

Farm

Hackney
City Farm

Focus on April & May • Issue 9

Farm Manager's Introduction



Welcome to **Farm**, our bi-monthly news sheet on what's been happening here at Hackney City Farm. It's been a busy Spring with new lambs, chicks and loads of Easter activities. Read on to find out more. **Chris Pounds – Farm Manger**



Straw Bale Build

Our plans for a straw bale resource room are well underway. We have appointed local architect (& organic veg box member) **Charlotte Harrison** and straw bale construction experts **Amazon Nails** to assist us with the project. The build is being funded by **Biffa** under the land fill tax credit scheme with 10% of the total cost coming from corporate donation.

The room will be multi use hosting training, meetings and private functions. We are using volunteer muscle and will be running the build as a learning tool over several weekends. If you are interested in learning about this type of sustainable construction please contact the project manager, **Bryan Lowman**, here at the farm.

Keen Katie

Katie Ings has been volunteering at the Farm for over 2 years now. In all the time that she has been here Katie has greatly added to the friendly and cheerful atmosphere at the Farm. Without her light hearted jokes and bubbly sense of humour, I don't know how we would have got through the busy, if not verging on manic, weekends and holiday periods!

Thanks Katie for all the jokes, help and dedication!



Watch Those Tools!

Welcome to **Eddie Copeland** who has just joined the Staff Team on a part-time basis; helping us maintain and renovate the Farm site. Woe betide anyone who leaves any tools out from now on!

Funding News

A big **thank you** to the **Bridge House Trust** who have funded the Livestock and Education Worker over the last three years.



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A living community resource

April / May • the season for • asparagus • cauliflower • strawberries
raspberries • cherries • duck • sardines • parsley • mint • rhubarb • kale



Volunteers

Our new volunteer programme for Asylum Seekers is now well underway. Working in partnership with the **Refugee Council** we have recruited 8 asylum seekers onto the programme – and have a waiting list of people who want to join. The project, which runs 4 days a week, consists of 2 days of English tuition – taught by **Julia** who has been volunteering at the Farm for several years – and 2 days of general volunteering including farm maintenance, gardening and a range of other tasks aimed at furthering the sustainability of the farm.

During the early part of spring, the focus has been on planting seedlings in our new polytunnel (essentially a large greenhouse); building a shelter out of willow in the front garden; building window boxes; making clay plant pots and building seating for our classroom. An enormous effort was put in by all and it has been very rewarding and fun. Special thanks to **Rose** for tirelessly cleaning the volunteer room!



We're Lambing

We didn't put a ram in with our ewes this year but Farm Manager, Chris, lent us some of his own pregnant ewes, who were all brought up from Kent to lamb. So far we have had 7 healthy lambs, 3 of whom are bottle fed. If you're lucky you may see them drinking their bottles in the late afternoon! The Suffolk ewe (the one with the black face) still hasn't lambed yet so keep your eyes peeled for any signs!

DATES FOR THE DIARY



8 & 22 July
Young Farmers Club
2-4pm at the Farm

16 July
Spice Festival
Hackney Town Hall

29 July
Shoreditch Parade Banner Workshop
1-4pm at the Farm

Learning Trust - Our project with the learning trust has also been running very smoothly and there have been real improvements in team work from **Stevie** and **Michael**, who together with **Goran** (one of the younger asylum seekers) took on the mammoth task of laying the underground pipes for the new solar powered irrigation system. During this task they had to lever out some very stubborn cobble stones and after two or three days of solid perseverance they were successful! We would also like to welcome **Ugio** who is the new teacher for the boys. They are now working towards a Basic Skills qualification and a Foundation Training Certificate under her supervision.



animal-logic

IF YOU HAVE BROUGHT ANY TREATS FOR THE ANIMALS, PLEASE CHECK WITH A MEMBER OF STAFF BEFORE FEEDING THEM AS SOME FOODS ARE UNSUITABLE. SOME ANIMALS HAVE DIABETES AND OTHERS ARE ON DIETS TO AVOID ILL HEALTH THROUGH OVER EATING. BREAD CAN BE GIVEN TO THE DUCKS, CHICKENS, GESE AND THE TURKEY WITHOUT STAFF CONFORMATION, BUT PLEASE TRY NOT TO FEED THEM AFTER 3 O'CLOCK AS IT MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO PUT THEM AWAY! AMBER THE GOAT HAS A SLIGHT SKIN CONDITION – MAINLY AROUND HER LEGS. PLEASE TRY TO AVOID PETTING HER OR BE SURE TO WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY BEFORE PETTING ANY OF THE OTHER ANIMALS AS IT CAN BE PASSED BETWEEN THEM QUITE EASILY.