



# October/November Newsletter 2020

## A time for change, in seasons and on the farm.

The Monday and Friday guys, who are now attending the farm once a fortnight, have been working very hard and 7 have now finished their NVQs in Land Based Studies. They have been coming to the farm for extra sessions to do this. All this has been supervised by Ruth Alcroft our excellent Education Officer, who sadly resigned and left at the end of September.

Below are some of the tributes made at her last, socially distanced Friday lunch with all the guys:

On behalf of the volunteers, "Ruth has been a constant at the Farm for a long time. And now that she's leaving, we will miss her loads. Always good humoured, bubbly, patient and caring with everyone. We hope she won't be a stranger and will keep in touch. So let's wish Ruth all the best for the future and give her a round of applause to thank her for all her help, care and hard work. Three cheers"

Pete, Friday Volunteer.

"Ruth has worked with us at the farm for years. In this time, she's been a teacher, colleague and friend. I would like to wish her well on behalf of Farmers' Five and all of us. Many happy years to come, love and friendship form us all"

Alex.

"Dear Ruth, I'm sure I speak for all the volunteers when I say thank you for being so welcoming to new volunteers, for always being so appreciative when we say "yes, we can do that" and for making the educational visits as enjoyable for us as you do for the children. We'll miss you at the farm but wish you every happiness and success in the future. On a personal note, I for one have benefitted from your master class in peeling and chopping"

Judi (read at the lunch in her behalf).



### Covid security at the farm

All activities undertaken by the adults and teenagers who visit the farm are done outside. Meals are eaten under two splendid shelters lent to us by Girl Guiding. Masks are worn when travelling from site to site in our Minibus, with frequent hand washing and sanitisation taking place.

Some self-guided walks have taken place and greatly enjoyed. With the evenings drawing in, these walks will only be possible at weekends, half term and holidays. If you would like to book a walk, please contact the farm on 01228 548336 or email [info@susansfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@susansfarm.co.uk). Maximum size for a group walk is 6. On a walk you will see things and animals not seen from the public and permissive paths.

### Farming update

The farming year has been a great anchor in these uncertain and challenging times. All 11 calves are doing well, with names from Sid to Stella. The store cattle and lambs are finishing well and will all taste delicious. Orders for geese for Christmas are coming in and must now be booked. If you would like one, please contact the farm as soon as possible. Orders for beef and lamb are coming in for Christmas; however uncertain the times, it appears a good meal at Christmas is a priority.

## Visitors

At short notice we hosted a visit for Dr Neil Hudson, MP for Penrith and the Borders. He was pleased to meet, at correct social distance, some of our care farmers and was presented with a jar of Farmers' Five Marmalade. We delighted to hear his position on the Agricultural Bill in support of education and farming in Cumbria.

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Julie Barton, High Sheriff of Cumbria, visited the farm, together with the Senior Grants Officer, Ellen Clements from Cumbria Community Foundation. Four of the care farmers took the Sheriff for a walk to meet some of the stock and she joined them for lunch, all served outside and socially distanced. Ellen Clements had a separate lunch in a different location so that we observed the rule of 6 as well.

## Looking forward

Sue Lister, an experienced teacher and youth worker, has been with us since early September. She has quickly become a member of the farm team and the trustees have agreed that her appointment should be extended for the whole of this academic year. Her priorities will be to develop our Alternative Education Provision. Whatever Codi-19 throws us at us, as a charity undertaking educational work, we very much hope that we will be able to continue to work with our regular teenagers and adult beneficiaries in the small groups that have been established.

Remember, buying our meat supports our charitable work. If you'd like to order some meat please call the farm on 01228 548366, email [orders@susansfarm.co.uk](mailto:orders@susansfarm.co.uk) or use an order form on the website [www.susansfarm.co.uk](http://www.susansfarm.co.uk).

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