

Shear Wensleydale Newsletter



Edition 1 AUTUMN 2017

Welcome to our very first newsletter! We are a family-run business raising sheep in Lower Wensleydale. Three generations of us live on our small holding and we are involved in everything from lambing through to shearing, spinning through to knitting / crocheting and selling! We produce fine yarns, fleeces and garments and operate a tearoom and award-winning bed and breakfast.

Upcoming Events at Shear Wensleydale

Craft and Natter last Tuesday of the month 11am - 3pm

Courses: Prices include lunch, drinks, snacks and materials. Pre-booking essential.

Needle Felt Robins Friday 15th Dec 2017 at 10.30 £40 Knitting February 2018 £50

Spinning 28th January 2018 at 10.30 £70 Spinning 18th March 2018 at 10.30 £70

Masham Sheep fair It was wonderful to have so many people visit our stand at the Masham Sheep Fair. Two of our lovely lambs joined us on the Saturday and basked in the attention and fuss that was lavished upon them. We brought a wide range of our products including handmade garments and raw materials. A highlight for us was the conversations that we had with all the visitors who share our passion for yarn and Wensleydale fleece in particular. The exchange of knowledge, information and expertise was great for us all.



Our stand at the Sheep Fair

We will be attending other wool events and will let you know where we will be next. We will obviously tell you about them in the newsletter and all our online accounts including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Ravelry.

Competition Winners Congratulations go to KT and to MB both from North Yorkshire, who won our competitions at Masham. We hope you enjoy your prizes! We will be running some more competitions soon on our social media pages.

Our flock continue to thrive. Each morning when we open the curtains we can see them grazing in the fields in front of the house. Most of our flock are Wensleydales, both white and coloured, but we also have some Ryelands and Northern Mules which bring variety to the flock and are full of character.



Our beautiful flock in action

During the summer it felt like we had a couple of juvenile delinquents on our hands. Two of last year's lambs, who were too young to be in lamb themselves, were always looking for new ways to escape, or pinch food or knock over hurdles. They have settled down now – but they are still the first ones to greet us when we walk into a field!

Our tups (rams) are looking forward to joining our ladies within the next few days. Five months after that we will look forward to the patter of tiny hooves. This year's lambs are thriving and their fleeces are looking lustrous. When they are sheared for the first time next year we should get some fantastic locks and wool.

Shear Wensleydale, Elmfield House / West Park House, Arrathorne. North Yorkshire. DL8 1NE

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Focus in on..... Our wonderful Aran yarn is perfect for the season and knits up into a warm, cosy fabric with a soft halo. Perfect for the crisp autumn days ahead, and shown here in Horse Chestnut, Rowan and Hellebore, it is great value at £6.50 for a 100g ball (166 mtrs / 182 yds)



Our tearoom We got permission to open a tearoom over the summer on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday each week from 11:00am until 3:00pm. We serve homemade cakes and scones as well as hot and cold drinks. It is difficult to say what is our most popular item – cream scones on hot days – but as the nights begin to draw in coffee cake and ginger parkin are proving popular! Our recipe for parkin is attached with this newsletter for you to try.

We also have a display in the café of our yarns and other products. It is looking particularly vibrant at the moment with our pompom dahlias and autumn inspired hand-dyes. We love setting up the tearoom, as not only can we see the sheep from the conservatory but we can often hear them bleating in the fields.

We are situated on the road from Patrick Brompton to Richmond here in Wensleydale, just off the A684. Our postcode is DL8 1NE. Feel free to pop in to see us! The tearoom is closed from 20th Dec to 24th March – if you would like to visit us during this time – please just ring us before your visit.



Afternoon tea in high summer

Shear Wensleydale's Ginger Parkin

Ingredients:

225g/8oz self-raising flour	1 egg
110g/4oz caster sugar	200ml/7fl oz milk
1 tsp ground ginger	110g/4oz golden syrup
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda	55g/2oz butter

Method

Preheat oven to 150C/300F/Gas 2. Line tin 22cm/8in. Sieve flour, sugar, ginger and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl.

Gently heat the butter and syrup until melted.

Beat the egg into the milk.

Gradually pour the butter and syrup into the flour and stir. The mixture will be thick.

Pour in the egg and milk and stir until smooth and pour into the lined tin.

Bake for about an hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean

Lovely with a cup of coffee and some knitting!

Elmfield House

Or... if you want to visit us and stay a little longer, then why not enjoy a relaxing break in Wensleydale? Elmfield House is our award-winning Bed and Breakfast and holiday cottage run from the same site as Shear Wensleydale. www.elmfieldhouse.co.uk. And at the moment you can stay three nights for the price of two!

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