Suri with an Advanced Fleece commendation for Dark Sky Shaggy, one of our up and coming stud males 😊 Sandra shares more details on her entries and what she learned from the new show – which will be on again this year if anyone is interested in entering.

Our next full newsletter will be out in the Spring – so please feel free to send in any contributions 😊

That just leaves me to thank the committee and all of our members for being part of such a great community here in Cornwall and Devon, and to wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We may not be able to control the economy or the climate, but we can always enjoy our special relationship with our alpacas and continue to develop our expertise and knowledge of how to care for them and use their wonderful fleece – and the CCA will be here to support you in that quest in 2026!

Wendy Scott
CCA Chair

Ps A special mention to the Christmas Elf (aka Beatrice Price) who has been busy at Little Acorn Farm and putting a big smile on our faces with her facebook posts !

Vet Day Review – Teresa Wilton-Way



The topic of parasites isn't exactly a sexy one and I'm sure some weren't particularly inspired when it was announced. However, the day was absolutely fabulous.

The demonstration of how Faecal Egg Counts (FECs) are done was interesting to watch, and a little demystifying for people who hadn't seen it before.

The topic of different parasites, their lifecycle and the conditions loved by them to multiply was covered in a really fun way, aided by an inflatable alpaca (called Austin), and some very colourful diagrams highlighting his stomach and intestinal anatomy. And this was topped off by Wendy, very amusingly, running round with an inflatable alpaca head pretending to graze middens (to help demonstrate parasite lifecycles)!

Pasture management was talked about, including how to plan paddock rotations based on parasite management. And even the choice of grass/plant species in your paddocks as this can help reduce parasite burdens.

There was also an extremely useful talk on treatments for the various parasites, which included the types of drench, when and what to use them for and the latest recommended camelid doses for the various products. There was also mention of the recent barbers pole vaccine (which has some research supporting it's efficacy in camelids) and a an injectable product for fluke which is now actually licenced for camelids!

Sarah & Charlotte also announced a negotiated discount of **20%** on Sue Lyme's new online FEC course, for any CCA member that wants to do their own. That is certainly value for money.

Thanks also to Margaret and Nigel for hosting the day, with the usual yummy cakes and a pasty lunch.

Innovative Fleece Assessment Show 2025



Crewenna Alpacas, Sandra Muriel

I was thrilled with our results for the 2 fleeces I entered for huacaya section of the Innovative Fleece Assessment Show. The scoring was different to the BAS Fleece scoring, taking into account longevity of traits and results grouped in micron rather than ages of the alpaca. I decided to entered mother and daughter fleeces to have assessment to compare the generations, both bred here. Utterly surprised but extremely proud to be awarded Spirit of the Industry Huacaya 🏆

Our results are:

CREWENNA FORTUNA. (CREWENNA CONTESSA REGAL x CREWENNA BLAZE OF GLORY)

Grade 1, 3rd place, LONGEVITY award and ADVANCED STYLE award

CREWENNA CONTESSA REGAL. (FOWBERRY REGAL LILY [sister to Fowberry Nobility]) x EP FORTITUDE

Grade 2, 1st place, LONGEVITY awards, ADVANCED STYLE award and.....SPIRIT OF THE INDUSTRY.

I was privileged to be able to purchase Fowberry Regal Lily with a cria at foot and pregnant to Ep Fortitude. The cria at foot is Crewenna Corinthian (sired by EP GOLDEN AGE now standing at Acton Hill); Corinthian has won us numerous sashes, including Cornwall Fleece Show White Champion and SUPREME, going on to BAS NATIONAL FLEECE RESERVE CHAMPION WHITE 2024 🏆

His half sister CONTESSA REGAL is following up his success with her own awards, in particular this Spirit of the Industry award.

Her daughter FORTUNA has consistent high 70/80 point fleece scores.

