



Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter! Whilst lockdown continues, Countryways remains quiet without our regular farm helpers, Countrymen's Club and school visits. However, farm life doesn't stand still and we wanted to let you know what's been happening on the farm and hopefully bring you a smile in these unusual times!



Kidding around...

We have 7 kids! Our Boer goat, Amber, gave birth to triplets. Raspberry had her first kid (left), and a well timed visit to check on Blueberry meant that we saw her have two gorgeous kids – a billy and a nanny (right). Morning, our Golden Guernsey also gave birth to a billy goat too. We've even made cheese, ice cream and condensed milk from Morning's rich milk!

A new quiet space to reflect & Safe Farm Visits

We've relocated our large Ex-Army Mess Tent, so that we can offer a special space to those suffering stress and bereavement following the Coronavirus epidemic, and to help people feel able to "Step Outside" again. Thanks in particular go to support from the Clare Foundation. Perhaps you know someone who could help us or who'd appreciate it here? Our contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter, so please do get in touch.



Adapting to Covid-19 and embracing social media...

Over the last ten weeks while on 'lockdown' we have followed government guidance, meaning that the farm was closed to visitors. Not phased by the situation, we decided to adapt and make our farm available and visible online so that while many were stuck in doors, they could enjoy the countryside from their homes. We even made a YouTube debut thanks to the [Chilterns Conservation Board](#), Online Farm Sunday and the Online Agriculture Show. We've had Zoom meetings with some of our Farm Helpers and are just starting to welcome some individuals back to the farm with strict hygiene and social distancing in place.

Keep an eye on the farm...

We've set up trail cameras so we can share with you more wildlife from around the farm, at all hours of the day. Muntjac deer, foxes, badgers, red kites and plenty of birdsong has been captured. We have a whole host of videos on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. The links to our social media can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. **If you would like to receive some pictures of the wildlife around our farm, please email or phone us.**



CONTACT US ON:

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SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

Facebook: [Road Farm Ramblings](#)

Instagram: [@countryways_roadfarm](#)

Twitter: [@roadfarmramblin](#)

Hello from some of our gang!



We're still counting the lambs born this spring!



Our herd of Simmental cattle



Social distancing saves lives

Our socially-distancing donkeys!

Head over to [FaceBook](#) to see a video of Red Kites and check out our [website](#) for more on what we do for wildlife here in the Chiltern Hills.

Countrymen's Outreach

While we can't meet you as a group due to the current lockdown, we are keen to keep in touch with you, sharing our news from the farm, having a chat or helping you out with anything you may need. Please do get in touch with us.



When we meet again, we hope to create a lockdown display in the barn. **Your views and comments are always welcome so please do send your creative musings to emily1reddy@gmail.com**

Farm Joke Time

Farmer David was driving his John Deere Tractor along the road with a trailer load of fertilizer. Jamie a little boy of 8 was playing in his yard when he saw the farmer and asked

'What've you got in your trailer?'

'Manure,' Farmer David replied.

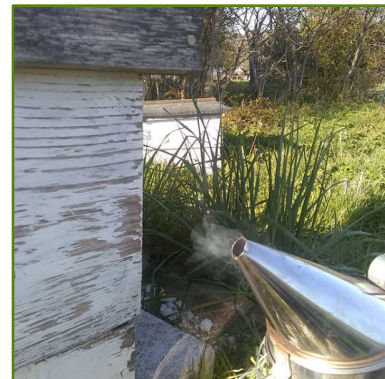
'What are you going to do with it?' asked Jamie.

'Put it on my strawberries,' answered the farmer.

Jamie replied, 'You ought to come and eat with us, we put cream on our strawberries!'

Oooh, Beehive!...

As you know, we keep Honey Bees: invaluable pollinators of crops, fruit, flowers and vegetables and we keenly encourage all the many wild bee species we have on the farm. The bee smoker is up and running. We're almost ready to harvest some honey now!



Your Stories... We'd love to hear your lockdown experiences and share them with the group; they may be funny, thought-provoking notes, a poem or story you have written, a painting or drawing or photographs you have taken.

CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you! Please keep in touch with us with your news, photos and stories. If you would like to find out more about what we are doing and how we can help or if you'd just like to chat, you can contact us:

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