

# Farm

Hackney  
City Farm

Focus on March • Issue 1

## Farm Manager's Introduction



Welcome to issue one of the Hackney City Farm monthly news sheet. Our way of keeping you up-to-date on what's been happening "down on the farm". Special thanks go to Michelle for volunteering her skills to put this together for us. Hope you like it! Chris Pounds – Farm Manager

## Filming at the farm

There has been a lot of media buzz around the place this month. The Farm has featured in the **Evening Standard** and on **BBC Radio 4**, as well as in a new version of "Room 101" for **BBC2**.

We were visited by various "celebs" including David Bellamy, Hugh Fearnly-Whittingstall and Vic Reeves. So impressed by the project, David has agreed to become a patron of the Farm.



## We're expecting!

Four of the Farm's sheep are back on site, having spent most of the winter down in Kent with a Texel ram. They are due to lamb in the last week of March. As we write, one of the Suffolk's is "bagging up" (udders getting bigger) – a sure sign of something happening. Look out for the new arrivals.

## Donkey in demand

Donkeys are hot property in London around Easter – Larry, on loan to us from Stepping Stones Farm, had three bookings for Palm Sunday and most of the day was spent leading parades in the warm spring sunshine.



## Hello and Goodbye...

A big welcome to the new Sure Start Manger, Kirsten Webb, who will be replacing Vanessa Wiseman from April 1st. Vanessa has managed the Haggerston Sure Start Programme through a difficult period, and has done a terrific job.....

## Goodbye and Thank you!

First up was Trafalgar Square for St. Martins in the Fields, followed by St. James, Piccadilly. The day ended leading a congregation of over 150 from Camden Churches, along Camden High Street – much to the amusement of passers-by! Larry took it all in his stride, led impeccably by volunteers Craig and Joanne. **Well done to all.**





1 Goldsmiths Row • London • E2 8QA • Tel: 020 7729 6381  
hackneycityfarm@fsmail.net • www.hackneycityfarm.co.uk  
Registered Charity 291211 • Limited Company 1883734

A living community resource

**March • the season for • rhubarb • carrots • leeks • radishes • parsley  
parsnips • swede • turnips • purple sprouting broccoli • beetroot • sorrel**

## Funding News

It's been a good month with some great donations from **Worshipful Company of Woolmen and Butchers, Fleming Foundation** and **Tommy Walsh** (anyone spot he was wearing a Hackney City Farm t-shirt in Ground Force the other night? – Cheers Tommy). We have also received some capital funding from **Haggerston Sure Start**, which amongst other things, is being used to repair floors in the meeting and pottery rooms, and from **Hackney Parks Forum**, to help us develop links with users of Haggerston Park.

## “Old Charity Shop”

This was burnt out by vandals several years ago and has lain empty, awaiting some TLC. Now re-furnished by Farm volunteers, and corporate groups, it is home to a training office and consultation room. The latter provides a workspace for visiting healthcare professionals.



## “New Deli”

Thanks to the hard work of both staff and volunteers, the new Farm deli opened on Tuesday 15th March. Operated by the Frizzante Café, the shop will stock sauces and condiments, as well as Farm produce, information, and various unique products.



Join us for the  
**Canal Carnival**  
which begins  
here at the Farm  
at 10am, on  
**Sat 23rd April**

The Carnival  
parades to  
Laburnham  
Boat Club with  
lots of stop offs  
for health and  
fitness advice.

A barbecue and  
live bands at the  
Boat Club keep  
us going from  
2 - 5pm. Lots of  
fun for all.

visit [www.shorditchspar.org.uk](http://www.shorditchspar.org.uk), or pick up a Farm leaflet for further details.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



## Coming Soon

The **Community Empowerment Fund** have awarded the Farm a small grant to gather feedback and information on the quality of services offered at the Farm. Throughout April, Maria Lenn, an information specialist, will be conducting a business plan and a survey of Farm users views to feedback to the Farm's Management Committee. Look out for questionnaires to have your say.

Don't forget, you can always write comments in the Farm's visitors book, good or bad, or alternatively speak directly with the Farm Manager, Chris Pounds.

## Developments Planned

Summer 2005 looks to be a busy time at the Farm with lots of exciting developments in the pipeline, including; an outside animal display area and a covered picnic area for visitors bringing their own food. Look out for more details.

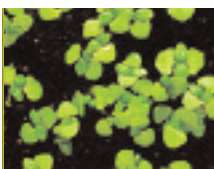
## Big Farm Birthday!

In August we are planning a grand open day to celebrate the Farm's 20th year. The event, to be held on **Saturday 20th August**, looks set to be a great day. If you would like to get involved in the organisation of this event please let us know in the Farm office.

## Calling all park users

A Haggerston Park user group is being re-established. The first meeting is on **Tuesday 7th April at 1.00pm in the Park Depot**. Come and have your say on Park use and developments.

If you want to find out more about the Sure Start Services, for under 4's, in the Haggerston Area, call 020-7739-6467.



eco-logic

The UK generates 20-30,000 tons of domestic waste in 'batteries' each year. These contain harmful chemicals such as zinc, manganese and mercury. Astonishingly, less than 3% are re-cycled. Hackney Council's recycling scheme (the green box or bag issued to all the borough's residents), accepts your dead domestic batteries. Together, lets change that 3%!