



Newsletter November and December 2021

It's wonderful to hear the chatter of primary school children on the farm several days a week. Helen Ward, our Education Officer has certainly hit the ground running and we have had classes from as far away as Long Marton and as close at hand as Houghton. Our first education visit to the farm was from Houghton in 1997. We are particularly pleased that after a 2-year gap we can have school children for a whole day visit doing 'Gather, Prepare, Cook and Eat' visits.

Competition votes

Help Susan's Farm win £10,000 by voting for our video (<http://woobox.com/n99won/gallery/2xr3cvaf4kg>) before mid-day 25 November. Alternatively use the link from our facebook page. The [@Marsh Commercial](#) For the People Awards recognises the hard work individuals are doing to help local communities, and this is a truly deserving cause – please show your support!

Pilgrim visitors

We have been pleased and flattered that the Kriya Arts pilgrimage group spent two nights on the farm while on their pilgrimage walking from the Isle of Wight to COP26 in Glasgow. 24 pilgrims camped here, who were blessed with good weather. They did a presentation for the years 4-6 at Houghton



School Assembly and were delighted to find the level of the knowledge among the pupils there.

With climate change at the forefront of all our minds, below is a poem written by one of our care farmers.

Planet Earth

I'm grateful to live here on Planet Earth
Our home has endless beauty and worth
But we have a crisis and I am wishing
We can agree to stop our overfishing

If we continue to produce too much CO2
What will happen then for me and you?
And not just for us, in fact all forms of life
Face destruction from the coming strife

We're told to eat less meat to cut methane
But will enough of us change and abstain?
Humanity has become a planetary thief
That's robbing the earth of its coral reef

We see many more examples of wildfire
The cost to our habitats gets even higher
And then there are the storms and floods
Destroying our cities' neighbourhoods

We need to invest in new means of energy
Rather than doze in our shared lethargy
Old fossil fuels are melting the ice
Only a green revolution shall suffice

Can we stop the scourge of deforestation
Such other challenges for every nation
We can unite the world and come together
To beat global warming's deadly weather

The time to combat the threat
The science is clear not a random bet
If we don't take action and persevere
The world as we know it shall disappear

By Pete

Partnership Working

Recently Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group have been extending the habitats on the water meadow at Houghton as well as on the wetlands at Aglionby. They have also done great work as volunteers creating new habitats for the wintering of amphibians and reptiles. Hibernaculas refugia have also been laid down in Sliver Wood (the south shelter belt) close to the education centre. These will provide wildlife with a warm home in the coming winter.

In the new year we are looking forward to working in partnership with Right to Work, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Cumbria Recovery Collage so that many more can enjoy farming and nature activities and thereby improve their health and wellbeing.

Social Farms & Gardens

We are delighted to have received full accreditation with Social Farms & Gardens and a big thank you to our General Manager, Jane Sullivan who worked extremely hard pulling the threads together for Susan's Farm to achieve this accreditation.



Hedging and Biodiversity

This winter in January we are going to plant 400m of hedging in the new Sports Field – now 5 small fields. We will be planting 30 fruit trees in the hedges. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the planning. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan@susansfarm.co.uk

As well as providing shelter for the stock, the hedges will be wildlife corridors and be excellent for carbon storage.

We are pleased to be part of the Planting for Pollinators Project being overseen by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Special prescriptions are going to be undertaken in the new fields to increase biodiversity and provide food for the pollinators that are so much needed in our farms and gardens.

Bonfire Party



We were blessed with a mild dry evening for our community bonfire party held on the farm.

Everyone missed not having one last year, scores of families came with buggies and push chairs. Thanks to the many volunteers who enabled this successful event to take place.

Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers for winter feeding of stock at Houghton and Armathwaite, serving lunches for educational visits, planting hedgerows assisting at farmers' markets. Please contact us at info@susansfarm.co.uk if you can help.

Sale of produce

Orders are coming in thick and fast for Christmas. If you would like something, please order as soon as possible. We will be open all day on Fridays for sales from the farm gate as well as at the Houghton Village Farmers market on the second Saturday of the month.

Looking ahead.

Beef and Lamb when reared on grass is a slowly grown seasonal product grown with care for the environment. Our animals are Pasture of Life certified and this means they are not ready for slaughter in the cold winter period, usually from mid-February until April. We will have a good supply of freshly frozen meat throughout the winter but if you prefer to buy fresh and stock up, do please order in the next few weeks.

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/buy-our-meat.

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