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welcome to the autumn 2018 edition of WWOOF UK News

I hope the summer has been kind to you – many people will have revelled in the consistent bright weather much of the country has had, with all the opportunities it’s given to plan outdoor events with confidence and enjoy the longer days. At the same time there have been major challenges associated with the heat and lack of rainfall. We’d love to hear how it’s been for our members and what part WWOOFing has played.

We have a couple of new features in this issue. Our Coordinator/Chief Exec Scarlett Penn shares her thoughts on how big things can be achieved through a little collective action on page 4, and on page 5 we showcase our first featured location. For this first time it’s the glorious Scottish Islands.

stay in touch

Please send contributions for our print editions to editor@wwoof.org.uk or by post (address page 12) by the following dates:

- 31st October for Winter 2018 issue
- 31st January for Spring 2019 issue
- 30th April for Summer 2019 issue
- 31st July 2018 for Autumn 2019 issue

The deadlines for material to be included in the next four electronic updates are:

- 5th October 2018
- 11th January 2019
- 12th April 2019
- 12th July 2019

We particularly welcome your photographs and letters as well as your WWOOFing tales.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wwoofuk on Twitter: @wwoofuk and Instagram: @wwoofuk
Contact: socialmedia@wwoof.org.uk
And don’t forget members can always post adverts, question and comments on our members’ forum www.wwoof.org.uk/forums/forum

cover photo: Taryn Field

what is WWOOF UK?

- WWOOF UK holds a list of organic farms, gardens and smallholding, all offering food and accommodation in exchange for practical help on their land.
- These hosts range from a low-impact woodland settlement to a 600 hectare mixed holding with on-site farm shop, café and education centre.
- WWOOF hosts should follow the IFOAM organic principles but need not be registered with a certifying organisation.
- Hosts do not expect WWOOFers to know a lot about farming and growing when they arrive, but they do expect them to be willing to learn and able to fit in with their lifestyle.
- The list of hosts is available, either online or as a book, by joining WWOOF UK for a membership fee.
- Once you have the list you can contact hosts directly to arrange your stay.
- Your host will explain what kind of work you will be expected to do, what accommodation is on offer and will discuss the length of your stay.
- WWOOFers do not pay to stay with hosts and hosts do not pay WWOOFers for their help.
- The ethos and mission page of our website gives full details of what is expected of hosts and WWOOFers.
- WWOOF UK is a charity registered in England and Wales 1126220 and in Scotland SC045524.

We’ve had real success with our experimental taster days this year – on page 7 we tell you how they’ve gone and how to get involved in future events. Page 8 brings news of a revised approach to our AGM and regional gatherings while on page 3 we are delighted to announce that we will be making a calendar for 2019 available and give you details of how to get yours.

Mr Fluttergrub is looking on the bright side of the recent high temperatures and celebrates a bumper crop of aubergines – he tells us how to grow and nurture them for best cropping, page 6.

And what could ever be cuter than WWOOFing with alpacas? Even picking up their poo is a pleasure apparently! See page 9, and smile.

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your news, comments and experiences.

Elaine Koster, Editor

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those held by WWOOF UK
From our host contact, Taryn Field

Hosts — do you use social media platforms with your WWOOFers? I’ve heard from a couple of hosts that they use WhatsApp groups as a good way to communicate with their WWOOFers. Do any other hosts do this or something similar? I would be interested to hear about how technology can assist in hosting, and if there are positive or negative aspects to it. Please let me know your thoughts and experiences at info@wwoof.org.uk.

Recently we have received feedback from hosts regarding communication with WWOOFers and how some WWOOFers are not responding to confirm their stay. I suggest, as part of your communications with WWOOFers, that you send an email a few weeks before they are due to arrive giving the WWOOFer and yourself a deadline for confirmation. This should help you if WWOOFers do not confirm by the suggested date, as you will at least have a reasonable amount of time to make other arrangements.

Here’s an example of what I mean:

Hi Maria, Please can you confirm that you are still planning to WWOOF with us on the 12-24th September? If I do not receive a reply from you on the 28 August, I will assume you are NOT coming, and make appropriate arrangements.

From all of us

You’re probably aware that the full WWOOF UK team, trustees and staff, meet three times a year for formal Council meetings. Our June meeting was held for the second time at a brilliant venue in central Birmingham, Cherry Reds Café, saving us all time and reducing costs by making it possible to hold the meeting on one day. At the meeting WWOOFer Emma Robinson was confirmed as a trustee and we already have reason to be grateful for her experience in marketing. We are really fortunate too that three other potential trustees were with us; hosts David Beaton and Matthew Pumphrey and 19 year old Alice Law who is from a host family but now off on her own WWOOFing adventure. Thanks everyone!

calendar countdown commences!

Looking for the perfect alternative festive gift for your eco-friends – or something to give an extra special WWOOFer or host to say thank you?

What about the WWOOF UK 2019 calendar? Each month features a genuine ‘WWOOFing in action’ photo selected from our host profiles, along with an authentic quote gleaned from members’ feedback.

We always have great fun putting it together (so many lovely pics to choose from) and hope it will provide you, or the person you give it to, a WWOOFy glow all year long.

There’s a limited number available so don’t miss out!

We will be offering them for sale for a reduced price of £6.00 at regional gatherings between now and Christmas (see page 8 for details of our plans for these), so that’s a good reason to get yourself along to one.

Alternatively, you will be able to buy them via our website from 1st October 2018. Individual calendars are £7.50 each or £7 if purchased to accompany a gift membership. All prices include post and packing but we can only send them to addresses in the UK.

So, plan ahead and your festive gift problems could be sorted!
One of my beloved Continental Giant rabbits, Mr. Higgs, was recently killed. He wasn’t chased by a neighbour’s dog or stalked by a fox, dug out by a badger or swooped on by a bird of prey.

He was killed by a fly.

I found the maggots when they were very small and hurried him straight to the vet. Despite it having ticked past out-of-hours the vet and nurse were there waiting for me, and all three of us pinned poor Higgsy on his back and began the task of demaggoting. We used gloves, combs, tweezers and unusually, gaseous anaesthetic, which made the maggots wriggle out of their hiding place and drop into our waiting container. After a couple of hours we thought we’d succeeded and home he came. I was pleased with myself for being vigilant and catching the fly-strike so early, and in deep gratitude to the vets for their caring and expertise.

Mr. Higgs rallied…but then over the next couple of days seemed to get more uncomfortable, sitting in odd positions and occasionally stamping his foot. Despite more checks, I couldn’t find any problem. Finally, as he went off his food, I had another desperate look and...oh my goodness...there they were, wriggling around deep in his nether regions. Poor, poor boy.

I removed these last 20 maggots, now perhaps 4mm long, in a panic, because when a rabbit stops eating the serious condition of gut stasis is likely to occur. This means the normal wave-like motions of the digestive system slow down allowing bad bacteria to build up, making the rabbit even more reluctant to eat or drink, in turn causing the condition to worsen and the gut to stop working altogether. And so it was: despite a final veterinary intervention to try and bring his appetite back, we lost him.

At times like that you stand back, you ask WHY, you search for a point of learning or meaning. And as I sat tearfully by his grave that evening, trying to sidestep the inevitable self-blame and guilt that comes at these times, I thought about my 6 kg of Giant taken down by a team of tiny menaces wriggling around together. And I saw it as another (albeit terribly sad) example of how big things can be achieved through a little collective action. And then I thought about how that could be projected on to the job I do, and the passion that both WWOOF and I share for creating a future which is sustainable and respectful of all living beings.

I’ve heard lots of people say that simply by doing what it does WWOOF is acting to help change the system. How otherwise would people who have no contact with growing or nature get a view into the world of small-scale organic land stewardship? How else would they experience first-hand an alternative way of life with people already out there living it, already proving it can be done?

It’s true, we are helping effect change, but in these times of accelerating environmental and social problems, I don’t feel we can afford to rest there. How much more change could we be achieving if we were a stronger network of members, and if we as a charity were more strongly networked with other like-minded organisations?

So if you agree, let’s see what we can do to draw our network tighter. WWOOF UK’s steering group has been working up an idea to reach more of our members annually – see page 8 for details. And I’m now hatching a plan to try and strengthen key relationships within the sustainable farming and futures sector. What could you do?

Scarlett

#penntopaper
featured location: Scottish Islands

Was there ever a more beautiful place to WWOOF, with rugged landscapes, changing seas and breathtaking mountain views, than the Scottish Islands?

As WWOOFers you can enjoy enriching experiences at a vast array of hosts, including large cattle farms, woodlands, social enterprises and gardens! Immerse yourself in tight-knit communities whilst experiencing life on a fifth generation family croft (#95527). Help out on an oyster farm (#27083) or help care for seals and otters at a wildlife sanctuary (#27059). Whether you want to learn about organic gardening and veg box schemes, permaculture or harvesting seaweed, there seems to be endless opportunities on these stunning islands.

Have a look for yourself by clicking on Central and Northern Scotland on our home page map and start arranging the trip of a lifetime now!
**Solanum Melongena**

Although the name might suggest a melon, *Solanum Melongena* is in fact the aubergine or, if you’re North American, the eggplant. The clue is in the *Solanum* part of the name. It’s a member of the Solanaceae or nightshade family (if you’ve seen an aubergine flowering you’ll see it has a resemblance to the flowers of woody nightshade) along with the potato and tomato.

Although aubergines are a regular on my plot, in cool summers the harvest is often disappointing. This year however, it’s a bumper crop so far. As of the last days of July my twenty-odd plants have already produced at least one large aubergine with many more swelling nicely. This early and bountiful cropping is entirely the result of the sustained high temperatures we’ve experienced.

Aubergines are very much, more so than peppers or tomatoes, a warm weather crop. Heat is the key to success and it goes without saying that in normal British weather, success is only likely if cultivation is under cover.

I sow aubergines at the beginning of March in a pot of seed compost. This is placed in the propagator set at about 20° Celsius. Once germinated, seedlings are moved to the heated greenhouse. As soon as several true leaves have formed each seedling is pricked out into a 10 cm pot. They are then grown on until about mid-May when each plant is set out in 25 cm wide and deep pots in an unheated greenhouse. The pots contain bought in bark-based compost. Although I usually make up my own potting compost mix I’ve found this doesn’t work for aubergines as *Verticillium* wilt, to which the plants are especially susceptible, is present in my soil.

It’s often advised that the growing point of the young plant should be pinched out when about 30 cm tall to encourage branching. I don’t usually bother with this and it doesn’t seem to make much difference to cropping. More important is staking and, if the plants are in pots, feeding. As aubergines swell plants can become top heavy and topple so a strong cane is a must for support. Feeding is also essential for pot grown plants. I use a liquid organic tomato feed applied twice a week from mid-June to late August.

While aubergines respond to heat, they can be rather finicky whatever the weather. Plants will not tolerate wet feet so it’s important to go easy on the watering, especially when it’s cool. Always pest prone, they seem more vulnerable when it’s hot. Whitefly and red spider mite are frequently given as the main problems but only the latter is an issue for me and then usually not until later in the season. What I do find troublesome are greenfly (small green aphids) that infest the plants, mainly in early summer. The only way to control these is to squash them between finger and thumb, a tedious task that has to be repeated several times. Fortunately, persistence, perhaps aided by helpful sparrows and insect predators, usually pays off so that aphid and plant reach a stage of relative equilibrium.

This year I’ve grown only two aubergine varieties, *Giotto* and Bonica. Both produce large and glossy black fruit. There are numerous other varieties with fruit of varying sizes and colours. I’ve tried many of these over the years but in terms of yield and showiness *Giotto* and Bonica are hard to beat and in this amazing summer are rewarding me with a plentiful harvest. An aubergine glut threatens; a welcome change from the ‘normal’ summer excess of cour-
non-members feast on taster days

A big success story for us this season has been our taster days for non-members.
After piloting the idea at The Nursery during February, we have supported hosts in York, Sussex (east and west), and Somerset to offer four more; with a fifth due in the Peak District in October.
Every one of them has sold out, with participants saying they like the idea of ‘trying before buying’.
Not only are the events generating new volunteers – they also make sure these people are immersed in our ethos and mission before their first official WWOOF exchange. Each taster has included input on our top tips for WWOOFing.
Of course, not everyone who comes along signs up afterwards, typically because they want to WWOOF in another country. We don’t consider this a failure, rather we’ve made sure someone doesn’t buy a WWOOF UK membership in error. And, who knows what seeds will have been sown for the future?
We’d like to build on these foundations, with a regular programme of taster days in 2019.

If you are a host, and especially if you are in Wales or Scotland, and think you’d be up for holding an event like this do get in touch. You’ll need to have space for 10-15 people and some tasks they can accomplish in an hour or two. Hopefully you’ll feel OK about doing a mini-presentation about WWOOF UK. We have one you can personalise.
Bryony Huntley, the host who delivered our Somerset taster day, said: ‘If you’re someone who thinks it’s worth investing a bit of time and energy in getting the next generation of WWOOFers started off on the right foot, hosting a taster day is for you!’
‘We had great fun with a varied group of people dispelling WWOOFing myths and preparing them for what was to come. It was a really inspiring day but in a different way.’
The WWOOF UK admin team do all the promotion for these events and, unlike regular WWOOFing, we’ll manage all the bookings too. You just need to focus on welcoming your guests.
Having recently reviewed the pricing structure we can pass £5 of every participant’s fee on to the host to help with catering costs.
Please get in touch with us using tasters@wwoof.org.uk if you can help.
We’d love to hear from you if you’re a taster day ‘graduate’ too. Do write and tell us what happened next.

beaver reintroduction update

Earlier in the year we told you about the reintroduction of beavers on to hosts Woodland Valley Farm land in Cornwall during 2017, in partnership with the Cornish Wildlife Trust, Exeter, Southampton and Plymouth universities and CoaSt.
We’ve recently heard from Chris Jones, owner of the farm, that the beavers are in very good shape, that two kits were born earlier in the spring and they are all doing well.
He said: ‘They are all doing well, more water here than ever. They adapt the environment to suit them. And us if we had the brains to see it.’
It’s great to be able to bring you such a good news story and we hope Chris will stay in touch as the project progresses.

photo: © Jack Hicks
For many membership organisations, an AGM is not only a constitutional necessity but also a chance for members to get together and share their news and experiences of the past year. For decades, WWOOF UK has organised an annual Members Gathering during which we have carried out the AGM business, but which is mainly all about WWOOFers, hosts, staff and trustees chatting, eating, learning and sharing.

In recent years we have found ourselves variously in the grand fortress of Laurieston Hall in Scotland, in the green and misty hills of mid Wales at Old Chapel Farm, and under the crags of England’s western Lake District in Kepplewray. Usually, around 50 WWOOF folk come along, many taking up the offer of subsidised accommodation and meals and staying for the whole weekend – probably tempted in by the tantalising element of surprise as to whether they’d be sleeping in a barn, bus or bunkhouse.

As time, economics, and our membership have changed over the years though, we have come to ask ourselves whether what has become a traditional Members Gathering and AGM format still meaningfully includes enough of the thousands of WWOOFers and hundreds of hosts who make up WWOOF UK. And that’s not to mention the fact that this format has not usually included non-members.

So... WWOOF staff and trustees have agreed not to hold one big Members Gathering and AGM event in 2018. Although there will still be an official WWOOF UK AGM (we must have one each year, not least to agree on and sign off the annual report and accounts that we send to the Charity Commission, although officially only trustees need be present at an AGM to do that); this year it will just be held during the Council meeting of staff and trustees in October in York. Hosts and WWOOFers won’t be together in the room for the AGM this year, and this is a big change for us all.

Over the years, we have asked Members Gathering attendees to tell us what they value most about the annual weekend away. Getting the opportunity to ‘meet each other’, ‘meet staff and trustees’ and ‘look around a host’s place’ are consistently the top three reasons for attending. Taking all that feedback into consideration, we will be pilot ing a different format whereby WWOOF staff support Regional Host Contacts (RHCs) and hosts to hold Regional Gatherings across the UK throughout the year, which can include all WWOOF UK members and are open to non-members too. These gatherings will be given a small budget to help add a point of interest to the event – perhaps paying someone to run a workshop, or...
just buying really, really good biscuits – and at least one member of staff or a trustee will attend each gathering. We hope that this way more members will be able to attend at least one WWOOF gathering a year, meaning more people get more of what they want and the WWOOF word spreads wider!

Many RHCs have held and hosted successful regional host gatherings over the years and the staff team are using their example to get more involved in designing engaging one-day Regional Gatherings, managing bookings and generally spreading the word about them to include as many members as possible. We hope this will also kick off a buzz of interest amongst non-members too and help recruit more quality WWOOFers from the UK. Non-members will be asked to pay a small fee to attend, which will then be discounted from their membership fee if they decide to join WWOOF UK – the gatherings will be free for existing members.

In fact as we go to press we are finalising a date for our first Regional Gathering in Shropshire in late September/early October. All members, regardless of their location will receive an invite so keep an eye on your inbox. And if Shropshire feels a bit too far away, or you’re not available on that date, fear not – there will be another WWOOF Regional Gathering somewhere near you very soon and we’ll be making sure you hear about it! And it’s likely there’ll be really, really good biscuits.

Postscript

We are still looking for ways of involving WWOOFers and hosts in the 2018 AGM in October, possibly by live broadcasting the meeting online so members can listen in and maybe even pitch in with topics for staff and trustees to discuss.

Do you have any suggestions about the best technology for us to use to do that?

Would you be interested in watching and taking part?

As always, we’d love to hear from you about this or anything about the regional gatherings, so please email info@wwoof.org.uk with your suggestions!

WWOOF’s annual report is always made publicly available on the Charity Commission’s and our own website.

Host contact Taryn Field used to be a host and is now an occasional WWOOFer. Here’s what she’s been up to lately.

On a Saturday in July my fiancée and I, with a few friends, visited a nearby host for a day’s WWOOFing. Great Ground Farm is a new host that joined in March this year, and they have hosted several WWOOFers already. The farm’s main business is Arkadia Alpacas which specialises in alpaca trekking and running creative workshops like spinning and felting using the alpaca wool.

I was very excited to visit as the hosts had mentioned that we may meet some baby alpacas and I’d never met a baby one before, or even an adult for that matter.

The hosts, Drew and Wayne, were there to welcome us when we arrived, along with Andy, Wayne’s partner who came to help on the farm on his only day off, and their current WWOOFer Benjamin, who is from France and is WWOOFing with them for three months. We started the day with coffee and a good ol’ chat about the farm and what they do there, and went to have a peak at the new additions to the Alpaca herd. Did you know that alpacas are pregnant for 50 weeks? Some have even been known to go over a year gestation period! That’s a long time especially in this heat, but they didn’t seem to mind, they looked peaceful and relaxed.

We had a walk down to the paddocks where the rest of the alpacas were grazing and generally looking cute, males and females in separate
poop scooped both the fields (this is to stop parasites spreading) and then met one of the more social females, Octavia. The females were much more curious and were interested in hanging out with us. Octavia even allowed us to give her cuddles! What amazing soft fleece they have, with such random patterns and colours too. (I saw purple spots on one of them.)

Wayne and Andy took us down to a small woodland below the paddocks, to do some clearing near the brook. Their next project is building a green wood bridge over the brook so they have access to the fields. The woods are also used occasionally by Scout groups for camping, so the plan is to build a compost toilet, making the woods safer by creating steps down to the brook, and generally encouraging healthy growth of the woodland itself.

Within an hour, we had made such a difference, I don’t think our hosts were expecting us to be so enthusiastic and up for getting the job done. It was such fun work, being in a group, shaded from the sun, all of us getting stuck in, and I remembered how much I missed working on the land and being enveloped by nature.

I also think that the amount we achieved, got Wayne thinking about possible ways he could host groups of WWOOFers more often. I can tell just by being there for the day, that Wayne and Drew have such a passion for looking after alpacas, and wanting to do the very best with the land they are looking after.

Over lunch I had a chat with Ben, who seemed to be really enjoying WWOOFing. After a few weeks of Ben getting comfortable on the farm, Wayne and Drew were positively surprised when he asked if he could take the lead on an Alpaca walk. It’s always nice to see WWOOFer’s confidence growing as their English is improving. I asked Ben what his favourite thing about WWOOFing at Great Ground farm, and he told me it was ‘conversations with the hosts’.

We eagerly returned to the woods, only to be attacked by thorns, nettles, and branches but we prevailed victorious and thought of our cuts and bruises as medals of good fun and enjoyable work. At the end of the day we took our time perusing all the marvels that Wayne and Drew have made in the little Arkadia Alpaca shop. Such creativity! (And we may have purchased a few bits and bobs.)

Our whole group felt good in what we achieved, and Wayne and Drew were very thankful indeed.

If you are looking for somewhere peaceful, with welcoming, friendly hosts, if you want to learn about alpacas, and are interested in positively improving the land then you would love WWOOFing here.

photos: Taryn Field
The Landworkers Alliance Cymru, The Farm Hack Network and Social Farms and Gardens have teamed up to bring you an exciting event called 'Community Farm Hack'. You are invited to come and get down and dirty in creating a sustainable food system.

This event brings together appropriate technology, peer-to-peer learning and community food projects in one jam packed four days. (There’s a pre-hack on 4th and 5th October).

What is a Farm Hack? Land workers and farmers are an innovative and creative lot and those inventions and on-farm solutions are being showcased at this event. We intend to employ peer-to-peer learning which means everyone is the teacher and everyone is a student; our learning is driven by our curiosity and inquisition.

We have some demonstrations of home made farm equipment, we have the development of an open source DIY farm robot, an open source plastic shredder with extruder and we have practical skills demonstrations and rolling skill-shares such as metal work, forging, tool renovation, green wood work, timber frame building and more to be confirmed.

Do you have an invention you want to show off? Do you have a workshop proposal you want to offer? Do you have broken tools that need fixing, bring them along!

As part of the CSA gathering content you will be able to learn how to set up a CSA, how to better communicate with customers and volunteers, how to improve your horticultural work and also how to set up a livestock CSA. And we’ll include feedback and networking about how all the CSAs are getting on and what support they need.

Anyone interested in the CSA side of things can apply to us for a subsidised ticket through our funding support form Social Farms and Gardens. See our website for details, or email farmhackwales@gmail.com.

The main event on the 6th and 7th October is ticketed: this includes meals and camping. We have a sliding-scale ticket system to make sure as many people as possible can access the event. The preceding two days are for people who are passionate enough to get together and geek out about appropriate technology in the farming context. This pre-hack will be driven by the passions of the people involved and we only ask for a small donation for food on those days.

This is a child-friendly event and we plan to have a kids’ space set up so that families can come and enjoy their time together while allowing parents to have the chance to get involved. Please get in touch so we know numbers and have enough support for the kids’ space team.

We look forward to seeing you at the event and we need you to make it as amazing as it can be.

Venue
Tyddyn Teg
Tyddyn Berth
Bethel
Caernarfon LL55 3ps

Website

Niels Corfield’s designing edible spaces courses
Would you like to be:
* Growing your own food but feel you don’t have space or the time?
* Eating more organic food but think it’s too expensive?

Learn the design skills and knowledge to transform gardens or urban spaces into abundant, edible gardens, that are full of food, friendly to wildlife, look good, and need little maintenance.

London weekend course—15th and 16th September
Bristol evening classes—From 3rd October to 28th November (8 week course with one week half term break)
For information and booking details: https://bit.ly/2vFk3K9
House sitter required over the Christmas period to look after two cats and a pony for about a week in a beautiful Highland glen 25 miles north of Inverness, wonderful walks, bike rides etc. Need own transport and some knowledge of horse care. Please get in touch if interested.

Thanks, Algy Sloane. Please contact: algy.sloane@btopenworld.com

Former WWOOFer seeking participants for a Birkbeck University study on ‘prepping’, self-reliance and environmental threat in the UK. We are looking for WWOOF community members who ‘prep’ for disasters to take part in confidential interviews. £10 Amazon e-voucher as a thank you. Please contact Sonia for more information at griddown-rescript@bbk.ac.uk

The Gaia Foundation Seed Sovereignty programme is looking to connect with growers interested in training in seed production with a view to sell or swap seed their wider community. Would also like to speak to farmers interested in growing ‘heritage’ grains. Contact: katie@gaianet.org

We are always interested in hearing from members who would like to be more closely involved with WWOOF UK. Contact scarlett@wwoof.org.uk

Hello, my partner and I are looking to buy land (3 acres plus) to create a retreat to support others in reconnecting to nature. Ideally by the sea, with woodland, peaceful but with life nearby other than the flora and fauna. Please contact using: thinkbygeorge@aol.com Thank-you!

SHARE FARMING OPPORTUNITY offered on long-established 140 acre organic upland farm, with possibility of more land. Shropshire Hills. Pedigree Traditional Herefords, Clun sheep. Good direct marketing potential. Details mark.ecom@btinternet.com

Are you a new or landless grower who has energy and skill to help start up a collaborative market garden enterprise on land you could potentially live on? Are the South Shropshire Hills AONB an area you’d consider? If so, get in touch to talk possibilities. pensca@gmail.com

We’re looking for a new member to join Brambles Housing Coop in Sheffield! We are a co-op of committed, lovely, busy people close to the city centre with a large garden. Contact: brambles@riseup.net

House sitter required over the Christmas period to look after two cats and a pony for about a week in a beautiful Highland glen 25 miles north of Inverness, wonderful walks, bike rides etc. Need own transport and some knowledge of horse care. Please contact Juliette, using, juliette@dalreoch.co.uk, or phone 01349 884440.