



Wendy's Welcome!

It's Summer and harvest is around the corner. It's wonderful to have people returning to benefit from the farm again and we hope you're managing to safely meet others too. This year's weather seems to have brought out the butterflies and a bumper crop of walnuts – if we can get to them before the squirrels! Do stay hydrated, especially during the "hot spots" we've been having.

Ancient Crops return



Farmer David has grown a field of ancient Einkorn wheat, "man's first wheat," cultivated 5000 years ago! It's very nutritious and low in gluten, but doesn't yield as high as modern varieties. It looks so beautiful, especially with our "Sunflower Corner" for the birds!

Old Country Saying...

Do you know this old country saying? It's about cutting thistles or nettles?

'Cut 'em in May they'll be back next day; Cut 'em in June they'll be back too soon; Cut in July, they're sure to die.'

What's YOUR favourite country saying?



The art of haymaking...

All hay is now baled and off the fields.

Different fields make different hay, depending on the grasses present, so some is higher in protein, other higher in fibre etc, so decisions can be made on which animals need which hay.

Most importantly, it MUST be kept dry or it will go mouldy, rot, be good for nothing or worse, spontaneously combust if it heats up! Duncan & our Farm Helpers have been doing some traditional scything, even Joey the donkey helped tow a hay sledge! Initially the aim was to remove a thistly patch, then to make some herb-rich hay for the donkeys and goats as Yarrow and Wild Carrot plants are excellent for a variety of ailments.

Modifications at the farm in response to COVID-19...

In response to Covid-19, we've made various adaptations to our working practices to ensure that staff, volunteers and those who visit the farm are safe. Our hand washing facilities are kept well stocked, with more visual reminders and stringent cleaning regimes between farm visits. Hand washing has always been essential here to prevent illness linked through animal bacteria, so all our regulars are used to this. We're keen to maintain appropriate physical distances, sometimes we use a "distancing stick" for shared carrying, and we are limiting time indoors. We have PPE on hand for occasional close-up work or unpredictable circumstances and encourage people to bring a mask they are comfortable with using.

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SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

Facebook: [Road Farm Ramblings](https://www.facebook.com/RoadFarmRamblings)

Instagram: [@countryways_roadfarm](https://www.instagram.com/countryways_roadfarm)

Twitter: [@roadfarmramblin](https://twitter.com/roadfarmramblin)

Return reactions



"Look at all the goats!"
(Kidded after lockdown)



"The cows! Where are
the cows?"
(Moved from barns to
fields after March)



"Hello there!"
Lochlann meeting the kids



Three in a row

Share your craft...

Do you have any farm or countryside photos you'd like us to feature in the newsletter? Or maybe a recipe, song, story, joke, riddle, painting, poem, or something completely different? Send them to emily1reddy@gmail.com and we'll try to get them published in our next newsletter.

Countryside Outreach Support

If you know someone who enjoys the countryside and who may be feeling the effect of isolation and loneliness during the current lockdown, and would like to be a part of our Countrymen Outreach Initiative, **please get in touch by calling us on 01494 862413.**

Green fingered lockdown

A lockdown project for Farmer David, his son James and their family, was creating a new plot of raised vegetable beds, transforming a patch of rough, sloping grass. Just look at it now! Lots of companion planting encouraging natural pest defence: nasturtiums and cabbages; marigolds and tomatoes, attracting away caterpillars and encouraging ladybirds!



Farm Joke Time

Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Peace Prize?
Because he was out standing in his field!

Why do cows love hearing jokes?
Because they love being amoused!

What tricks do you know?

Some Thank Yous:

Thanks to the Clare Foundation's £1000 seed funding and encouragement for our Tent-in-the-Orchard, and the local Councillors' Fund £1000, also for this project. Many thanks also to the Chilterns Conservation Board for lending us some scythes from Aston Rowant NNR! Thank you also to Farmers Weekly, Sarah Raven seeds and Gruum (soaps and shaving gels) for their support of our Countrymen's Club and Outreach Initiative.

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 do and how we can help or if you'd just like to chat, you can contact us:

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