

MILLENNIUM FARM TRUST

providing opportunities for those with learning difficulties



Newsletter sponsored by



Land Agents and Rural Surveyors

01787 311140

www.sbsurveyors.co.uk

Newsletter Summer 2011

Harvest time!

Four seasons have elapsed since the last newsletter! Strong winds, heavy rain and drought factually and allegorically have affected MFT in this time. What is the harvest report? Since September 2010 three new Trustees, one part time volunteer support member, two new committee members and three new farmhelpers have joined MFT. Practical help and practical resources have been provided by Roger Bird and Sarah Smith of Longs Farm, Hartest, Thompson and Morgan, Geoff Davies, 3 teams of Nat West volunteers and Rob Thurkettle of Thurlow Nunn Standen. Financial help /grants have been given by Suffolk Foundation, Horringer Court Middle School, The Headley Foundation, Bailey Thomas Foundation, East Bergholt Parish Council and Bury Young Farmers in addition to several private anonymous donations. Thank you Ben Burgess, Claas and South Suffolk show committee for supporting the MFT stall and providing toy tractors etc. Special recognition to Bury Physio for sponsoring two farmhelpers since January 2011 enabling them to attend on a regular basis. This has had huge benefits so let others know and other business support would be gratefully received.

Ensuring MFT continues to operate and offer a quality service special thanks go to those behind the scenes- Richard Hopper (MFT grants officer, membership secretary and volunteer car driver), Mr. Jim Burrows (Suffolk Community Car Service car driver) Chris Barker and David Axton (MFT volunteer car drivers), Stephanie Hartick (MFT committee member), Chris Storey (MFT business consultant), Yuk Lun Wong (MFT website and rosters), Mark Richardson and Victoria Lawson.

The patience of the MFT members and supporters is greatly valued and thank you for staying the course during the difficult times. Progress has been achieved on the land, in the workshop and in the viability of MFT.

During the course of the year MFT work teams have attended Old Hall East Bergholt gaining valuable and varied experiences in animal husbandry, using a log splitting machine, witnessing the birth of a Jersey calf and helping the vet with TB testing. Old Hall always provide a friendly welcome to our team. MFT has also had varied opportunities at Longwood Farm Tuddenham with Matthew Unwin. Dismantling old fencing (whilst being inspected by Belted Galloway cattle), helping to feed the organic chickens, planting saplings and marvelling at how light the soil is at Tuddenham compared to the heavy clay soil at Rede.

Work at Rede has gained a recent momentum with the final repair of the tractor and at the end of July the acquisition of a mower and rotovator. Beware thistles!!

The Suffolk Punch Horses provide friendly and important therapeutic company. Nigel and Chris Oakley keep us updated on the progress of various horses. Sadly earlier this year two mares and a foal died (all unrelated causes); a great tragedy when the breed is endangered.

For workshop news see Mike's report. MFT has some excellent onion trays for sale.

If you are harvesting more than you need buy some onion trays for winter storage.

Also, don't forget to visit our website www.m-f-t.org.uk

From David Webb, Trustee & Voluntary Support Worker:

"I first became aware of Millennium Farm Trust through an article in The East Anglian Daily Times. The article featured the need for more helpers to keep the Trust going. I read it through, and having gained a vision of what the Trust strived to achieve, and mainly THE IMPORTANCE for the beneficiaries, I phoned Bernadette expressing a desire to become involved. [This was September, 2010]

I was invited out to Rede Hall, where I met Philip & Bernadette, to start with. Philip (Farming manager and senior support worker) showed me the land that the Trust rented from Mr Nigel Oakley, together with the workshop

I attended a quarterly meeting at Stowmarket, I believe in October, last year, and expressed my desire to become a Trustee of Millennium Farm Trust.

I then paid several visits to Rede & Old Hall, and worked with Alex, Miriam, Jason & Keith, mainly, as a voluntary support worker. I had my CRB disclosure completed through the Trust & SAVO.

I fully realise the importance of all that the Trust provides for the Farm Helpers, and have gained lots of good experiences through working with them.

I was appointed a Trustee at The A.G.M. and will do all I can to make for the continued success of The Millennium Farm Trust.

I am also Football Secretary of A.F.C. Sudbury, and Chairman of Cornards & Chilton Horticultural Society.

My wife & I love travelling, and this year we had two weeks in India, the highlight being our visit to The TAJ MAHAL at Agra.

We also journeyed on a narrow gauge railway up into the foothills of The HIMALAYAS. The temperature was around 45C [PRETTY HOT]

To finish, I am delighted with all the new people that have come on-board, and together with all the Farm Helpers, look for continued success of M.F.T.



We still need help—who do you know who may be able to assist?

Publicity and Marketing Officer
Minutes Secretary
Committee members
Volunteers for: - Land Work, Car drivers, support workers.

Other activity

Besides farming we have also been busy - October 2010 joint ramble with Bury Ramblers in the Horham Area led by Kevin Chapman (former MFT farmhelper), attending East Anglian Care Farming meetings, conservation work at West Stow, attending Lapwing events in Ipswich, giving a presentation to students at West Anglia College, Milton and giving presentations to various organisations.



More Thanks - Hello's and Goodbye for Now's

Finally we say thank you very much for all your contributions and good luck to Philip Mellor Farming Operations Manager and senior support worker since 2001.
David Cook Trustee and Volunteer support worker plus MFT member since 1999
Pat Higgins, Trustee and committee member (event fundraising and interim assistant Treasurer) since 2006
Keith Sparkes MFT Farmhelper

We welcome to MFT:

Jocelyn Pettit Farming Operations manager.
Jason Soames MFT Farmhelper
Shane Cappuchio MFT Farmhelper
David Webb MFT Trustee and volunteer support worker
Andy Hunter MFT Trustee
Nicky Hunter MFT Trustee
Louisa Wells – MFT Treasurer and committee member
Tim Freathy – MFT committee member
Ian and Helen Raine - MFT committee members.



Workshop Report

Lots of activity with all the farmhelpers learning new skills and producing some accomplished pieces of work.
From 16 foot long movable poly tunnels, planting troughs made from recycled pallets, bird tables, small bird and bat boxes, stacking storage trays for our onion crop providing a wide variety of products for people to make and gain confidence and skills.
Our wildlife range has also increased with the introduction of Barn Owl Box design, much larger than the Tawny Owl Boxes we have made so far and we hope to make a few more ready to sell in the next 3 months as Autumn is the best time to position and install a box so that the local Owls have time to accept it over the winter in readiness for spring nesting.
Special thanks are due to Geoff Davies who has provided invaluable support in the workshop over the winter months and provided large amounts of wood and stakes. Geoff's enthusiasm and commitment made a huge difference and a new product was facilitated through Geoff pre-cutting the components for large bird tables.

AQA accredited courses to be offered in the autumn

MFT started working with Lapwing earlier in the year to provide AQA accredited awards for some of the topics we teach.
It is done on a modular system of assessment.
The subjects that can be offered are extensive and if necessary can be modified prior to the student starting it to take into account their specific learning requirements.
There are quite a few woodworking modules to choose from, animal husbandry and equipment use and maintenance but not much relating to growing and maintaining vegetables.

However there is much scope to develop our own teaching material if the first few students are successful and find the experience positive

Mike Jesky

**Workshop manager
and senior support worker**



Making the Website Wonderful

Around 2007, Bernadette came and asked me if I would run the MFT website as my predecessor no longer wished to be in that role. Hesitantly I said yes and so began my relationship with the charity.

I do not have a farming background and do not live in Suffolk, so I do not participate in the day to day activities of the charity. Even though I keep myself firmly in the background, I do get to know what's going on because I am responsible for sending out the monthly rota to our support workers farm helpers and car drivers, and I recognise a lot of the faces because they are on the photos that I have been sent to put on the web. I get to see the tremendous hard work that everyone puts in, from supporting the farm helpers to keeping the charity afloat. I see the public recognition that our farm helpers have received. I see the generosity and passion in our volunteers and supporters. I know that every penny of your donation goes to supporting the charity's cause and on nothing else. Despite the small part I play, I am proud to be associated with MFT.

**Yuk-Lun Wong,
Webmaster**

www.m-f-t.org.uk

**Millennium Farm Trust (MFT), Registered address:
2 Oakey Field Road, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP31 3RX.
Registered Charity No. 1070145 Company No. 03567659
Telephone Bernadette on 01359 230498
Or Mike on 01440 763222
www.m-f-t.org.uk**