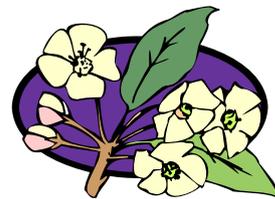


Our thanks to:



TAM O'SHANTER TIMES



Summer 2007

Animal Update

The last few months have seen a number of changes at Tam O'Shanter, with the sad demise of two of our geese, and Elsa, our elderly Saanen goat, who will be very greatly missed.



In April, our breeding sow gave birth to 10 piglets, and in March our Manx Loaghtan sheep produced 5 lambs between them.



Another, more unusual arrival is Betty, our fibreglass cow who has now taken up residence in the big field at the entrance to the farm

We are now also the proud owners of two registered Golden Guernsey goat kids; Strawbarn Marigold and Strawbarn Mona, both of whom are out of Cowcombe Oswald, a leading Golden Guernsey champion.

Both kids were purchased from Helen Alderson, from Telford, who is a breeder of show winning goats.



Wildlife Update

The blue-tits in the cottage nest-box produced another brood this year, whilst swallows have hatched five chicks in Jacko's stable, following the introduction of a wooden ledge attached to a roof beam.



Up to three herons at a time have been spotted on the wildlife pond, and a family of Mallard ducks took up residence there for a short while. Staff also discovered an impressive Lime Hawk Moth in the bee field, presumably having come from the lime trees in Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.

Volunteer Profiles

Alison Brooks



"I first started at the farm as a work experience placement with school. I really enjoyed looking after the animals and meeting people. I have stayed on as a volunteer and have made loads of friends. It has also been good experience for me as I am going to Reaseheath in September to do animal care".

Paul McHugh



"Hello, my name is Paul, I am seventeen years old and have been a volunteer at the farm since I was twelve years old. I enjoy volunteering at the farm because I have increased my confidence and learnt new skills. I have made new friends and have a good relationship with the staff and volunteers. I have had quite a lot of experience with the animals in my spare time at the farm".

Staff at the farm would like to wish both Alison and Paul good luck for their future at Reaseheath College.

**The Friends of the Farm invite you to
MAKE A BIRTHDAY CARD FOR THE FARM!
You could win a prize!**

This year the farm is 21 years old; here's your chance to wish the farm a very happy birthday. We'd like you to design and make a birthday card (*no bigger than 22cm x 15cm please, that's a sheet of A4 paper folded in half*) so use pens, crayons, glitter, feathers, fabric etc and let your imagination run riot! Please write inside the card something that you enjoy about the farm – favourite animal, happy memory, poem etc,

Don't forget to write your full name and phone number/email address – *and your age if you're under 16* – on the back of your card. Hand it in at the farm or post it to 'Card for Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Road, Bidston, Wirral, CH43 7PD' *before August Bank Holiday please!*

The cards will be displayed in the activity room during the birthday month of September; all names will go into a draw for some fun prizes, to be presented on 23rd September at the farm's autumn fair.

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

W.U.F.A AGM

Wednesday, 19th September 7.30 p.m.
at Tam O'Shanter Farm

If you are a paid up member of the Wirral Urban Farm Association then you are invited to the AGM which will include an illustrated talk '21 years at Tam O'Shanter'.

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

Souvenir Counter

The souvenir counter has been re-furbished so that a greater range of products can be offered for sale. The new arrangements will enable Cindy to operate the counter for profit whilst improving the service for visitors. It will also release volunteers for other tasks and contribute a steady income to farm funds.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have manned the counter over the years, particularly Joan, Jill, Paul, Pat and Katherine. However, it has become increasingly difficult to find willing volunteers to man the counter more than one or two days a week. We hope that the new system will be seen as an improvement and welcome visitor comments.

The new souvenir counter will be opening on Saturday 14th July 2007, and will be open 7 days a week 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The shop will be selling souvenirs, toys, post-cards and a range of unique, hand-made jewelry.

Incubation Project Update

March saw the first chicks coming back from the incubation projects and we now have a good mix of rare and unusual breeds of poultry, most of which are for sale.



A total of thirteen schools borrowed incubators from us this year, seven of which opted to hatch hens, five have hatched ducks and Brightsmiles Day Nursery are in the process of hatching some guinea fowl eggs.

Some of the more rare breeds hatched this year include Marsh Daisy, Ixworth and Scots Dumpy. Whilst the more 'unusual' looking fowl include Frizzles, White-capped Black Polish and a Naked-Neck!

Thanks to:-

Jane Topham (coastal walk sponsorship)

Jenny Randall and Bruce Paul (generous donation)

Karen Dransfield (donation of eggs for incubation projects).

Mr Harte (old plough, mangle and cartwheel)

Vilja (and the H.S.E) for Betty the cow – even though she has been quarantined.

2nd Ness Brownies (donation)

Well Lane Primary School, Somerville Primary School and St Alban's Primary School (for their generous donation following incubation projects)

Mrs Williams (knitted goods).

British Telecommunications (new computer)

Race Night

Thanks to all those whom came along and supported this fundraising event organised by Ken and Pat Beard in April. The event raised over £1000 thanks to sponsorship from Howdens Joinery, William Dodd Ltd, Olympic Scaffold, Bancroft Gracey, Construction Systems, R & H Seviles, Huws Gray and Clements Glazing.

We would also like to thank Houlihan's Variety Club for the use of their function suite and members of the Birkenhead Lions Club for their assistance in ensuring the event went smoothly and was enjoyed by all.

Autumn Fair Request

Once again we are requesting donations of tinned/bottled goods and unwanted gifts etc for the raffle and tombola for this year's Autumn Fair.



The Spring Fair was a great success, raising over £500 for the farm. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped out on the day and in the preparations. A huge thanks also to the visitors and local residents for their very generous donations of items for both the raffle and tombola.

Stop Press

green pennant  award

We have just been notified that we have succeeded in retaining a 'Green Pennant' from the Civic Trust for a second year. This recognises high quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2007

Wednesday, July 18th

Fool's Gold Theatre Company present "The Greatest Adventures of Don Quixote" 7.30 p.m – 10.30 p.m at Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm
Ticket only. Ring 0151 691 0008.

Monday 30th July - Friday 24th August

Summer Play-scheme – organized by the Cloughton Community Group. Venue - Tam O'Shanter activity room.

Free admission. Participants must register from 30th July. Under 8's to be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday 24th July to 30th August. Every Tuesday and Thursday at Tam O'Shanter Farm
Jolly Joyrides Carousel. 60p a ride. Suitable for small children only. Weather permitting.

Every Monday from 30th July until 27th August

Birkenhead Woodcraft Folk Play-out Project.
An open-access, outdoor co-operative play project for all children.

Free admission. To be held on Bidston Hill behind the car park.

Sunday August 12th

Teddy Bears Picnic/Fair at Tam O'Shanter Farm.
Games and stalls, organized by the Lion Clubs of Birkenhead. **Free admission.**



Sunday August 12th

Guided walk touring the Church of England Section of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Free but booking essential. Tel: 0151 653 9332

Friday August 24th

Guided bat walk. 7.30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Meet at Tam O'Shanter Farm. Slide show and walk. All children to be accompanied by an adult.

Free but booking essential. Tel: 0151 653 9332

Saturday September 8th

Bat crafts at Tam O'Shanter Farm. Any age.
Please see poster for details nearer the time.

Saturday September 8th

Bidston Heritage Day. - guided walks at Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Bidston Village and Bidston Hill.

Free but booking essential. Ring 0151 653 9332

Wednesday September 12th

Guided walk on Bidston Hill. Meet at Tam O'Shanter Farm.

Free. No need to book.

Sunday September 23rd

Tam O'Shanter Autumn Fair. Tombola, games, stalls, raffle, coconut shy and circus skills.

Saturday October 27th

Beginner's Fungal Foray. 10 a.m. – 12 noon
Meet at Tam O'Shanter for a walk on Bidston Hill and Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.

Free.



Ramshackle Theatre Company

“Round the World Puppet Safari”

Tuesday August 7th 2007
Saturday August 11th 2007
Saturday August 19th 2007
Thursday August 23rd 2007

Join our intrepid wildlife experts Davina Attenburrell and Mike Snakebite Irwin in a Puppet Safari across 5 continents in an afternoon.

Meet a giant panda, a pangolin, meerkats and a fruitbat in this once in a lifetime trip. The journey takes approximately 1 hour and we will have you back in time for tea!

And all for free!!!

The events is suitable for the whole family but is best suited to 5-11 years (must be accompanied).

In order to take us up on this fantastic experience you must book a place by calling in at the Rangers office at Tam O' Shanter Farm.



There are limited places and these will be awarded on a first come first serve basis.