

ROGER CLARKE

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PROFILE

Roger Clarke and his wife Elaine established Amberly Alpacas in 2006, at their home in Northern Ireland's picturesque Clogher Valley. One of the very first breeders in Ireland, the couple have worked tirelessly to continually develop and improve their herd and now pride themselves on being one of the most successful, experienced and influential herds on the island of Ireland.

Keeping a mixed herd of both huacaya and suris, the Clarke's are very proud to have been the first to import and breed suris in Ireland. They have achieved multiple supreme championship awards for both their huacaya and suri stock and are particularly proud of winning Supreme Champion Huacaya at the 2019 BAS National Show.

Members of the British Alpaca Society, the Northern Ireland Alpaca Group and the Alpaca Association of Ireland, the couple have also worked through various stages of alpaca-related training to become Ireland's first BAS affiliate training couple. In 2019, they established the Alpaca Education Centre of Ireland from which they deliver and host a wide range of training and educational events.

Roger's particular interest in genetic advancement culminated in 2019 when he became the first person on the island of Ireland to qualify as a BAS certified judge for both halter and fleece. Since qualifying, he has enjoyed the honour of judging in both the UK and Europe and considers it a true privilege to have the opportunity to appraise people's animals.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2000-1st Class Hons Degree BA from Queen's University Belfast
- 2001-Post Graduate Certificate in Education (University of Ulster)
- 2012-Professional Qualification in Headship (RTU)

CURRENT PROFESSION

- School Principal/Headteacher

HISTORY WITH ALPACAS

- Established Amberly Alpacas in 2006 with his wife Elaine (mixed herd of suri and huacaya)
- Member of the British Alpaca Society (BAS) and the Alpaca Association of Ireland: 2006-present.
- One of the founder herds of the NIAG-Northern Ireland Alpaca Group (BAS regional group): 2013
- Treasurer for the NIAG: 2013-2015
- Show Secretary for the NIAG: 2016-present

BAS COURSES/QUALIFICATIONS

- Alpaca Assessment-Foundation-April 2015
- Alpaca Assessment-Advanced-October 2015
- BAS Evaluation course (hosted and attended)-February 2016
- Judge Training (Halter & fleece) Stage 1-April 2016
- Judge Training (Halter & fleece) Stage 2-March 2017
- BAS Affiliate Training -January 2018
- Qualified BAS Judge in Halter and Fleece-June 2019

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JUDGING APPRENTICESHIPS

- 16-18th June 2017-The Royal Three Counties Halter show with BAS Judge Tim Hey
- 21-23rd July 2017-Eastern Region Fleece show with BAS Judge Mary-Jo Smith
- 14th October 2017-Yorkshire Halter Show with BAS Judge Jay Holland
- 7th April 2018-NWAG Alpaca Championships with BAS Judge Cathy Lloyd
- 28th April 2018-Scottish Alpaca Championships with BAS Judge Mary-Jo Smith
- 7th May 2018-North Somerset Show with BAS Judge Rob Bettinson
- 21-22nd July-Eastern Fleece show with BAS Judges Mary Jo-Smith and Jay Holland.
- 1st August 2018-North Devon Show with BAS Judge Jay Holland.

CO-JUDGING

- Cornwall Camelid Show-May 2019
- Northumberland County Show-May 2019

JUDGING-2019

- Swedish Alpaca Show-Halter and Fleece-August 2019
- Westmorland County Show-Halter-September 2019
- Northern Fleece Show-December 2019

VETERINARY COURSES

- Hosted the International Veterinary Chiropractic Camelid Symposium-January 2014
- Organised and attended Ireland's first Camelid Veterinary Seminar with Bob Broadbent-February 2015
- Attended parasitology training by Bob Broadbent in February 2016
- Attended the CCA Alpaca Veterinary Seminar on Camelid digestion in October 2017
- Attended the Alpaca Association of Ireland's Camelid Veterinary Seminar (Bob Broadbent) in April 2017
- Organised and attended Alpaca Veterinary Seminar (Sarah Caldwell) on pregnancy, birth and Neo-natal care-January 2018
- Organised and attended Alpaca Veterinary Seminar (Bob Broadbent) on fertility problems-November 2019

FIBRE AND OTHER COURSES

- Hosted and attended-All things fibre workshop-from Field to Fashion-August 2014
- Attended the BAS Fibre Workshop/Roadshow with Paul Vallely in April 2016
- Attended the Alpaca Association of Ireland's shearing and fibre workshop in May 2017
- Attended two day fleece workshop with Molly Gardner in November 2019

OTHER

- Blogger for 'Olan and', Ireland's online fibre magazine