



Jacob Sheep Society
Central Region Open Day
Sunday 14 May 2017 – 11.00am
Please reply by Monday 8 May 2017

To be held at Fir Tree Farm, Breach Oak Lane, Fillongley, Coventry,
West Midlands, CV7 8DE

by kind invitation of Alan & Jane Nightingale

The Firtree Flock was started in 2008 with the purchase of 5 'affordable' ewes from Worcester Sale. For the first few years it was necessary to keep all female progeny, but in the past five years the Nightingale's have been able to cull more selectively in order to improve the overall quality of the flock.

In the first few years the Nightingale's hired rams from local breeders and then, with the need to lamb earlier in the season, they purchased their own ram. Since 2013 they have used Border Romany, then Grove Tom and have recently purchased Border Viceroy. The aim of the Nightingales is to improve their breeding stock through careful selection of home bred ewes and to produce quality lamb sold directly to their customers.

They have just begun to enter some shows in order to promote their flock. For the first time last year they entered the shearling classes with a home bred ewe and ram. The ewe, Firtree Greta, was very successful, winning Reserve Champion Jacob at Blaston Show; Champion Jacob at Ashby Show; Champion Jacob and Reserve Native Champion at Moreton Show. The Nightingales currently have on the holding 24 breeding ewes, 13 shearlings, 47 lambs and 4 rams.

Programme for the Day:

11.00am - Arrival at Fir Tree Farm – Coffee & Biscuits

11.30am - Introduction to the farm & flock.

Shearling Ewe Assessment: Thirteen shearling ewes have been retained from last year from which up to half a dozen will join the flock. Alan and Jane have already made their selection but members will have the opportunity to make their own assessments. The Chairman, Mr Clive Richardson, has very kindly agreed to make his own assessment and then to explain his reasons for his choices. There will be a prize for the nearest correlation with his choice.

1.00pm - Barbecue Lunch

2.30pm - **Showing Etiquette & Showing Sheep to their Best Advantage in the Show Ring:** The Nightingales have a number of sheep that have been halter trained. There will be a mock show ring and handlers will bring out the sheep in front of 2 experienced judges, Mrs Jean Blacknell and Mr John Emberton, who will explain how to get the best out of your sheep in the Show Ring.

There will be a charge to cover costs of £8.00 for adults and £2.00 for children under 12. If you would like further information please contact Lucy Thompson - 01335 360247 – mob: 07745 931924 lucy@culland.co.uk or speak to any member of the Central Region Committee.

I/We wish to attend the Open Day on Sunday 14 May 2017

Name		Member No.	
Number attending	Adults @ £8.00	Children under 12 @ £2.00	

Please send this slip to Lucy Thompson, Culland Hall, Brailsford, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 3BW, together with a cheque payable to JSS, to arrive by 8 May 2017