

1st May 2020:

The Shallowford Trust Newsletter



It's been a very, very long time since we last wrote a newsletter! Humblest apologies, we only have the excuse of being extremely busy, not only with wonderful groups but planning, discussing, revising and planning again!! Just to confirm who is still working at the farm, we have from left to right: Will (Farm Manager), Serena (known for her sticky toffee pudding), Alethe (the pig lady and Resident Warden) and Julia (Trust Manager or chief cook and bottlewasher).



In 2019, we had over 400 visitors throughout the year, of which over 260 were from Devon and the rest were from various places throughout the UK, but of course many came from our roots at Providence House in Battersea, London. We actually reached 747 'Visitor Days' and 34 group visits, which is, we believe something of a record and possibly due to both the sponsored bike ride and a wonderful Open Day in September (more below).

A very quick summary of major changes in 2019:

March – Debbie and Al retired from Shallowford – but still come back to help out! Alethe started as Resident Warden.

May – Julia started as Trust Manager.

July – following a funding review, agree to start work on fundraising so that the Main Barn could be converted into accommodation with five bedrooms and construction of the Outdoor Education Barn could begin.

August – bike ride from London to Widecombe: 10 people, 250 miles, £20,000 raised. A private donor agreed to provide the funds for the Outdoor Education Barn. Final tenders were received for the conversion of the Main Barn.

Sept – Shallowford opened for AirBnB, only when no groups are visiting in order to raise funding for group work. Open Farm Day held with over 60 visitors.

Nov – started working with Greater Horseshoe School in Heathfield and their young children on a weekly basis.



In June we were visited by **Riverside Primary School from Plymouth**, who marched at Walls where Gail their knowledge and Miles's turbine that electricity for speed over to Old and Miles challenged on the power of water fantastic turbulent generates all the their farm.



In the mean time, the children helped Alethe with the pigs, dealing heroically with the muck, it's smell and naughty piglets.

The **Cycle Ride** took place from 25th – 29th August. Organised by one of our Trustees, Johnny Walker, it proved to be an amazing combination of gritted determination and sheer hard work. Sleeping in a different church hall every night, they covered the 250 miles, as a group of ten, followed by a van with Robert & Sue Musgrave and Hadas, met later by Debbie Sandels and Anita Dowman. These guys proved that it is possible to raise £20,000 in around three months for 100 young visitors to stay for a residential week at the farm. We have carefully earmarked the funds so, when the good Government says its time to release those humans from their time locked up, they can burst onto fresh wonderful grass and enjoy



www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk



freedom! **Other young walkers:** Timmy and Joe made it in six hours from Bovey Tracey to East Shallowford, completing their school civic award AND raising money for us!



The **volunteers** have kept us going beyond measure. **On 1st June, our amazing local volunteers** moved what seemed like a mountain of tools, books, and equipment from the old caravan to various locations around the farm. **In July the Providence House Volunteers deconstructed the old caravan** which was around the back of the house. Then in September this amazing group



also built the loft for longer term storage - lots of moving stuff around. These guys work magic!

Bridie and Barney's old stable was built by Malcolm Hunter and his volunteers in the 1980s. In July it was finally pulled down and made temporarily water tight to reveal the beautiful stone office. Again – the wonderful



Providence House work party, as always lead by the technical skills of Phil Dorman with Robert Musgrave as the driving force, performed



huge tasks, for the rest of us to enjoy. Our local volunteers dug out the age old mud in the yard and shifted and heaved items around so we could begin major construction in 2020.



Open Farm Sunday in September raised money and awareness of the work and impact we can make on different groups. Consequently, we have had a group of children visiting weekly from Greater Horseshoe School in Heathfield and were requested by South Devon College to provide the practical experience for their 'large animal handling' course.

2020: Already has been the year of CV19, but will also be the year of building. Please see the next document enclosed!



www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk

