

Farm

Hackney
City Farm

Focus on September & October • Issue 6

Farm Manager's Introduction



Welcome to the Farm, the catch up news sheet from **Hackney City Farm** on what's been happening throughout September and October. Originally designed as a monthly news sheet, we've had to go bi-monthly since there's been so much going on and not enough time to write about it! If you'd like more information about the Farm, you can check out our website, give us a call, or even drop by for an information pack and a chat with our friendly staff! Happy Reading – Chris Pounds, Farm Manager.

Who's been filming at the farm?

It's been a busy period for the Farm with various film companies using the site and animals, including **ITN News** (Bird Flu report – "healthy chicken!"); **National Geographic** ("Deadly diseases of mankind"); **Lion TV**; **MTV**; **Nickelodeon** and a **Renaissi** photo Shoot.



Capel Manor 2005

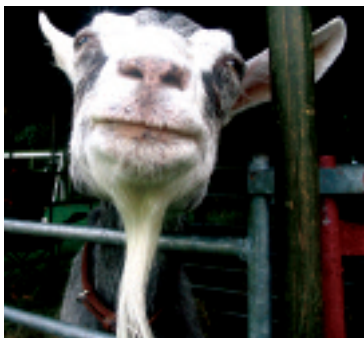
Last year, our volunteers put hours of dedicated work and effort into preparing for **The City Farmers' Festival**.

The animals were pristine, the cages sparkled and the fruit and veg demanded to be eaten! We were ready to take Capel Manor by storm; we would stop at nothing to get the shield.

Red rosettes upon red rosettes came streaming in. We were in the lead all morning and we were going to win... but then came the afternoon classes. And that was the end of us: we had no young handlers; we weren't allowed to enter the rings... it was a disaster. Or so we thought!

Last year we had come 3rd out of the 9 City Farms that attended. We were ecstatic; it was the **BEST WE HAD EVER DONE!!!** This year we didn't prepare as much, we weren't able to: our main Livestock Worker was pregnant and couldn't run handling sessions; key volunteers weren't around to wash or prepare the animals; there was total confusion about cages and a distinct lack of good quality showing animals! We ended up with two sheep; a goat; donkey; calf; a few chickens and some rabbits and guinea pigs – the smallest selection of animals we had ever taken!

Before leaving for Capel, we decided that we were just going to participate; as there wasn't a hope of us taking the shield. However, despite having no animal staff and there being a general sense of disorganisation, we unintentionally took Capel by storm and lost out on the top slot by just **1 POINT!!!**



The Front Garden Rocks!

What's that rock in the front garden? Part of the funding awarded by **The Living Spaces Programme** is to commission a sculpture marking the front garden developments. This will be undertaken by the Farm's resident sculptor **Matt Caines** who will look at ways to involve young people in the design and creation. *Watch out for more details.*



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Registered Charity 291211 • Limited Company 1883734

A living community resource

Sept/Oct • the season for • apples • figs • partridge • watercress
damsons and plums • autumn lamb • oysters • pumpkin • squash

New Café Venture

Frizzante is happy to announce that from the **1st of December** they will be opening another venue down by London Bridge (South Bank).

The new premises are based at the Children's Theatre – **The Unicorn**. It is a new building that has been set up for the use of adults and children. If you would like to know more about both the theatre and Frizzante's new location then please visit either of these websites:

www.unicorntheatre.com
www.frizzanteltd.co.uk

Mile of Art

1 Mile

Thanks to the masterly organisation of **Stephen Selby** from the **Broadway Market**, the Farm took part in the hugely successful 'Mile of Art' exhibition. This was a showcase for local artists – starting at the Farm and stretching all the way down to the Town Hall.

It is testimony to the dedication and commitment of local people that events like this develop, and the Farm felt privileged to be involved.

Roll-on the Mile of Art II next year!



The Farm is generously supported by:

HCVS

JP Morgan

Linklaters

UBS

British Land

Reuters

Baring Foundation

Jack Petchey Foundation

Tudor Trust

Shoreditch Our Way

Bowyer Pounds and Co.

Worshipful Co. of Woolmen

Big Lottery Fund

Albion Public House, Goldsmith's Row

Coming Soon: Hackney City Farm "**Christmas Craft Fair**"
Sunday 11th December. Book now for stalls.

A big thank you ...

.. to **Ruth** for her hard work in the office. With all the volunteering she's done, the volunteer administration now looks great!
Thank you Ruth!

And to **Emmy and Nelly** who continue to donate bucket loads of their old change which amounts to quite a lot of money! Cheers.

To **Sophie and her musical associates** for putting on the successful '**Strings and Things**' events which took place in October.

A lot of hard work was put into organising these unique art and music days, and as a pilot for further events. Judging by the response, we're looking forward to more of these ventures in the future. Thanks Sophie!



corporate help

Thanks to volunteers from **Linklaters, British Land, UBS and J. P. Morgan**. Over the last two months we've got a lot of work done: sheds have been cleaned out, the Front Garden has been given a much needed clean up and the ball has finally started rolling in regards to sorting out the ongoing problem that is the basement! We are really grateful for the assistance of these companies and their hardworking volunteers.

FUNDING NEWS

Once again the Farm has been generously supported by the City Firm; **J. P. Morgan**. In September they awarded the Farm **£2,000** towards education projects. A fantastic donation – thank you!

Grants have also been awarded by **Hackney Council for Voluntary Services (HCVS)** for administration improvements and "capacity building" (making improvements to the management and general running of the Farm).

£2,000 has been awarded for IT equipment and filing management systems and staff training, and **£1,000** towards producing news sheets and publicity.

This funding will be a really great help.



● **Tia's gone south!** Tia our British Beef Shorthorn heifer has gone down to Kent to join a dairy herd. However, Tia is not a dairy cow herself she is a beef cow. We plan to put her in calf around Christmas time so that she will have her own calf next September. She is much happier being with the other cows and has taken a very keen interest in the herdsman Steven! Tia will be back next year with her calf but we will keep you updated with her progress and her new life. ● **Larry the donkey** belongs to Steppingstones Farm in Stepney. He has gone back there to visit all his old friends for a while. Larry will be back for Christmas as he is going to be taking part in the Westminster Cathedral Christmas celebrations. ● Unfortunately we have lost three of our beloved residents on the Farm, Boris the cockerel, Darren the guinea pig and Sooty the rabbit. All were very much loved and will be missed.