

Good Hope Farm

End of Year Newsletter 2025



2025 at Good Hope Farm has truly been a mast year, yielding more in the field and the community with growing generosity of collaborators and new friendships. We have seen our farmers grow in their skills and interests too. Nature guides us and we never forget that the magic within the project could not happen without the support of our mycelium network of local communities, organisations, volunteers and champions.

Proud Announcement! We are delighted to announce that with your help Good Hope Farm have been awarded **Best Nature-Based Therapeutic Day Centre 2025 in Berkshire.** [Southern Enterprise Awards](#) celebrate the ambition,

innovation, and resilience of SMEs across the South, recognising organisational achievements and rewarding dedication. We are bursting with pride to be acknowledged and awarded. We will continue to create and maintain our beautiful nurturing environment for well-being.

GHF Farmers carefully seed, weed and feed all of our produce by hand. In harmony with nature, using non-chemical permaculture methods, we continue to nurture. Filling and selling non-chemical produce from our little shop, has provided good opportunity to build on customer service skills too. An abundance has been sold via markets and pop-up events including, Newbury and London farmers market too. We like to keep it interesting and have grown several heritage vegetables, strawberry popcorn, electric blueberries, cucumelon and an overwhelming number of tomatoes. Local chefs have bought up crates, appreciating the pure flavour of



non-chemical and locally grown produce. Non-chemical flowers have proudly supplied Chelsea Florist

28Flowers (28flowers.co.uk). Next year we hope to sell more vegetable boxes and our popular tea bouquets. Contact us and be on our list!

The Farmers programme kick-started in Spring, with a visit to local Llamas and goats, courtesy of Kathy Clarke and Dr Alex Allan. This was one of our favourite days. The Llamas made us laugh so much. This was a team effort to collect organic manure for our precious compost and

essentially worked toward building confidence, through active participation within the community. We can report that after experimental comparisons in the sunflower beds, the black gold was rich in worms and the result was visibly healthier plants and produce.

The season ended with a bit of gardening and a canal walk to Newbury from Hamstead Marshal! A beautiful day and a chance to enjoy different perspectives in nature.



GHF Community Outreach and fundraising events



Councillor Tony Vickers joins the GHF team for a garden tour.

Good Hope Farm, Summer Garden Tour was an opportunity for the community to immerse themselves in the beautiful, calming environment of the garden. Learning about the benefits of aromatic herbs, flowers and medicinal plants and how they support well-being activities. Determined supporters including Champion supporter Councillor Tony Vickers and wife Martha braved the rain for a tour and chat along with other GHF visitors. We held a stall selling fresh, farm produce, teas and cakes. Generous donations boosted funds. Adam was the proud winner of Brenda the pumpkin after guessing the nearest weight.

GHF Markets Founder and Director Karine, tapped into her French roots to produce and host two markets at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall. French market with coffee, music and croissants created a relaxed ambience for buyers, browsing generous donations of beautiful items including, GHF produce, clothes and household items and latterly Xmas wreaths.

Greenfest 2025 sustainable fair was an inspirational event. GHF were really delighted to participate in this popular community event, meeting people and organisations that share the same ethos for our environment. Our stall was very busy, and we gleaned many ideas for accessible activities! We will return for the 2026 event to support this excellent community initiative.



West Berkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board is a significant organisation for us and Director Kishan Parekh delivered a presentation, thanking and updating them regarding the impact of the funding we had received. Their generous donation, abled the purchase of a battery-powered generator to improve the facilities and bring much needed power.

Swings and Smiles Visit to Good Hope Farm As part of our collaborative outreach; we invited Swings and Smiles to bring SEND members and their carers to experience a half-day of activities. This was a good opportunity to explore a new environment and build confidence. After a full tour, our visitors worked together as a team to collect materials and build a glorious bug hotel. It was heartening when parent/carers also expressed their own experience and benefit of our beautiful project.



We say Goodbye Just as the seasons teach us nurture, growth and fruition, we must also learn to say goodbye. We were very proud to watch Bradley's skills grow and all of his personal achievements with Good Hope Farm. We must now congratulate him on his new job and wave him goodbye, toward new ventures. He will be missed but he is going to be amazing! Bradley you will always be welcome for visits to update us.



New addition to the Team Transformative Coach, Claire Borer has become a regular volunteer and welcome friend to Good Hope Farm. Bringing her sense of humour and lots of singing between gardening. Claire shares our nature-based ethos and can be found ruminating and vlogging on topics such as 'Overwhelm' with Bob the dog on Instagram @claireborercoaching www.claireborercoaching.co.uk

Funding and support

A special thank you to all of the support and generous donations to our fundraisers this year. Our own Director Kishan ran a half Marathon at Battersea Park in October 13 miles in 2 hours and 9 minutes. He sends a heartfelt thank you to every generous donation supporting. A brilliant achievement.



Special thanks go to: **The Greenham Trusts** grants toward stage one of our hub-space, through **The Good Exchange** platform; **Cllr Tony Vickers** for selecting GHF as his community project within his capacity as Chairman of Council. David for donating and assisting our farmers with the successful planting of new raspberry canes. Terry, Dave and Alan at **Newbury Men's Shed** for making our Bird box kits and a beautiful bespoke round seat for the Lime Tree donated by **Tony Kirkham**; **BWB Technologies** for creating a raised, accessible strawberry bed; **The Friends of Good Hope Farm** for their donations, time and support.



Marathon Sponsorship A huge thank you to all donors including Suzy Hester; Roslyn Baker; Alex Dabrowska, Marc and Amna Boheim, helping to raise £1,350.

Project update - Growing success starts with what is under our feet. **Miss Lawrence Trust** donation helped us to achieve the creation of our own compost bays, resulting in steamy non-chemical compost. Nourishing our plants and saving precious funds. If you would like to fund a small project

please get in touch.

Workshops and events Open to the community, our meditative and healing workshops have continued to grow and include: Bollywood, Yoga, Meditation and Mindfulness. Highlight was Mindfulness Walking in Nature with Emma. Successfully creating an accessible and peaceful connection with joy in nature.

We have maintained an affordable rate for all events at £20. We will continue to build therapeutic events in the year ahead and share our Good Hope Farm as a beautiful place to thrive. Please do get in touch if interested in hearing more. info@goodhopefarm.org.uk





XTRAC Apprentices

Volunteers

Major appreciation goes to the [Volunteer Centre West Berkshire](#) for their support, advice and all of the volunteers they have directed toward Good Hope Farm.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our individual volunteers, who have kept us ticking over in the background. Every task, idea, time and insight has been invaluable to our progress including: regular volunteers Bradley; Claire; Pauline; Suzy; Gaby and Marie.

Corporate Volunteers We send huge thanks to the amazing business organisations that invited staff to swap their day job for a day at Good Hope Farm. There was an enormous amount of fun, whilst making a huge impact on our project. So wonderful to see some of you returning already! This year we have welcomed teams from **AWE; Connault; PowerOn; Rebound; Xtrac**. Contact us for detailed options of corporate days.

Future Goals - 'Be My Guest' is an opportunity to address funding issues for people with disabilities and learning difficulties that would like to join us at GHF. A huge thank you to **Marsh Fuels** and **Bransford Trust** for their generous donations opening up access to our services. For those of you that cannot give time in person but would like to contribute, even the smallest amount counts toward sponsorship. Connecting you to the ground root impact of Good Hope Farm and opening up opportunities for future Good Hope Farmers. Contact us directly to support this initiative info@goodhopefarm.org.uk ref: 'Be My Guest' or look out for our next Open Day in March to learn more about this project.

GHF 2026 Calendar available. kishanparekh@yahoo.com or info@goodhopefarm.org.uk

We hope you will all continue to be part of the Good Hope Farm Community and we wish everyone a healthy season ahead.



Good Hope Farm contact info@goodhopefarm.org.uk or www.goodhopefarm.org.uk