

Fernhill Farm

Events Diary



Event Reviews

25th-28th July

EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camp 2010

We hosted the 20 junior rangers from across Europe during this week. To see them enjoying life at Fernhill go to www.juniorrangercamp.eu/gallery/

Wednesday 4th August

Cheese & Wine Evening @ Fernhill Farm.

Patricia Barki of Ackroyd and Dawson Limited and Andrew Wear of Fernhill Farm

Cordially Invite You to a Wine and Cheese Evening

To Discuss The Great British Wool Revival

Please join us on Wednesday 4th August 7:30pm

at Fernhill Farm, Cheddar Road, Compton Martin BS40 6LD

Pat and Andy will offer presentations and explain the opportunities available to regenerate the Wool trade and industry that was once the economic foundation of our country. We invite you to learn how you can be part of the initiative to reverse the tide of industry leaving the country. We can, and will, once again be world renown for our sheep and wool that that is our nation's pride.

We look forward to seeing you! Please kindly RSVP:

Pat: 01458 830971 or 07951 327754 ackroydanddawson@aol.com

Andy: 07903 584695 or 07712 616797

Next event ... coming soon

Monday 5th July

Wildflower Identification Day 5th July 2010. Avon & Somerset Wildlife Trust invited members to walk the farm to identify Mendip wildflowers with FREE lunch

Hi Andy and Jen,

...say thank you so much for your hospitality, great facilities and delicious food the other week. It was really interesting to engage with farmers and landowners on a subject that is at the heart of our work. I, for one, will always suggest the venue to anyone that needs a really friendly, beautiful place for group activities.

Thanks again"

Wednesday 30th June

Ecological Diversification – Never Take ‘No’ for an Answer

A practical and informative day with talks and farm walk involving craftspeople involved in the project

Fernhill Farm, Cheddar Road, Compton Martin, Somerset BS40 6LD

Wednesday 30th June 2010 – 10 am – 3pm including hot buffet lunch of Fernhill Farm meats

£20.00 CLA members £25.00 non-members reduction for non-members who join on the day and for non-member guests attending their first CLA event – contact details must be provided

Fernhill is a working family livestock farm on top of the Mendip plateau and like many others has opened its doors to diversification with an environmentally sensitive approach suited to the Higher Level Entry Scheme.

Andrew Wear hosted this event to discuss the diversification that has led to his flock being down-sized to 520 ewes from several thousand, being motivated by providing quality rather than just quantity - integrating his sheep-rearing with catering and local farm shops, rather than simply delivering meat-on-the-hoof to market.

The farm was purchased 12 years ago and out of a collection of abandoned 18th Century listed buildings emerged the 'Camping Barn' - available as accommodation on the Mendip Hills for rural educational projects, holiday groups and social functions, wheelchair-friendly with choice of catering or self-catering – which makes the old cow shed unique.

Inside the decorative and structural tree-beams are green wood or 300 year old recycled timbers from the farm. The roof is insulated with Andrews' Texel wool and the log fuelled central burner runs the under-floor heating and hot power showers. Planning permission has been granted for all the listed buildings, a new agricultural livestock shed has been erected under the Catchment Sensitive Farming Scheme and the WET System, all received grant funding. Andy works on the principle that 'No' is just the prompt you need to find the solution!

Jay Abrahams Biological Design, the designer and installer of the WET System (Water Eco-treatment System) was available to give instructed tours of this ecosystem that cleans waste water. Kevin Lindegaard is a wood fuel expert providing technical and practical information about fuel options, costs and funding opportunities. Andrew will discuss his experiences of working with biomass.

The rain water harvesting and under-floor heating system is designed by Eco-Engineering of Stroud. Kevin Sweeney will be available to demonstrate the Froling 75kw log boiler as a modern, semi-computerised wood burner that can heat four buildings in a courtyard. This system can also be topped up by the solar-thermal heating and with 2,000 trees recently planted on the farm to provide fuel, to be topped up by willow grown on the WET System.

Charlotte Sealy -regional surveyor will be attended to offer advice to answer any questions on planning for those who may be thinking of diversifying.

If interested in booking onto the next event please contact us.

