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## Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Hello Everyone

It's been a very busy spring at the farm with lots going on so apologies that this newsletter is a little late. With the warmer weather (and so much rain) it's been a team effort keeping the garden areas tidy and getting ready for planting but at long last the ponies are moulting their winter coats 🐾.

Plenty of progress going on in the background with the Ashley Farm site too, practical work in preparation for our relocation, getting quotes for building works and with bids for funding being prepared and submitted. We are really pleased to have been awarded grant funding from The Safer Communities Fund for our 'Nurture in Nature' project and also the Herefordshire Together Fund for 'Roots of Connection'. Both these projects will be Community Led programmes primarily based at Ashley Farm over the next 12 months extending our reach supporting children, young people and families alongside our current provision.

Just finally a date for the diary: The Summer Community Picnic will be at Ashley Farm on Saturday 3rd August, more details to follow. As always **Thank You Everyone** for your continued support.

Julie & John

## Another Successful HAF Day



On March 28th, we held another HAF Day. The Here for Holidays programme is funded by the Department of Education and facilitated by Talk Community, Herefordshire Council. It invites children eligible for free school meals to

attend an array of free activities (with lunch included) during holiday periods. Despite the rainy weather the team pulled together another fantastic session which included pottery with Verity, board games, crafts, lunch, and fun with the small animals. **Thanks to the team and everyone involved!** 😊

## Joke of the month

Q: Why couldn't the chicken get a job?

A: It was just unlucky!

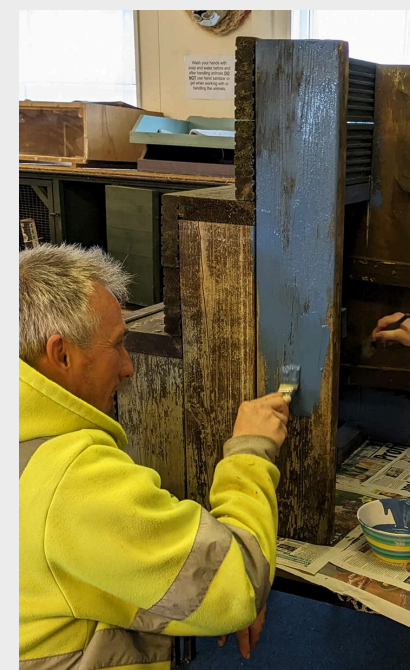


## Spring on the Farm

As well as lots of Easter activities and a fun afternoon making pizzas in the orchard, there's been lots of hard work going on.



The classroom groups have been sanding and painting new signs, new planters have been made and the classroom walls have been revamped with new posters. We were also delighted to welcome Oscar who came to visit and taught us some of his agility skills.



Heavy duty work has been done outside clearing around the fruit bushes and some fantastic projects have been completed in both of the woodwork areas.





# Ashley Farm Progress Update

## The New Cabin is Up!

The cabin funded by the EF Bulmer Trust is now in place at Ashley Farm. It will provide a much needed base for volunteers and visitors. Alongside the EF Bulmer Trust, we'd like to thank Jason and Fin from Hereford Stables for all their hard work in building and erecting the cabin. You can watch a short video about the build here: [www.tinyurl.com/HCFcabinBuild](http://www.tinyurl.com/HCFcabinBuild)



Our Carpentry Group have fixed the office door at Ashley Farm. They removed the old window above the door and extended the door height by installing a new window frame. It is now much more secure. We also had a visit from Cllr. Kevin Tillett who, referring to Ashley Farm on his Twitter (X) account said 'Fantastic opportunities for involving all the community across the City and beyond, especially for South Wye.'

## Hereford City Rotary Club

Our friends at Hereford City Rotary Club along with the Bayliss Family recently volunteered their time to help with more clearing and preparatory work. They also made a donation in memory of Ray and Linda Bayliss who knew the Community Farm well. Their gift will be used to begin the Memory Garden, so it was wonderful to be able to start planting the wild flower seeds with them that will encourage bees and pollinators. We are so grateful for all their contributions - thank you!



## Spring's Activity Spotlight: Garden Group

This month we spoke to John about the Garden Group.



**What kinds of activities do the Garden Group get involved in?**  
The Garden Group focus on a variety of different activities depending on the time of year. They learn to prepare planting beds with compost, sow seeds and take care of plants by watering, and eventually harvesting the fruit

and vegetables. The group work in the big greenhouse, on raised beds and growing beds at ground level. Recently there has been quite a lot of heavy work that the group has got involved in such as clearing brambles and cleaning up around the fruit bushes. They have also been planting flowers to brighten up the area outside the classroom. Back in February, The team at Hereford Seed Swap kindly supplied us with a fantastic range of surplus seed so that we can grow even more vegetables and flowers.

**What happens to the food that is grown?**  
The group are able to take some home of the produce

home. We use some in the kitchen here, feed some to the animals and we take a lot to Hereford Food Bank.  
**Aside from the practical side of gardening, what else do the group learn?**

Through growing vegetables, it helps the group to understand how to eat healthily and how that benefits the body. By taking food to the Food Bank they learn about people's needs and how some people are less well off than others.



**How many people are in the Garden Group?**  
On any given day there can be between 4-10 people. One or two people only do Garden Group at the farm and others attend other activities as well.

**Next month's Activity Spotlight:**  
**Animal Care**