

# The Market Report

## APRIL PONDERINGS

### Marking a 60 Year Anniversary

Back in March 1962 a young Miss Judith Gray started her career at Bletsoes as an Office Junior. 60 years on, Judith Ayres still has a key role within the Bletsoes team as Archivist and Receptionist.

Judith grew up in Titchmarsh and following her time at Thrapston School and a Commercial course at Kettering Technical College, she started working for Bletsoes on 26th March 1962, answering the telephone in the office and assisting in the livestock market. At the time Bletsoes held weekly markets at Thrapston, with considerable numbers of cattle, sheep and pigs, as well as some Special Sales. In the market, Judith was involved with weighing the sorted sheep and she remembers that the “new” pig building and penning was constructed during those early years.

Judith says the biggest change during her time with Bletsoes has been the advances in technology. There were no calculators in the Market Office until decimalisation in 1971 and the team were not allowed to go home until the Market balanced to a penny, which meant that occasionally Judith didn't cycle home to Titchmarsh until 7 o'clock on a Tuesday evening.

**Agricultural & Development Consultants, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers & Estate Agents**

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Bletsoes is the trading name of Henry H Bletsoe & Son LLP, a Limited Liability Partnership registered in England & Wales under Partnership Number OC371369. Regulated by RICS. Registered office: Oakleigh House, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ. We use the term 'partner' to refer to a member of the LLP or an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications.



Judith took a career break in 1977 to concentrate on family life, raise her son James and support her husband Jim with his business. She then returned to Bletsoes in 2001 as a Receptionist, which included helping to run the Market Harborough Building Society branch based within Oakleigh House. As part of her role Judith has greeted many visitors and callers to the office over the decades, with her trademark efficiency.



It is however Judith's role as Archivist, which is arguably her most important role. Bletsoes have retained the records back to when Henry Bletsoe started work at Thrapston in 1881. We are far from a paperless office and have the files relating to property sales, tenancy negotiations, road schemes and utility works and, in more recent decades, option and promotion agreements and many other matters. Recently Judith has been working with some of the younger members of the team on a reorganisation of the archive storage, to improve efficiency and the ease of locating older files.

Judith has witnessed many changes over the last six decades. Back in the 1960's Henry's son Tom was running the business and, when Judith started work, his young son Christopher had just returned the previous year to Thrapston, following his apprenticeship at Bruton Knowles in Gloucester. Judith was with the firm when it moved "across the road" from the current Estate Agency office in Thrapston High Street into Oakleigh House, carrying files and furniture across the High Street. Over the years the professional business and team has grown significantly and the Auctions Team now sell in Stratford Market on a Tuesday, as well as Thrapston on a Thursday and Saturday.

The Partners and overall team at Bletsoes are so grateful to Judith for her invaluable knowledge, wisdom, stoic style and ultimately her loyalty to the business. Thank you Judith.

*Nicola Clayton-Bailey*  
*Partner*

# Stratford Forthcoming Events

## Friday 8th April

An Agricultural Farm Sale - Stilton

*See main advert for further information*

## Saturday 9th April

Hay, Straw & Fodder Sale

*At Thrapston Livestock Market*

## Tuesday 12th April

A Collective Sale of Ewes with Lambs at Foot

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

## Tuesday 19th April

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

## Stratford Market Report 2022 Advertising Tariff

### Advertising Charges

1/8 Page            £10 Per Week

1/4 Page            £20 Per Week

1/2 Page            £30 Per Week

Full Page           £50 Per Week

+ VAT

### Discounted Rates Available

For further information,  
or to place and advert,  
please contact Beth Kitchener  
on 01832 732241 or [beth.kitchener@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:beth.kitchener@bletsoes.co.uk)

## **REPORT FOR TUESDAY 5TH APRIL**

### **153 Prime Sheep**

A better entry than expected, due to a slight lack of communication. Prices topped at £130.90 or 280p with an SQQ of 260p for the Hoggets, New Season Lambs sold to £130 or 310p or SQQ of 291p, Cull Ewes sold to £189, and Store Sheep sold to £100 to average £91.49.

More are needed each week, please contact us with your entries, so that we can inform the buyers.

**34 New Season Lambs** – First of the season and seemed to get off to a good start, with all the buyers having a go, to try and buy. If you have some, please let us know prior to the sale day.

**14 Standards** – Prices topped at 310p or £119.35 for 38.5kg lambs from F & C Hutsby.

To		From		Average	
310p	£119.35	284p	£105.08	293.5p	£110.18

**17 Mediums** – Topping at 296.5p or £130.46 for 44kg for F & C Hutsby.

To		From		Average	
296.5p	£130.46	282p	£111.39	289.2p	£124.59

**3 Heavies** – Top price of the day was £130 for 50kg lambs entered by F & C Hutsby.

To		From		Average	
260p	£130.00	260p	£130.00	260p	£130.00

**119 Hoggets** – Getting close to the end of last season's lambs, the stragglers coming forward now yet still seem to be a good trade. If you have some to clear up, please let us know.

**1 Light** – Topping at 258p or £69.66 for a 27kg hogg from WR Haines.

To		From		Average	
258p	£69.66	258p	£69.66	258p	£69.66



Click the link to view our Stratford Facebook page for further up to date information about our sales pre and post sale.

<https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLivestockMarket/>

**15 Standards** – P Taylor sold to top the day at 280p for three 36.5kg hogs; RS Hawkins saw next top at 275.5p for five 35.5kg hogs; R Hall & Sons sold to 269p for 37.5kg hogs; and Sherbourne Investments Ltd sold three Zwartble hogs weighing 37kg to 243p. Top price per head sold to £102.20 for P Taylor; £100.88 for R Hall & Sons; and £100.62 for RJ White.

To		From		Average	
280p	£102.20	243p	£87.72	266.6p	£97.03

**29 Mediums** – WR Haines topped this section at 262p for 45kg hogs; RJ White sold a 44kg hogg to 260p; P & M Careless sold 42kg hogs to 259.5p; Abingdon & Witney College sold 43kg hogs to 259p; and R Hall & Sons sold a 41kg Suffolk to 258p. Top price per head sold to £117.90 for WR Haines; £114.40 for RJ White; £111.37 for Abingdon & Witney College; and P & M Careless sold to £108.99.

To		From		Average	
262p	£117.90	245p	£102.90	257.6p	£109.36

**65 Heavies** – RS Hawkins topped this section at 263p for a pen of 46kg Texel x hogs; JM Ballard saw 260p for his 46kg hogs; R Hall & Sons sold a 46kg hogg to 260p; WR Haines sold 47kg Suffolks to 259.5p; and P & M Careless sold 49.5kg hogs to 243p. Top price per head sold to £126.36 for R Hall & Sons; WR Haines sold to £126; and JM Ballard sold to £124.50.

To		From		Average	
263p	£126.36	235.5p	£119.60	252.1p	£123.00

**9 Over 52kg** – Topping at 240p for a 53kg hogg from DM & A Andrews; WR Haines saw 238p for 55kg hogs; and JM Ballard sold Suffolks weighing 54kg to 230p. Top price per head sold to £130.90 for WR Haines; DM & A Andrews sold to £127.20; and JM Ballard sold to £124.20.

To		From		Average	
240p	£130.90	230p	£124.20	233.8p	£126.77

Our chaplain Rev. Richard Wilde, Methodist Minister, member of the Agricultural Chaplains Association and the Farming Community Network will be in attendance at the market on Tuesdays for a chat, if you need to talk.

[swc.katetennyson@gmail.com](mailto:swc.katetennyson@gmail.com)

[www.methodist-swc.org.uk](http://www.methodist-swc.org.uk)

## 87 Store Sheep

A better entry this week, vendors saw nearly finished hoggs sell to £100 for Texel x hoggs and Suffolks. R Hall & Sons and their Suffolks sold to £98.50; P Organ sold Suffolks to £97.50 and Texel crosses to £95.50; longer term types sold to £68 from RJ White; £60 from R Hall & Sons; and £32 from P Taylor. If you have some hanging around, clear them up soon.

To	From	Average
£100.00	£32.00	£91.49

## 54 Cull Ewes & Rams

Still a good trade now the festival has begun, prices topped at £189 for Texels from P & M Miller; Lambs End Ltd sold their Texels to £137; JM Ballard sold Suffolks to £127; Mules from MR & BE Baylis sold to £120.50; S Collett sold her Lleyn x ewes to £116; F & C Hutsby sold Texel x to £115; Abingdon & Witney College saw £115 for their Continental ewe; and Mules from Townsend Farms sold to £109. Rams sold to £70, £62 and £60 for Zwartble from Sherbourne Investments Ltd.

To	From	Average
£189.00	£12.00	£93.21

Contact us with your entries presale, trade may be somewhat different in the next few weeks, market your stock to their best ability.

### NEXT WEEK - ENTRIES

**Tuesday 12th April**

*16 x Texel x Ewes (Theaves - Flock Age) with 22 Texel x Lambs at Foot*

*6 x Bleu Du Maine x Texel Theaves - Empty*

Please contact Alastair with your entries

# Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

## FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 10.30AM

on Caldecote Road, Stilton, Peterborough. PE7 3RH

### An Agricultural Farm Sale



#### To Include:

2004 NEW HOLLAND TM190 4WD Tractor, 1995 FORD 6640 POWERSTAR SL Dual Power 2WD Tractor, 1989 BATEMAN HI-LO 24 Metre Sprayer, 1987 FORD 7610 2WD Tractor, FORDSON Super Major, HYMAC 370c Backhoe Loader, IFOR WILLIAMS HB505 Horse Trailer, IFOR WILLIAMS Twin Axle Cattle Trailer, 2008 NEW HOLLAND CX Chaff Blower, AMAZONE ZA-M Compact Fertiliser Spreader, BOMFORD B508 Tractor Mounted Flail Hedge Cutter, 12' 5 Leg Flat Lift, Dowdeswell Plough, Cultivating Equipment, Assorted Farm Machinery, Vintage Machinery & Effects and Agricultural Sundries

#### Inserts:

2008 HEATH Super Chaser Extra Baler, 2014 LANDROVER Discovery SDV6 Commercial

**On behalf of Messrs Hart Bros**

**Contact Alastair Brown 07885 804450**

Catalogue available online or by request

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