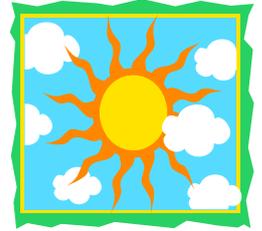




# TAM O'SHANTER TIMES



## Spring 2007

### Animal Update

It's springtime again and our first lamb was born on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. The other two sheep are due to lamb any day now.



Snuffles, our breeding sow is also due to give birth in mid April.

The incubation projects are now underway with thirteen schools participating this year, so we will hopefully have another colourful array of chicks and ducklings again soon.

After the sad demise of one of our old goats, Nan, last year we have decided to purchase a pair of Golden Guernsey kids from Warrington breeder Doreen Lorimer. Two of Doreen's nanny goats are in kid and are due to give birth in April, and



Doreen has kindly offered to sell us two of the kids after weaning, so fingers crossed for a successful birth!

### Wanted Items for the Spring Fair

Donations of prizes are needed by the start of May for our Spring Fair. We need bottles, tins, unwanted presents, good bric-a-brac etc for the raffle and tombola.



Also



Any clean labels of products from sheep, goats, pigs and poultry, e.g. sausages, joints of meat, wool products, cheese, yoghurts etc. We are trying to update our educational information linking farm animals with useful products and would be grateful for your help. If you have any labels, particularly of well-known brands, please leave them at the Ranger's office.

**Thank you!**

### Try the Tam O'Shanter Word Search

How many words relating to the farm can you find in the word search below.

R	O	T	C	A	R	T	G
V	D	U	C	K	S	Y	O
H	O	R	S	E	A	R	O
B	N	W	T	H	E	N	S
M	K	H	R	Y	E	W	E
A	E	E	A	T	A	O	G
L	Y	A	W	P	G	I	P
C	O	T	T	A	G	E	T

## Winter Round-up

A big thank you to the Fine Art Degree students from Wirral Met. College who created the Christmas Grotto – based on Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. The Christmas grotto and fair was a great success again and included roast chestnuts, face-painting and stalls.



Our bird-feeder making sessions (pictured left), which we ran over Christmas and half term also proved a great success, and generated over £50 for the farm.

We now have a new camera in the bird-box situated at the gable end of the cottage building, so visitors can now watch the blue-tits nesting in full technicolor. The camera was purchased with a grant from the Green Machine, funded by Unilever, BHP Billiton and ENI UK Ltd and administered by the Community Foundation for Merseyside.

New information panels have been installed in the Activity Room giving information about the heath land and heritage of Bidston Hill. Also look out for the new environmental games and nature quest leaflet for Flaybrick Memorial Gardens. These have been funded by the Green Machine and Alliance and Leicester Fund.

## Try your Hand at Wellie-wanging

Come and have a go at our Wellie-wanging competition at the Tam O'Shanter Farm Spring Fair on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. The winners – those who can 'wang' their wellie the furthest, will have their names engraved on a shield. Classes will be divided into Junior and Senior male and female.

## Win a Jar of Honey

Win a jar of local honey in our 'name the bee' draw. 10p a go, at the souvenir counter in the café.

## Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm

### RACE NIGHT

At

Houlihan's Club, Claughton Village

On Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Doors Open 7 pm

### Free Admission

Buy and name a horse for £3

See the Rangers or email the Chairman

Ken Beard at [ken@kenbeard.plus.com](mailto:ken@kenbeard.plus.com)

The winning horse owner from each race receives a prize.



### Thanks to:-

- **Croxteth Country Park** - for the loan of their boar 'Toby'.
- **Jewsons Ltd** – for their donated tools.
- **Martin French** – for donating fertile eggs for the school incubation projects.

### Tam O'Shanter Farm Café

The café is run by Richard and Jane 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

07984 173466      mobile

Friends of the Farm is the working name of the Wirral Urban Farm Association  
Charity number 515789 based at:  
**Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm**  
**Boundary Road**  
**Bidston, Wirral**  
**CH43 7PD**

**Tel: 0151 653 9332 Fax 0151 652 4236**



## Events

**Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> – Bat Walk** (7.30 – 10 pm) Meet at Tam O'Shanter.

**Booking Essential** Tel: (0151) 653 9332

**Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> – Spring Fair** (12 – 4 pm). A collection of spring themed activities and stalls at Tam O'Shanter Farm, including tombola, raffle, welly-wanging competition, coconut shy and bouncy castle.

**Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> – Guided Walk on the Hill** (10 – 12.30 pm) No booking needed. Meet at Tam O'Shanter farm.

**Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> – Rhododendron Walk** (2.30 – 4 pm). No booking needed. Meet at the windmill.

**Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup> – Guided Walk on the Hill** (10 – 12.30 pm). No booking needed. Meet at Tam O'Shanter.

**Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> – Puppet Safari**  
by Ramshackle Theatre Company.

\* **See separate article.**

**Booking essential**, as there are limited places. There may be a charge for this activity. For more details Tel: (0151 653 9332)

**Friday August 24<sup>th</sup> – Bat Walk** (8 – 10 pm)  
**Booking Essential**. Tel: (0151 653 9332)

**Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> - Guided Walk on the Hill** (10 – 12.30pm) No booking needed. Meet at Tam O'Shanter.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Friends of Bidston Hill**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**At Tam O'Shanter at 7.00 pm:**

GUEST SPEAKER.... to be confirmed –  
ALL WELCOME!  
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT IF  
YOU CAN

## 'Friends' Membership Birthday Boost

Wirral Urban Farm Association, the charity that runs the 'Friends of the Farm' group, is re-launching its membership scheme to celebrate the farm's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The new membership year runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, and from that date the fee will be £5 per year. Anyone joining or renewing from this date will receive a 'Friends of the Farm' card entitling them to a 10% discount at the souvenir stall, a 'Friends only' fridge magnet and badge, and three newsletters a year.

Please show your support for this much-loved local attraction by joining Wirral Urban Farm Association, and asking friends or relatives who visit the farm to do likewise.

You will then be a card-carrying 'Friend of the Farm', and your membership fee will help us to raise funds to look after the animals. It will also help us to bring in more funding from other sources, by showing that we have members who support the work of the farm. Any donation you choose to give in addition to the basic fee will of course be greatly appreciated.

Membership forms are available from farm staff, or from the souvenir stall when it is open. The form can be emailed if preferred; to request a copy please contact [jan\\_greasby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jan_greasby@yahoo.co.uk)

The committee is elected at the AGM, which is usually held in September. It meets monthly, and welcomes help from members and other volunteers when organising fund-raising and social events. People who would like to become more involved in supporting the farm can be co-opted onto the committee, and voted on officially at the next AGM. Please check the notice board by the souvenir counter when visiting for further details of how to get involved and offer active support. Alternatively email the Chair at the address above.

## Easter Holiday Events

**Activities at Tam O'Shanter for the Easter holiday period (31<sup>st</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April):-**

**Jolly Joyrides** – a small carousel ride will be at the farm on Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April and Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, weather permitting. 60p/ride. Suitable for small children only.

**Egg Decorating** – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1–3 p.m.

**Guided Farm Walks** – throughout the Easter holidays. Please check the blackboards for times and dates.

### Play Out – (Woodcraft Folk)

Free, open-access, outside, co-operative play and craft activities for all children, in the parks, estates and green spaces around Birkenhead during Easter Holidays.

Tel: (0151) 653 2269 for more details.

#### **The activities on offer include.....**

Co-operative games, Arts and Crafts, Parachute Games and much more! Any age, everyone welcome.

**During Easter Holidays Play Out is going to be at:  
12pm - 4pm**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Bidston Hill (near the car park) unless it is raining, then they will be held in the activity room on the farm.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Mersey Park by the swings.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Woodlands play area by Borough Road

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April** – Arno Old Quarry

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April** – Victoria Park

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – Ilchester Square by St. James roundabout.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April** – Beechwood behind the Recreation Centre

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – Birkenhead Park by the Pavilion, entrance through Park Road North

## Ramshackle's 'Round the World' Safari

**Ever wanted to go on a wildlife safari and know for certain that you'll see all the animals you're looking for?**



**Don't feel like trekking out to the Serengeti or Madagascar?**

Well with us you can see the whole world of wildlife on your doorstep!

Join us on a walk in the peaceful English countryside and see creatures from every continent, as well as some of our own British Wildlife.

Follow our intrepid explorer and wildlife expert Professor Davina Attenborurrel, ably assisted by the fearless wildlife wangler and tracker Mike 'snakebite' Erwin, on a nature trail covering the five major continents of the world. Watch Meerkats from the grasslands of Africa as they run and play! Observe in startled awe, the Giant Panda of southwest China's bamboo forests!

Hang on, you're thinking! Is this safe? Meerkats? Giant Pandas? Lions and Tigers and Bears Oh My! Well fear not! Don't be afraid, you're perfectly safe..... because all our animals are.....wait for it.....wait for it.....**Puppets!** And very friendly puppets at that!

But the adventure is **real!**

(And if you were to meet the real animals in the wild, after our walk you'd know a lot more about them than you do now!)



**'Puppet Safari'** will be held on Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Tel: 0151 653 9332 for more details,