

Patchwork Farm

Newsletter

Summer 2019



**PATCHWORK
FARM**



New Arrivals at Patchwork Farm



Lesley, our Farm Manager, joined the team back in the autumn and has really settled in to Patchwork Farm. We sat down with Lesley to get to know her better.

Q. *What did you do before you worked on Patchwork Farm?*

A. I worked at Plumpton College, where I taught Animal Management and Animal Science and Animal Welfare. My practical side has come from managing an animal sanctuary for nine years. I then went to university and became an ecologist, before going in to teaching.

Q. *What have you enjoyed most so far?*

A. Getting to meet the young people here at Chailey Heritage Foundation and see what an impact the farm has on them, as well as their families. Also, seeing how everyone uses different communication methods is amazing.

Q. *Do you have a favourite animal?*

A. I do! I'm a lover of goats. They're a complete nightmare sometimes, and they always try and eat things they shouldn't and get in to places they shouldn't. Since coming to Patchwork Farm, pigs are fast becoming a favourite too!

Q. *How important do you think animal therapy is?*

A. It's huge. I think one thing that Patchwork Farm definitely changes is how much time people get to spend outdoors. During the winter, it's not always possible for young people to come down to the farm – whether for medical or physical reasons. We always try to take animals to the classrooms when this is the case, so we can always bring the outside world in. I've met a couple of young people who didn't like going out in to social situations, but since having animals in the classroom, and then associating that with the farm and the outside world, they are now happier to be outside and doing things like shopping for example.

Q. *How have you found it at Chailey Heritage Foundation and Patchwork Farm so far?*

A. I love it. Absolutely love it. I think it's fair to say that I've found my niche!

Meet the Tortoises



We're thrilled to announce we have new animals at Patchwork Farm: three lovely tortoises! Bringing new opportunities, the tortoises offer a very unique sensory experience for the young people and are also very tactile.

From races to joining music sessions to having cuddles on the farm, the tortoises have settled in very well and show no sign of slowing down.

New Duck Pond



This spring we set about rebuilding and replacing the duck pond at Patchwork Farm. The old pond was too small and made from fibreglass, which meant that it needed to be emptied and scrubbed every week.

We now have a big, self-cleaning, natural pond equipped with a solar fountain. The area is not only better for the ducks but it also helps soothe the young people who visit the farm, improving their well-being.

Thank you to Chandlers Building Supplies for helping us make the pond a reality!

County Shows

Patchwork Farm was out and about again this summer! We attended a number of shows in May and June including the Heathfield Agricultural Show, Wild About Mid Sussex and the South of England Show.

We had the guinea pigs, chickens and tortoises from Patchwork Farm join us at the shows and they were a big hit! Children and adults alike were very interested in the animals and many came over to learn more about our charity. We can't wait to meet more of you at next year's county shows!



News From Around the Foundation

Our much anticipated D.R.E.A.M. Centre is nearly a reality with the 'topping out' ceremony taking place on-site in early March. The building work will be finishing in the next few weeks and the fit out of all the Audio Visual equipment begins!

We are hoping that the D.R.E.A.M. Centre will be open for the young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation before the end of the summer term.



Including our charity in a Will is one of many ways that individuals help us to make a lasting impact on the lives of young people with complex disabilities. If you would like to help us make sure Patchwork Farm and many other therapeutic resources are available for generations to come, please visit www.chf.org.uk/gifts-in-wills or email jdurdle@chf.org.uk.

Eggs For Sale

We have a whole flock of birds here laying eggs in a variety of shapes and sizes. From hens, ducks and a goose, we're selling the eggs at our Life Skills Centre reception. All funds go towards maintaining Patchwork Farm and making sure that our birds are well looked after.

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| Duck eggs | £2.00 per half dozen |
| Chicken eggs | £1.50 per half dozen |
| Goose eggs | £1.50 each |

Boxes Needed!

Egg boxes needed! If you have any old egg boxes around, consider donating them to Patchwork Farm for us to house our eggs. Please take them to the Life Skills Centre reception at Chailey Heritage Foundation.

Sponsor An Animal

Animal sponsorship is perfect for anyone who loves Patchwork Farm. Starting at £2 a month or £24 a year, it is a great way for any child or adult to be involved. Visit www.chf.org.uk/animal-sponsorship.



We have plenty going on around the Foundation and would love to send you the latest news. If you would like to know more about what happens around the Foundation, we have a separate newsletter containing news, appeals and events. Please let us know if you would like to receive this at www.chf.org.uk/contact-us or call **01825 724 752**.