

Farrington Flyer

Newsletter of Farrington's Farm Shop

October 2009

How legends are made!



Most of our customers will be familiar with the dastardly deed that robbed poor Gert of her hind legs earlier in the year.

The noble beast was mortified! It's one thing to be projected through a wall, but to be stranded in mid air without your back legs is, to say the least, embarrassing!

Major investigation

The police put their best foot forward but they were mainly working on the hoof and most of their theories didn't have a leg to stand on. In the end they simply had to admit that their

investigations had simply come to a complete standstill - just like poor old Gert!

The plot thickens!

To deter future vandals, the decision was taken not to replace the hind legs, so when Tish was asked to speak to someone who claimed to have found an item belonging to Farrington's, legs were furthest from her thoughts.

When the large plastic bag was opened and the contents revealed, you could have knocked Tish over with the proverbial feather duster!

There, amid dirt and dust, were Gert's hind legs - somewhat battered and bruised, but still largely intact.

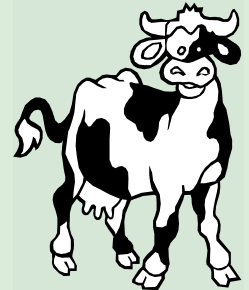
What to do next?

Gert was used to being permanently legless now, so what would our dynamic duo do with them?

Well, Tish & Andy are a couple of softies - so the legs have been lovingly restored and carefully mounted. Now, future generations will be able to see, appreciate and fully understand the truly amazing and mysterious 'Leg ends of Gert'.



Tish & Andy have made sure that the Legends of Gert live on and on!



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Find out about our festive food - to take away...or eat in!

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It's a cracker! How to get ready for Christmas the easy way!

Celebrate local food with three special events.

How well do you know what we sell? Your chance to win a Christmas Hamper worth £25!

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News, views and comments from the best farm shop in the West!



Could there be changes ahead?

Customers will have noticed that the marquee has been erected again. What's so unusual about that?



Well, it's on the other side of the car park!

No, the marquee people didn't make a mistake. It's on the other side because exciting happenings are afoot.

Tish & Andy have finally got planning permission to extend the café, so building work will be starting very soon.

This extra space will also enable them to make improvements in other parts of the café and shop, carrying out some of the helpful suggestions and ideas made by you in customer surveys. So, as the saying goes, watch this space - *and watch out for diggers, dumper trucks, Andy wearing a hard hat, etc, etc...*



Down on the farm

with Andy Jeffery

Help needed!!

Those of you who visit the cows in the barns this winter will see a pile of something under loose straw and a net. Lift up the net and you'll find potatoes!!

We have made an improvised store for our Wilja because the Soil Association don't like organic potatoes stored with conventional Wilja. So when you wander down and find me and my team bagging them up, offer to lend a hand - we could do with a tea break!



See the old chap's lying down on the job again!

With the corn harvest so late this year, and September being so great, everything came together - on Saturday 19th September we had 12 tractors working here - hauling corn, baling straw, carting straw, and potato harvesting - a record, I think!! And in the middle of the mayhem, I hosted Thea Gilbert's birthday party!



Sod's Law

For potato harvest, Sod's Law really did operate. We spent the summer servicing and fine-tuning the harvester, but the weather stayed wet. As soon as it cleared up, the harvester kept breaking down. Maybe it's best not to service the machinery, then it won't break down!!

"Happy Birdies to you"

You will notice the budgies, cockatiels, zebra finches, canaries and



java sparrows have moved. They are right next to the marquee now, in a bigger, more luxurious, more sheltered aviary, and the guinea pigs have moved under cover behind the marquee.

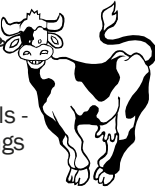
More good news is that, starting from Saturday 3rd October, we will have a **FLOWER STALL** on the old aviary site, run by Charlotte Watson of Classic Flower Designs. You can visit the stall every Saturday, from 10am to 4pm to buy cut flowers, 'ready to buy' bouquets and arrangements or place orders for future collection or delivery.

A Big Thank You

Helen's vegetables have been very productive this year, and surplus dumping was on the cards. But you have all been doing your bit for local seasonal produce and snapped up the bargains. So much so that volumes in September were double (yes, double!) last September. This makes Helen's job so much easier and more rewarding, so a big thank you to you all!

Andy

A freeze this Christmas?



Our splendid cooks are renowned far and wide for their culinary skills - and their Christmas cakes and puddings are second to none!

Made with only the finest ingredients, such as fresh local eggs and English butter, their reputation has travelled far and wide.

That's why it's amazing to discover that, despite rises in the cost of ingredients, the **prices** of Mrs Mister's Christmas Puddings have been **frozen** for this year!



Yes, you can still buy one of the finest examples of festive fare for just £2.95 (200g), £6.25 (450g) or £9.75 (850g).

Bargain!

Come and be waited on!

Having proved so popular last year, our special Christmas lunches are bound to attract a lot of attention!

The menu this year has a particularly local feel and, as you'd expect, it's all home-made in our own kitchens. Take a look at the menu:-

Farrington's Christmas Lunch Menu

Farrington's Home-made

Leek & Potato soup (V)

OR

Farrington's own Chicken Liver pâté with French stick & butter

Traditional Roast Turkey with sausage & bacon rolls, home-made stuffing and cranberry sauce

OR

Farrington's

Somerset Loaf and Cider sauce (V)

Served with our home-grown roast potatoes and parsnips, carrots & sprouts

Farrington's own Christmas Pudding

OR

Winter Fruit Crumble



You can book a Christmas Lunch party in the marquee - with waitress service - on **Thursday, 3rd and 10th December, at 1.00pm.** Our delicious three course festive meal will cost **just £17.50** per person and **must be booked** - in the café or by calling **01761 451698.**

If you want to experience a Farrington's Christmas Lunch this year, don't delay. Places are limited and you won't want to miss out. Call now on **01761 451698** now and make sure of your place!

Solve present problems the easy way!

Buying Christmas gifts can be difficult, especially for more mature friends and relatives. But there is a simple solution - a Farrington's Hamper!

Simply select a hamper basket from our extensive range and fill it with the indulgent treats that you know your recipient will appreciate. Your hamper can be as individual as you care to make it. Fill it with seasonal treats or store-cupboard basics. Make it a chocolate heaven or a cheesy fantasy!

Just make your choice - and then pay. The basket price includes all the transparent film and shiny bows that gives your hamper a truly professional finish. And you'll have a gift that's tailor made at a price that suits your pocket..



Everyone's going Christmas crackers!



It's at this time of year that Farrington's shop manager Di wishes that she had a magic wand to create at least twice as much space to accommodate all the gorgeous Christmas fare!

People may watch the pennies for the rest of the year, but Christmas is special. It's still the time for treats, so we do our best to add a sparkle to your celebrations.

***More than 100 products!**

Di has to make room for over a hundred seasonal products - many of which make delightful gifts for friends and family. From simple stocking fillers, such as gingerbread Christmas trees to bespoke Christmas hampers, Farrington's have lots of ways to make Christmas even more enjoyable.



***Try before you buy!**

You can get a preview of all the Christmas goodies at the special Tasting Day being held on **16th October** from **10am-4pm** in conjunction with the Celebration of Food (see opposite). It's completely free and lets you see and taste many of the extra special festive products from our suppliers.

Farrington's own home-made range will also be featured, including the famous Christmas cakes and puddings. You'll be able to taste a wide range of seasonal preserves, ice-creams, cakes, chocolates and biscuits - many very attractively packaged to add to their appeal.

***Early ordering recommended**

With the festive season approaching, it's also time to think about ordering your Christmas turkey. Order forms for Jon Thorner's Christmas poultry and meat will soon be available from the butchery counter and early ordering is advisable to ensure satisfaction.

***The final touch**

Last, but not least, there's the Christmas tree.



Every year Tish brings in 100s of top quality trees to create a green grotto - **The Swinging Forest of Enchantment**, which is really worth a visit.

Come along at the beginning of December and choose your tree. Tish guarantees that you won't be disappointed!

Celebrate in style!

As part of Food magazine's 'Celebration of Food' - taking place throughout Somerset, Devon & Cornwall during October, we will be running a couple of our popular food events - as well as something new.



At **4pm** on Sunday, **11th October** you can indulge in another of our renowned **Gert Posh Teas** - naughty, but nice at £11.95pp!

Come to our **Free Tasting Day** on Friday **16th October** from **10am to 4pm** when you will be able to sample lots of new products and existing favourites from many of our suppliers, as well as from our home-made range.

Finally, on Friday **23rd October** at **6pm** we invite you to **Eat out for a Tenner**.

Enjoy a '**Local Supper**' of soup, main course and dessert for just £10. This will be a set menu using both local and Farrington's home grown produce (menu to be finalised nearer the time when we know what has grown!!)

Booking is essential for the Gert Posh Tea and Local Supper. Ask in the café or call 01761 451698 now.

Spot the products and you could win a Hamper!



Identify the products from the tiny details of their packaging and you could win a Christmas Hamper worth over £25!. Simply find the products in the shop, complete the entry form with products and your details and post it in one of our Quiz Bins no later than Saturday 14th November 2009. All correct entries will be entered for the Hamper Draw which will take place on Monday 16th December. The winner will be notified and the name posted on the shop notice board.



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Name

Phone number

E-mail





WASSUP?

News, views and nonsense from the best farm shop in the west!

SUPER 'SCARY' FUN DAY FOR KIDS AT HALF TERM

This year our Halloween Fun Day on Oct 28th will run from 10am to 4pm, giving kids from 4-12 a really long, super fun and 'scary' time.

In addition to a tasty BBQ, they will be able to choose from a host of fun activities, including apple bobbing, potato catapult, face painting, potato printing & painting, toffee apples, and veggie skittles.

The day will also feature some exciting sausage making and everyone will enjoy the bouncy castle. A treasure hunt and

trailer rides will add to the fun - but will the kids be able to brave the spine-chilling **HORROR HUT!!**

Tickets cost £8 per child in advance, or £10 on the day and are available from the shop and café. Book now to avoid disappointment!

All children must be accompanied by an adult



It could be a cat-astrophe!

Cats are synonymous with Home Farm and there's rarely a time when there isn't a fluffy kitten around. This time, however, it isn't just one kitten that you have to look out for - but 11!

Yes, two of the cats have had litters very close together, so that both kitchen and TV room have been pressed into use as nurseries. The mums are both tabbys, and it's not difficult to work out that dad is probably a ginger tom!

Homes are still needed, so if you'd like to have your own bit of Farrington's running around at home, then talk to Tish.



Cock-sure!

After the sad tales of how our free range hens fell victims to the local fox population, it's nice to bring you more pleasant news.

Flounder is a white Cochin, who is very much cock o' the walk, and totally in charge of the hen house (and most other places!).

Proud and arrogant, he's a real male - so treat him gently!



Now - wash your hands!

Recent publicity about outbreaks of e-coli may have worried some parents whose children attend parties at Farrington's.

Be assured that Andy has a **foolproof** method of ensuring that **ALL** children visiting the farm for organised events wash their hands before eating.

Our animals would like to remind parents that, while they like to be patted, hands should be washed thoroughly afterwards. Please make use of the washrooms.

Gert does the moonwalk!

On Easter Saturday this year sisters Vanessa White and Andrea Hillier ran a Tombola stall at Farrington's to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Thanks to all the support from customers, they raised £120 on the day. But that was simply not enough for the pair.

In May the two of them took part in the London Moonwalk. The distance of 26.2 miles - marathon length - was a daunting one and it took them 9½ hours to complete! However, they were not alone! As you can clearly see, the intrepid pair were accompanied by a bovine supporter. Yes, Gert also



(l to r) Vanessa White, Gert and Andrea Hillier

completed the distance and made history as the first Friesian to moonwalk.

With these and other fund-raising events, Vanessa and Andrea have raised over £1000 for Breast Cancer Research. They send their thanks to all of you - and we say **WELL DONE!**

At a glance dates for your diary

Gert Posh Tea	4pm	Oct 11th
Tasting Day	10am-4pm	Oct 16th
Local Supper	6pm	Oct 23rd
Halloween Fun	10am-4pm	Oct 28th
Bookable Christmas Lunch	1pm	Dec 3rd
Bookable Christmas Lunch	1pm	Dec 10th

Farrington's Farm Shop Home Farm, Farrington Gurney BS39 6UB

Tel:01761 452266 www.farringtons.co.uk email: andy@farringtons.co.uk

You'll find us just off the A362 - between Bath & Wells

Open SEVEN days a week

Mon-Sat: 8am-7pm, Sun: 10am-4pm Café Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 10am-3.30pm

