

Farm Managers Report AGM Thursday 19th October 2023

2023 has certainly seen a few changes on the farm, the main being the retirement of two of our staff and I have had the pleasure of working alongside for many a year, I for one will certainly miss their presence and advice, but with their replacements come new ideas which will help the farm to move forward, one area that has definitely seen changes is the Apiary, now managed by our most recent trustee, Richard Green and his wife Karen who is also a volunteer here, the bees are certainly enjoying the new flower borders that Richard and Karen have put in. We have continued this year to replace a lot of the old and damaged fencing. Enabling a big tidy up of the farm has been helped by us hosting corporate volunteering days for local business which include Danone and Wessex Water.

We have been looking at future plans to accommodate young calves in the spring for our students to help rear, the environment is very important for their health and wellbeing, and this applies to all our stock,

After speaking with the Warden, there are plans in the near future to be able to include ourselves with the Wiltshire Wildlife group projects in holding holiday events in Biss Woods enabling our students to also experience new projects in a woodland environment.

Our students have always and are incredibly important to the farm, as without them we wouldn't be here, helping to make their time with us a positive experience is a role I feel our staff do incredibly well, we are able to show this by helping them record their progress by offering Asdan courses, the student builds up a portfolio of working with the animals documenting all they do whilst here on the farm, including health and safety and then being accredited for it and receiving certificates to mark their achievements. This is shown every year by us selecting a student that has progressed not only with the tasks they do on the farm but their social skills as well.

With students that are on placements here and not involved with the accredited courses, we have two awards that we present to students that have also made great progress whilst being with us here at Larkrise,

I would like to ask the Councillor STEWART PALMEN, if he would be so kind as to present the Awards and certificates to the students.

This year's Student of the year award 2023 goes to: ELLIOT CLARKE for his outstanding effort and contribution to Larkrise Community Farm.

The second award is: The student Long Service Award goes to: PATRICK TOYE, Patrick has been with the farm since the year 2000 until leaving us in August this year.

As usual I would like to finish off my report with an Enormous Thankyou to all Staff, Volunteers, Trustees and of course my long-suffering Husband Steve for all their support and hard work throughout the year.