



A Countryways Welcome!

Lockdown 3 has felt longer and harder than the previous lockdowns, but at last there is light at the end of the tunnel and very soon we will be able to welcome small groups back onto the farm. Keep well, stay safe and look after yourselves. As the Queen, and Dame Vera Lynne said, 'we will meet again'.

Farm Helpers working hard

A very small number of our Farm Helpers in education have continued to work at the farm in a safe risk-assessed manner. They have been a great help coppicing trees, checking the animals and repairing tools. With the recent snow and Beast from the East, ensuring the animals have fresh water has been essential.

Ezmerelda

One of our delightful turkeys, Ezmerelda has been suffering from an unexplained leg injury. As turkey's can weigh in at 7.5kg -20kg their thin legs take quite a load, so an injured leg can be difficult for a turkey to cope with. So what did we do you may ask. Well, bring her inside to live with us in the comfort of our home of course! With some warmth, TLC and encouraging chatter, she is making a good recovery and has even started laying eggs again. She may not want to move back outside now though!

Birthday Boy! & New Births

Malteser, our bottle fed calf has just celebrated his second birthday! He still loves a fuss and nuzzling the 'high-five' of the Farm Helpers who nursed him to health.

We also welcomed our first calves in February. The grey little chap looks just like his daddy!



Our Countrymen joined us for a Virtual Tour of the Farm

On a snowy Monday morning in January, our Countrymen dialled in and joined us for our first Zoom tour of the farm, greeting the goats, turkeys, chickens, rabbits and donkeys. Pre- COVID, our Countrymen met every fortnight for an active social gathering on the farm, listening to local country-loving guest-speakers, getting involved with farm projects, and reminiscing with new found friends. We look forward to our lively sessions again soon, when it's safe to do so. In the meantime, we will keep in touch via our Outreach programme.

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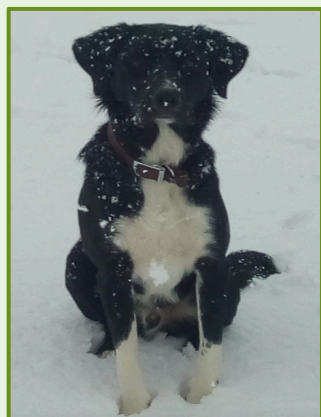
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

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

Facebook: [Road Farm Ramblins](https://www.facebook.com/Road-Farm-Ramblins)

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

S'no'w worries!



All I want for 2021 is...

From wheelbarrows to hen houses and from tea bags to trowels, our 2021 wish list is live on our website. If you would like to support us by contributing towards items on our wish list, please let us know or visit our website.

www.roadfarmcountryways.com/wishlist

His-Story time

We've had an orchard specialist visit to guide us with our planned re-vamping of the orchard. He pointed us to an article about the history of the area, most notably fascinating discussions about the late Farmer Samuel Hearn, a previous owner of Road Farm, who, in 1904, went to market to sell his produce as usual, possibly a pig, but was made drunk perhaps by those hoping for a lower price. His horse and cart brought him safely home, but on dismounting to open the farm gate, he slipped and fell into the adjacent pond/ditch and drowned! Such a sad state of affairs; there are still relatives of the Hearn's around the area, do contact us if you have any extra history.

Enjoy walking in the Chilterns

The South Bucks Way skirts around the top edge of Road Farm, and is an accessible there-and-back 3 mile (approx) walk from Great Missenden. If you are keen to try out some new walks, check out the Chiltern Society website for walking routes or komoot.com/guide/780830/hiking-around-great-missenden for a selection of walks of varying level of challenge.

On the Farm you can spot ewes-in-lamb nonchalantly grazing, kites circling, and spot lots of spring flowers bursting into life. Please share your walks and the nature you spot with us. You can download wildlife spotter guides at <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk>

Chilterns Cluster Farmers

Road Farm is part of the Central Chilterns Cluster Farmer group. The group stretches across the Buckinghamshire section of the Chilterns AONB. Its 18 members account for c. 6,500 hectares of the farmed landscape with many of the farms directly neighbouring others offering great opportunities for habitat connectivity and collaborative projects. Over the winter, all farms in the group have been busy planting new hedgerows, ensuring wild farmland birds are well fed and welcoming bird monitoring surveys. One Yellowhammer recently noted at Road Farm, was leg-ringed in November 8 miles away!



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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