



March and April Newsletter 2021

Spring Forward and Look Forward

We feel at last we are “Springing Forward” schools are beginning to book visits and several links have been made with other organisations who would like to come to Susan’s Farm to benefit from the very wide range of educational facilities we can offer.

The ewes have returned to Houghton for lambing and four cows are due to calve in the next month, so we really feel spring is in the air particularly when the sun is shining and the sky is blue, the sparrows are very busy nesting in the ivy on the farmhouse.

Our ‘Pause’ mentioned in the last newsletter, when we had no beneficiaries on the farm lasted for four weeks. The COVID cases in Carlisle declined and we welcomed back the adults and teenagers for half day visits starting week beginning 9th February. We were delighted to welcome them back and they were pleased to be back see their friends and do some hard work on the farm. During the pause we had kept in touch on the telephone and by email.



Care farmers with occupational therapy master’s student preparing pens for lambing



Care farmers with Sue making temporary hen house inaccessible to small birds

Self-guided Walks

“Let Nature feed your senses” is the theme of the self-guided walks we are once again able to offer. Starting on Friday 16th April and subsequent weekends subject to demand.

The walk takes 1 – 1.5 hours.... lots to see, hear and smell on the way! Participants will be able to see parts of the farm and animals they cannot see from the public and permissive paths across the farm: Hens, very small lambs, bees and Eva's organic orchard. There will be a special modified walk for those who require disabled access.

It is essential that you book for the walk so that we can meet the COVID measures. The walks will run from 10am till 4.30pm for family groups of up to six members and are free in April.

For more information and to book your visit please use the events page on our website www.susansfarm.co.uk

Marmalade

Our adult beneficiaries were not to be defeated by Lockdown and pauses and two of them made marmalade, this was made possible by the kindness of one of our volunteers who collected the fruit and equipment from the farm to deliver to their homes, and then returned the jars of marmalade to the farm, so once again they were able to enter the Marmalade Festival at Dalemain having won bronze and silver certificates in previous years.



Alex with jars of Farmers' Five marmalade he made during the 'pause'



Rob preparing Farmers' Five marmalade during the 'pause'

New Hedges and fruit trees for The Sport's Field

We have already received some donations towards the hedges and fruit trees. More will be welcomed. We are also beginning to plan a mini agro-forestry project allowing our chickens into one of our shelter belts.

At the moment, the hens are enclosed because of bird 'flu. Our lives as well as the lives of our stock have been dominated by viruses this winter!



Resident enjoying the new accommodation

Dates for your diary

- Second Saturday of every month, Houghton Village Farmers' Market
- Sunday 27th June Open Farm Sunday.

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 or use an order form on the website www.susansfarm.co.uk.

145 Houghton Road, Carlisle, CA3 0LD. Registered Charity Number: 1183223



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