

# THE LATEST NEWS FROM Shallowford Trust

September 2014



“ By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; ”

Prov 24 v. 3

## LAD'S WEEK

The lads arrived to the sound of 4000 cabbages crying to be set free from their storage bags and planted in the beautifully tilled soil to provide succulent feed for the animals over the winter months. The lads climbed the hill and manfully set to the task. All began swiftly as the sound of various Rap Artists followed us along the lines. Then slowly, as the afternoon and the lines of small plants drew out, the pace slowed and finally ground to a halt, workers gathering around the refreshments. Then the cavalry arrived – the Sandels men - and spurred the few stronger ones on to complete the task.

Tuesday was an exhausting but adventurous day, riding the narrow trails on bikes around Haldon

forest and then scrambling up the stream from the bottom of Green Coombe. Everyone was wet and tired but secretly pleased with their achievements.

The following day plans were drawn up for an overnight expedition heading out across the moors, led by Chris Sandels. After a good feed they were dropped at Burrator to begin their trek. The moors were spectacular, dry, warm and welcoming. We passed very few people; it was just us and the wildness of Dartmoor. Despite heavy packs the team walked well and gathered enough energy to pitch camp near the River Dart for the night. Cooking pasta and bolognese on a single gaz stove was more challenging for some than first expected. The local fauna fed well that night!

We raced the rain the following morning and managed to keep dry before being rescued by Robert in the bus. Many thanks to Chris and

Robert Sheffield for their time, inspiration and leadership. After a hearty breakfast and debrief at the farm Robert drove them home and then headed for – Peru!



## On the FARM

A big Aberdeen Angus bull was with us for a while, running with the cows and producing the calves for next year. He was a fine beast and we look forward to his offspring.

The working party in June helped us separate the piglets from sows – a very exasperating yet entertaining experience! The 20 piglets are now only 11 as some have been re-homed for fattening up. Those that remain are growing quickly in the summer sun, entertaining the visitors with their squeals and grunts in their desire and quest for food. Orders are now being taken for whole/half pigs, joints, bacon and chops. Call us if you would like to buy some – ready in September/October. Meanwhile the sows have been rested and the boar arrives very soon. Winter piglets and spring bacon!

The chickens are now only 5 after a fox strike mid-afternoon some weeks ago. The geese are down to 3 as the very old goose that had Droop Wing finally gave up. We are looking

to Paul to bring us a box of young turkeys to keep the groups busy through the autumn. The 3 ducklings are now a good size in a new duck house – thanks Paul - and enjoying a daily rummage around the veg patch.

Sheep are breaking out all over and the good lambing this year has given Paul extra legs to count! They are looking really good – market soon.

Paul has been planning for the next few years, looking at how he can best serve the groups that are expected next year and beyond. He is so committed and well respected by the young people, they look forward to enjoying his company, skills and dry sense of humour.

The cats continue to present voles and mice for Timber each morning. The challenge is who gets to them first – Debbie or Timber. For the former they go in the bin, for the latter they go down in one!



## Moving Forward

We have held a number of helpful meetings here at the farm to create a logo for the trust that will serve us well into the future. We have been guided and advised well by Darren Graydon of SPS Marketing and we hope that by the next newsletter you will all be well aware of our new branding.

Roderick James Architects have been very busy meeting with our team here at the farm, gathering information, researching the history of the place, studying the local topography and talking to many agencies and forming ideas. They have produced a timetable for the next 18 months that has helped us to plan the group visits from Providence House

To assist us in planning the development we have sought the advice from other farms that host similar groups of young people. The three very different farms have been extremely generous with their time and advice especially round the interface between animals and visitors. The safety of both has to be uppermost in our plans. Many thanks to Farms for City Children and Jamie's Farm.

## WOW mums



The perfect ingredients for a good weekend would be – happy children, sunshine, warm sea, perfect sand, chilled adults, a stunning location, great picnic, good accommodation, a fire, marshmallows and BBQ. So it was.

The youth hostel was a great host providing good food, fire and evening fun. The beautiful Bigbury beach was busy but no-one got lost. We made a sandy fish and chatted about the Christian symbol. After Serena's sumptuous lunch the beach shrank quickly despite efforts to hold it back with walls and ramparts ( a lack of wisdom?!). We all returned sun-blushed, salty, sandy and full of icecream!

On Sunday morning we all enjoyed something different making scarecrows, fishing for stream bugs and exploring the beauty of the local area followed by a huge BBQ and a good service in the chapel to give thanks for all the blessings we had enjoyed.

What a great weekend!

## Training

We spent a great week with two of the youth leaders from Providence House reviewing the last year and planning the next. Being able to spend time at the farm without the accompanying youth was really valuable, to be able to ask questions, explore and explain. A long walk became a great experience of geography, history and biology – all there right in front of us – amazing and enlightening in equal measures. What a great creator God we have. Such design, such beauty!

## WIDECOMBE FAIR Tuesday 9th September

By the time you read this we will probably have already enjoyed the fair. We will be running the successful café as last year and also providing an Archery Experience, with the loan of equipment from our friends at Heatree Activity Centre. If you read this before the event please pray for energy to sustain us during the exhausting day, joy to share with all those that visit us, safety for all involved and opportunities to serve and share.

And if you are local and able to come and help we are still looking for more volunteers in the 'café' serving food, clearing tables and washing up. Please ring Serena on: 01364 631279 if you can help.



Eight lads and two leaders have just spent an exciting week sailing out of Plymouth care of the Island Trust. They arrived just as hurricane Bertha was delivering some high winds! Everyone had a great time and returned exhausted, windblown but better for the whole experience – thank you Mark and Frank, James and Hannah.

## Volunteers

Once again, we are SO grateful for everything that our volunteers have done for us. You are all invaluable!

## FUTURE DATES

8th - 10th Sept

Fair working party at the farm

9th September

Widcombe Fair

23rd September

Prayer Meeting  
7:00pm

10th - 12th Oct

Providence Group

Harvest at Dunstone Chapel

27th - 30th Oct

Providence Group

Please note our new email addresses:

debbie@shallowfordfarm.co.uk  
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