



For further information please email your request to:  
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## SURREY DOCKS FARM PROVIDENT SOCIETY LTD ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018



Registered Society No: 22829R

A registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a tax exempt charity

## THE FARM

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## THE FARM

Surrey Docks Farm is a working community farm in south east London.

We aim to educate people about where their food comes from and promote getting active outdoors. We rear a range of farm animals on site and tend food growing gardens. We sell our eggs, meat, fruit and vegetables through the farm shop.

The Farm is free to visit and open 7 days a week, 362 days of the year. We welcome people to learn and explore, feed the goats and get involved in our seasonal projects.



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## PEOPLE

### WHO WE ENGAGED

- **50,000** visitors to enjoy the Farm's free facilities.
- **400** cooking and outdoor sessions delivered for children during the holidays
- **100** children aged 2-4 attending monthly toddler's club
- **80** primary school tours and workshops
- **76** young people aged 14+ completing work experience placements
- **75** volunteers aged 14 + attending on a weekly basis
- **70** self led visits from schools and nurseries
- **58** young people aged 8-13 attending weekly youth clubs
- **45** Provident Society Members
- **40** weekly carpentry sessions for young people completing their reparation hours
- **30** weekly training placements for adult students with learning disabilities
- **21** corporate volunteer groups
- **18** schools took part in our incubator project, hatching chicks in the classroom
- **10** Good Gym teams volunteered with maintenance projects
- **6** 'Elders Events' welcoming older people from our partnership organisations
- **2** apprenticeships for local young people to progress into employment



## PEOPLE

### PARTNERSHIPS

We aim to engage the whole community, with an outreach focus to those who would benefit most. In order to achieve this we have delivered partnership projects with many community organisations including: Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, University College London, IMAGO (Young Carers), Southwark Youth Offending Team, The Complete Works School, Bede House, London Bubble, School Food Matters, South London Cares, Good Gym, Inspire, Time & Talents, Sands Films, Global Generation, TCV Stave Hill, Michael Tippett College and more.



*"Southwark Youth Offending Service run a group at the Farm twice a week, where they try to meet the Farm's woodwork requirements, making and repairing planters, animal cages etc.*

*Young offenders who have carried out reparation work at the Farm, giving back to their community, have found the experience rewarding and, to their enormous surprise, fun!*

*The group has always been welcomed by farm staff and young people who are often shunned by mainstream society, are regarded there as useful 'experts', sawing and drilling and hammering, often engaging with farm visitors.*

*YOS pays nothing for our shed at the farm and appreciates the opportunities there, given to some of our most difficult young people.*

*Farm staff are always flexible and open to new ideas - organising animal-based reparation work, or the chance to develop further skills in gardening or carpentry, for young offenders, who show specific interest."*

Deirdre Leask, Southwark Youth Offending Service

## LIVESTOCK



*"The range of farming and food opportunities Surrey Docks has given him is vast and has taught him many different skills. He understands about caring for animals; he notices the seasons and how they affect livestock, work on the farm and food produced. He is able to get physically 'stuck in' to activities by being outside and moving around the entire farm setting. He's learning about the equipment, animals -their health and wellbeing - and working with a team of adults with learning disabilities, volunteers and members of the public.*

*He has made a lot of friends at the farm over the years he's been attending. We feel he is benefitting from high quality teaching at the farm and it's definitely the highlight of his week."*

Relative of a student taking part in our animal care training project

*"In the 20 years I have been coming to the farm, I have never seen Surrey Docks looking as good, with the activities so interesting and relevant to modern farming. Hearing the students' enthusiasm was so rewarding. All the commitment and hard work has paid off!"*

Rosemary Carne, Worshipful Company of Farmers



## LIVESTOCK

The livestock team care for our animals every day of the year. In 2017/18 we reared 30 goat kids and 10 lambs; maintained our goat herd, sheep flock, two donkeys, pony, small animals and poultry; plus introduced a new pig breed: 'Oxford Sandy & Black'.

### INCOME GENERATION

In addition to animal feed, meat and egg sales we have delivered the following activities to raise funds and engage visitors:

- 45 small animal handling sessions during the holidays
- 46 mobile farm visits to schools, colleges and community events
- 47 hands-on animal adoption sessions
- 287 bottle-feeding sessions with our lambs

### SITE DEVELOPMENTS

Thanks to grant funding and donations we have removed old livestock housing and installed new accessible, high quality, purpose built accommodation including:

- Re-developed the goat barn to include individual goat pens
- New purpose built guinea pig and rabbit house
- Replaced our old cow shed with a new large barn and hard standing
- Created a new enclosed turkey aviary
- Installed new fencing around our goat yard
- Added blackboard signs to keep visitors up to date and informed about the animals

### PARTICIPANT DEVELOPMENT

- Volunteers' support and commitment is recognised and rewarded through Vinspired, Southwark Stars and the Jack Petchey Foundation awards
- Volunteers are encouraged to take up free training opportunities, for example through our partnership with The Donkey Sanctuary
- Our two animal care training projects for adults with learning disabilities provide accredited learning through the AQA Unit Award Scheme
- Our Livestock Apprentice gained a Diploma in Animal Care and represented the UK in the junior handler competition for the Aberdeen Angus Association

## GREEN SPACES

### TRAINING PROJECTS

We deliver training projects for adult students with learning disabilities in gardening, retail and cooking. We face continued pressure as the adult social care budget is cut and the funding for training days for our students with learning disabilities comes under threat. Despite this our training projects remain popular; we provide accredited training, develop practical and social skills (and have fun!) in the public environment of the Farm.

The projects are constantly developing and this year included:

- Students gaining further qualifications through the AQA Unit Award Scheme
- Students working with a professional chef to cook meals at Mercarto Metropolitan
- Students competing with their produce in the Bede Centre's Harvest Festival
- Growing space and vegetable production increased through new raised beds
- Mini garden centre built by Plot to Shop students centre enabling year round plant sales
- Weekly harvest publicised through Plot to Shop Twitter account reaching 300 followers

### SUSTAINABILITY

This year the Farm:

- Gained a 'Green Flag Community Award'
- Built a new accessible tool shed with covered compost production area
- Installed a new screen to display our solar panel output
- Now sells potting compost, sterilised with solar electricity, in the farm shop
- Installed rainwater tanks to flush our toilets in winter
- Designed a new sustainability trail
- Had our partners UCL install a second biodigester in the Plot to Shop polytunnel
- Created a new visible bio-gas cooking area to demonstrate the biodigester's function

### FUTURE PLANS

- Install a new sustainability trail for visitors and schools
- Widen our range of produce, for example water melons grown in new hot beds
- UCL will develop a remote monitoring system to record the temperature behaviour and gas output from the biodigesters, as part of their ongoing research

## GREEN SPACES



*"The training projects transform my son's life of being disabled to a place where the focus is on what he can achieve regardless of his disabilities. He becomes very bored and restless during the holidays. His smile when he brings home something that he has cooked or grown is worth all the difficult times we go through. Life without the farm would be very dull, every day there is a new adventure for him."*

Parent of student taking part in our Training Projects.



## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



*"The Club fosters social interaction, knowledge, self-reliance and a sense of adventure, friendship, curiosity and empathy in children.*

*The Club provides something that is priceless in adding to lives and skills of Young Farmers."*

Youth Club Parent

*"My children feel safe, respected and cared for. They have gained confidence, social skills and an admiration for nature and animals. This Club keeps kids away from depression, anxiety, boredom and addiction to computer technology by offering engaging outdoor activities. The Club has enabled my children to lead very healthy, active lives even though they live in a city. The Club has contributed positively to my son's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing."*

Youth Club Parent



## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### SCHOOLS

Our school programme continues to be very popular, with a 67% increase in bookings this year! We provided 80 workshops for schools with activities tailored to support the National Curriculum, including apple pressing, recycling and butter making.

We also hosted a further 70 self-led school visits. Our incubator scheme enabling children to watch chicks hatch in the classroom was fully booked with 18 incubator hires.

### YOUTH PROGRAMME

Thanks to funding from United St Saviour's Charity and British Land we offered a full programme of activities throughout the year for local children & young people, specifically engaging those who would benefit most.

**Toddlers Club:** Children aged 2-4 took part in animal care, nature, food growing and cooking activities. Sessions engaged children in an interactive way, encouraging them to take on new challenges, be active and explore their environment with all of their senses, no matter what the weather!

**Youth Clubs:** Children aged 8-14 engaged in informal, outdoor learning. Young people shared their ideas and decisions about the care of farm animals, growing their own food, cooking healthy meals, craft or construction projects and undertaking environmental projects. Children had the opportunity to go on trips and camps throughout the year and demonstrated their achievements through AQA awards.

**Family Cooking:** In partnership with The Mini Cooking Club we ran a series of cooking workshops for families from Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers. We also delivered cooking workshops open to all families in the holidays.

### DEVELOPMENTS

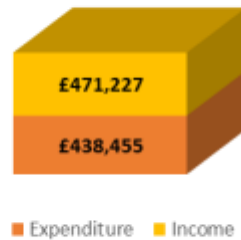
- Young people planted and wove two willow arches to define their growing space
- The Farm joined London Youth and began working towards the Bronze Quality Mark
- Targeted outreach to engage those who would benefit most, for example hosting visits from IMAGO (Southwark Young Carers)
- Became an accredited centre, with a trained Centre Coordinator, to write and deliver AQA unit award

## FINANCE

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- The Farm had a £470k turnover with a surplus above budget in 2017/18
- 71% of our total income was generated through fees, farm shop sales, donations and an unexpected legacy gift
- 29% of our total income came from grants and charitable trusts which enable us to run free or low cost activities for those who would benefit most
- A generous legacy of £40,000 along with grant funding, enabled an increase in site maintenance and improvements to livestock accommodation
- £85,000 of income was generated through training fees from adults with learning disabilities' personal budgets. With the adult social care budget cut, we face continued pressure on this income
- Thanks to the support of our corporate volunteers we generated £19,000 income as well as completing many maintenance tasks
- This year we have moved more accounting processes in-house, increasing efficiency and enabling us to produce regular management reports
- Running costs are regularly reviewed and reduced where possible through new initiatives and site maintenance - for example harvesting rain water

**Income v Expenditure**  
Surplus: £32,772

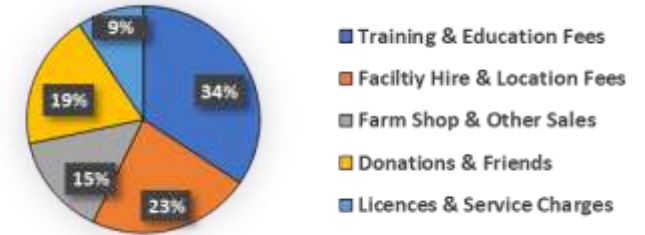


### Surrey Docks Farm would like to thank this year's funders:

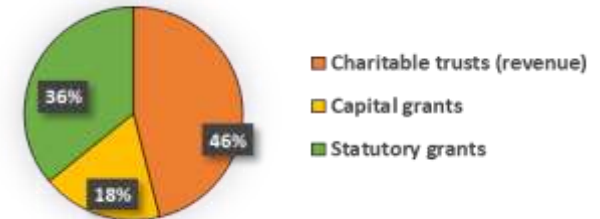
Southwark Council; United St Saviour's Charity; British Land; Wakefield & Tetley Trust; Worshipful Company of Farmers; Heritage Lottery Fund; Cushman & Wakefield; Jack Petchey Foundation; Henry Plumb Foundation and Lusso Catering.

## FINANCE

**Income Generation:**  
£334,268



**Grant Income**  
£136,959



**Expenditure**  
£438,455



For fuller details of the Farm's Finances, please see the accompanying document: Surrey Docks Provident Society Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

## THANK YOU

### Thank you to our supporters

Thank you to all our visitors who have supported the Farm through sales, donations and gifts on our Amazon Wishlist.

Thank you to organisations who have sponsored activities such as our donkey license, donating raffle prizes and laying a concrete base for our cow shed.

### Thank you to our Management Committee

Brett Bennett-Smith, Chair

Roland Neal, Secretary

Jolin Holme, Treasurer

Mary Budd

Alan Chadborn

Michael Reardon

Savie Musendo

### Thank you to our Volunteer Team

Surrey Docks Farm is lucky to have a team of 75 dedicated volunteers who get involved with all aspects of the Farm, including animal care, gardening, maintenance, serving in the farm shop and supporting our community projects.

Volunteers are essential to the Farm, we wouldn't be able to run without them.

## THANK YOU

### Thank you to our Staff Team

Gemma Hooper, Manager

Claire Elson, Livestock Manager

James Taylor, Horticulture Manager

Tracey Neil, Education Manager

Gary Jones, Weekend Manager

Lucy Tarver-Jones, Youth Coordinator

Melisha Khyriem-Edwards, Finance Officer

Rachel Smith, Training Coordinator

Hugh Watson, Business & IT Coordinator

Fay McMath, Livestock Worker

Jessica Thompson, Livestock Worker

Germander Speedwell, Heritage Coordinator

Brandon Brockett, Livestock Apprentice

Mishel Kovalenko, Admin Apprentice

Cecil Lee, Cleaner

Plus all of our casual workers

