

SPRING NEWS LETTER –2022



This is our first ever quarterly new letter so we hope you find it interesting, and we welcome any feedback!

Our biggest news is that we won GOLD in Peak District & Derbyshire Tourism Awards 2022 for Best New Tourism Business and SILVER for Self-Catering of the Year 2022 – we still can't really believe it! We were judged back in November and had to wait until an award ceremony held on 3rd March in Chesterfield, to find out how we had done. It means we now go on to compete nationally in the Visit England Awards for Excellence 2022 – the highest accolade in the tourism industry. We are thrilled especially for our team who have stuck with us from the beginning.



It's obviously been a bumpy couple of years (as for many), having to shut our cottage doors to guests, reopen, and then close again as the various Lockdowns came and went. But we are back and ready for a great year ahead of welcoming guests new and old to the farm.

Lambing is just around the corner and this year have 14 pregnant ewes from a mixed bag. 4 years ago breeds of sheep were alien to us but for those of you who are interested, we have Southdowns, Jacob, Suffolk and Herdwicks. The ones I am most excited for are the 3 Herdwicks called Cocoa, Mocha and Latte – they are super cute and friendly and I'm dying to see what their babies will look like.



We are filling up fast particularly for The Hayloft which is just the perfect venue for a family get together or to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary. There is loads of space to create memories around the crackling flames of the central log burner, make delicious suppers while sipping wine around the huge kitchen island or lounge on the Italian leather chairs over a long lunch.

Our 3 smaller cottages are also super comfy and cosy and we will be bringing out the BBQ's at Easter ready for people to try our grass fed home reared burgers and sausages from last year's pigs and sheep.

Just this week the hens have gone mad laying tonnes of fresh eggs – a sure sign that Spring has sprung and even Piddle & Paddle, our 2 white Campbell ducks have started laying again so my cakes will get an extra oomph!!

The Old Farmhouse is probably our favourite cottage for its character, perfect for families with pre-school children and we still have some term-time availability this year. We can easily provide high chairs, travel cot, stair gates, fire guard and even a baby bath for this and all our cottages.

We are currently looking into choosing some play equipment for little ones to be located in our large wood which is a very special place but

little used. As always, we are taking our time to consider how to make this both safe and fun for our guests.



Velvet sofas have been the new addition in The Cowshed where one well behaved dog can hang out for a snooze on the rug or watch the activity on the farm from the huge glazed window. The warm dog washing can follow muddy walks in the fresh Derbyshire countryside air.

As ever The Milking Parlour remains very popular indeed and some guests have stayed 5 times now for that romantic getaway.

So lots to be done as ever. By Easter we should also have another couple of Oxford Sandy & Black weaner pigs, so the small woods need a bit of clearing up in preparation. Gosh, we will have to think up more names! – any ideas?

It's lovely to see the daffodils emerging and buds wanting to burst into life. We have had lots of murmuration of starlings which is quite a spectacle swirling around the fields, and we heard our first curlew this week.

Our next newsletter will include new additions to the farm but we hope you decide to come and see them for yourselves.

Best wishes,

Julia & John