

Life at Hereford Community Farm

Kelci, Katelyn and Ella – Thursday 16 March 2017

Hereford Community Farm is a small farm that is little known of, yet to those who are part of it, it means the world. As a new facility, it is being developed to provide inclusive and therapeutic land based activities and skills training for people who face disadvantages such as disabilities, ill health, social need or any other condition/ situation which may have an impact on their daily life. The farm offers: green wood working; organic gardening; working with friendly animals, as well as arts and crafts.



Julie Milsom and John Trimble founded the farm in 2007, but moved to a more accessible site in 2013. This site may be small in business, but it is big in heart. When approached, Julie Milsom was asked of her opinion of the farm, she replied, 'The farm is full of amazing outdoor spaces to explore. Walk through the orchard, greenhouse, animal enclosures – friendly pigs, pygmy goats, and lovely horses and an Irish cob'.

Their leaflet explains the vision of Hereford community farm: 'Our vision is to provide innovative, caring and supportive life experiences, work opportunities and structured learning programmes for people of all ages and background who have specific difficulties and would benefit from therapeutic effects of working with animals, horticulture and the environment'.

What is the future for this small, non- profit business? The Community Farm will be taking part in the Ledbury Poetry Festival – 30th June to 9th July – in a project called Outdoor Magic. When a member of the community was asked what they thought of the farm, she replied, 'Outdoor magic. We can bring the community farm to Ledbury during the poetry festival using artwork and visual imagery' Julie Milsom added to this, stating: 'Outdoor Magic is a community based arts programme celebrating people's experience of the natural environment, captured through poetry, drama, and the visual arts. There is a strong emphasis on gathering people's life stories and collective participatory artworks will reflect this. The resulting artworks will be exhibited as part of the Ledbury Poetry Festival in July.'

She continued, saying: 'The green woodworkers are making an oversized, free formed chair for storytellers to use and to reinforce the magical element of the spoken word. Our artworks will reflect the magical qualities of animals here at the farm – how high can a rabbit jump? How tiny are the ponies, etc.'

For this little farm, a bright future is ahead.