

Patchwork Farm

Newsletter

Autumn 2019



Patchwork Farm on YouTube



Our YouTube channel has been updated with some brand new videos from Patchwork Farm. Head to youtube.com/ChaileyHeritageFound to see how the farm is helping Henry with his confidence, and how it's enabling Toby to adapt to new environments.



Ella expands her vocabulary



Did you know that every young person who goes to Chailey Heritage School has a bespoke curriculum, specifically tailored to their learning and developmental needs? Every class has a lesson on the farm, which supports each young person's learning in a wide range of ways. Ella, for example, had a target to use a wider range of vocabulary. Through lessons on the farm, and by meeting some of the animals, Ella has recently started to use the word 'soft'. And not only is the farm helping her to develop language and communication skills, she is also having lots of fun.

Thank you to
The Woodland Trust



Following our successful applications for saplings, the Woodland Trust have generously offered to donate more than 100 saplings to Patchwork Farm! The plants will encourage greater biodiversity, and in the longer term, provide shade for the animals as well as the young people during their farm sessions. The saplings are due to arrive in November and we look forward to updating you with photos once they are planted.

Now recruiting!
Farm Assistant



We are currently recruiting for a part-time Farm Assistant to support our Farm Manager. If you know someone who has experience of working with animals and would be interested in joining the team, the role is currently being advertised at www.chf.org.uk/careers or contact the HR team: hr@chf.org.uk

Volunteers – we couldn't do it without you!

We are very grateful to our volunteers. Every week, volunteers give their time, whether it's a day or half a day to help us out. Want to know what it's like to volunteer on Patchwork Farm? We talked to Ummara, who has been volunteering with us since 2017.

What motivated you to sign up as a volunteer?

A friend of mine is a Teaching Assistant at Chailey Heritage Foundation. She knows how much I love animals and told me about Patchwork Farm. I rang straight away to find out more about what was required, and was thrilled when I was told that the role was flexible and that whatever I could offer would be appreciated. I work part-time at Bowles (an outdoor education charity for young people) and spoke to my manager about changing my hours to allow me to have Fridays off. Happily he said yes and the rest - as they say - is history!



How often do you volunteer?

I come in on a Friday for three hours, it fits in perfectly with taking my children to and from school.

What is a typical day like?

There is never a typical day down on the farm. At least one of the animals will give us something different to attend to. That's what makes it so interesting.

If the animals have been behaving then I usually start with the donkeys, cleaning the stable, grooming and having a cuddle and then "poo picking". It might not sound glamorous but I find it quite therapeutic! Then it's on to the chickens, cleaning them out and putting fresh bedding down. After that, the guinea pigs get a clean out and more cuddles. Later in the afternoon some of the young adults from the Life Skills Centre come down for a Farm Therapy session. It's fantastic and I love working with everyone that visits the farm.

What do you like best about volunteering?

It's the fact that I get to give something back from doing something I love - it doesn't get much better than that! Plus Lesley, the Farm Manager, is fantastic at passing on her knowledge - there is always something new to learn.

Do you have a favourite animal on the farm?

Well don't tell George, but my heart has been stolen by Joe the donkey. He's just so gorgeous!

What has been your most memorable moment when volunteering on the farm?

I think it has to be the day I learnt to clip a goat's nails, sounds odd I know. Oh and then there was the first time I took the goats for a walk through the school. It's not every day you get to put a lead on a goat and take it for a walk.

Describe volunteering at Patchwork Farm in six words.

My favourite day of the week.

What would you say to anyone thinking about volunteering at Chailey Heritage Foundation?

DO IT!!!! It's the most rewarding thing and everyone at Chailey is so friendly and supportive.

If you would like to know more about volunteering on Patchwork Farm, or elsewhere at Chailey Heritage Foundation, visit www.chf.org.uk/volunteering

Schools working together



Year 8 pupils from Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School visited Patchwork Farm recently to take part in a workshop. The pupils really enjoyed not only seeing the animals, but getting to know some of our students. They spent some time learning about the incredible switch operated pig feeder and how young people at Chailey Heritage use it. They also assisted our students with handling some of the animals. If you know a school or group that would benefit from visiting our farm, contact our farm manager on **01825 724 444** or visit **www.chf.org.uk/group-visits**



Animal Sponsorship

If you're looking for an original gift for someone, why not consider sponsoring an animal on our farm? We will send them a certificate, fact sheet about the animals and newsletters. Plus, the donation helps us to continue running this vital resource. Sponsorship starts at £2 per month or £24 for a year. Visit **www.chf.org.uk/animal-sponsorship**



Chailey Heritage Foundation
Haywards Heath Road
North Chailey, Lewes
East Sussex BN8 4EF

t: 01825 724 444
e: office@chf.org.uk
fb: /ChaileyHeritageFoundation
www.chf.org.uk

Registered Charity 1075837 and Company limited by Guarantee 3769775 (England).

