



calendar

# COT Events Calendar

Keep this calendar handy to stay up to date with everthing that's going on at COT.  
 For up to the minute updates see our website calendar at [www.c-o-t.org.uk/calendar](http://www.c-o-t.org.uk/calendar). Or for more detailed info on RBC events go to [www.rarebreeds.org.uk](http://www.rarebreeds.org.uk).

**October**

8th: COT AGM

22nd-30th: Rare Breeds Centre Halloween Spooktacular

**December**

3,4,10,11,17,18,21-23rd: Rare Breeds Centre Truly Magical Christmas

**November**

20th & 21st: Art at the Farm Pop-up exhibition, Coterie Tea Room

25th: COT Board of Trustees meeting

**January**

Time to work off the Christmas dinner...  
 RUN - CYCLE - SWIM?  
 Why not get fit by taking on a challenge and raise funds for COT at the same time!

**February**

13th-17th: School Half-term

**March/April**

3rd-17th: Easter fun on the farm at the Rare Breeds Centre

Supporting adults with learning disability

**ALM COT**  
 Canterbury Oast Trust

Canterbury Oast Trust & Rare Breeds Centre Highlands Farm, Warehorne Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3RJ

01233 861493  
[facebook.com/cotcharity](https://facebook.com/cotcharity)  
[@COTcharity](https://twitter.com/COTcharity)  
[c-o-t.org.uk](http://c-o-t.org.uk) and [rarebreeds.org.uk](http://rarebreeds.org.uk)





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Cover photo: Millie and Gatsby

It has been a great pleasure to host the autumn Parent Focus Group Meetings recently. As I think I may have said before, I really appreciate the opportunity to discuss issues of concern or interest to the families of our service users. At those six-monthly meetings, the topic of weight-control features quite regularly.

Understandably, parents, siblings and staff alike are worried about weight gain and the affects it can have on the health of our service users. Now, I certainly don't mean to throw stones in my glass house and admit to having gained a stone and a half since joining COT. I know very well how quickly weight can creep up on you if you are not careful. Getting older makes is harder to shift unwanted pounds, of course, and with many of our service users having been with us 20 years or more, it is an inevitable problem.

At those Focus Groups - and in subsequent discussions with the team - we have agreed on the need to increase activity levels and help burn off some calories by getting active. I am especially pleased, therefore, to see so much physical activity in the pages of this edition of InTouch. From bike riding, to welly-wanging and from zumba to It's A Knockout, people are certainly getting a move on. I would like to offer a special vote of thanks to the folk at Poulton Wood, the Friends of COT, our new Volunteer Activity Co-ordinator and all the staff in our services for all they are doing to support the mission.

However, as we all know, burning off the calories is only one half of the solution. Taking greater care with our food choices is vital, although that is much harder to achieve. So, having created a real buzz of physical activity, our next goal is to consider some interesting and effective ways of promoting healthy eating, too. I will be working with the staff team on this in the coming weeks and – as always – would appreciate any suggestions or ideas. As the following pages show, we really can make a difference when we all work together.

And finally - to avoid any suggestion of pots and black kettles - I hereby pledge never to touch another blueberry muffin. Anyone who sees me leaving the Granary Restaurant with one has my absolute permission to confiscate it forthwith...

Friends of COT Scrapbook

Having fun and keeping active





With thanks to Wendy and Dick Whalley

Wendy and Dick have been active members of Canterbury Oast Trust since its earliest days and have raised thousands of pounds over that time. Although their son sadly died before he could join the Trust, they never stopped supporting its work and they and their family have driven miles every year to come to meetings and – famously – to run the Tombola at the Christmas Fair. Not only did they run the stall, they provided the prizes themselves, too, and three tables groaned under the weight each year. They are shortly moving to Hampshire where they no doubt will start badgering their new neighbours to put pennies in a collection box or come to a coffee morning. We'll miss them but wish them both continued good health and happiness. Thank you, Wendy and Dick.

Margaret Hanlon

**I have been fundraising for the Trust since 1985.** It started when I decided that Homelands needed some better kitchen equipment to take the place of the bits and pieces collected together when the house opened. It was very exciting as COT was a new venture which we all wanted to be a huge success. The idea of a residential home for people with learning difficulties, which could be incorporated into the community to the benefit of all, was so important to the parents involved in the project.

I gathered all my friends and relations and we started with coffee mornings, then we combined it with selling Christmas cards for Bromley Mencap. I expanded the idea by getting my clever friends and acquaintances to come and sell the gifts they made, giving us a share of the profits. This grew and grew until I was serving light lunches as well, with people sitting all up the stairs when we ran out of chairs. The coffee morning then became an all-day affair and the record amount we took on one of these ventures was £1,993. It was certainly hard work but everyone who helped seemed to enjoy it and what a lot of satisfaction we felt after we had counted all that money!

Sadly, these things lose their popularity but cake sales and other things continued until I found it a struggle to find the energy to keep up the effort and manage my family.

Now I wish to pass on the baton to all the new parents and siblings of the present users of COT. Believe me, everyone has a talent hidden somewhere, so please help the Trust and enjoy getting the fun out of fundraising. The Friends of COT need your help to give the residents and tenants those days out and other extras that the authorities which fund people with learning difficulties seem to think are no longer necessary.

GOOD LUCK!

Wendy and Dick Whalley



Care and living with COT

Farmhouse

At Farmhouse we have had a lovely busy summer!

We all enjoyed a camping trip back in June and would like to thank Ricky's nanny Joyce for her kind donation towards our camping trip.

We recently got back from our House holiday where we went to Centre Parcs. We rode our bikes every day, went swimming, ate pancakes at a pancake house, went on a bike ride and, best of all, went to Longleat Safari Park.



Nick Fernsby enjoyed a day out to the War and Peace show with his keyworker Ellie. They watched a battle, watched people jive to live music and saw A LOT of military vehicles. They finished the day off with a cream tea in the sun.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016, Steve married his beautiful bride Stacey at Lympe Castle. Farmhouse staff attended the evening reception and had great time! Congratulations Steve and Stacey!





## Old School House

We would like to welcome Daniel and David to Old School House. Daniel moved in with us in March from Medway and David in February from Holly Cottage. Both have settled in nicely, and have made some new friends. We would also like to welcome David J who has recently joined our staff team.

In July, Pippa and Sarah went to Canterbury for a couple of days where they visited local attractions such as the cathedral, went shopping and watched The Sound of Music at the Marlow Theatre.

Neil, Stuart, Daniel and Charles have recently come back from Lyme Regis. They went to Monkey World, Torquay, and Long-leat. Stuart and Daniel enjoyed holding a tarantula and then a snake. David went to St Audries Bay in North Somerset for *Shirley's Week* with his mum and dad in July for a week's holiday. They had a day out on the steam railway in Minehead, had a traditional cream tea and did a spot of shopping in the local town.

We recently went on the Kingfisher trip, this was our fourth trip and we thoroughly enjoyed this day out. With our Zoo passes we can visit Port Lympne Zoo on a regular basis. We are also lucky enough to have train passes too, so go on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway as often as we can.



The weekly ZUMBA classes in The Falcons continue to be popular and are very well attended. We now have 25 residents/tenants who come regularly to enjoy a fun way to exercise and keep fit. We've seen wider benefits, too, with several people noticeably coming 'out of their shell' and begin to take part. There will also be another of the regular DISCOs on 30th November, when we usually welcome around 70 residents, tenants and staff. The musical group SG Productions, who've been coming to us for 15 years or so, pay another visit in December. It's a very good evening and great to see everyone singing along and throwing themselves into the entertainment.

And there's more... Helen Sanderson has volunteered to act for Friends to take forward the requests listed in the Group Activities survey that was held last year, the aim of which is to develop a good and varied social programme for those within COT. The survey covered requests of all kinds from sports to trips out and some individualised requests and Helen says it's a great pleasure to start setting them up. We hope to start a line dancing class which will include other kinds of dance such as salsa, cha cha and pop. This may be held on a Thursday evening, probably 7.30 – 8.30pm, in The Falcons, starting with some taster sessions. Further information will be circulated to all houses or contact Helen : [sanderson-by-the-sea@hotmail.com](mailto:sanderson-by-the-sea@hotmail.com) 01797 458646

Now for that MONEY ... or the lack of it. Friends has long been urging Managers to request money for holidays, social and leisure occasions and it seems that finally we're being heard. Hooray! Over the last 12 months we've spent £543 on Christmas gifts; £1,489 on running activities such as zumba, disco and musical evenings and we've granted £13,038 for outings and holidays. That's a lot of money, all spent achieving exactly what Friends was created for. However, it leaves us with less than the above total remaining in the piggy bank so we really need your help to build up our funds, otherwise we'll be starting to say 'NO' and we don't want to do that. Although there have been a few new, active members of Friends recently, most of our group keep on having high number birthdays and the energy levels go down. We'll continue to plan to run Tombola – and thank you for all the prizes, keep them coming – plus the occasional concert or fair and hope that you'll support those.

What we really need is a promise of donations, especially regular giving because that helps us to plan our grants. We know many of you already give regularly to COT but we'd be so very grateful if you would consider doing so for Friends as well. Your donations will help Friends to continue to fund those all-important social and leisure activities. Contact Martin Bieri, Chairman of Friends or speak to the Finance office to set something up.

Another way of generating funds, and I know we've put this forward previously, is for you to do something in the town or village where you live or in your or your family's workplace. *Read what Wendy Whalley has written elsewhere for inspiration.* A coffee morning or perhaps a tombola, raffle or competition table at a local fete or fair - Christmas events are on the horizon. Local clubs, companies, shops and churches often support charities and you can be an ambassador for COT. If you or someone in your family is at work then get your colleagues to sponsor you to wear a silly hat or tie; what about a Christmas jumper day? Are you a very good customer in a shop or a café - ask them to hold an event for you. My local café does free coffee if you buy a cake for charity and raises hundreds. The charity raises money and the Café draws in extra people, who also buy other drinks, lunches & non-charity cakes, and it gains good publicity, too. If you want an idea for a competition I can certainly help you with that! 'Win a Bouquet' is easy and can run for one day or for months, 'Pick a Picture' is easy, too, for a one day event.

Basically we're saying this : without an influx of money we'll start restricting our grants, limiting our activities and, in the near future, running out of funds. You can play a huge part in helping us to keep helping others. *Thank You.*

Margaret Hanlon [hanlon1@btinternet.com](mailto:hanlon1@btinternet.com) 07748 006249



## Friends of COT

Margaret Hanlon

FRIENDS OF COT – still busy bees but needing more honey... and yes, I really mean Money!

Friends have been very active over the last few months, arranging events and – with great delight – handing out money. *We'll come back to that!* We've only set up one fundraising effort since our last report and that was when we held a raffle at the Volunteers Lunch, raising £409. COT volunteers are amazing. However, the lovely Ludlam family have been active once more and this time they took part in the Swanley Triathlon, running, swimming and cycling to achieve a fantastic total of over £450. Joanne Ludlam took part in the Docklands Triathlon in 2014 and this year she pressed her family into action with her and we want them to know that Friends are delighted and extremely grateful. Their effort is impressive, too, because their only connection to COT is through friends and neighbours, Wendy and Dick Whalley, which shows how important it is to keep spreading the word about our great Trust.

We have arranged two activity days, an Olympics-themed games day at the Rare Breeds Centre, organised by Shirley Causer, and the annual It's a Knockout at Tenterden, organised by the Ashford Lions Club. IT'S A KNOCKOUT saw the usual struggle to get people signed up but seeing them enjoy themselves made it worthwhile. This event is organised all around the country by various Lions Clubs and it got going in this area at the instigation of Friends of COT; it's open to all adults with a learning disability in the Ashford district. Our 6th event took place on 4th September at Homewood School, Tenterden. COT entered 4 teams of enthusiastic players, all of whom had a really enjoyable day and everyone was awarded a certificate and gold medal. In addition the COT Sun Dragons team was awarded a superb trophy for endeavour. Well done to everyone who took part, we're very proud of you. *A few quotes : "I was very tired after the games but I enjoyed it." "The Blue Wizards was my team and my favourite race was popping the balloons. I had a really good time." "I liked all the races but the hoops were my favourite" "I had a lovely time and tried hard to win".*



A COT version of "OLYMPICS" was held on 23rd July in The Falcons at the Rare Breeds Centre on a lovely hot sunny day. Shirley Causer organised it and brought a car load of equipment but unfortunately motorway problems meant that she was late arriving. However, Friends of COT are always enterprising and promptly set up indoor bowls, skittles and swingball. When Shirley arrived the residents formed 6 groups and chose team names, all themed on famous Olympians. Each team took part in a series of activities - Bean Bag Throw (at Olympic rings), Sports Tin-shy, Hoopla (over national flags) Torch relay run, Penalty shootout and Welly Wanging. The day finished with some fun relay races featuring hockey sticks to dribble a ball, torches and plenty of flag waving. It was good to hear the cheers as people supported their team-mates and it all created a lovely atmosphere. Everyone was given a COT Olympics Certificate and enjoyed refreshments. Let's hope we can offer some more sporting events next year.

## Life Skills Training Projects

Poulton Wood

Lynne Cooke

Entertaining, memorable, heart-warming, and definitely newsworthy! The Poulton Wood Olympics 2016 has been all of these things and more! Spanning 5 days and incorporating 5 Opening Ceremonies, an itinerary of events both traditional and imaginative, literally hundreds of medals and associated end of day medal ceremonies, visiting Dignitaries, hundreds of thousands of imaginary spectators and an extravagant and extraordinary Closing Ceremony, the Poulton Wood Olympics had to be seen to be believed!

For the duration of the Games, the everyday Poulton Wood site took on new meaning, with the mess hut and buildings becoming the Olympic Village, the meadow becoming the Olympic Stadium, the Rangers becoming the Athletes and the yard for the Closing Ceremony becoming the Olympic Arena.

Ladies & Gentlemen let me paint you a picture. Each day began with an Opening Ceremony. The procession entered the Olympic Stadium led by one of the Athletes wrapped in the St George's Cross and holding high the Battery Operated Olympic Torch. The fabulous Olympic Rings followed behind held aloft, and behind the Rings came the Athletes themselves, each playing an instrument with gusto, enthusiasm and spellbinding creativity. They processed proudly round the stadium and back up to the medal podium where the flag was laid reverently down, with the Torch atop and the Rings standing proudly behind. The empty scoreboard stood lonely, anticipating the end of the day when it would be covered with medallists' names. The official photographer ensured that not a single magical moment was missed, and all this, Ladies & Gentlemen, all this, enhanced by professional commentary second to none! The events themselves took all of the Athletes skills and abilities into account. Every Athlete had the opportunity to excel, and excel they did! There was the coconut shot put, the hazel javelin, archery, with the aim being to shoot through the Olympic Rings themselves! There was tug 'o' war, the wheelbarrow race, the running backwards race and welly wanging!





Then there were the team games, bat and trap and the wooden spoon relay, all undertaken with a spirit of sportsperson ship that left us all brimming with pride! With one exception Ladies & Gentlemen, the egg and spoon race! This race was dogged by contention, arguments occurred in which the Stewards had to intervene, there were cries of alarm from the Athletes that the eggs were wobbling on the spoons, thumbs surreptitiously creeping over eggs once the race had begun and, most dishonourably of all, Athletes picking up their eggs as they fell, and running with them in their hand! This led to disqualifications, which, as you can imagine, were not taken well, with Athletes storming from the stadium overshadowed by very dark clouds!

But throughout it all, the Poulton Wood Athletes achieved! Some by the end of the day were so laden with medals there was talk of them needing to be carried to the bus! The Queen herself attended 2 medal ceremonies, congratulating each Athlete as they proudly bent their heads to receive their medals. One of our Athletes was bold enough to kiss her hand, but she didn't object, maintaining her dignity and stature throughout. (If you can permit me to be a little unkind, she didn't look herself! Having allowed herself, quite obviously, to be inspired by Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, she wore a long dark wig which turned her into a foolish parody Ladies & Gentlemen, looking more like a man of advanced years in drag, than the regal Lady we know and love.) Nonetheless, she was there, and was visibly moved by the uproarious and warm welcome she received from us all. On each occasion she was royally honoured by a rendition of the whole of the first verse of the National Anthem, albeit it stumbling and subdued. We had incidents, of course we did, most shockingly, a broken nail sustained by one of our athletes when competing in the shot put, but more importantly Ladies & Gentlemen we had joy, we had laughter, we had fun - during our 2016 Poulton Wood Olympics, in the sun!

On the sad day that marked the conclusion to the games we had the pleasure to receive as our Dignitary to award the medals, our very own Jo CEO (who from certain angles could be said to look a little like Prince Phillip himself)!



## Families and Supporters

### Hitrade

### Phyllis and Barbara

Hi from us all at the shop. Sorry we missed the last issue the shop has been very busy and time just flew by!

As you will be reading this, the shop has had a sale so we have been able to change over to winter stock and what stock we have! Customers have been bringing donations in by the bag-full so much so we've had to use our changing room as a store place until we're able to sort through it.

It will not be long before we are getting our Christmas stock out, yes it is that time of the year again. We hope very soon that we will be able to let you all know that the shop has reached £1 Million donated to the Trust; well done to all our staff!

We would like to say a big thank you to the Trust for such a wonderful day we had at the Volunteers' lunch we came down this time with friends of the shop and their families had a great time on the farm while we were given a lovely lunch. After lunch, some of the ladies were taken up to the market garden and were delighted at how it has come on. Some of us also had a quick look at the on going work in the mess hut; it's so nice to see where the money goes.

### IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE (unless you're a tax collector)

### Jillian Bailey

In a Tax office far, far away, ok Woolwich, a small collection of hard working, people were at a meeting when the subject of engagement reared its head and that perhaps we could engage with the wider community.

I immediately yelled "Canterbury Oast Trust" and it is here dear readers that I confessed my bias to my colleagues and explained all about the Trust and how my own daughter was lucky enough to get a place within the trust and has lived there since she was 21, she's now 38!!

As a group of faces looked at me in surprise, I went on to explain that the charity had one small charity shop in Sidcup, not far from the office, where all proceeds of items sold went to Canterbury Oast Trust. What we could do was bring in clothes, nick-knacks, DVD's just about anything they had in their homes that wasn't being used, watched, played or worn.

Two weeks later a box appeared on the desk next to me, an e-mail was sent out and collection began. A few days passed and I realised we were going to need a bigger box... in fact a huge box!! Clothes started turning up, ornaments, vases, games in fact you name it, it arrived! After 3 weeks it was decided that it was time to take it off to the charity shop. I did advise the shop that we had a "few" bags for them and their gratitude turned quickly to surprise... then shock as bag after bag was brought in. Eventually we were shown in to the storage area and asked to put our bags there as they were overcrowding the shop! It was at this point that they were informed that all the donations had come from a small office of HMRC... and yes the jokes were made about HMRC normally taking money and no one had heard of them giving!





## Volunteering

Gill Marsden



It was wonderful to see so many volunteers at the lunch on Sunday; thank you to all of you who were able to come along and for those away on holiday, I hope you had a fabulous time! It was a lovely day, with the sun shining and the Falcons Centre full to capacity. It was our opportunity to say thank you to all our supportive, industrious and thoroughly committed volunteers. The raffle raised an amazing £409 for Friends of C.O.T. so thank you also for your generosity.

It has been a busy summer, with new volunteers joining across the services and corporate volunteers continuing to support projects where needed. The ponds were at the perfect stage to have reeds pulled and cleared without too much wading being necessary! Groups from DWP and from Pfizer came across to help Hayley with this and as I sit and watch the rain fall, this must have been ideal timing. A second group from DWP came along in August to help with repairing the hut near the woods and clearing the cut meadow. They worked so hard, on a really hot day and deserved the lift in the trailer!

We had a veterinary student helping on the farm over the summer who was a tremendous help. Theresa was a great addition to the team whilst here and made some great new friends, including bonding particularly well with the barn owl!



The stadium was packed with supporters on that final afternoon, and as the Athletes gathered for the last game of bat and trap, many of them rushed to join in, which is surely without precedence at such a prestigious event! This deviation from protocol was allowed by the overall governing body in a last minute decision to end the games in an informal and all-inclusive way and, most wisely, to forestall potential riot!

It became slowly apparent over the course of this final afternoon, how unexpected were the events as they unfolded before Jo CEO. It was as she knelt to put medals around the necks of Ziggy wrapped proudly in the Union Flag, Archie, Dudley and Molly, for their speed and dogged determination in the dog race, that realisation as to the nature of this extraordinary event, and her role in it, dawned fully upon her. But, Ladies & Gentlemen, she kept her composure, kept calm and carried on. She didn't let us down, and we expected no less.

The Games rounded off with everyone invited back to the Olympic Village for a welcome sup of Poulton Wood Grape Juice Champagne, before seating themselves in the Olympic Arena to watch as the Athletes processed. Laden with medals, the Union Jack, Olympic Torch and Olympic Rings following behind, attended by Ribbon Dancers, Red White and Blue Smoke, Party Poppers, Silly String, Sparklers and cheers, they gave us a riveting closing ceremony that held everyone who saw it transfixed! In a final bow to the stature of the occasion everyone stood and, led by two remarkable and slightly overwhelmed musicians, joined in chorus for a final rousing rendition of the National Anthem, Jo CEO seen standing amongst the crowd, twirling her pink ribbon in a very heartfelt way.



I would like to end with a round of applause for all those who made this extraordinary event possible! The remarkable Poulton Wood Team of Staff, Rangers, Volunteers, Friends and Passers-by, for making the Medal Podium, the Olympic Rings, the Medals themselves, and all the other countless touches and details that went into making the Poulton Wood Olympic Games 2016 an outstanding and compelling visual and sensory delight. For our supporters and spectators who upheld us with their presence, for the Queen and Jo CEO who awarded the medals with sincerity and respect, and for those who took upon themselves the role of Steward and were truly marvellous throughout. Day in day out they marked where the javelin and shot put fell, manned the finishing line to bear witness to the winners, collected arrows from the roughs, and ensured there was always enough water available for the dogs! See you in 4 years!





## Harrington College

The City and Guilds accredited literacy group visited the animal barn to help inspire them. Each student selected an animal, made their own notes and then constructed sentences with support.



**Amy Fuller**

I like the rabbit his name is Fiver.  
He is grey and has floppy ears.



**Sarah Dorrington**

I was sitting on the straw with a guinea pig.



**Sam Angus**

I had a look at the chicks.



**Laura Gurdin**

He eats hay,  
horse nuts and polos.



**Adam Kirk-Up Bowyer**

Holly the rabbit is black and white.



**Thomas Eastwell**

Toby was born in 2000, 16 years ago.



**Suzie Mills**

I feed Toby polos. He is a tall brown shire horse.



**Kyle Briggs**

The ducks have white feathers. They have orange beaks and webbed feet.

## Fundraising

## Angela Phipps and Emily Rust

We dropped into a business networking session at the Basepoint centre in Folkestone. Joanne talked passionately about our work and everyone had a chance to buy some of our produce from our lovely stand created and manned by our art, catering and horticultural students who came along too. We received a whopper of a match funding donation from Basepoint, thanks to the efforts of our British 10K London runners and London to Surrey 100 cyclists who, collectively, raised over £2,500. Our huge thanks to them and to Basepoint for doubling it!



After choosing COT as their charity of the year, the employees of Spurling Cannon, along with their friends and family, are fundraising for COT. Dressed in the Spurling Cannon colours of orange and purple a group undertook the Viking Coastal Trail, a 32 mile ride around the coast of Broadstairs, Ramsgate and surrounding local villages. The company also held their 6th Annual Golf Day in aid of us, welcoming 11 teams to the beautiful surroundings of the Broome Park Golf Club in Barham for 18 holes. Unfortunately the British weather had other ideas and after just 9 holes it was rained off! The players remained in good spirits, however, warming up over lunch! Our thanks go to everyone at Spurling Cannon for their continued efforts on our behalf. You can support their fundraising via their just giving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spurlingcannon](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spurlingcannon)



Since Vanessa Davies opened Hoop Haberdashery in Tenterden in 2012 she has created, with the help of her "Stiches and Bitches" group wonderful summer window displays which have been donated to local charities or schools. This year they decided on amazing wildlife creations for the window and to give a few lucky individuals the chance to win some of them by holding a raffle. We would like to thank Vanessa and all of the customers of Hoop Haberdashery for their generosity and fantastic support. You can still make a donation via their just giving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hoop-haberdashery](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hoop-haberdashery)





## Rare Breeds Centre Shop

Sarah Jones

So the children have now gone back to school and I can say thank you to all my staff and volunteers for making it through another busy period in the gift shop, however, we do not stop there!

Halloween half term is fast approaching so our next tasks are to order in plenty of stock for the holiday rush as this will be the last busy event for us in the shop for this year.

I would like to mention Hazel one of my volunteers who has volunteered for the trust for at least 8 years. For those of you that are not aware Hazel very kindly gives up a lot of her time knitting items that she donates to the shop. All proceeds of these cuddly items (shown in the photos) go straight to the charity, to date raising over £600 for the Trust; which is an amazing total!

Another person I would also like to mention is Lyn she has also volunteered for the trust for at least 8 years. Lyn very kindly produces art items including gift cards and kindly donates these to the gift shop. All sell very well and proceeds also go to the Trust.

So when you are next passing do pop in and see our new stock and the above items that Lyn and Hazel produce for us.

Thank you to all my staff and volunteers for their continued support.



## Granary Restaurant

Jill Bourke

The Granary students have been baking well and made an amazing Bakewell tart—yum!

Thanks to the Farm staff for sharing their COT Cup winnings and inviting us to a “Rounders and BBQ Eve”. Davy, Sarah and their team put on a great evening’s entertainment!

The pig racing and tractor ride were hilarious! My team beat Davy’s at both games of rounders so well done all!



This picture shows Andy working hard on the charity’s buildings - as always. On this day, however, he forgot his tools. Becky was on hand to share hers through. We just loved the pink hammer!!



## Art at the Farm

Michelle McDonald

Here at Art at the Farm we have seen a few changes. Myself and Nicky are now joint Assistant Managers and Alan has moved to his new office in his new role as Senior Life Skills Manager, whilst also continuing to manage the studio until we have found our new manager.

We are getting close to finishing our latest project which is inspired by Dungeness; we are creating commercial products to sell at our pop up shop 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Coterie tea room in Rye and Art, Tea and Cakes on the 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Granary Restaurant.

Our artists have created beautiful cushions, lino prints, etching and ceramic boxes. All of our wonderful artwork will be for sale at all of our events.

***Don’t forget to purchase a calendar for 2017 £5 each 2 or for £8. These are available up at the Oast and at our events!***

Sensory continues to be busy. We are excited to now be able to set up our projector so we can screen things from the ipad to the wall.

We are working with Gill to organise some volunteers to do some much needed maintenance outside the Oast and also help us with our planned Christmas progress week, we are looking to hit 2017 running and have a few meetings ahead to plan our next projects: watch this space!

So exciting times up at the Oast! We would like to wish Alan every success in his new role. He will be very much missed up at the Oast but we are looking forward to working closely with him in the future.





## Rare Breeds Centre

### Discovery Garden and Butterfly Tunnel

Anne Cragg

This is the first time of writing in the magazine after 11 years in existence!

Meet my amazing team: Russell, Lisa, Kimberly, Patrick, Nick, Robert, Tim, Catherine and Jack not to forget Andy my able helper and last but not least, Anne my Wednesday Volunteer!

This year has been a blooming brilliant year in both the Garden and Butterfly Tunnel thanks to the warm sunny summer we have had.

The garden keeps the team active and busy as we dig, hoe, plant, water, weed and mow, but it rewards us with flowers and produce and provides our many visitors of every age with a special green space to enjoy.

It is also a haven for many insects such as bees, butterflies and moths who come in to feed on the flowers. This adds interest and we enjoy counting the butterflies and trapping moths to learn to identify some of the many species. What we learn we share with the visitors to open their eyes to wildlife too. We entered our wildlife garden, originally created by volunteers from Quest, into the Kent Wildlife Trust competition for best wildlife garden in Kent and await the result at the end of September. Maureen Rainey from KWT came in the spring to teach us how to create a wildlife garden which was very interesting.

The Butterfly Tunnel has had its best year ever providing visitors with a good display of fluttering butterflies. The plants in the tropical garden have supported the butterflies not only with flowers for food, but also caterpillars with food too. The Owl butterflies have bred all season and every banana plant has been covered in caterpillars which munched the leaves and turned into butterflies. These cheeky butterflies love chasing or landing on visitors. Russell bred some Painted Lady caterpillars which he eagerly watched through their life cycle, to release the adults into the native section. He was so excited by the whole process!

We are all so lucky working in such a beautiful outdoor space and have all learnt so much in the process. The visitors add another dimension and it is a pleasure to talk to them and answer questions or learn from them too!



## Environment and Education

Hayley Chambers

School groups, hardworking volunteers and mischievous mammals...

Throughout the school season (Jan to July 2016) the RBC hosted 150 school and nursery groups and delivered 97 educational activity sessions. During that period schools generated income totalling over £42,000. Our peak season was busy and recent feedback confirms our school offering has been a success and the additional activities popular.



Our Nature Activity Area (created for school groups) is developing nicely, the addition of the pond and bug hotel means the whole area has been transformed.

Less than a year old, the school pond is flourishing with life; pond dipping and bug hunting sessions have seen tadpoles, broad bodied chasers, dragonfly nymphs, azure damselflies, diving beetles, and water boatmen just to name a few. The dipping platform was installed, the plants are thriving and the kids love it! Thanks go to Hitrade for kindly funding the pond project! The area is drawing the attention of some rather mischievous mammals too; several rather large tears in the edges of the pond liner appeared overnight, with all the hall marks of a thirsty badger.



I am rather grateful to the corporate volunteer groups who helped, mostly in the scorching summer heat, with a variety of tasks including meadow raking, reed pulling and cob wall building.

Many thanks go to all those from Trading Standards, Department for Work and Pensions and Pfizer's for your hard work and sense of humour!