

Oak Tree Farm Rural Project

For people with learning disabilities

Registered Charity No. 1138396 Co. Ltd. by Guarantee 07343296

Christmas Newsletter



Christmas at the Farm

Saturday 2nd December 2017

11am - 2pm

Focus Tuesday

In August we held another Focus Day where our Team Members got to show off 'their farm' to visitors. They welcomed the visitors and demonstrated their daily activities such as looking after the animals, potting up plants, making pottery and working in the tea room.



Annual Trip – Churnett Valley Railway

This year we went to the Churnett Valley Railway for the Team Members' annual outing. The Team Members enjoyed their trip on the steam train, especially eating their sandwiches as we travelled along looking at the lovely views.



Animal News

In August we got four new calves (Alice, Gabrielle, Mel and Sue) for the Team Members to hand rear, then a few days later Brown-Eyed girl gave birth to her calf, which we called Scarlett.

In October we got a new tortoise called Terrence. He is a 10 year old Hermann tortoise from a tortoise re-homing charity.



Branching Out

'Branching Out' continues to be a success with our Team Members. New projects include helping in the gardens at Sandon Hall and gaining work experience at Draycott plant nursery. Cassie continues to help at Hollywood Goat Farm and there are regular ad-hoc activities such as fetching animal feed or plants from the nurseries.

Recent Fundraising Events

We have held a number of fund raising events over the past few months, including our Midsummer Music with the Crooked Bawbees, a plant swap in the Cottage Garden and a jewellery evening in the tea room. More recently we had the Pig Race evening at Hilderstone Village Hall which was an evening of fun and games enjoyed by all those who took part, and at the beginning of November we had a flower arranging evening where participants learnt how to make lovely floral displays for Christmas.

Sandon and District Village Fete

Sandon and District Village Fete chose to support Oak Tree Farm and the Air Ambulance this year. Our Team Members entered some of the show classes and even won a 1st in two of the classes. David Moreton attended a presentation evening where the fete committee presented the farm with a cheque for £2000. Our thanks go out to everyone involved with the organisation of, or who visited, the fete to make it such a success.



Donations and Fundraising

Thank you to all those who have given us donations over the past few months, or supported us through our various fundraising events. We always appreciate the support that we get from the local community, especially now that we are fundraising with the aim of building a new shop, office and toilet facilities. The new shop will provide vocational opportunities for our Team Members, in a similar way that the tea room already provides Team Members with catering training. We will be having lots more fundraising events in 2018, including an art sale, a summer music event and a jewellery evening, as well as our Plant Sale day in May. Details of all the events will be posted on our website and Facebook page throughout next year, as well as in our Newsletters.

Bike-a-Thon

The Team Members also joined in with the fundraising and arranged and took part in a bike-a-thon on a static bike in the animal area. They aimed to ride 30 miles each day to celebrate 30 years of Oak Tree Farm. All the Team Members were able to take part, taking turns to ride the bike. Over the 5 days they smashed their target and rode a total of 176 miles altogether. They raised £330 in sponsorship which they chose to split between Oak Tree Farm and Our Space Adventure Playground in Newcastle.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We took part in 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' again this year. Our Team Members helped to make lots of lovely cakes to sell on the day and this year we were able to raise £237 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ingestre Singers Christmas Concert – Wednesday 6th December

The Ingestre Singers will be putting on a Celebration of Christmas concert at Sandon Hall on Wednesday 6th December at 8pm. Tickets for this popular event can be purchased from Oak Tree Farm, or by contacting Paul Wyatt on sandonwyatts@btinternet.com or 01889 508042. Tickets are £8 which includes a glass of wine and a mince pie.

Christmas at the Farm - Saturday 2nd December 11am-2pm

Come and join us for our Christmas at the Farm event where we will have wreaths and other festive decorations made by our Team Members for sale, along with stalls selling Christmas crafts and handmade gifts, cards, plants and pottery. The Tea Room will be open for light refreshments and mince pies.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From everyone at Oak Tree Farm Rural Project*

Oak Tree Farm Rural Project
Sandon Road, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8RT
Tel: 01889 505653 www.oaktreefarm.net
Registered Charity No, 1138396 Co Ltd. by Guarantee 07343296