

## The Shallowford Trust Newsletter

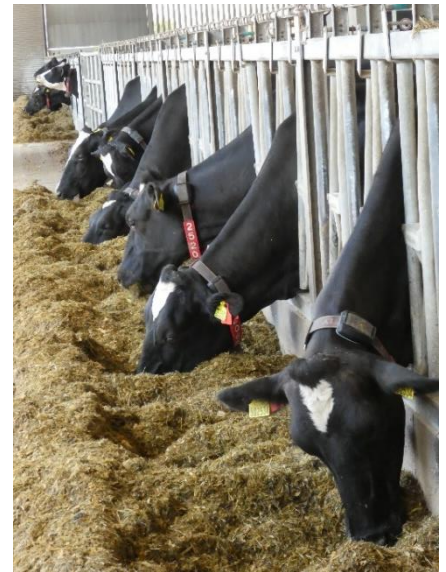


### Wonderful Summer

As the schools planned for their end of year activities, Shallowford provided the magic that would carry them through the summer and beyond. To different age groups, Shallowford provides different things. However, the magic tends to fall into one of two categories: a door opening to a new world never before explored. Once that tiny crack of adventure is opened, the embers of curiosity and joy are ever open and will last the lifetime of that child into adulthood and beyond. To older children, Shallowford acts as a reset button. Fear, anxiety, self-absorption, aggression, chaos and anger dissolves into tender care and concern at the sight of a tiny chick, a dog who just loves to be hugged or a piglet that is nestling its little snout to its mother's teat.



In June two very different groups came to join us. The first had requested STEM training – which for the uninitiated is Science,



Technology, Engineering and Maths! Starting on the evening they arrived, Kate, our bookkeeper had developed some heady sums around rates of pig feed, growth, butcher's costs and possible profit margins. Throughout the week these keen academic students marched across fields to understand how Gail and Miles's leat powers the entire farm with electricity, helped turn the freshly sheared sheep, weighed all the pigs, discussing the attributes of

various methods for calculating averages and remained awe struck by the silent and happy cows at the robotic dairy farm!



Our second group spanned two weeks, as the entire class from Plymouth mini-bused through the wiggly lanes to see and understand moorland agricultural life.

The Primary School of lively and excited children were keen to muck out pigs but also to learn why trees had different shaped leaves, what was the difference between hay and silage and just to listen. Not to silence, but the

wild chatter of nature that as humans we so readily block out, but once heard, calms the chaos of traumatised lives.

### Bins for Food, Bins for Muck

In between our core business, Will Dracup has been busy making sure we remain efficient and up to quality agricultural standards. With help from a local building firm, two bins were moulded from cement, to hold the pig muck and potatoes purchased locally to feed the pigs. All we can say is 'phew' ..... as the muck now rots more efficiently making the smell far more delightful!



The efforts did not cease there. As the saying goes..... 'Where there is a Will there is a way!'

### Now You See Me, Now You Don't

With permission for various planning having been passed by Dartmoor National Park, we thought we had better begin the scary task of demolition before rebuilding can take place. Consequently..... the very ancient, leaky, once much loved caravan had to come down. The Providence House Work Party set to the task and at lightning speed they hacked, whacked and changed the face of Shallowford!

In phases..... it looked like this:



Gently crumbling



Dangerous



Nervous onlookers!



Gently sinking



Nearly gone



Gone!

### History Revealed

But this was not the only historic entity to vanish over the weekend. So..... did one of the stables once built by Malcolm (then a young lad from Battersea, now a trustee living in Plymouth). This project has exposed a wonderful and ancient stable..... now our office and infinitely lighter and brighter!



Can you see the office?



There it is..... exposed at last!

### Thank you to our Amazing Volunteers

The summer has continued with many groups, day visitors, amazing volunteers (Big Hannah has worked miracles to keep us neat and tidy whilst entertaining and myriad of small people), whilst Small Hannah re-arranged the chirping chicks which are growing at an alarming rate to pack the freezer!! Elias muscles kept us moving forward, putting tents up and hauling them down in the howling rain, with Kate calling in Simon to the rescue at the last minute to ensure we lost as little as possible. Thank you everyone for your amazing tenacity in horrible conditions.

In the mean time..... Our little farm is growing.....

### Upcoming Events:

24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September: Sponsored Bike Ride: event on Widecombe Green at 11.00 on 29<sup>th</sup> August to be confirmed.

10<sup>th</sup> September 2019: Widecombe Fair

14<sup>th</sup> September 2019: Farm Open Day