

# Broughton Grounds Farm Newsletter, November 2018

Free-range Christmas cockerels, geese, beef, hampers and pork sausages

01295 730315 james@broughtongrounds.co.uk



The Wednesday afternoon farm club for adults and their support staff has been going really well, we have 14-15 people most weeks now. We asked Mr P what he enjoys ...

*"I have been going to Wednesday farm club for just over a year now. Everyone is really friendly and helpful. I enjoy feeding the animals and collecting the eggs. I have grown in confidence with every visit and if I don't feel like doing jobs I just talk instead. And we all make things to take home at the end and have a coffee and when I get home I enjoy talking about what we've done."*

Why not try a free-range cockerel or goose for Christmas this year (£3 / lb and £5 / lb respectively)? Fresh beef and pork sausages will also be available on Christmas Eve.

We are also offering our popular Christmas hampers again, with a 10lb cockerel or goose, topside or silverside joint of beef, pack of venison, pork sausages, pheasant, partridge, honey, eggs, potatoes, all oven ready and presented in a beautiful wicker basket, available to collect on Christmas Eve. £100 with a cockerel or £120 with a goose.

Despite the dry summer, spring sown clover (sown alongside oats) established very well. A traditional method of establishment that works well for us and wildlife.



It is fair to say 2018 has been a very challenging year! The long dry summer meant that

lambs have grown much slower than usual due to a shortage of grass. We recently had a cow with TB meaning we can't sell any cattle for a minimum of 120 days (or two consecutive clear tests). Along with many others we have also experienced very long delays in receiving countryside stewardship payments from the government – many farmers are yet to be paid for their 2017 agreements. But on the positive side it was great to see hundreds of people enjoying the April lambing day and thanks to everyone who helped out. We've hosted another 20 school visits and the Wednesday farm club is great fun.

Despite the dry weather 2018 was an excellent year for honey, and young Steve Cocks and I continue to learn from our (many!) mistakes. If we get some sort of Brexit deal hopefully farm commodity prices will be relatively stable next year ...

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your custom and support this year and we hope our Christmas produce is of interest to you.

We would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and very best wishes for 2019.

James, Andy and Margaret



There are about 50,000 bees in a strong colony. We're now up to 24 hives, hopefully we'll expand further next year and are building a display hive behind glass in the farm classroom.



Combine breakdown number 17!