



Farming For All

Community Interest Company

Cultivating Confidence!

NOVEMBER 2011



A Fantastic Year For Farming For All

2011 and beyond.....

We've achieved an incredible amount since the last newsletter: Our first major fundraiser (The Udder Marathon), a new project for budding gardeners with disabilities (Horticulture for Health) and we have grown tremendously as an organisation, taking on new ventures and a new Project Leader to help us implement them. Alastair Smyth joined us full time in July having run our Dig Deep project since it began last January. He has successfully opened our 'Horticulture for Health' project; taking on new clients and helping FFA transform even more lives. Hugh Follett has also joined us as a support worker and has quickly become a valued member of the team, involved with many of our projects.

Through our work with ASCEND and The Royal Veterinary College we have engaged more clients than ever expected. Moving forward the opportunities seem to grow all the time to involve and engage local people.

In these somewhat uncertain times, where cuts to services are happening across the region, it is all the more important to keep up the support we offer. It does make it harder to find the funding and build stability, but our aim to help people from a wide range of backgrounds facing a variety of life challenges gives us a unique remit that funding organisations recognise the benefits of, and do provide financial assistance for.

The continued support of the community is why the New Year will see FFA in it's fourth year of operation! We have had so much support from many organisations and individuals and their help is very much appreciated, so thank you to everyone.

We are continuing to develop projects and have scope to contribute even more in 2012. We're sure it will be every bit as exciting and rewarding as this year has been.



Farming For All's
Hugh Follett and
Alastair Smyth

Jude Aua

Director

Dig Deep



The Dig Deep project in partnership with ASCEND in South Oxhey has flourished this season. We are now running activities twice a week in all things outdoors: gardening for beginners, summer planting, outdoor skills, allotment cooking, lotions and potions, and natural and seasonal crafts. On Thursdays we run an exciting volunteer day where attendees gain valuable practical and team working skills, plant a huge variety of vegetables and manage and develop the site. We are always looking for more volunteers though...

To Volunteer with Dig Deep
Please Contact
Angie Green at ASCEND:
outreach@ascend.org.uk
020 8420 1364

An Udderly Fantastic Time!



On 15th May in Watford's Cassiobury Park, FFA's first major fundraiser 'The Udder Marathon' was a great success. Runners completed the 5 or 10Km circuit, in a range of bovine fancy dress. Since then an open day at the farm and some amazing match funding by the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust means we have raised over £6000 in total. Elected Mayor Dorothy Thornhill and winner of the fancy dress competition Marilyn 'Moo'nroe pictured above.

With the funds from these events we have been able to run 3 new educational skills courses for candidates from the care farm project to return and develop their skills and receive a certificate of competency in animal husbandry. The Care Farm project is proving to be a great success. We have a number of clients moving from the initial course to more complex training courses and volunteering opportunities, which continuously demonstrate the value such programmes can have on people's lives.

"I have never been asked to be a leader in anything and I never, ever thought I could. I've never felt like I could say what I thought in front of people either but I feel like I can here and not only that but THEY LISTEN! This project has changed my life this year!" - 2011 Care Farm project client

We are now developing a care farm project to provide Equine Guided Learning and working with the RVC to find the funds to continue this great partnership. Laura Gold is a Monty Roberts accredited instructor and will be leading these courses.

Contact Us

Farming For All
Community Interest Company
Unit 280B, The Wenta Business Centre,
Colne Way,
Watford,
Hertfordshire.
WD24 7ND

www.farmingforall.org.uk

enquiries@farmingforall.org.uk

Horticulture for Health

With funds from the Big Lottery 'Awards For All' Fund, The Mayors Fund and Councillor Nigel Bells Locality Fund we have built Watford's first wheelchair accessible allotment site with raised beds of varying heights, easily accessible sheds and specific gardening tools to aid mobility for clients with different physical disabilities.



The project provides free allotment based gardening training to people with physical and sensory impairments. All training sessions, facilities, equipment and the layout of the site are designed to empower individuals, making activities and outdoor skills as accessible as possible to increase participants' independence. The project brings people of different abilities to work together, learn new skills and increase their self-esteem and motivation. Transferable physical skills, useful in daily living are also integrated into sessions.

If you are interested in taking advantage of the fantastic new facilities or know of someone who would benefit from taking part in the activities please contact Alastair Smyth:
ali.smyth@farmingforall.org.uk



About Farming For All:

Farming For All is a Social Enterprise working in the Hertfordshire area providing guided activities and training on allotment, farm, outdoor and educational sites for adults and young people.

"Our mission is to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable individuals who are experiencing social or educational exclusion, by providing meaningful experiences in a natural environment, and to help them grow to become confident, well balanced individuals who are socially included"

Get Involved:

Please get in touch with us if you would like to join any of our projects, volunteer groups or workshops. We are also always on the lookout for volunteers to help us to run our projects:
ali.smyth@farmingforall.org.uk



Corporate Days



"The team had a great day out of the office, working together with people they do not typically have a chance to work with.....by the end of the day a noticeable difference could be seen at the site, and we all talked about returning again"
Sarah Jenkins, IPSOS MORI

After numerous corporate days with John Lewis, Ipsos Mori, Three Rivers Council and GE Capital we now have a greenhouse, a shelter for attendees, decking, a composting toilet, raised beds, and permanent pathways. Thank you to our Corporate volunteer teams!

If you are looking for a corporate day to give something back to the community please get in touch with us: judeallen@farmingforall.org.uk

