

BUSINESS VOLUNTEERING AT OUSEBURN FARM CHARITY

Volunteering at Ouseburn Farm is a fantastic way to get outdoors with your colleagues and do something great for your community. Our volunteers have an amazing time down on the farm, mucking in with all manner of tasks and projects and they know they are making a real difference. There's something to suit everyone. Have a look at our calendar below for some highlights.



“WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT YESTERDAY – ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT. WE HAD A REALLY STRONG TEAM WHO PUSHED THROUGH TO ENSURE WE GOT ALL THE WORK COMPLETED, BUT STILL HAD FUN FEEDING THE LAMBS AND WALKING THE GOATS, ROBSON AND JEROME, AS WELL AS HOLDING A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE CHICK. LUNCH WAS VERY NICE INDEED – PREPARED ON-SITE, SO NICE AND FRESH AND IT WAS NICE TO SIT AND HAVE A CHAT WITH NOT ONLY THE NORTH STAFF, BUT THOSE FROM THE FARM TOO.”

“FOR ME, THIS IS WHAT THE CSR VOLUNTEERING IS ALL ABOUT. CHOOSING A PROJECT THAT HAS A REAL SENSE OF PURPOSE IN THE COMMUNITY. RAISING MONEY IS IMPORTANT, BUT VOLUNTEERING ON A REGULAR BASIS GIVES A SENSE OF COMMITMENT AND PARTNERSHIP. GIVEN THE AMOUNT OUSEBURN FARM DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, THIS IS THE MOST SATISFYING AND WORTHWHILE PROJECT I HAVE WORKED ON. I WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO VOLUNTEER AGAIN.”



Due to high demand, we offer first refusal on all our volunteering opportunities to our Business Partners and Supporters. If you'd like to learn more about partnership opportunities at the Farm, please contact Stef our Partnerships Officer at stef.anderson@ouseburnfarm.org.uk or on 07816 978042.

If opportunities are remaining, we offer them first come first served to non-partners and supporters and ask for a donation to cover the costs of the project that you are volunteering on with a donation of £25 per volunteer and a minimum total donation of £200.

**FOR EVERY £1 YOU INVEST IN OUR CHARITY, WE GENERATE AN EXTRAORDINARY £9.70 OF SOCIAL VALUE.
BY MAKING A £200 DONATION, YOUR COMMUNITY THEREFORE BENEFITS TENFOLD, EQUIVALENT TO £1940.**

All volunteering days include the following elements:

- Welcome and refreshments on arrival
- Tour of the Farm
- Choice of animal petting - lambs (in Spring), piglets, calves, reptiles, bunnies and guinea pigs.
- Taking our Pygmy Goats for a walk around the Ouseburn
- Herding the sheep
- Catering



APRIL

**A LOTTA LOTTA
ALLOTMENT...**

Green fingered gods and goddesses, bring your magic to Ouseburn Farm this month and help us get our gardens and allotment ready for this year's growing season. You and your fellow miracle-workers will help to turn the soil and our compost then plant the seeds for the coming year's produce. Next time you visit the Farm, you'll have the joy of seeing green shoots appearing and eventually fruit and vegetables ripening as a result of your hard labour!

ALL YEAR

**SAUSAGE ROLL
CHALLENGE**

Newcastle has become the home of sausage rolls thanks to the entrepreneurialism of our much-loved, Greggs. But they're not the only ones famed for this delicious savoury treat. Using pork reared on the Farm, we make thousands of sausage rolls every year which we sell at local markets and on site, receiving rave reviews from our customers. We're inviting budding Bake-Off contestants to join us at the Farm and help us meet demand by making as many sausage rolls as you can. Every penny we make from their sale is reinvested back into the Farm.

EVERY SEASON

GETTING MUCKY!

In the words of Bonnie Tyler 'Loving you's a dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it'. Also spoken by Richie our Livestock Manager each year to the pigs, cows and sheep when it's mucking out time! Looking after animals isn't all cuddles with bouncing lambs and cradling newborn baby chicks in your hands (although you will very likely get to do these as a reward for your hard labour!), it's hard and often dirty work that requires patience and a caring nature. If you don't mind getting your hands dirty and would like to get up close and personal with our livestock then this is the challenge for you! Your day will also involve wielding our scythes to tidy up the fields of thistles and other weeds.

ALL YEAR

CHICKEN RUN!

Our coop keeps our chickens safe and warm but needs a lot of care and attention each year to ensure it's secure and our avian friends are safe from predators like urban foxes. And also that they can't escape and make their own Chicken Run! Volunteers can help us by surveying the coop and using wire and cutters to make sure that the coop is 100% impenetrable and inescapable. They'll also give the Chicken House a makeover so our hens have somewhere cosy and clean to go to sleep at night..

MARCH/APRIL

PESTO MAKING

The farm's kitchen and cafe take a 'field to fork' approach, sourcing as many ingredients from our gardens and the wider local environment as we can. This fresh produce is then prepared and cooked in our kitchen to create our cafe menu as well as items which we can sell to raise money for the charitable programmes at the farm. Pesto is one of our staple products, using wild garlic picked from nearby Heaton Park and herbs from the garden. Your team can join us for the day foraging in Heaton Park and picking produce in the garden then heading indoors to prepare and preserve our Ouseburn Farm pesto for use in our dishes and for sale in local delis.

**SPRING AND
AUTUMN**

**FENCING AND
OUTDOOR PAINTING**

The Farm is much bigger than initially meets the eye. We have three grazing fields and an orchard in addition to the main visitor centre and cafe. All of the areas are fenced and it's a huge task keeping these fences in good condition and thus our animals safe and secure. Volunteers can help us by surveying the fences and making repairs as well as treating and painting the fences and visitor centre woodwork so they are weather resistant and keep the Farm looking its best.

ALL YEAR

**INDOOR PAINTING
AND DECORATING**

Our visitor centre includes four meeting room and workshop spaces, a kitchen, a cafe, our small animal room and plant nursery, toilets and entrance hall. Not only are these spaces important for our income generation (all profits from their use are reinvested back into the Farm), they are also classrooms - used by schools and our trainees (over 50 adults with learning disabilities and difficulties) to engage in programmes that teach them about animal care, horticulture, cooking and catering and customer service. By helping us with various painting tasks around our visitor centre, you make these learning spaces pleasant environments for school groups and our trainees and also more commercially appealing to our customers.

**SEPTEMBER /
OCTOBER**

AP'L DO NICELY

We are blessed with an abundant supply of apples from the trees in our Orchard, if only we had the manpower to keep the trees pruned and harvest all the delicious crisp apples. Your team can help by pruning the trees and picking the apples then using these to make apple pies and crumbles to sell in our cafe and at local farmers markets, with all profits being reinvested back into the Farm. And of course, you get to take back a lovely basket of apples to your workplace too!

OCTOBER

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is an especially fun time to visit the Farm with themed activities on offer for local families and residents. To get into the 'spirit' of this festival, we need help from volunteers to cast a ghoulish spell on the Farm and make it look suitably spooky. Your job will be to source and make decorations then put these up around the Farm to transform it for the season.

AUTUMN

**AUTUMN FARM
TAKEOVER**

This is a competitive team challenge for our Business Partners to work together and network. Reserved for Business Partners and Supporters only.

ALL YEAR

WORKSHOP

Alongside our Farm, orchard and grazing lands, we also run an upcycling and carpentry workshop where socially excluded adults can come to gain new skills and integrate back into the workplace through hands-on carpentry jobs under the supervision of our project workers. The goods they produce are sold and funds reinvested in continuing the social programmes at the Farm. Volunteers are invited to join the workshop for the day and help to build items that we can sell or use to furnish the Farm. Further details on application.

DECEMBER

MINCE PIE MAKING

We sell hundreds upon hundreds of mince pies over the Christmas period and every penny of profit goes back in to supporting our charitable programmes. If you like baking, then come and join us for the day helping us stock up our freezer with these sweet treats. You'll learn to make pastry from scratch and compete in our 'taste test', judged by our kitchen trainees, to decide who in your team has produced the winning mince pie.

DECEMBER

IT'S CHRISTMAAAS!

Christmas is a magical time and we fully embrace the season here at the Farm with themed activities on offer for local families and residents. To bring a special sparkle to the Farm at this time of year, we need help from volunteers to give the Farm a Christmas makeover and help make Christmas crafts to sell at our Christmas fair.

WINTER

MUCK SPREADING

If you want a true Farm experience then this job is for you! In winter, we spread muck on our grazing lands and our gardens. Why? It smells? What's the benefit? Well, the basic principle is simple: manure and compost are returned to the soil to add fertility, improve soil structure and to grow new crops. It's the earliest form of recycling and is an essential way of protecting and maintaining the health and fertility of our soils now and for generations to come. Soil erosion is one of the biggest ecological problems in the 21st century so by 'mucking in' with this challenge you'll be making a real difference to the planet!

MARCH

SPRING FARM TAKEOVER

This is a competitive team challenge for our Business Partners to work together and network. Reserved for Business Partners and Supporters only.

VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISERS

We also have an unlimited number of volunteer fundraising opportunities all year round. You can send a team to support one of our many fundraising events or we offer fundraising volunteer days for your team. These days start at the farm with sheep herding, animal petting and all the fun elements of our seasonal volunteering days then continue off site.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Each year there are a number of one-off projects which business volunteers can help with. These vary according to the needs of the farm but have included transforming our duck pond, building a poly-tunnel and redecorating our classrooms. Please ask for details when you discuss volunteering with the team.