

Promoting Farming Clubs at Broughton Grounds Farm



S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

Broughton Grounds Farm



**What's this, a
farm newsletter?
Good golly gosh!**

We thought you might like to hear about what has been happening at the farm recently. Hopefully the nice picture makes up for my shocking spelling!

As I (James) write, hay-making is drawing to a close. The last field we make hay of each year is Dairy Ground, which, due to its huge range of wild flowers and grass species (over 130) we don't cut or graze between 15th May and 15th July each year to allow plants to seed. It will soon be time to harvest barley, and then there will be a break before the winter wheat and spring oats are ready. Lambs will be weaned in late July and the early lambing ewes will then be put with the rams in late August, ready to lamb in February (sheep gestation is 144 days, decent pub quiz question eh). Like many industries, as farmer's we now operate in a global market, and the cereal price is extremely volatile at the moment. The Ukraine crisis caused the wheat price to rise two months ago, but on the back of predictions over a bumper harvest the price has recently crashed. On the bright side the dry weather means hay feeding value this winter should be good. And there you have farmers' two

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https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10152... James Taylor

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James Taylor
October 5 ·

bought three hereford heifer calves ready for the kids day next Saturday

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Shannon Petrie, Helen Bagwell, Jack Hancock and 14 others like this.

Patrick Lynn Nice. Planning to X with a Simm in future?
October 5 at 11:23am - Unlike - 1

James Taylor Yes sir, exactly
October 5 at 11:46am - Like

Vicky Hibberd Aw I think the kids will like those
October 5 at 1:44pm - Unlike - 1

Write a comment...

James Taylor's Photos in Mobile Uploads

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00:05 18/11/2014



James Taylor

November 6 · 🌐

just bought this little beauty back for 20 times what we sold it for 30 years ago! (And I don't mean you, James Caro!) Will be back here sometime in 2015, 76 years after it first arrived ... — with James Caro.

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👍 Shakuntala Rasali, Richard Standing, Kevin Masters and 42 others like this.

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**Interesting
stories ...**



Lambs arrive to lift winter gloom

PICTURES BY LOCY FORD
A lucyford@banburygazette.com
01235 277192

Spring has arrived - at least in the barns of Banburyshire's farms.

Lambing has been in full swing for some weeks in spite of the fierce storms and acres of flooded fields.

Down at Broughton Grounds Farm the Taylor family have been taking spe-

cial care of their newborn stock, keeping the ewes and their babes inside for a week rather than a day or two.

"We've been keeping them in longer so they have a chance to build up a bit of strength before they face the elements," said James Taylor.

"It wouldn't do to let them out too quickly. It's been pouring with rain and windy and they would get soaked."

Mr Taylor said most of the 170 flock of early lambers have already produced their young.

A further 220 are due to give birth in April. Orphans have been few and far between and efforts are always made to encourage other ewes to adopt any whose mothers are unable to feed them.

Broughton Grounds is hosting a lambing afternoon on Saturday, April 12 from 2pm-4.30pm. Refreshments will be sold in aid of a small charity in Nepal, Sankalpa Gorkha. Anyone interested in arranging a visit independently should call 01235 277192.



HANDLING WOOL

with care

James Sones looks at a therapeutic use of felting at Broughton Grounds farm



Taylor was one of the managers for 'Let's Feed Your Senses' (LNFYS) and has now given up and returned to his family farm near Banbury, which his family has owned since 1914.

James will look at how sensory nature and people care farming and how sheep play a part

related activities. As both initiatives share common aims, the national organisation Care Farming UK (CFUK) and LNFYS held a very successful joint conference in November 2013.

James's family farm has always been a traditional livestock and arable unit producing mainly lamb and beef and also growing wheat, barley, oats and grass. The Taylor family lamb 470 ewes in two batches, with the remainder

monthly 'Play and Chat' club on a Saturday for children of all ages with Sensory Processing Disorder or Autism wherever they are on the spectrum. This was initiated by one of the parents who has also helped to promote it and fifteen children now attend. In May, the children and parents were able to watch the family's Texel x Male ewes being shorn on the farm so that they understood where wool comes from. If wool is put straight

into their laundry the itch of the fibres abates. It doesn't do so in the felted garments made by the club so these are ideal for young and elderly people at risk of skin irritation. The club also provided a very positive experience for the children. The children had no other experiences of touching wool but also had experience of the feel of wool. The wool is a warm, soft material which does not irritate the skin. It remains remarkably light and soft in the touch. The children's activities in the club are in arts and crafts to be found in clothing, parts, soft furnishings, cushions and covers, hats, trawls and insulation. Important but sometimes forgotten part in our daily lives. The club are really appreciated by the children and Victoria said of her son, a daughter aged four, "I really benefited from the activities and watching. The relaxed atmosphere of the sessions and the unique nature of the hosts of the whole family club. Shirley, another parent that much of the work special needs children are frowned upon by so trips to 'normal' Separate sessions for parents who are happy that they can relax. Children enjoy the son aged five has all elements of the being overwhelmed where his anxiety prevented him from To hold fast



**Make
folks
laugh!**

- Parent / Governor promote to other parents at Frank Wise
- Carer promotes to service users and other day care centres
- Local businesses (accountants, grain trader, agricultural engineer and carpenter) have got involved
- Local paper always looking for stories
- Get group to gather their own evidence

Out of School Update

Welcome back to another school year, and a special welcome for our new children! I hope that you will find something interesting in this newsletter. If you have any questions or are looking for a particular activity for your child to take part in then please get in touch. My contact details are at the bottom of the page or put a note in your child's diary and I will contact you. I look forward to hearing from you.
Best Wishes, Natalie



NEW FARM CLUB

Play and Chat have launched a new Farm Club. It's held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9.45am-11.45am at Broughton Grounds Farm.

The club provides hands-on sessions for all children with additional needs, particularly those who enjoy sensory activities. It's based on a working farm which has a purpose built classroom, hand washing area and disabled toilet facilities.

Most areas are accessible by a concrete path suitable for wheelchairs, walkers, etc and the farm are currently fundraising to build a similar path to enable full access to the hen houses.

Between them, our young people currently make 69 journeys each week directly from school to an after school activity.

Currently, our youngest pupil travelling directly from school to an activity is 5 and the oldest is 18.

Business sponsorship



Group gather their own evidence













Activities

- Seasonal farm tasks; feeding lambs, sorting lambs for market, rolling wool, making honey labels, feeding calves, growing vegetables.
- Regular farm tasks; collecting eggs, mucking out hens, feeding pigs.
- Craft activities; making bird feeders, Christmas decorations, wool felting.
- Cooking; making jams and chutney, pancakes.

Finances

- Education access = £3,000 / year
- Farm clubs = £1000 / year
- Sponsorship from businesses = £400
- Calendars = £1200
- Additional egg sales = £200
- Total revenue = £5800
- Costs excluding labour (hand towels, take home jars, paints, photocopying, refreshments etc) = £500 / year