

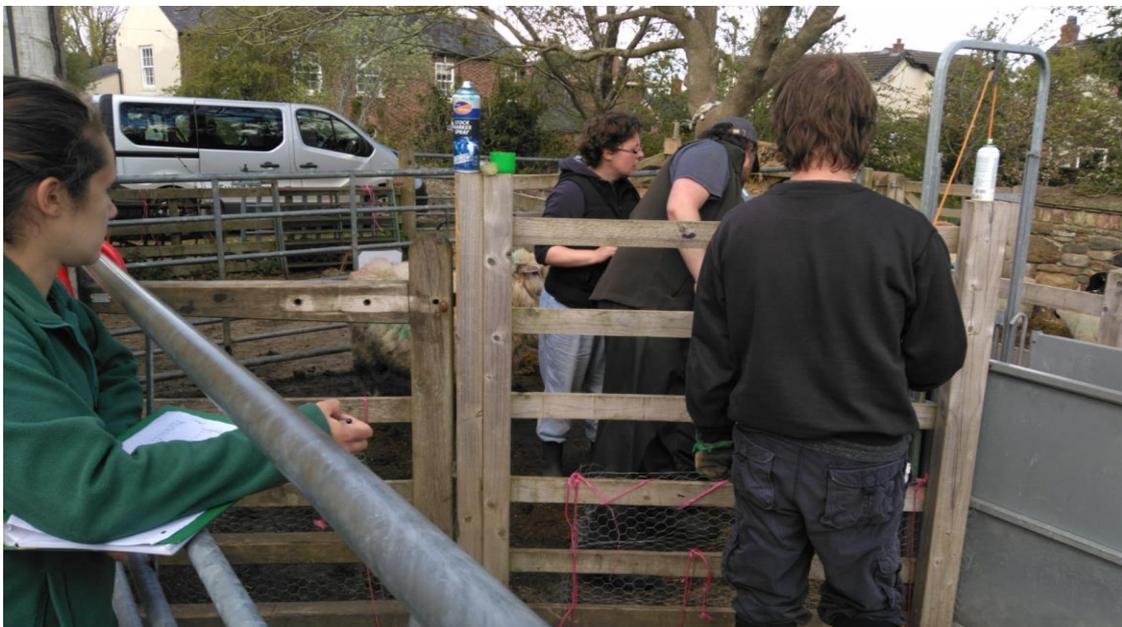


March and April Newsletter 2021

News from the Farm

As Lockdown is gradually easing, we are beginning to return to 'normality'. I suspect that we all wonder what that is and will things ever be the same as in February 2020? The really good news is that our work with beneficiaries is now back to 'normal'. While the farming activities kept going during Lockdown, with support from a raft of wonderful volunteers, our work with beneficiaries and our educational programme with schools was severely curtailed.

The adults who come on Mondays and Fridays are now here for a full day, which they are delighted about and means that outings to Wallacefield where there are many agricultural chores to be undertaken, can be achieved. Being on the farm for 6 hours is totally different from being here for 3 hours. The teenagers who come on Tuesdays and Thursdays are also here for a full day, having fed stock, cared for the hens and made preparations for the arrival of the goslings; their next project is to create a Scarecrow to enter for Houghton School's fundraiser during half term.



Care Farmers assisting with tagging and weighing of lambs,
one of the Master's OT students is reorder in chief

For 8 weeks we have had 2 masters occupational therapy students on the farm. Thank you, Lana and Sarah, for your substantial contributions to the life of the farm.

Welcome to Laura

At the very end of April, we welcomed Laura Nightingale to the staff team as our School and Community Education Lead. Laura will principally be working with the primary school children, work which started on the farm in 1997. Laura is highly qualified but most importantly has the gift of engaging with the children and has a mass of ideas and activities for the children to do; introducing them to the world of farming, food production and the natural world around them.

We have been particularly pleased to welcome Brook Street school for 6 consecutive weeks coming on a Wednesday. Year 1 are following a programme on Farming and Year 2, in the afternoon, are following a programme of Woodland activities.

School bookings for visits to the farm in Houghton are almost full for this term, but we can still offer



FREE visits to the wetlands at Aglionby, where we have an educational cabin to use in poor weather, and where there is a series of ponds and a wonderful abundance of wildlife. You feel you are really remote there yet the M6 is within sight. If you know of a school group or youth group with at least 6 members under 16 and would like to visit the Wetlands, please contact Laura:

laura@susansfarm.co.uk.

Brook Street School's Collage

The joys and challenges of farming

Lambing went really well with the assistance of 3 pre-vet/vet students, as we have a small flock there is time to explain to them why we undertake certain procedures and to introduce them to relevant reference books. We now have 5 healthy calves. One Thursday, the teenagers found a newly born calf which they have called Tom. 5 cows still to calve.



Tom with his mother lanthe

In May we are now having the weather we should have had in April, after a very dry and cold April. "April showers bring forth May flowers". We have chosen to be PFLA (Pasture for Life Association) accredited; no grain is fed, so those of you who are our meat customers will know we have had to have a pause in the sale of our meat. It was so dry and cold the grass was not growing, cattle and sheep, not just on our farm, were looking for grass. We have now had some rain, and the grass is beginning to grow. We will have lamb for sale in June and beef in July.

Hadrian's Wall

We are so very grateful to Professor David Breeze who is about to make his second visit to the farm to hopefully decide what we actually have in the 'Sports Field'. Prof Breeze has consulted widely both Roman Wall experts and historical maps. The thinking at the moment ... but watch this space ... is that we have a medieval road built on top of the line of the turf wall. We are hoping to have an interpretation board(s) erected by Jan 1st 2022 when the celebrations of 1900 years from the building of Hadrian's Wall will begin.

Looking ahead

We are busy planning Open Farm Sunday on Sun 27th June, the farm will be open from 11am till 5pm, there will be 20 organisations/activities to visit/take part in. We are asking visitors to book for the 2 guided walks at 12 midday and 3pm. Please see the website www.susansfarm.co.uk to book. Entrance to the farm and the walks are free. Cream teas will be on sale.



During June we are trialling special events, opportunities to get used to being out and about again in a small group in a relaxed environment. For full details and how to book, please visit the Events page of our website.

- Guided Walks with Susan over the whole Farm including the new Hadrian/Sports field. June 3rd, 13th and 17th.
- Self Guided walks with advice from a photography tutor on Thursdays at 6pm on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th June
- Coffee and craft mornings using natural materials found on the farm, Fridays at 10am on June 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

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



The
Hadfield
Trust

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