

**Number 31**



**ANNIVERSARY**



**July 2025**



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## **CLINKS CARE FARM 2010 - 2025**

Welcome to the Clinks Care Farm newsletter. We hope it will keep you up to date on the Farm and also help you to stay in touch with friends, past and present. If you have an article to contribute to a future newsletter, maximum 250 words and pics, we would be delighted to receive them at [admin@clinkscarefarm.org](mailto:admin@clinkscarefarm.org). The deadline for the next newsletter is 1st Sept.

### **THE CHALLENGES OF FARMING**

How can two years be so different? The spring of 2024 was so wet, it was impossible to start planting to achieve the usual growing season. This year everything got planted on time, but keeping the plants alive has been quite a challenge. Worryingly we are not alone, as this has been the case across most of the country. Irrigation out in the fields of Clinks Farm started in March and continues on a daily basis. It's meant root vegetables like new Potatoes and carrots cropped late and were initially quite small. With so much time spent moving and setting up of the irrigation, weeds have thrived. Pest control has also been a big issue on our vegetables, with an explosion of sap sucking insects like Aphids and Flea Beetles. We also have issues with our grass which we cut for Hay, as it's all very short and already going to seed. Pictures below showing Jake moving irrigation, Potato harvesting, weeds competing with the Onions and grass having gone to seed in June.



### **NEW ARRIVALS ON THE FARM**

Spring always brings an additional influx of new born animals on the farm and this year has been no exception. During the lambing period 25 sheep were born, which always creates a raised level of excitement to our farm helpers, volunteers and staff alike. Our Goats produced 14 kids over the last few weeks, giving everyone a chance of a cuddle. The Pigs which are not quite so cuddly, but a favourite to many, produced 11 piglets in the same period.





## **SUPERGOOD RIDE OUT**

Revved Up for a Good Cause: Supergood Ride-Out Raises Over £950 for Clinks Care Farm. On Sunday 1st June Clinks Care Farm was alive with the sound of engines and community spirit as we hosted a fantastic charity ride-out in partnership with Supergood Bikers for Autism. It was a truly inclusive day, with 35 motorbikes, some carrying pillion passengers, and even a campervan bringing along one of our brilliant farm helpers and her family to join the fun. The convoy set off from the farm and cruised through the Norfolk countryside, arriving at The Swan in Alderton, where the team generously hosted a BBQ for all the riders. Their warm welcome and amazing hospitality added so much to the experience. Thank you to everyone at The Swan for making us feel right at home, with further thanks to the generosity of all involved. The ride-out raised a fantastic £954.39 for Clinks Care Farm. We'd also like to give a special shout-out to our T-shirt sponsors, Mayhew Builders and Graham G Harbour Services, whose generous support helped bring the event to life and raised even more awareness for this brilliant cause. To everyone who rode, donated, hosted, volunteered or supported us, thank you. You helped turn a great day out into something truly meaningful for the people we support here at Clinks Care Farm. You were all absolutely Supergood.



## **CLINKS CARE FARM ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH**

Written by Clinks Farm Helper, Troy West.

We gathered at the Bungay Football Ground on Sunday 4th May for our annual Clinks Care Farm Charity Football Match and Auction. The Farm Helpers aka 'YODA RAMS' challenge Clinks staff and Volunteers aka 'VADER BOARS' to a football game to see if they could win this year. Once everyone had arrived, we did a warmup lead by myself. We then took our places on the pitch and played some of the best football you'll have seen in the whole of East Anglia, refereed by Eddy Jackson. A big thank you to Eddy for over seeing the game. It was great to see everyone taking part in the game which resulted in a score of 8-3. Farm helpers winning for the 4th year running. A special big thank you goes out to Mike Jackson for organising the day, The Friends of Clinks for cooking the yummy BBQ and the spectators and auction bidders.



## **CLINKS CARE FARM ANNUAL CEILIDH**

The annual Ceilidh at Clinks Care Farm is a great way to celebrate the summer solstice! What a great night, warm weather and 230 people attending. As always, John Ward and his band were awesome and got most people dancing from the start. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out. We wouldn't have been able to organise the Ceilidh without your help. We hope



that everyone who came had a lovely time. As well as having a great night out, you helped us raise around £2,500, which is absolutely amazing and thank you.



## **CLINKS CARE FARM AT THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW**

An amazing 2 days were spent at the show. It was lovely to meet up with so many new and old faces. In catching up we were humbled to hear so many positive stories from ex farm helpers as they had moved on in their lives. To be at the Royal Norfolk Show was a great experience and our thanks to the Alan Boswell Group for all their support to the Farm.



## **ACHIEVEMENTS BY OUR FARM HELPERS**

Two of our farm helpers Jonathan and George have managed to pass their on road tractor driving examination and Karis has become very confident in using the Farm Shop till. Congratulations on their achievements.



## **OUR REGULAR SUNDAY WILDLIFE AND UNUSUAL PLANT SPOTTING**

Hi my name is Baz and I attend Clinks Care Farm twice a week. I have always been an avid bird lover & watcher because I love being outdoors & seeing loads of different species. I visit nature reserves at Minsmere, Strumpshaw Fen, Abberton, Ransworth, Cley Marshes, Benarce, & Hickling Broad. I am teaching my friends at the farm to identify local bird species. I like being at Clinks farm working with the goats and working with my friends. Some of the wildlife we spotted on Sunday 15th June 2025 were Common Buzzard, Western Barn Owl, Red Kite, Water Deer, European Robin and a Kestrel. Plants included Pyramid Orchid and Bee Orchid. A member of Norfolk Wildlife Trust and I saw 2 Grey Partridges. Previously we have seen a Twite. This unusual bird on the farm was sitting on the base of the tree; it is one of the finch family. If you would like to join our group, email [admin@clinkscarefarm.org](mailto:admin@clinkscarefarm.org) The group meets every third Sunday of the month and enjoys refreshments afterwards at a small cost.





## **JOBGING AROUND AND ABOUT**

Moving and repairing fences is ongoing, usually to relocate animals once they have stripped their current feeding ground. Cleaning polytunnels up to 12 feet high is no easy task, but they all have to be done to allow grime and Algae to be removed to maximise light penetration. After rebuilding the shop entrance porch, we have moved the old wooden structure to the pick your own flower garden. It needed some re-planking and a good coat of paint. We had a major failure in our egg sorting station. The old floor had to be removed and a new, but much thicker plywood floor was installed.



## **FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

Our annual open day at the farm is on Sunday 14th September. Come and see what we do. Meet the animals, See our produce. We'll have games as well as food and drink to consume.

Blues night at Beccles Public Hall - On Saturday 23rd August at 7.30pm, The Dave Thomas Bluer Band will be performing in aid of Clinks Care Farm. Tickets are £20, available from Beccles Public Hall.



The Friends of Clinks Care Farm would like to thank Mulberry Kitchen Studios in Beccles for sponsoring the printing of the newsletters. We are grateful for their continued support

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