

# The Market Report

## Stratford Forthcoming Events



### **Saturday 21st December**

Christmas Poultry Sale - 12 noon

*Thrapston Livestock Market*

### **Tuesday 24th December**

No Market

### **Tuesday 31st December**

No Market

*Bletsoes would like to wish you a very  
Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year*



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

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,  
Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ

Alastair Brown: 07885 804450  
Jake Wagstaff: 07487 526803

CPH: 29/242/8000 NN14 4JU  
CPH: 43/266/8000 CV37 8LP

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.



## **Press Release**

### **Bletsoes announce withdrawal of full time Auction Services from Stratford-upon-Avon Livestock Market After 15 Years of Service**

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that we announce the withdrawal of our full time Auction Services offering at Stratford-upon-Avon Livestock Market, which has been under our management since January 2010. This decision has not been taken lightly, but after careful consideration and monitoring over the past few months, we must adapt to the significant challenges currently facing the livestock sector. Our final sale will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 though we hope to continue annually with outdoor breeding sales in late Summer / early Autumn.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all buyers and vendors who have supported us over the years. Your loyalty and dedication have been the cornerstone of the market's operations and successes. We hope that you will continue to support us with our outdoor breeding sales.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Cook family, the owners of the Market, who have been instrumental in supporting the market throughout our tenure. The Cooks opened the market in 2003 after Foot and Mouth and following the closure of the old Market in Stratford town centre; Tony Cook has manned the trailer wash during the past 21-years. The Cooks partnership has been invaluable, and we are profoundly grateful for their collaboration. We wish to make it clear that the Cook family are not at all to blame for our decision to withdraw our full time Auction Services offering at Stratford.

A special note of thanks goes to our incredible staff, whose unwavering efforts and professionalism have been essential to running the market over our 15-year tenure. Their hard work and commitment have ensured the highest standards of service for our clients. The Cook family have asked us to pass on their thanks to the late Craig Thompson who was their first auctioneer and helped to build the market, and also to Ed Cox who was a highly-regarded auctioneer at Stratford.

The withdrawal of our full time Auction Services at Stratford reflects the reality of reducing stock numbers nationally and the increasing financial pressures on the agricultural industry, including the recent announcement by the Government to increase national insurance contributions by Employers. These factors have made the continuation of this market unsustainable.

While this aspect of our offering at Stratford comes to a close, we remain fully committed to providing professional services from Stratford and intend to continue having a physical presence in Stratford, either at the Market or elsewhere close-by.

We are pleased to report that professional services offering continues to grow, so much so that both Chris Templar MRICS and George Pullin MRICS are regularly engaged with 'Stratford based' professional work.

Furthermore, our dedication to Auctions remains unwavering. We are proud to highlight our significant recent investment in the Thrapston Auction Centre, just off Junction 13 of the A14, which stands as a testament to our firm's long-term commitment to the auction industry.

As a business, we continue to grow and evolve, focusing on new opportunities and expanding services to meet the needs of our valued clients and provide advice on agricultural, rural property and planning matters.

We thank you all for your understanding and support as we transition through this change and look forward to continuing our work with you in new and exciting ways.

*The Partners*

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

## Livestock theft.

Do you know who's behind it?

Tell us what you know, and remain 100% anonymous.

[crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555111**

100% anonymous. Always.

## REPORT FOR TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

The Final Sale at Stratford Market, with a heartfelt thank you to all employees, vendors and buyers over the years.

### **314 Prime Lambs**

A strong trade for the finale seeing the SQQ at 297.90p/kg. K Welsby and S Walby topped the day pence per kilo at 312p/kg with K Welsby topping overall at £157.

**Highlights** - S Walby saw a smart show of shorn Texel crosses at 38.5kgs selling to £120 with ram lambs at the same weight to £118; J & M Ironmonger topped their Texels to £136 for 44kg ram lambs; K Welsby saw a high of 312p/kg or £134 for 43kg Charollais with their heavies at 55kgs selling to £157; GF Heath & Son topped the Suffolks for the day at £128 for 44kgs.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
312p	£120.00	283p	£99.00	303.8p	£113.46
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
312p	£136.00	282p	£113.00	293.7p	£123.03
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
296p	£145.00	287p	£135.00	291.1p	£140.56
<i>Over 52kg</i>					
285p	£157.00	285p	£157.00	285p	£157.00

### **377 Store Lambs**

Selling to the recent highs of the market with an unmatched trade averaging £100.14. MJ & IJ Gibbs topped the Suffolks to £123 for big framed lean lambs with smarter shape Charollais to £118; J Peebles topped with their Texels at £117 for best shape; A Berks saw a flyer with mid frame Suffolks to £116 and GF Heath & Son seeing the same highs; TR Tame & Son topped their Charollais crosses to £115. All mid frame and short term lambs sold in excess of £103. Mid term healthy lambs sold in the £90's with longest term and rams lambs still above £84.

To	From	Average
£123.00	£71.00	£100.14

### **PUPPIES FOR SALE**

Border collie pups for sale from working parents - all black and white, litter of five, four available two bitches and two dogs Born 02/11/2024, ready to go 28/12/2024 All puppies will be microchipped, vaccinated, wormed and health checked by vet. Please contact Robert Sheppard on 07972720731 for further details and viewing.



## 46 Cull Ewes & Rams

Trade has lifted once again averaging £112.46. C Clews topped the day at £200 for best shape and meat Texel rams; RW Kerby topped the Suffolks at £160 with leaner meat comparables at £135; Hadley Farms saw smart shape Texel crosses to £150; A & KM Byrd topped the Mules at £137. All meat and heavy ewes sold at £113 plus, lean meat lighter ewes were £80' plus, true feeders were £59 to £65.

To	From	Average
£200.00	£50.00	£114.40

### HAY, STRAW & FODDER

240 x Whole Crop Pea Forage Preserved 4' Wrapped Round Bales - Ave 550kg.  
Forage Analysis Report Available  
Assist & Loading Facilities.  
Located Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Contact Charles 07974 427734

100 x 4' Round Bales of 2024 Hay - *McHale Baler - Chopped. Stored Undercover Suitable for Horses, Cattle & Sheep. Available in quantities to suit.*  
30 x 4' Round Bales of Whole Crop Wheat Silage  
Assist & Loading Facilities.  
Located Orton, Northamptonshire. Contact Richard 07795 170864

400 x 4' Round Net Wrapped Bales of Hay  
Stored Undercover  
Assist & Loading Facilities.  
Located Stoke Goldington, Bucks. Contact David 01908 551423

# FCN

THE FARMING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK

listening / supporting / connecting

We are here for *you*

**Helpline:**

03000 111 999

**e-Helpline:**

help@fcn.org.uk

**Helpline** is open 7am to 11pm every day of the year

My wife and I attended the early years school nativity last week where our twin grandsons had speaking parts! One was Joseph, the other a 'king'. When their cousin, our oldest grandson (20ys) will feel be reminded of the injustice he felt as a child. His name is Jospheh but he never got the part in his school nativity plays! Scripts for school nativities have to be creative and add in lots of characters not in the Biblical accounts to include dozens of child actors. Last week the opening scene was with six Fleece Police whose costume combined wool with hiviz uniform. A clever way to give sheep speaking parts. The core accounts of the birth of Jesus in Matthew's and Luke's Gospels are basic in detail and leave it to the reader to see the theological and historical links. To be fair Luke does name Ceaser Augustus and Syrian Governor Quirinius but they are unlikely to feature in a school nativity! St Mark has no account of Jesus' birth while St John uses theological poetry calling Jesus "The Word". Not "words" which says a lot!

This will be the last Stratford Market Christmas message that I write for Bletsoes. I could use many words to describe not just mine but all the market regulars feelings but one word will do. Sadness. In my five years as chaplain I have heard many words including some I wouldn't use myself! And I have said a few words too. It has been a gathering point for farmers and others where business has been transacted but alongside that have been many conversations leaning on a pen railing, a livestock trailer, in the café, the office or many odd places round the site. Most were just in the moment and of no great significance, soon forgotten, but some were much deeper. Life and death, world and local events, relationships, financial concerns, farm succession, faith and hope, and so on. I will miss you all - staff, the café, butchers, occasional stall holders farmers and other sellers and bidders, and feel privileged to have been your chaplain. The Farming Community Network who, along with the Christian Church, I represent, will do our best to create opportunities for such conversations and we can, if asked, do farm visits for confidential chats. The most powerful dimension of the metaphor for Jesus "The Word" is that he said little but listened lots and responded with understanding of fellow humans and their lives.

It's a sad fact that Christmas which is primarily about joy and celebration can, along with New Year reflections, be a time of emotional, relational or mental crisis. It's important we are alert to family and friends looking for the silences that say so much, the words not said that need to be heard, and that all people we know feel valued and included.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Richard Wilde





# EVERYTHING FOR THE FARM & COUNTRYSIDE

AT **STRAIGHTFORWARD** LOW PRICES

Agriculture • Construction • Country Living



*Visit us in store or get in touch...*

## TFM BANBURY

Grove Farm Buildings, Banbury Road, Burton Dassett CV47 2BB

T: 01295 235043 | E: [banbury@tfmsuperstore.co.uk](mailto:banbury@tfmsuperstore.co.uk)

[www.tfmsuperstore.co.uk](http://www.tfmsuperstore.co.uk)



# Bletsoes

EST. 1881

## Your Future Is Our Business



Rural  
Property  
Sales &  
Purchases



Renewable  
Energy &  
Compulsory  
Purchase



Business  
Succession  
Planning



Promotion &  
Sale of  
Development  
Land



Livestock &  
Machinery  
Sales

Our experienced team is here to help you.

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

01789 722677  
[bletsoes.co.uk](http://bletsoes.co.uk)