

# Farm

## Hackney City Farm

### Focus on February & March • Issue 8

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#### Farm Manager's Introduction



Welcome to **Farm**, our 1st of 2006, keeping you up to date with what's been happening here at the Farm. It's certainly been a busy winter and now with Spring just around the corner we're looking forward to lots of new projects and activities. Read on for more details. Chris Pounds – Farm Manager

#### Tireless Tillie

Our star volunteer this month is **Tillie**, who has become one of our most regular young volunteers, helping out around the farm several days a week.

*“Even though I've got nearly enough animals for a zoo at home, I love coming to the farm to see all the other animals, especially Bucket Boy (one of the cockerels) – who's my favourite”* says Tillie.

She helps out with all the farm yard activities and thinks that *“all the jobs are cool, except mucking out the ducks because they're really smelly!”*

**Thanks for all your help Tillie!**



**“Thanks”** to all our **garden volunteers** who've put in loads of work over the winter, such as laying new paths and digging over the beds, to make sure the garden is nice for spring – look out for the bulbs starting to pop up. They have also pruned back many of the overhanging bushes and hedges and prepared the beds for a new round of plants to be planted out in the next couple of months. We have also been planting in our front garden and with the help of all the volunteers, have created a woodland area which can be seen from outside the café

– **look out for the finishing touches over the next month.**

#### Bird Flu update

Listening to current news reports it seems inevitable that avian bird flu will reach the UK. We are being kept fully up to date with developments by the **State Veterinary Service**, Defra and the **Federation of City Farms**. All our birds are registered with the **National Poultry Register** and we are in the process of producing risk assessment procedures should we need to implement them. Let's hope not!

**Recycled Furniture** Thanks to our friends at **Camden Council** we have been given the opportunity to take our pick from furniture being replaced during Kentish Town Library's refurbishment. We now have a good selection of chairs and tables for our meeting room as well as new seats in the pottery room...

...a big **thank you** to Terry and friends at Camden!



**Hackney City Farm – TV.** We have been working with local film maker **Mohan Emmanuel** on producing a show reel of some of the great short films that have been made in regard to the regeneration of our local area. We will be playing a DVD which contains 10 films on Saturday afternoons in the pottery.

Visitors are welcome to drop in and out, to be inspired by some of the great projects going on. In the future we hope to integrate these films with our website and go global! If you have any films to add to our montage please let us know in the Farm Office.



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A living community resource

**Feb / March • the season for • pears • scallops • mussels • halibut  
 leeks • guinea fowl • cabbage • squash • chicory • shallots • parsnips**

### Cock-a-Doodle-‘two’

All the animals are excited to see the occasional sunshine again. As spring comes closer, the ducks are mating up; finding a partner to share the sunny days with. You can see them trot together through the muddy fields and splash each other in the pond. An old couple at the farm are our turkeys: **Eric and Rosie**. Although Eric can sometimes appear to be a ‘bit of a lad’, he protects his girlfriend and cares a great deal about her wellbeing. As you may have noticed, Eric has amazingly shiny feathers that he proudly shows off to impress Rosie.

If you have any questions you would like us to answer, or issues you want us to bring up, please don’t hesitate to approach us in the farmyard.

(Sadly, since writing this article we have lost Eric to a fox – he will be much missed.)

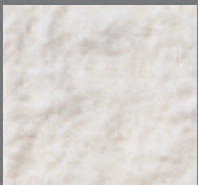
### Hackney Park Users Group

As you know, the Farm is in the far South West Corner of **Haggerston Park** and up until the last year has been fairly independent of the workings of the park. As part of its application for **Green Flag status**, the Park is keen to involve local people in its management plan. With support from **Gill Jackson** from **Hackney Parks Forum**, a small nuclei of park users began to meet throughout 2005 to form a Park Users Group.

Look out for future dates when volunteer co-ordinator **Rosin Mc Dowell** may run short sessions with anyone interested in the Park. Please come along to participate and have your say on ‘your’ local green space.

It’s been ‘all go’ outside, what with escapee animals, emergency visits to the vets and new arrivals. We’ve only just been able to find the time to create the new signs and boards that are dotted around the Farm Yard. We know it looks a bit bland outside, but we’re trying our hardest to finish updating our new Information Boards!

### ANIMAL NEWS



Sadly we’ve had to say goodbye to some long standing residents of the Farm. Our two chinchillas, **Betty and Mary** – two very old sisters; two of our rabbits (the much adored **Coco and Molly**); two hamsters (**Rachel and Craig** the tiny Siberian three-legged stars!); and **Mr. Moody**, our male Muscovy duck who chanced his luck with a fox!

On a much happier goodbye note, volunteer **Kate Ings** took one of our many Bantam cockerels down to her uncles’ farm in Salisbury where he is now happily in charge of six Bantam hens! We’ve also said hello to a couple of new furry faces! The first being **Ginger**, a three month old female “Rex” rabbit who was taken in by Farm staff shortly after Christmas and now lives happily with **Princess** (another rabbit) and **Guinness**,

the male guinea pig. The second is **Mellow**, a fifteen year old female rescue cat who was abandoned in a plastic bag around the back of the Farm. She is now settled out in the ‘Bothie’ (the ‘Back to Earth’s’ office).



### Farming for the over twelves

As well as our regular gardening volunteer sessions which are **Tuesday’s & Thursday’s, 2pm- 4pm**, we’ve added a new session for young volunteers who are twelve or over. Our ‘Young Farmer’s Club’ is held **twice a month, on the second and last Saturday of each month**, so if you would like to join in, come along to one of the sessions.

The gardening sessions are at capacity at the moment but if you are interested, pop into the office, or call and leave your name and we’ll add you to our waiting list.

eco-logic

LOOK OUT FOR NEWS THIS SUMMER OF A STRAW BALE BUILDING THAT WE ARE CONSTRUCTING AT THE FARM. CONTRARY TO THE FAIRY STORY ‘LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD’, A HOUSE MADE OF STRAW CANNOT BE BLOWN DOWN QUITE SO EASILY AND IS ONE OF THE MOST DURABLE AND ECO FRIENDLY MATERIALS TO BUILD WITH!