

## MIDLAND DEXTER GROUP

Secretary: Ann Williams  
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### Newsletter April 2009

Just a brief note on this occasion as the accompanying minutes cover most items.

#### Visit to the Boram Herd following the AGM on 5 April

The meeting was held in the beautiful surroundings of the Cotswold village of Barton on the Heath and blessed with somewhat warmer weather than last year's AGM.

After a generous post-meeting lunch in the village hall the 28 members who attended made the short walk to where our hosts, Alison and Rob Kirk, keep most of their cattle.

The cattle, all looking very well and content, were still housed and we were able to see the spring calving well under way, with a cow and a first-time heifer performing on-cue during our visit. Boram Dexters receive no concentrates and graze Cotswold grassland during the summer and are fed home-produced haylage during the winter months. Alison and Rob sell the beef from their steers and heifers to high-class establishments and private customers in the North Cotswolds. (I can vouch personally for the delicious Dexter beef carpaccio served at one well known award-winning Cotswold hostelry !) They have been weighing their store cattle regularly and were able to provide us with comparative figures which clearly showed that they were achieving similar weights at 23 months in 2009 to those reached at 27 months in 2008, an indication that the new red-clover enriched haylage they have been feeding to this winter to the store animals is paying dividends. As we walked round Alison and Rob answered questions about this and many other aspects of their herd. The very pleasant and informative day ended with afternoon tea back at the village hall. (See The MDG website for more on the AGM and visit).

Alison and Rob have kindly invited us back on Sunday 7 June for an informal meeting and picnic. Full details of this and the Herd Visit hosted by Mike and Sue Bancroft on Sunday 25 July will be confirmed nearer the time.

#### Young Stock Persons Award

Congratulations to Jenny Lewis for all the work she has put in to the excellent folder she submitted, for which she has once again received the award.

If there are any new young members out there who would like to submit a folder this year, get in touch with Gordon Taylor for details.

#### MDG Committee 2009

|            |                |              |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Chairman:  | Maurice Day    | 01299 832589 |
| Vicechair: | Gordon Taylor  | 01827 893461 |
| Treasurer: | Pete Lancaster | 01386 833836 |
| Secretary: | Ann Williams   | 01564 784183 |

#### General Committee:

Alison Kirk, Robert Williams, Gill Lancaster, Natasha Lewis, David Williams

REMINDER: MDG membership subscriptions due now.

If you have not already paid could you let Pete Lancaster have your cheque by 30 April made out to "Midland Dexter Group" and sent to Pete at

Church Farm, Church Lane, South Littleton, Worcs. WR11 8TJ

Best Wishes

*Ann Williams*