



ACORN AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

Down on the farm...



There's been plenty of hustle and bustle down on the farm lately! Sophie the donkey now has two new donkey friends Candy and Mona, to keep her company, and the hen flock has grown too — which means even more delicious fresh eggs.



Fay, Juliet, Jane and the team have worked their usual magic in the veg plots, producing a magnificent range of vegetables and some truly show-stopping pumpkins. Honestly, they get better every year!



The alpacas are living their best lives — they now have their very own swimming pool, and we've also discovered they're rather partial to a cooling shower from the hosepipe. You can see in the photo that they have formed an orderly queue waiting for Russell to give them a shower. The goats haven't been left out either; they've been enjoying clambering around their new play area.



Farm events...



We kicked off the summer in style with our very first Acorn Fest — and what a celebration it was! This year's theme was Nigerian, and our wonderful Nigerian staff treated us to delicious traditional food and vibrant, colourful outfits. Ben provided fantastic Nigerian-inspired music, which had everyone up dancing. Lots of people camped overnight, and it's safe to say a brilliant time was had by all.



Autumn brought our Halloween and Bonfire Afternoon. Romy wowed us with a spectacular Halloween cake, while Lauren and Kate made traditional toffee. We tucked into baked potatoes and chilli before gathering around the bonfire — cosy, fun, and full of laughter.



Then came our Christmas Party, which was as festive as ever. There was a fantastic array of Christmas jumpers on display, Father Christmas made a special visit, and everyone supported by Acorn received a present. Ben kept the party spirit alive with great music. The food went down a treat too — turkey or beef sandwiches, plus Nigerian chicken cooked on the BBQ. A proper feast!



Holidays and outings...



It's been a busy time for adventures too. Russell set sail on a cruise, while others enjoyed trips to Blackpool, Alton Towers, Barcelona, the Lake District, Center Parcs, and Hebden Bridge.

There have also been loads of exciting day trips, including Flamingo Land, the Duxford Airshow, Harry Potter World, country shows, fairs, museums, art galleries, stately homes, zoos, theatres, and live shows — and that's not even all of them!



Activities & Hobbies...



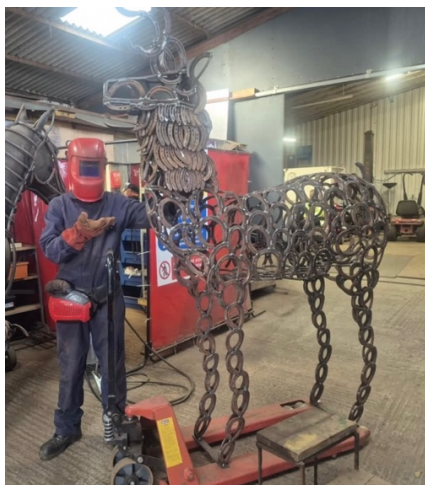
Mark has started horse riding at Sinnington Riding School and is absolutely loving it. Gary, Kris, and Tom have been smashing it at the gym, and Ollie continues to come to the farm to run popular fitness sessions that everyone really enjoys. Joel is still doing his regular singing sessions in York and really enjoyed the Christmas Carols. Lynne has always enjoyed her crafts and has made an amazing Stephen Brown painted highland cow. Boccia is still as popular as ever with a lot of the Acorn family and everyone is looking forward to the 2026 diary. Louisa needs a special mention as she is busy helping out in a café in Helmsley, always with a cheery smile. Well done Louisa!



The cookery classes with the fantastic Gilly the Cook are still a big hit. It's lovely to see some new faces joining in too — welcome to Hugo, Joe, and Ashley! The dishes coming out of those sessions look (and smell!) incredible.



The workshop has been buzzing with creativity. Some amazing metal sculptures have been taking shape — including dinosaurs, an elephant, and a truly magnificent stag. Lots of people have had a hand in creating them, but special congratulations go to Mark for his outstanding dedication and craftsmanship on these brilliant works of art, not to mention the dinosaur that was raffled to make funds for the charity!



Fundraising...

We've also been busy raising funds in all sorts of inventive ways. Highlights include:

- Selling metal sculptures at Thornton-le-Dale Show
- An online raffle for the Tyrannosaurus Rex sculpture
- A bingo night organised by Caroline Storr and Penny Twist
- A fantastic swimathon, organised by Ollie Varey, where volunteers swam the equivalent distance of the Strait of Gibraltar
- Our annual music event with the brilliant New York Brass Band, who this year were joined by the wonderfully talented young musicians of Jazz Train



A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

CARE, RESPECT, EMPOWERMENT, TRUST AND INTEGRITY

