

West Ashton Magazine Article – February 2017

Hope! *'A feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.'*

This word must be one of the commonest words I probably think of first thing in the morning before going to work at the Farm, what will the day hold for us today? I **hope** all my staff are feeling well and turn up! I **hope** the animals had a good night! I **hope** the weather stays fine for us!

There are many things I hope for everyday in my work, but the most recent one must be: *I **hope** I get the phone call today to say the contractors are starting work on the new roof to our Handling Area'*

And guess what! That phone call came! The contractors have said they will be starting the build in the half term week, which is ideal for us as we have less people on the farm due to no schools! They are hoping it will take no longer than two weeks to complete (weather permitting), but I am sure a little disruption for just maybe two weeks of the year is allowed for what will be a life changing project for the whole farm and RDA group.

A covered riding and handling area will mean no more cancelling of riding lessons, because the weather is bad, animal demonstrations, i.e. teaching students how to lead a goat, exercise a donkey from the ground, grooming the horses/ponies in the dry, all this will make a difference to the student's daily routine on the farm.

When the roof is complete, there will hopefully be a celebrity official opening and a plaque thanking all those who so kindly donated to the funding of the roof.

Watch this space!

Wendy Self, Farm Manager