



# BROCKLEBY'S



## Food with Provenance

Hello to all our friends and customers.

Hope you're keeping warm and well this winter. Plenty has been happening since our last newsletter went out to you in October.

### Farm News

Like most farmers, our news is often dictated by the weather. As I write, our land is covered with snow and as pretty as a picture. But it does mean we are having to feed all our sheep by hand in the field because they can't get to the grass. Lambing time last May was problematic. We used four rams all at the same time, meaning all our lambs were born in quick succession. This led to overzealous ewes adopting lambs which were not their own. In the end we moved them all to an indoor shed and kept them contained until they had sorted themselves out and worked out which lamb belonged to which mother. The previous year we had lost some lambs in our fields at Kirby Bellars to an unknown and unseen predator - was it the legendary black panther of Leicestershire? We don't know but this year, we took no chances and the lambs stayed at the farm until the middle of summer. We were lucky at hay-making and brought in our first successful crop of hay from Kirby Bellars. There was a three-day window in July when we were able to bale it up and take it back to the farm before the rains hit. Most farmers in the county had real problems but the sun shone on our little corner of Leicestershire at just the right moment.

### Entertainment and Events

Our Wild Game Evening was hugely successful and the speakers really were excellent. If you've never been before, book yourself in this year, everyone agreed it was a great night out - and it's free. Our speakers included Danny Jimmison who runs the very successful Hammer and Pincers restaurant at Wymeswold where you can taste delicious rare-breed lamb from our very own flock. The very aptly named Malcolm Partridge, head keeper at Belvoir Castle, shared an in-depth and fascinating knowledge of shooting and gamekeeping. Extra entertainment was provided by four guests sitting in the front row who heckled throughout and enjoyed themselves so much they have volunteered to hold a cookery demonstration at our 2009 event. The CLA Game Fair was a fantastic event, the highlight of which was being filmed for John Craven's Countryfile. The lowlight was camping in a quarry and finding our tent pegs would not go into the rock and being forced to dismantle our stall to make a bed to sleep on! Our annual Cheese and Wine Party went with a swing largely thanks to our eccentric, cravat-wearing wine boffin Captain Andrew Nudd opening all my most expensive bottles of wine and distributing freely. We'll be holding a similar event, with a competitive edge, called Wine Man's Bluff on Thursday, April 2. It's free but you'll need to give us a ring on 01664 813200 and book a place if you'd like to come. We attended the Royal Show this year and met the Duchess of Cornwall who took a Brockleby's Melton Mowbray Organic Pork Pie home for Prince Charles. He's a fantastic supporter of organic food and we know he enjoyed it!