



Grimsbury Farm E-Newsletter April 2011

It has been some time since the last E-Newsletter but despite this the Friends of Grimsbury farm have been very busy with various projects. The reason for the long time since the last newsletter is simply down to having little spare time to write it. Between work, family, farm and other commitments, there is little spare time left so I'm afraid that the newsletter was put on the back burner a bit, but at long last, here we are again. So here is an update with what is happening at the farm.

Playground

You might have noticed some work in the playground at the farm and wondered what is going on. Well, I'm pleased to say that after many years of campaigning, (some would call it complaining), the farm playground is finally getting a much needed makeover. The money for this was secured just ahead of the budget cuts and although it had been given the go-ahead we held our collective breaths until the work actually started.

On Tuesday of last week the workmen moved in and it is hoped that it will all be completed sometime this week and we would like to have an official opening on Friday 29th April at the Royal Wedding street party.

Cafe

You might also have noticed a lot of activity in the long barn with lights and work going on late into the evenings. I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that after many years of waiting and talking we are finally in the position of getting a cafe open at the farm. To this end, the Friends have been converting the building to serve this purpose which has involved long hours to try and get the place ready for a grand opening on the same day as the Royal wedding street party at the farm.

It is intended to run the cafe as collaboration between the Friends and another local charity, more details of which will be available after the negotiations have been finalised. The prime intention of the cafe is to generate money which we can then put back into the farm and to ensure that this happens we need to get all the details sorted out.

We are all very enthusiastic about this project and see it as a way of attracting more people to the farm and to generate much needed revenue to make further improvements.

This is a very exciting community project and if you would like to get involved, we will be looking for volunteers to help serve in the cafe at weekends. So if this appeals to you, please get in touch.

Rabbit area

The rabbit area at the top end of the farm was vandalised before Christmas and the rabbits taken from the cage. They were later discovered in rather bizarre circumstances but due to the damage to the cage, have had to be kept indoors for the time being.

Now that the good weather has arrived, they are being put out in runs during the day so they can be seen more easily. It is hoped to get funding so that a new rabbit and small animal area can be built to replace the old one.

One way you can help us raise the money is to come along and support the cafe when it is open.

School visits

Over the past few months there have been many visits to the farm by children from local schools and the feedback from these visits has been very positive. It gives the chance for children to learn more about farm animals and to see the animals up close.

If you have children and their school would like to visit, please contact Stuart, the farm manager, to make arrangements.

Royal wedding street party

We are organising a "Street party" at the farm for the royal wedding. It is hoped that it will coincide with the official opening of both the new play area and the cafe.

Instead of us arranging for food etc, we are suggesting that everyone brings along a picnic and joins in the activities that we will arrange. Or you can simply have a picnic and enjoy the atmosphere of the farm

I have attached a flyer to advertise this event, so please feel free to pass it around.

Farm open Sunday

Farm open Sunday takes place on June 18th this year and will include such things as the sheep shearing, weaving etc. More information will be sent out soon.

Fun day

You might recall that last years fun day was cancelled due to the problem of securing sufficient parking now that the memorial park is officially open. We are fortunate enough to have secured an agreement that will give us the parking we need to allow the event to go ahead.

Unfortunately this came too late for us to be able to arrange things for this year, but the good news is that the Fun Day will be back in 2012 and will be pulled forward to June or July. Planning for this event will be starting as soon as the building of the cafe is completed.

New piglets

Doris, our original Gloucester Old Spot sow has just given birth to another litter of piglets and they can now be seen at the farm during the daytime. We have also had a baby goat born last week so if you would like to see them, get along to the farm and have a look.

Fly tipping

Unfortunately, although most people see the farm as a valuable local amenity and look after it as such, there are still some people who see it as nothing other than a convenient place to dump their unwanted rubbish. Recently a complete bed and a shopping trolley have been dumped over the wall halfway up the hill towards the entrance to the memorial park.

It has obviously been carried there to be dumped and we feel sure that someone must have seen something. If you notice anyone fly tipping at the farm please let us know and we will contact the appropriate people at the council so action can be taken. They are keen to gather evidence with a view to pursuing a prosecution against these people that blight our neighbourhood.

Website.

Unfortunately something else that has suffered recently with the lack of spare time is our website which has got a bit out of date. We are currently trying to get it updated as it is still one of the best ways of keeping everyone up to date with what is going on, so please keep visiting it.

There are a number of events coming up this year as well as the improvement projects that we are involved in. Here are a few of the forthcoming events that we are organising or are involved with :

Royal wedding street party 29th April

Farm open Sunday : 18th June

Staple Hill armed forces day : 25th June

Apple day : October

Carols in the barn : December

If you would like to become more involved with the Friends of Grimsbury farm either with our activities or just the cafe, please get in touch with us. You will be most welcome.

Peter Davies

Chairman

The Friends of Grimsbury farm