

Farm



Focus on August • Issue 5

Farm Manager's Introduction



Welcome to 'Farm', our monthly newsletter focusing on activities taking place throughout July and August. Keen-eyed readers will have noticed we've missed a month – that's a result of all the activities taking place. The Farm's a busy place in the summer months – read on! *Chris Pounds, Farm Manager*

Edenbridge and Oxted Agricultural Show 2005

Comparing London to Kent is difficult enough, but trying to compare the small time City Farmers' Harvest Festival with the large scale Edenbridge and Oxted Agricultural Show is nigh on impossible!

Edenbridge and Oxted boast an impressive variety of stalls and activities including a full scale funfair; a joust; fox hounds and gun dogs; clothes stalls; radio stations; a tractor display and a Grand Parade – to name but a few. The car park alone is five times the size of the field in which the entire City Festival is shown! At Capel we have: flower stalls; a wood turner; a metal smith; food and... well that's pretty much it – excluding the animals of course.

We were all given a crash course in Professional Cow Showing and deftly helped Steven, (owner of **Beckett's Farm**), with everything from showing prize-winning cows, to cleaning-up after them in the holding barn: with a side order of milking and a cow attempting to give birth! We even got the chance to catch up with former City Cow – **Doris** (one of the first two calves that we fostered from Beckett's). We're proud to report that she was the only Beckett's cow to walk away with a Red Rosette! Our "speed learning" was put to the test as we each took a tired and fed-up cow through the Grand Parade at the end of the day. Due to the excitement of the day (and the surrounding bulls), one of our cows took a fancy to another – and you can guess the rest! With calm restored, we waited for the train home – determined to take our new found knowledge back to Capel Manor. We are hoping that with a lot of hard work and dedication, this will take us to victory at the **City Farmers' Harvest Festival** in September! **Fingers crossed everyone!!**

On Trac ...

After a long struggle which saw the collapse of the clutch in the Farm's van, then a vast search across southern England to find a trailer large enough, we finally managed to get our new tractor home. Though news to us, the tractor is over 50 years old!



More precisely, it's a **1951 Ferguson TED20**, commonly known as the **Fergie Grey**. The Fergie Grey's 3 point linkage was a landmark piece of agricultural design, making it possible to plough a furrow at a constant depth, through the innovative use of hydraulics.

Our Fergie was purchased as a feature for the front garden, but it will not remain static. It's insured for road use and we intend to buy a trailer and other implements. Bryan the Training and Volunteer Projects Coordinator, has frequently been seen driving around the streets of Shoreditch since he brought it back from Essex!





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

August • the season for • courgettes • peppers • skate • peas
 strawberries • fennel • lettuce • basil • aubergines • loganberries

Back to Earth Project

This is the Farm's training and volunteering programme started earlier this year, which among other things, provides skills and training.

The need for the project was initially highlighted through a feasibility study funded by **SEED**. **The Jack Petchey Foundation** and **The Tudor Trust** have backed the project, meeting some of the training and revenue costs.

In early August we heard our application to the **Big Lottery Fund** was successful and have been awarded the remainder of the funding to run this new initiative. **The Lottery Fund** has pledged a huge **£214,000** for the next three years. "This is an incredible result" said **David Brook** – **Chair of the Farm's Management Committee**. "This will strengthen Hackney City Farm as a community and education resource." Further news on the project will be available in next month's Farm.

Happy 20th!

The sun shone down on visitors attending the **Farm's 20th Birthday 'open day'** on Saturday 20th August.

A large array of stands gave people the chance to find out more about Farm activities. These included 'have-a-go' pottery and stone sculpture; bee display; history of the Farm; story telling; 'meet the animals' and partner organisations **Thrive** and **Haggerston Park user group**.

For children, there was also face painting, balloons and donkey and cart rides. The big hit of the day was the tug-of-war, (won by the **Perseverance** over the **Albion pub**), and the childrens' egg and spoon race – only 3 eggs were dropped out of the 30 runners!

The day was a terrific community party and thanks goes to all those who helped, especially **Dave and Sue from the Albion pub** who supplied the bar.



Funding News Thanks to funding from **Hackney Borough Council**, over 16 childrens' sessions were run at the Farm this summer. These had an environmental flavour and included; willow weaving, t-shirt printing, recycled scrap sculpture, and the award winning **Eco-Active travelling education unit**. Over 100 children benefited from the holiday sessions. An exhibition of photos showing these activities will be on display throughout September.

21ST OCTOBER

"APPLE DAY"

Lots of activities celebrating the apple! *Look out for more details*



Late Summer activities...

With summer days fading fast, our autumn programme of activities is currently being finalised.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

CAPEL MANOR, CITY HARVEST FESTIVAL

24 SEPT. 10-4PM

This is how it shapes up so far...
 Held in **Capel Manor College in Enfield** this event is the centre piece of London Farms' activities, with stiff competition between projects for the prestigious shield! Points are awarded from a range of events including animal showing and handling and a garden show to determine the best overall Farm.
 The festival is a great event celebrating city farming and community gardening and includes an array of craft and information stands from green organisations.



eco-logic
 Active

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – TRANSPORT FOR LONDON IS ALLOWING FREE TRAVEL ON ALL LONDON BUSES FROM MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER. IF YOU ARE UNDER 13 YOU CAN BUS ANYWHERE! 13 TO 16 YEAR OLDS WILL REQUIRE AN OYSTER CARD FOR PROOF OF AGE. THIS IS A GOOD INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO UTILISE LONDON'S TRANSPORT NETWORK AND REDUCE CARS ON THE ROAD. IT'S WORTH REMEMBERING THAT WALKING IS FREE TOO AND THERE'S SOME GREAT CYCLE PATHS IF YOU'VE GOT A BIKE. USEFUL LINKS: WWW.TFL.GOV.UK WWW.LONDONCYCLENETWORK.ORG WWW.DCB.ORG