

# ABOUT FACE

The newsletter of  
Farming And Countryside Education

Spring 2009 Issue 16



## Everyone knows that children would rather be out than in...



Paul Keene - Avico Ltd

When FACE was established just over seven years ago, visits to farms were at an all time low. This was due to the general perception by schools that visits were not safe and had little curriculum relevance. How different now!

This year has seen the launch of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. This is a 'movement' that many different organisations have helped to create with support from the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF). Its aim is to ensure that all young people have a variety of high quality learning experiences outside the classroom ranging from visiting museums to mountains.

Existing safety and quality badges are being brought into one easily recognisable badge for LOTC. This will provide schools with an assurance about safety and educational issues. The Quality Badge is a voluntary scheme but the expectation is that it will be instantly recognized and trusted by schools and local authorities. All farms hosting visits are awarded the Quality badge through CEVAS so there is no duplication of effort.

In October 2008, Ofsted produced a report that examined the importance of learning outside the classroom. They found that hands-on activities led to improved outcomes for pupils and students, including better achievement,

standards, motivation, personal development and behaviour. This report is a powerful endorsement of the educational activities provided by farmers.

So, if a school is reluctant to take their children out of their classrooms, they are out of step with educational developments because the case has been made for visits that are safe and have curriculum relevance!

For further information about LOTC please visit [www.lotc.org.uk](http://www.lotc.org.uk)

To find out how farms can receive the Quality Badge please visit the farmers' section of [www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

### Continued success for Hartpury's School Programme

Hartpury College is one of the first colleges to be awarded the newly launched LOTC Quality Badge. This recognises their commitment to helping young people learn more about food and farming by providing them with high quality learning outside the classroom experiences.



## Discover the changing Seasons and a changing Museum

At the Yorkshire Museum of Farming at Murton Park some exciting changes are afoot. The Museum is pleased to announce a new working partnership with FACE and launches its educational "Food and Farming Day" in the summer term.

The day is aimed at primary school children and focuses on food, healthy eating and food origins. Set in the Victorian era, children can take part in hands on activities and explore agricultural artefacts that have been used to make our daily bread.

The Museum is also installing four 'sound tubes' within the Four Seasons Gallery. The visitor can walk through the museum and listen to local farmers talking about the jobs specific to each season.

A full programme of events is planned for weekends and holidays throughout 2009.



## Countryside Live North, West Yorkshire Wed 20 and Thursday 21 May 2009

Thanks to funding from The Wheler Foundation, the Countryside Foundation for Education will again bring Countryside Live - a country fair for primary school children - to the Ledston Estate, near Castleford, West Yorkshire.

2009 sees Countryside Live running for the fourth consecutive year on the Estate where up to 2000 children per day will carry out hands-on activities to learn about different aspects of the Countryside, for example gamekeeper, woodland management, conservation, farming and country crafts. There is also a full arena programme including falcons, gundogs and sheepdogs.

For full details please look at the Countryside Live website [www.countrysidelive.org.uk](http://www.countrysidelive.org.uk)

As well as two Countryside Live events, CFE also run several Estate Open Days throughout the country. For further details please look at the Countryside Foundation website [www.countrysidefoundation.org.uk](http://www.countrysidefoundation.org.uk)



## Fantastic Family Forest Fun Week at Fordhall Farm



During a recent school half term break Fordhall Farm hosted daily visits from a constantly increasing flock of eager families who took up the challenges of their Family Forest School Week.

The week was a roaring success, with families amazed at how much fun, quality time out of doors can be. Others were simply grateful for the opportunity to "get back to basics" with some inexpensive, healthy family fun. Children came with their parents grandparents and great grandparents from as far away as Wales, Liverpool, and Brighton

Fordhall Farm's Forest School programme has been generously subsidised this year by the Forestry Commission.

For more details see [www.fordhallfarm.com](http://www.fordhallfarm.com)



## Lakeside Farm Park

Lakeside Farm Park has been adopted by Maesycoed Primary School. Having no outdoor green space; the school uses the farm once a term for LOTC activities to

experience animals, birds, wet play, digging and planting, pond dipping nature trail and art activities. After returning to school they produce wall displays all about their visit to the farm. They also have been visited by Glamorgan WFU who prepared a local healthy breakfast for Farmhouse Breakfast Week and delivered their Farming in the Classroom talk. Lakeside Farm Park is also opening the gates for Open Farm Sunday on the 7th June.

# Schools make Natural Connections

As part of a new pilot project called Natural Connections led by Natural England four schools in High Wycombe and Oxford have been following a programme called Growing Wild. The 7-11 year old children will make all the decisions in developing their grounds for wildlife, education and food growing and will receive expert advice and educational visits from a range of environmental organisations. Farmer Virginia Deradour at nearby Collings Hangar Farm hosted school visits to explain what crops and animals need to grow. Parents were encouraged to join in on the visit and the children also got their hands dirty learning all about soil types with Meg Hart from FACE. Following their trip to the farm the children planted vegetable seeds with volunteers from the Chilterns Society, ready to be planted out into raised beds at a family gardening day in May.

For further information please contact Jenny Crook at Natural England on 01844 351833.

## Teaching Trees

Over the last six months Teaching Trees has targeted 25 schools from North & East Yorkshire. 50 children from Boynton School used the visit to great effect combined with a project on trout rearing and the local gypsy race stream. The feedback from the schools has shown that the children have been able to apply some of this new found knowledge to many areas of the school curriculum, mainly Key stages 2 & 3 looking at DT, Science, and the Environment. The Teaching Trees website and the handouts are very well received.

Thanks are extended to all of the people who help with visits and give their time and expertise freely: landowners, foresters & estate managers.

Peter Lowes, Education Officer for the Teaching Trees Project.



## Monkton Wyld Court

Monkton Wyld Court is an educational centre in the beautiful Dorset countryside 3 miles from the sea at Lyme Regis. It aims to exemplify intelligent adaptation to the social, environmental and economic challenges of the 21st century by promoting skills for a sustainable future.

A thriving volunteer programme welcomes WWOOFers (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) and a new programme attracts local young volunteers. Weekend courses range from Small Holding to Drumming and family weeks in the school holidays offer families a week of learning and activities together: crafts, drama, bush craft and circus skills.

For more information: 01297 560 342  
[www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk](http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk)



# FACE North West Wins an Award

FACE carries out many different activities to support farmers, teachers and schools including organising professional development teacher training days on farms.

In recognition of this work, FACE North West has been awarded an "Investors in Education" award for "Supporting Teacher Development" from Lancashire Education Business Partnership.

The award recognises the commitment FACE has demonstrated in organising placements which provide teachers with the opportunity to see the scope and value of working with the farming community to enhance the curriculum.

FACE is very proud to receive the award but thanks must also go to all the farmers who have been kind enough to host the training days.

## Local farmer helps out during Healthy Schools Week

Cheddington Primary School in Buckinghamshire was pleased to invite local farmer, Virginia Deradour to run 10 workshop sessions for classes across the school during their Healthy Schools Food and Drink Week in February. Workshops covered Food Miles, Food Chains, Soil and Organic Farming and the Story of Wheat and Milk. The pupils enjoyed the activities and could not stop talking about what they had learnt said PHSE subject leader, Liz Le Voi, who organised the week

## Farming 4 life

Julie Plumley of Rylands Farm in Dorset recognised that many young people don't have experience of being nurtured. Having met Paul Hillard of FACE, she was encouraged to explore what farming could offer to troubled unmotivated, challenged and disadvantaged young people.

Over two years the farm has developed courses to meet individuals' needs whilst helping young people to become re-connected to the countryside and farming, has obtained planning consent for change of use of a barn to a classroom and toilets for the disabled and last year the farm won a Bayer/FACE award for access to farms for those who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Farming really works to develop social and emotional learning as well as providing academic opportunities. Next year Julie plans to encourage young people to grow their own veg, make soups and smoothies and possibly set up their own enterprise.

## Castle Howard Arboretum Family Trip



40 people living in the Shipley area of Bradford set out early on a chilly October morning, to visit Castle Howard Arboretum. Children of all ages were accompanied by their parents, grandparents or childminders and took part in pond dipping, tree trails, bird spotting and sculpture trails. Those attending expressed an interest in seasonal trips to the Arboretum to see the changing landscapes. This trip was made possible by the kind support of the Countryside Foundation for Education and The Arboretum Trust.



## Free farmers' seminars prove great attraction

At the end of February farmers from across Kent and Sussex, and the Isle of Wight attended free seminars to find out how they can help children and young people understand food and farming matters by offering schools opportunities for outdoor learning. The seminars were coordinated by Meg Hart and Louisa Devismes, regional FACE coordinators.

The event gave farmers the opportunity to learn more about using their farms as a tool for supporting local schools. They learnt how activities on a farm can link in with the curriculum whilst providing pupils with memorable first-hand experiences. Farmers that already host educational visits passed on their experiences and acted as examples of good practice and a representative from the Food Standards Agency spoke to the group about healthy eating and local produce.

## New Straw Bale Building Opened



On Thursday 4th December the new Food and Farming Education Centre at Occombe Farm was officially opened by Tim Smit founder of The Eden Project.

The centre has been built by construction students from South Devon College who have gained experience with alternative building methods. It provides an example of low carbon construction: loose stone was used instead of concrete for the foundations on which sit two rows of reused car tyres supporting the straw bale walls. The roof is a timber frame covered with larch boards sourced from the Trust's local woodlands. The straw bale walls offer good insulation and the roof is lined with sheep's wool. The students finished the building by applying three coats of lime render, a natural and breathable material.

It has already been busy with school groups, many of which baked bread in the small kitchen at the centre, which also has a suite of ten computers. If you would like to know more or make a booking contact Julian Carnell [julian@countryside-trust.org.uk](mailto:julian@countryside-trust.org.uk)

## STEM day at Easton College

Hobart High School brought their year 8 pupils to Easton College for a special day of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities where they learned about growing and caring for trees. They saw how tree surgeons climb trees and how the safety equipment works: they even had a go themselves! Looking at

chain saws, both the engineering and technology and the safety equipment was a popular activity. They also helped out with the college's tree planting programme by planting some fruit trees.



## How Now Cow



How Now Cow will enable up to 400 local primary school children (ages 7-10) to visit Dillington Estates Dairy (one of the Coombe Farm milk pool farms) on Thursday 18th June 2009.

During a three hour visit to the farm the children will enjoy the living, vibrant countryside, take time to listen to the birds, soak up the scenery and really get in touch with the land that sustains us. They will discover what it means to be a farmer and what farmers do at this time of year. Children can see where the cows are milked, visit the grazing dairy herd, investigate milk in food products and take part in an act of worship. With the help of FACE, teaching resources will be available.

Rob Walrond, the Deanery Rural Officer, is a Part Time Rural Life Adviser for Taunton Deanery and acts as a focus for advice on all rural matters.  
thewalronds@hotmail.co.uk  
Mr Robert Walrond  
01458 253002

## FACE Trees & Orchards seminar

Teachers and farmers recently had fun exploring our orchard heritage whilst taking part in hands-on activities to learn how to use trees as a resource for learning.

The seminar was hosted Willock Farm and Woodhouse Farm Park in the Fenland area and was coordinated by Moya Myerscough, regional FACE Co-ordinator in the East of England. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about orchards and how to use trees as a learning resource. The day included demonstrations and hands-on sessions, with fun science activities and expert, practical advice for school grounds projects provided by the Woodland Trust and other local projects.



## Environmental and Land Based Diploma Development at Easton College, Norfolk

The environmental and land base diploma will launch at Easton College in September 2009, involving schools from across Norfolk. The diploma will utilise a variety of delivery centres around the county and will involve learners visiting various centres and being visited by industrial experts. Easton College anticipates four to five groups of learners at levels one and two in the first intake and is working with local employers to design assessment strategies to ensure validity of the programme.

Further details of the diploma from Simon Parker or Jo McKenzie at Easton College 01603 731300.

## Midlands Schools Have Designs on Digging

Schools across the Midlands are hoping to inspire visitors to this year's Malvern Spring Gardening Show (7 – 10 May), with an innovative collection of school gardens.

Pupils in Coventry, Stourbridge, Walsall, Bromsgrove, Oldswinford and Malvern are collaborating with Bam Construction and the Worcestershire EBP to create designs ranging from a remembrance garden to a circular 'doughnut' garden representing healthy eating, to a rugby-shaped plot where

students can access match scores! Pershore College is working with local schools to build an urban patch where 97% of the materials used have been recycled to reduce carbon footprint and food miles.

For more information, contact Sue Hodgson-Jones on 01684 584900. [www.threecounties.co.uk/springgardening](http://www.threecounties.co.uk/springgardening)



## Maths on the Farm

Maths is a subject from which many adults shy away but Dr Steve Humble from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Maths (NCETM) overcame this when he led a FACE seminar aptly named 'Maths on the Farm' held at Spring Barrow Lodge Farm, Leicestershire. This multi-award winning farm is famous for Longhorn Beef, Blackbrook Lamb and Rare Breed Pork.

Spring Barrow Lodge was the perfect location for developing hands-on Maths activities to use with children visiting a farm. All who attended left with a positive and enlightened feeling about Maths on the Farm, and a bagful of fresh produce from the farm shop!

## Royal Norfolk Show

The Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association is strongly committed to educating the public about food, farming and the countryside and as organisers of the Royal Norfolk Show is aware of the excellent opportunities Agricultural Shows can offer.

This year, one of the trails for Key stages 2 and 3 will incorporate a visit to the RNAA's education exhibition entitled 'Over the Farmer's Hedge', sponsored by Morley Agricultural Foundation, where children will be able to learn about what animals and plants need to live and grow. There will be sheep, cows, turkeys and pigs as well as cereal crops, vegetables and fruits, with 'hands on' activities for the children.

The Royal Norfolk Show will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 1 & 2 July 2009. For further information contact Linda Rose on 01603 731966 or email [linda@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk](mailto:linda@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk)



## Warwickshire College Teaches Youngsters about Food and Farming

March was a busy month for Warwickshire College's Moreton Morrell campus as lambing season was in full swing. The College invited a record number of primary and nursery schools to enjoy first hand learning experiences about food and farming which involved learning about the lambing process, seeing the beef and dairy herds, learning how food gets from field to fork and understanding the importance of food.

## Festival of Food and Farming at Bicton College

Pupils from eight schools across Devon took part in a Festival of Food and Farming event held at Bicton College, following a trail around the estate to learn about the path food takes from field to fork. They visited the Bicton Home Farm where agriculture students described how they rear animals including cattle, sheep and pigs. As part of the tour, each visiting pupil was encouraged to stroke a piglet and plant a potato in the Walled Garden.

Bicton College Principal Designate David Henley said it would be the first time some of the children had ever come into "serious contact" with a rural way of life: "They were able to see the role of the countryside, not only in producing food, but how it connects to the environment."



The College also opened its gates to the general public on 14th & 15th March when families were able to watch the milking process, see newborn lambs, explore farm machinery and enjoy interactive learning demonstrations. Over 2,500 people attended over the weekend, which was a record number for the College.



## Farm Science Visitor Centre

Last year the Institute for Animal Health hosted the first local primary school visitors to its Farm Science Visitor Centre, located in the dairy of its 780 hectare farm. Charlotte the cow, star of DairyCo's video 'Milk', was a great hit, including as host of a 'Milk Mastermind Quiz'.

The aim is to connect kids with dairy farmers and all that goes into producing milk and its products. The kids loved looking at the cows in the barn, including the 'maternity ward'; getting a milking cluster in their clutches; clowning around with arm-length yellow veterinary inspection gloves; and looking at their own bacteria that had grown on agar plates. This led to talking about mastitis, then bluetongue, followed by antibiotics and vaccines.

Images from visits can be seen in our Picture Gallery at [http://www.iah.ac.uk/schools/farm\\_science.shtml](http://www.iah.ac.uk/schools/farm_science.shtml).

## The Countryside Education Centre at Holdenby



The Moulton College Countryside Education Centre is located in Holdenby Village, surrounded by beautiful Northamptonshire countryside. There are woodlands, ponds, fields and hedgerows to explore as well as an exciting Bird of Prey Centre which offers a variety of themed full day visits for schools groups. Several new programmes have been recently added to the range, most are linked to specific QCA Schemes of Work: Keeping Warm; The Secret World of Soil; Interdependence and Adaptation; Woodland Art; and Spring Detectives.

For more information, please contact Stephen Green on (01604) 771279 email [Stephen.green@moulton.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.green@moulton.ac.uk).

## News from Wales

### Farm visits help win an Eco Schools award

When Pembroke Dock Community School was presented with its fourth International Eco Schools Green Flag in January, the children were delighted that TV presenter Iolo Williams attended the award ceremony. It was the first Platinum award for Pembrokeshire, and farm visits played a crucial role. Teacher Amanda Edwards said the pupils regard Little Pencoed Farm as an extension of their school grounds, and that farmer Bruce Carlisle and Education Leader Jill Simpson of Learning on the Farm and FACE play an essential role in helping pupils appreciate the importance of biodiversity. At the presentation, Iolo Williams expressed strong support for school visits to farms.



### Farming and sustainability

The Enabling Effective Support (EES) Forum in Powys held a successful ESDGC Rally for pupils and teachers at the Royal Welsh Showground in January. Entitled 'Actions speak Louder...' over 70 pupils from years 6 and 7 from 27 schools attended with teachers. Caroline Davies, the CAFE Project Coordinator, ran two workshops during the day tackling local food and seasonality. Follow up work is planned to link the schools with local farms.

For a report see: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=3919&L=0>

### New Resources on the Grain Chain website

The Grain Chain Website ([www.grainchain.com](http://www.grainchain.com)) offers children a fun way to learn about the 'field to fork' cycle of how wheat is grown and used to produce breads and cereals plus advice on eating for health and vitality. The latest resources on the website are three new videos for Key Stage 1–3 students, filmed in a bakery in north London to illustrate how thousands of loaves are baked every day, giving students an idea of the scale and mechanisation involved in this process. For older students, issues around technology, health and safety are also raised.

For Key Stage 4 students the first in a series of topical podcasts is now on the website examining recent food price changes, starting with the cost of a family breakfast and leading on to interviews with a farmer, miller, and key representatives from the grain chain industry.



For further information visit [www.grainchain.com](http://www.grainchain.com)

### Farming in the Classroom

With those 'Outside the Classroom' visits being planned now, schools can book a lady farmer to come and speak to their children for free. Whether it is before or after a countryside visit, they can answer questions, reinforce learning, provide greater detail and enhance the day out, with 'tailored to the curriculum' talks.

With first hand experience, Farming in the Classroom brings in resources to demonstrate and bring to life for the pupils farms, crops, livestock, wildlife and the working environment.

### Grow your own Potatoes

On Tuesday 17th March the Potato Council launched their 'Grow your own Potatoes' initiative for schools at the Newbury Showground. Pupils were given a talk on growing potatoes by farmer Bob Winfield from Elm Farm Research, before planting their own to take back to school. They will continue to nurture the crop until they are ready to be harvested in the summer. The pupils were also shown how to make simple potato dishes by the showground's chef, Nancy Lawson.

Jo Millar, Education Officer for Newbury & District Agricultural Society said "We are pleased to support this initiative and encourage future generations to learn about agriculture in this way."



Please telephone Maureen Friday on 01622 890959 or email: [maureen.Friday@o2.co.uk](mailto:maureen.Friday@o2.co.uk) to find out if there is a speaker in your area.



# How You Can Help FACE

Farm Membership gives farmers hosting educational visits access to a range of benefits and support networks. The annual cost is £60 + vat

School Membership is open to any school that has an interest in making the most of food, farming and the countryside in the curriculum. The annual cost is £60 + vat

By becoming a Friend of FACE you can help us to create practical and exciting opportunities for all young people. The annual cost is £20.

For more details see [www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

## Natural England Future of Farming Award

Broxfield Farm, which is farmed by David Thompson, was the winner of the Natural England Future of Farming Award for the North East Region in 2008. The award is judged on wildlife and conservation, landscape, and helping people to have access to farms and the natural environment.

Visitors to the farm, including children from inner city areas of Newcastle and Gateshead, learn how and where their food is produced and enjoy the beauty of the farm and surrounding countryside. They can choose from a variety of topics including art and creativity, sensory experiences, ecology, team building and problem solving. Visits to Broxfield are organised through The Country Trust.

As FACE Regional Education Co-ordinator for the North East, David works with farmers, teachers, and many other organisations to encourage the use of farms and the countryside as an educational resource.



## Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures

If you are an organisation that wishes to use Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks as part of your recruitment or appointment processes, FACE may be able to help you by supplying the necessary forms and guidance. Our charges are very competitive: only £20 per application for non-members and £15 for FACE members. (In addition the CRB makes a charge of £31 or £36 for all applicants except volunteers). We can help to simplify the process for you and can answer any queries promptly, efficiently and in strict confidence.

If we can help you with CRB Disclosures, please telephone 024 7685 3089 or email [janet@face-online.org.uk](mailto:janet@face-online.org.uk)



FACE is delighted that this edition of the FACE newsletter has been supported by:

Davies & Co, Chartered Surveyors who provide a professional rural planning and consultancy advice service tailored to land owners and farmers who wish to promote educational facilities on the farm.

For further information please contact us on 01536 524808, Email: [info@daviesandco.co.uk](mailto:info@daviesandco.co.uk) or visit [www.daviesandco.co.uk](http://www.daviesandco.co.uk)

## Sponsorship opportunity!

FACE would be pleased to hear from any organisation which would be interested in providing sponsorship towards a future edition.

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