



## Welcome & Merry Christmas!

It's time to reflect and celebrate the people who make Countryways so special. Our regular Farm Helpers have learnt new skills and we've enjoyed watching them grow and flourish. The truly heroic volunteers who help us reach more people and kept our animals in tip top condition over the hot summer. Our Countrymen whose wisdom and sharp wit provide much joy. The schools, community groups and other clubs who bring a host of fabulous folk keen to enjoy the countryside and our farm. We look forward to seeing more of you in 2023!

## Official Opening of our Workshop

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September we enjoyed the long-overdue opening of our workshop with its associated lathes, dust extraction system, traditional hand tools and more.

Among the merry throng were members of the Worshipful Company of Wood turners, local schools and Bucks council. One of Countrymen and accomplished wood turner himself, Stuart King, unveiled our official Opening Plaque with Master Turner Matthew Gaved.

The workshop provides a base to learn new skills, nurture confidence, coordination, trust, independence and team work.



## Meet Amina, our new Volunteer Coordinator

We have appointed Amina West as our new Volunteer Coordinator to improve the way we communicate with, and coordinate our volunteers. Amina has held several posts with other charities so brings a wealth of experience and we warmly welcome her.

Amina's first task is to get in touch with our existing volunteers and share with them a list of upcoming events, projects and opportunities available. She is also busy creating an onboarding programme for new volunteer recruits and will be the go-to person for any volunteer enquiries.

If you, or someone you know would like to get involved at Countryways, either farm-facing, supporting Farm Helpers or helping us behind the scenes, please do get in touch with Amina, by email: [vols.rfcountryways@gmail.com](mailto:vols.rfcountryways@gmail.com).

## 2 of our Boer goats join the CATCH Leeds Family

In mid-December we travelled with our precious cargo of 2 goats to rehome them in a fabulous inner-city farm called CATCH Leeds. CATCH are passionate about improving opportunities for the community and young people. We're sure our goats will fit in just fine!

### CONTACT US ON:

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### SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

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

Instagram: [@countryways\\_road\\_farm](https://www.instagram.com/countryways_road_farm)

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

## Jingle all the way with jigsaws and lathes

In true Countryways style, our team of Farm Helpers and support staff created a unique Christmas tree for the festival at St Peter & St Paul's at the beginning of December.



## Open Farm Sunday

Was another great success! We saw over 600 people from the local area as we opened our farm gates to showcase farming practices and see how we work to encourage wildlife, meet our animals, see crops and farm machinery!

## New 4km Cycleway

You may have seen a lot of muddy work along the field by the train line. This is for the new cycleway between Aylesbury and Amersham. It's due to for completion in 2023.

## Thank you!

Thank you for your interest in Countryways. If you would like to support us financially, please visit our donation page: [roadfarmcountryways.com/helping-us/](http://roadfarmcountryways.com/helping-us/)

## CONTACT US

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## Specialist Courses at Countryways

Over the past year we have hosted numerous specialist courses for the local community which have provided opportunities to learn from the very best in tree pruning and orchard maintenance, wood turning, chutney making, star gazing and sausage making. Keep an eye on our website for new courses and events.

## The countryside as your classroom

We've had school visits from over 200 youngsters within primary, junior, secondary and SEN schools, including Pebblebrook, Kite Ridge, Pipers Corner, The Misbourne and Turnfurlong School this year. Their pupils have enjoyed learning about farming, flora and fauna, meeting our growing family of animals and, making chutneys and pressing apple juice from the many varieties of apples in our orchard.

## An action packed year for our Countrymen

During 2022 we have run 23 Countrymen Club sessions covering a host of activities geared around the farming seasons and our members' specialist interests. Notable highlights include Robert and Pete using a mini ride-on plough to dig a furrow expertly guided by Jason; bottle feeding the kids; Andrew, Chester and Richard planting up spring bulbs and summer tubers; Mike leading a Burns recital; and Stuart taking our group metal detecting. If you know someone who might benefit from our Countrymen Club, please get in touch as we have a limited number of spaces, please email [office.rfcountryways@gmail.com](mailto:office.rfcountryways@gmail.com).



## Local Ukrainian families enjoy fun at the farm

We've been happy to welcome Ukrainian and other local families and young people, providing restorative space in the orchard and farm environment (approx 80 people). The children fed branches to goats, gathered apples to take home, and stroked rabbits, bantam hens and turkeys. Others took a longer walking route guided by the knowledgeable Reuben. There were lots of smiles and rosy cheeks when everyone gathered for home baked refreshments.

## Spotlight on Declan, one of our Farm Helpers

Declan has been attending Countryways for . He really thrives in the open environment where he has the opportunity to do something practical. **"I really like the woodwork and using the tools. It feels good that I am trusted to use the tools. Coming here I have progressed more with my confidence and I have belief that I can do things."** Declan says. Coming to Countryways is so important for Declan, it gives him stability and time and space to learn and practice new skills; somewhere he connects with other people and this has enabled him to grow in his confidence and in his ability to do more independently.