



# AUTUMN 2023 NEWSLETTER

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

## Down on the farm ...

Well, it's pumpkin time again and we can't quite believe another year has gone by!

A lot has happened down on the farm and in the services so here's a quick overview on what's been going on.....

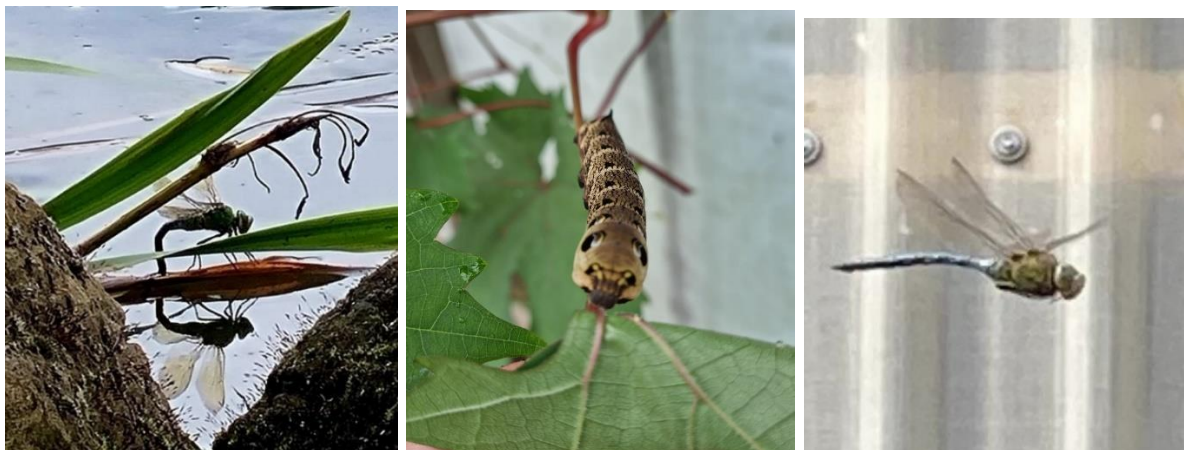
We have a newbie attending Day services – Seb Page. Seb started attending the farm in July and has soon settled into the team and really getting stuck into the daily workload of animal husbandry and produce tendering.



We have had an abundant harvest of seasonal vegetables all thanks to the day services team and especially Fay (our chair of Trustees and 'trusty' volunteer). Fay spends many hours planning out what will be planted in the raised beds and polytunnel and keeps everyone organized and motivated on the produce side of the farm. Fay said 'We have planted some spring greens in the polytunnel and also plan

to grow onions in there soon as well as garlic. The butternut squash are very late but we still have a few to look forward to. We have at least 20 good sized pumpkins, the cucumbers are still producing and green manure (mustard) sown to keep the weeds down over winter and enrich the soil.' Fay is ably assisted by Juliet ( our ex admin officer) and our newest volunteer Jane, who joined us in August.

On the animal side of the farm, the baby peacocks/hens continue to grow and grow and soon they will be ready for a bigger enclosure to be built. I'm sure everyone that attends Day services will enjoy that project. We have had some huge dragonflies flying around the pond in the tranquility garden and an Elephant Hawk Caterpillar was found on the grapevine. These excellent photo's were taken by Julie.



We have had some sad news since our last newsletter. Magic the pony passed away at the end of August. Magic arrived at Whinflower Hall in 2011, and very soon developed a presence about him, keeping an eye on all the other animals and humans who have joined him over the past 12 years making him such a much loved friend by all. Magic loved attention, particularly from those bringing him carrots from the allotment & apples from the orchard... he really loved his food. In the last few years, we all thought he would live forever, never truly knowing how old he was ... each spring he would emerge from his winter rugs, and start cantering around the paddock like a mini-white stallion!

We are going to plant a plum tree where Magic is buried and develop a garden full of wild flowers and shrubs with white flowers to remember him.



If anyone remembers Vinny (the giant rabbit), well Vinny was living with Dave Holden and his family but unfortunately due to a long illness he passed away in August. He was a real character and really ruled the roost at the Holdens, Daves' raised vegetable beds were a particular favourite of Vinny's as well as enjoying naps on the family beds. He will be really missed by the Holden family who have really enjoyed caring for him during the past year.

### **In The Service**

It's been a busy summer for many of the people we support, and it's been lovely to see all the photos of those happy times posted on our 'Friends of Acorn' Facebook site by staff members. It must be said that there were a few photos of some pretty scary funfair rides and activities so we obviously have quite a few thrill seekers! Not to mention Joel holding a big hairy tarantula!! Some of the day outs include a trip to Alton Towers, trips to local shows and car events, days out to York, Scarborough, Castle Howard, Robin Hoods Bay, Emmerdale Farm, the list is extensive! From the photos we can see that a lot of fun was had. The local fire service came down to the farm to give a talk to everyone about fire safety and they re-enacted an emergency scenario where they rescued Julie and Pont! Everyone enjoyed their visit and were very well informed. We had a lot of craft items donated to Acorn and Becky and Kate made a craft area in the music room. Lynne came for a visit to the farm and made some



beautiful Christmas Cards which you can see below. Enjoy the photo's below of various trips and activities!







## Fundraising

We are very grateful to have received various grants and donations over the summer period. We have had two donations from the Pickering Rotary Club to help with the cost of the Potter Hill Project and they are very supportive of Acorn opening a supported living facility in Pickering. Malton Rotary Club and The Charles Ruddock Trust have both donated towards a defibrillator for Acorn which is now attached to the wall at the entrance. Bright Steels had a fundraising BBQ at their club in aid of Acorn and came down to the farm to have a look at the animals and give the funds they had made from their event. We also had a very successful day at Thornton le Dale Show where we spread the word of Acorn and sold a lot of the horseshoe sculptures that we make.



## November Fundraising Event

We are very excited to announce that the fantastic New York Brass Band are playing at our next fundraising event on 24th November. NYBB are a New Orleans inspired brass band and have played all over the world. They have played at Glastonbury for the last 7 years, and have played for Jamie Oliver, Pixie Lot, Liam Gallagher, Ellie Goulding to name a few! As soon as we have more details we will post on Friends of Acorn Community Care Facebook page and other social media platforms.



## Staff updates

A big welcome to Andy and Mark who joined us in August and early September. Mark joined as a relief Support Worker enjoying the variety of their roles.

Jane joined us as a volunteer on our Day Services and is assisting Fay and Juliet with the produce side of the service. Jane is mum to Ollie, Ollie did a sponsored fitness event in aid of Acorn earlier this year and has continued to provide gym sessions on a regular basis at the farm. So, a big thank you to Jane and Ollie for donating her time to us.

A big congratulation to one of our Support staff – Steph who has made a 10,00- foot parachute jump for the Stroke charity. Steph has our total respect and admiration for doing this (I personally couldn't

jump off a ladder). She raised over 1.5K for the charity and is still taking donations.

### **'C' is for Christmas**

Dare we say the 'C' word for Christmas, but plans are already in progress organising this year's party. The party will be held on Friday **15<sup>th</sup> December at the Milton Rooms**. Tickets for the event will be sent out in late October and we will need everyone who wishes to attend to RSVP as soon as possible so we can organise the food and welcome drinks.

So far Ali has booked a live band 'The Nobodys' to play at the party and we are planning on having a charity auction as we did last year. If anyone has any items or 'services' (such as car washing/Hairdressing etc. etc.) they can offer for our charity auction, please let Ali know as early as possible. Last year's auction raised over 2k for Acorn all from donated items from local businesses, staff and carers.

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