

Tam O'Shanter Times

Winter 2005

Animal Update

Some members of our small flock of sheep have been living among the bracken in a field on the new land. They have a metal ark to shelter them from bad weather, and are given food and hay every day.

Our two goats, Nan who is brown and Elsa who is white, no longer get on with each other very well; they are put in separate fields, which suits them both. Elsa is 17 years old this year; she is looking well for her age, having recovered from being underweight, and enjoys munching grass and hay.

Our Shetland pony, Arnie, has grown his thick black winter coat. He is having training to pull his cart and we plan to give children short cart rides at weekends. Arnie and Jacko the donkey can usually be found in the fields by the herb border, or down by the bees. Jacko has been well over the last few months; he has even been letting the doves stay in his stable overnight! He will soon be sharing his stable with the farm's Nativity Scene, as well.

Our eight rabbits continue to be visited and stroked in June's 'Pat a Pet' sessions on Sunday afternoons between 2.30 and 3.30pm. Visitors of all ages enjoy these sessions, but they are most popular with girls under 7.

Here's some exciting news - we now have two pigs! Yorkie is an elderly Oxford Sandy and Black sow. She is as healthy as ever, and is enjoying being a pig of leisure. She has an ark for shelter in the top field. Our new arrival, a fifteen month-old Gloucester Old Spot sow, now lives in the pig house. She is expecting a litter before Christmas; do come and see her and her piglets when they arrive - but be careful and quiet when you visit, and don't frighten them.

The geese and ducks do not seem to mind the chilly winter weather. We have had to cut down on our stock of hens during the last month, as we have been advised to do so by the vet. The land where they have been roaming needs to be rested. A new poultry house will be built shortly in the bottom paddock, to the right of the beehive paddock, and new hens will come to join the inhabitants of the Farm.

June Walker and Paul McHugh
Farm Volunteers

Café

The café is run by Richard Jeffers as a separate business from the farm. If you are interested in holding a birthday party at the farm please contact Richard on one of the following numbers:

0151 652 9197	café at the farm
0151 342 1273	home
07956 318 238	mobile

The café will be closed on the following dates: -

December 24 th	Christmas Eve
December 25 th	Christmas Day
December 26 th	Boxing Day
December 31 st	New Year's Eve
January 1 st	New Year's Day

The farm will be open every day - including Christmas Day!!!!

Thank You

To: -

Park Hampers for a hamper for our Christmas Fair raffle.

David Ainsley of Ainsley Gommon for drawing up plans for proposed extensions to the café / offices

Awards for All for £4,750 for tools and equipment

Souvenir Counter

The farm's souvenir counter is staffed by volunteers, and is open at weekends and on some weekdays during school holidays, whenever help is available. We sell a good variety of small toys, games and gifts that make handy stocking-fillers; all proceeds go directly to help the work of the farm.

The souvenir counter is popular with visitors and a successful way of raising funds when it's open, but opening is limited to when volunteers are available. We could raise more funds for the farm if we opened more often, so if you would like to offer a few hours of your time to help, please have a word with whoever is working on the counter.

Joan O'Neil and Paul McHugh

Farm Staff News

From the end of November we have a new member of staff working on the farm! Dawn is the new Community Liaison Officer, and she is warmly welcomed to the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm team. Funding for the post has been secured for 3 years from the **Big Lottery Fund**.

Friends of the Farm

Membership is by subscription – only £2 / year. Receive a newsletter 3 times a year and a standing invitation to our friendly, informal monthly meetings
Please ask for details



Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Christmas Fair

Saturday 10th December
12 – 4pm



Santa's Grotto

Tickets £2 - Numbers
limited to 250

Available from souvenir
counter from
1st December



Farm Development Comments please

We have just come to the end of our 5 year Development Plan having achieved most of our objectives during this time apart from the extension to the café / office which we are still hoping to achieve once we can secure sufficient funds.

We are now in the process of drawing up a plan for the next 5 years and are always seeking the views of our users – YOU!

If you have any ideas about how the farm should be developed or changed in any way, or even if you don't want to see any changes please let john at the farm know, preferably by email or letter.