



September 2017

### Newsletter

#### **Its Fair Time**

Shallowford Café at Widecombe Fair – It's such good fun, such hard work and such a good cause.

Come to the fair, have a great day out, eat great food, and help us out at the café for a short while. If you can spare some time on the day that would be great or maybe help the day before setting up or could bake a cake and either bring it with you or we could collect it a day or two beforehand



(We need the cakes to be uncut and with a list of ingredients!)

We will be located in the old Church House, access from the green and village square. We look forward to seeing you all.

# Dates for your diary

11th-13th September Widecombe Fair Group

**12th September** Widecombe Fair

**6th-8th October** Work Party

7th October
Trustees Meeting

**13th-15th October** Girls Group

**21st-24th October**Junior Half Term Group

**26th October** 7pm Prayer Meeting

# Handmade Double Quilt for Raffling

The Widecombe sewing group has kindly donated a beautiful quilt that they have been lovingly making over the last few months. We are selling raffle tickets at £1.00 each throughout the autumn to raise money to bring more young people to the farm. The raffle will be drawn on December 9th at the Christmas celebration. Find out how to buy them:

If you would like to buy tickets or better still sell some for us then please contact us:

info@shallowfordfarm.co.uk or call 01364 621392.

We would love your support on this one. See Website for Terms and full details.





# More Piglets for Everyone to Enjoy

Two of the sows have produced 22 piglets between them. Such a wriggling heap of spots – check out the short video online!

# Spreading the Word About Shallowford

If you haven't yet seen our promotional video yet you can find the video on our homepage or on YouTube.

Please watch it and then send it on to others.

Keep following us on **Instagram** and **Facebook**.





#### The Falcon Road Festival in London

The team from Shallowford farm went to support their event providing a supply of sausages produced from the farm for the BBQ.

It was a good opportunity to spread the word about the farm to the local community around Battersea and meet our

Providence House friends on their own territory.

We met up with some of the young people that we hadn't seen for a while and encouraged them to come down to the farm again. The dance troup, Streetz United, that had visited the farm in June put on an amazing display again – visit the website to admire their routine.

# The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

The Butterfly Conservation group have been visiting to check how the butterfly is doing on the marsh here at the farm.

They say:

"I counted 71 webs, which is an excellent total and makes your site the largest population on Dartmoor. Last year Jenny counted 65 webs. Well done!"



## **July Work Party**

Robert, Mario and his boys plus Antony joined us at the farm for 3 days, tackling a long list of tasks. It was hot work mending chicken coops, tending the veg plot, building all the new bunkbeds, moving logs into the wood store and strimming. It culminated on a welcome dip in the river with Timber the dog. Great team work





#### The Girls Summer Visit

Esther brought the group to stay for four days, catching good and bad weather alike. They worked well as a team herding 450 sheep, across 9 fields and through a woodland onto better pasture, all with the help of Ben the dog. The beach on a sunny day was a great hit, collecting shells, burying each other, swimming and eating ice creams.

South Milton beach serves us well.

# The Campers Came to Stay

A big group of young people and adults came to the farm to enjoy a holiday away from the city. It was a very happy time with dry weather, good food and excellent company.

We were blessed with 23 different volunteers coming to help to make this event happen. They put up tents, washed up, played games, made cards, scrubbed the barn and cleaned toilets. Impossible without them so thank you to them all.



The feedback was wonderful. The children had a ball, the parents were able to chill and everyone benefitted in ways that we hadn't even imagined:

"My son and I have never been to the countryside before – it's amazing and we have learnt such a lot"

"I have not slept so much for years – it has made huge difference to my whole digestive system!"

"I just had 4 days of the best natural anti-depressants there is, not a tablet in sight but the most calm I can be."

"It's amazing, thank you for all your amazing hard work, Thank you all"



# Returning to Shallowford After 20-ish Years

A brother and sister plus their families called in during the summer to see if we were still operating and to reminisce

It nearly brought her to tears — "I can't believe it is still here"; "This place was a life line to me"; "He just can't stop talking about his time here, I had to come and see it for myself"; "Look kids there's a photo of me in the album!"; "We will be back — and we won't wait so long next time" Long may the work of the trust continue to have a positive impact on all those that it welcomes through its gates.

## **Looking Forward**

The plans for the future provision for young people at Shallowford was put before the DNP Planning Committee on the 1st September.

Permission was granted so we now pray that we will steward the permission well to enable more urban young people to enjoy and learn from farm life and wide open spaces.





# Lessons from the Dry Stone Walls

Paul Edworthy and his team have been creating some beautiful banks and walls around the farm. They remind us of the team that we are a part of here at Shallowford – there are some big stones that maybe we see first but in and around them are the small stones that, if removed, would cause the whole wall to come crashing down.

