



Update from the President

March 2026

Welcome to Spring! Finally, some sunshine. It's very welcome and a joy to be out doing pre lambing visits in the sun. We have had a very busy start to the year. The committee and I have been reviewing, discussing, critically appraising and advising on many topics and I am very grateful to have an involved committee who make time to discuss and provide comments on some tricky topics. I have attended along with other members, meetings with DEFRA, RHWG, NSA, and others to discuss the tailing and castrating consultation. We tried to provide a balanced response, and I thank all members for attending our Monday lunchtime discussion.

As a member of the SCOPS steering group I had the pleasure of being involved with the SCOPS, SVS, RUMA and BVA led webinar on Nematodirus and changes to the forecasting map. This boosted collaboration with all parties on the control of parasites in sheep and the importance of using all available tools and evidence to help our sheep farmer clients make good treatment decisions. SVS sees parasite control as a focus of our conferences and CPD provision as we will continue to build on this each year.

The Defra Animal Health and Welfare Pathway: Mandatory Proposals Consultation (England) is now the focus of current discussions, and I will be part of a NSA panel webinar on the 25th March to discuss the implications for us as vets and our sheep farmer clients. I urge those who haven't yet been involved in the Pathway in England to make a start with clients this Spring, by means of the first review visit and a wormer treatment check. There is currently funding available for this, with the proposals for flock health planning to become mandatory in future years.

Thank you to other committee members and to SVS members who are volunteering their time to be involved and represent SVS in Red Tractor farm assurance discussions, Vaccine Target Task Force, Sheep Antibiotic Guardian group, Sheep Scab, UK Ruminant Antibiotic Stewardship Roadmap, WATOK and OPA working group discussions and many others. Please contact us if you are an SVS member and find yourself requiring support in a particular area of discussion.

We welcome the changes to the Livestock worrying law, with fines of unlimited amounts and powers to seize and detain suspect dogs. The NSA has been pivotal in this change along with other organisations and some of our SVS members.

We are delighted that Ceva are once again supporting us to put local Sheep Meet discussion meetings on – please let us know if you would like to organise one in your area!

Agnes Winter

We were ALL saddened to hear of Agnes' passing in December last year, especially after seeing Agnes looking well at the Autumn Conference. I know she was important to so many of us and as such we will be holding some talks and a memorial session in this year's Autumn conference in Ireland, with Ruth her sister in attendance.

We also want to launch a research grant award in Agnes Winter's name to ensure that her legacy lives on. We will be providing further details on this in the virtual conference in May.

NEW

UK Lambing Survey 2026

We are joining with partners below from across the industry to run this survey to collect data on lambing practices, Schmallenberg, Bluetongue & medicine use at lambing time – please do pass this link & QR code on to your clients and encourage them to contribute (it only takes 12 minutes to complete) – <https://bit.ly/lambingsurvey2026>



SCOPS Blowfly emergence forecast

Eric Morgan and Chris McFarland from QUB to develop a blowfly emergence forecast for SCOPS. This is based on Richard Wall's Blowfly Strike Risk model.

To report a case of blowfly strike go to:

https://farmanimal.elanco.com/en_gb/sheep/sheep-blowflies/blowfly-tracker



Follow us Instagram – Sheepvetsoc

SVS have signed up to Instagram, please increase our followers.

Forthcoming events

- Sheep Meet local events – there could be one near you – please check out our website for details.
- Virtual Spring meeting on Monday 11th May 2026, which also promises to be very interesting, see enclosed the detailed programme.
- SVS Autumn conference in Kilkenny, Ireland from 28th – 30th September 2026
 - **Call out for abstracts for the Autumn Conference, e-mail secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk**
- European College Small Ruminant Health Management conference will be held in the Netherlands at Utrecht University and wants to welcome ALL SVS members to attend. 11th – 13th November.
<https://events.ecsrhm.org/annualmeeting2026/>
- Sheep Breeders Round Table (SBRT) 2026 conference in East Midlands from 20th – 22nd November 2026

If you are interested in further details on any of the content, please get in touch secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

I look forward to seeing many of you in online in May and at industry events over the summer months.

Get out into the sun and onto the trails, run, walk or bike. Dip or swim for those braver than I! I'm sussing out trails and dip spots for those who can join us in Ireland! I tested the Guinness at the Ireland V Wales game and it's still good.

Thanks to all members and the committee for the continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Phillipa Page, BVSc BSc MRCVS
Sheep Veterinary Society President

Nominations for Membership of the Sheep Veterinary Society

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>Membership</u>
<i>From September 2025</i>			
Mari Paulson	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Olivia Holmes	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Cara MacGregor	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full members
Serena Broad	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Aaron Engel	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Will Allman	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Callum Haddow	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Najva Zivdari	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Hannah Tucker	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Vanessa Stanbridge	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Associate member
Annalisa Loria	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Hettie Russell	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Tom Chester	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Lucy Spreull	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Craig Campbell	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Gill Whitehurst	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Ailsa Milnes	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Harry Collas	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Lisa Phipps	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Full member
Joshua Howell	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Scarlett Whittaker	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Student & New graduate
Refugee FREE membership			
Nour Mohamed	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Olesksandra Cherniavska	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Syedehmahsa Sharifnia	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Muhammad Awais Sultan	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Asad Ullah Haroon Mayo	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Mounir Mokrani	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership
Salman Nazir Bou Assy	Phillipa Page	Jonathan Hobbs	Refugee membership



SHEEP VETERINARY SOCIETY

Division of the British Veterinary Association

Ordinary General Meeting of the Sheep Veterinary Society

**Monday 11th May 2026
Online**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. AGM minutes from Llandrindod Wells meeting on 23rd September 2025
3. Matters arising
4. Items arising from Executive Committee Meeting
5. Election of new members
6. Any other business

Constance Lesnianski and Fiona Lovatt
Honorary Secretary