

**Spring additions**

Paul has been extremely busy this spring keeping up with the piglets, the calves and finally the lambs.

Each of them has been numerous and joyful but not without their trials at times. The visitors have thoroughly enjoyed feeding, moving, clearing out and generally marvelling at the new births.

We hope that soon the Edworthys may be able to take a rest once this busy season is over. We continue to be so grateful to them for their commitment to the work of the trust. They are so popular with the Providence youth and inspire many of them to look further afield for work opportunities.



**Prayer power house**

The last few prayer meetings at the farm have been a great blessing. They prove to be a power house to fuel the work here at the farm and to support and protect all those that visit.

The work continues and we need to ensure that it is all in line with His will. So do come along and keep us on the straight and narrow, every last Thursday in the month.



**Work party at the farm**

What a party it was. The weather was superb and the banter cheery.

We were blessed with a workforce of 7 who were set various tasks, to be completed within the 36 hours of their visit. They completed 3 delux chicken coops - the fox free version - we hope! They installed a smart new wash trough, cleared out two stables, mended the shower, sorted out the wood shed, dug the vegetable patch and picked stones from a field ready for rolling.



What a team - Phil, Micheal, Glen, Anthony, Robert and Misha - we recommend them!

A heartfelt thank you to all of you.

**What it is to be a Leader at Providence**

The team of volunteer youth leaders came to Shallowford to re-visit their gifts, re-view their work and refresh their focus. They were challenged to step out of their comfort zone, whilst blindfolded to follow the rope trail, crawl to the sounding drum and then feed each other unknown foods! They responded well and learnt much about trust!



The team questioned their responses to the needs of the youth back at Providence and considered how they may improve and develop both as individuals and as a centre.

**The Chickens Move In**

Many thanks to Laydilay who have kindly supplied us with new residents for the chicken houses, free of charge. We really appreciate their support. The chickens are quietly clucking away and - laying eggs Eggcellent!!!!



**The Allotment Grows**

Paul has been busy with his rotavator and inspired us to develop the vegetable garden further. It has been ploughed, grass and stone picked and a good spread of fertilizer added.

It is very limited at present with only fruit plants from last year - rhubarb, raspberries, gooseberries, blackcurrants. We now need to employ the visiting groups to plant and weed. Michael has made a great start - with the help of Timber.

Should there be anyone out there interested in helping us out maintaining the plot, your assistance would be greatly welcomed.



### What - no Serena?!!

We have a brilliant group coming to the farm from 25 - 28 May, all boys from the football team at Providence, coming to work on their team skills!

Unfortunately Serena will not be there to deliver her wonderful food though it will all be prepared before hand. Should you live locally and can spare some time during that week to help us out on the serving and clearing up during evening mealtimes then we would be very grateful.



### Holding a cloud

Lower Dart - the 7/8/9 years olds - from Widecombe in the Moor Primary School came to Shallowford for the day. They visited the animals on the farm and then, through a Treasure Hunt around three fields, found pictures for the products from those animals. There were some surprises - paint brushes from pigs, violin bow strings from horses and tennis racket strings from sheep, to name but a few!



The afternoon was spent creating art work from cow bones, spinning wool, flying feathers and testing the strength of duck eggs. So much to enjoy and so little time.

We even managed to squeeze in the story of Elizabeth, Rosemary and Providence House!

There were some great comments - when holding a feather from a Guinea Fowl - so soft and fluffy - "Its like holding a cloud" .. Reading through their letters it was definately Stanley, the bottle fed lamb, who stole the show!!

Huge thanks go to Shan, Issy and Judy for giving their time, sharing their enthusiasm and making the day run smoothly. Bless you.

### Fundraising for new mini-bus

As some of you will have read in a previous newsletter, sadly the Providence House mini bus was stolen last year. This bus was essential for bringing young people down to Shallowford Farm as well as to sporting events around London. Fundraising in London to buy a replacement bus has been very busy and the grand total is currently £11,450. With the insurance claim and a few early gifts the sum totalled £10,450. Then Phil Dorman, who attended Providence House as a young person, ran a marathon in aid of the mini bus fund and has raised over £1,000.

If you wish to add to this fund towards another mini bus you could either follow the link on:

<http://www.providence-house.org/2015/03/local-carpenter-phil-dorman-trained-at-his-childhood-youth-club-is-running-the-marathon-to-replace-a-stolen-minibus> and pay on line or you could send a cheque made payable to: Providence House Youth Club, and send it to: Robert Musgrave, Providence House, 138 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LW, and include a note that you want the money to go into the mini-bus fund.

Our congratulations go to Phil who completed his run in a very good time.



Phil in blue on the right

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

**1st - 4th May - Weekend for Providence Women**

**25th - 28th May - Boys group, the football team**

**28th May - 7pm Prayer meeting at Shallowford**

**4th June - 7pm Country Fair meeting at Shallowford**

**25th June - 7pm Prayer meeting at Shallowford**

**26th - 29th June - Careers group visit**