

Layla's first year at university

Around this time last year, I was awarded a Nafferton Feoffees scholarship, and I would firstly like to thank them for choosing to award one to me!

Now, a year on I have almost finished my first year at Nottingham University at the Sutton Bonington campus* and despite all the Covid 19 re-

strictions, I have had a great time. So far this year I have had the chance to work with all kinds of animals and even complete a veterinary placement at Aldgate Veterinary Practice, and I will be lambing at Sledmere in the coming weeks too. It has been amazing to be able to have hands-on experience from day

one and work with the animals as well as learning the theory side.

Layla McGreal

*Sutton Bonington Campus encompasses world-leading laboratories and specialist facilities for studying biosciences and veterinary medicine.

The campus is home to over 2,500 students.



Layla and Halton, one of the university horses students look after on a rota basis.

Feoffee's scholarship scheme open to Wansford students

Nafferton Feoffees Charities Trust committee is able to offer a discretionary scholarship to a student(s) resident in Nafferton or Wansford.

This is to be offered on an annual basis to offset associated educational expenses such as textbooks, educa-

tional equipment, study visits up to a maximum of, currently, £2,400 per annum.

The scholarship is available to applicants from any school or as a mature student attending any first degree course at an UK university or college.

It will normally be

awarded on an annual basis for the duration of a course of three to four years or longer at the discretion of the committee.

Evidence will be required of ongoing study on an annual basis and successful applicants will be expected to provide feed-

back on progress to the committee.

Application forms are available from Mrs Fiona Trewartha Penhallow, 4 Bridlington Road, Nafferton, Driffield, YO25 4LG, or email fiona@trewartha.co.uk Completed forms should be returned by April 25.

Parish council clerk vacancy

Skerne and Wansford Parish Council is still seeking a clerk.

The current incumbent, Jill Pick, is care-taking the post on a month-by-month basis for the time being.

Secretarial and IT skills are necessary and some experience desirable. There is a lot of support through the local councils' association and the Society of Local Council Clerks and training will be

offered.

Hours average out at about two per week over the year and the 2021-22 salary is £1,537.50.

Jill said: 'Against all expectations, I have enjoyed the job but, 12 years since official retirement, I feel that it is the right time to go.'

For a chat, call Jill on 254741 or for an application form email her at Sandwpclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Latest oil price

Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council negotiated the price of oil for the YORSwitch Bulk Oil Buying Scheme of 36.5p per litre exclusive of 5 percent VAT for February.

To join the oil-buying co-operative or for more details contact local co-ordinator Billy Waites, at Skerne, tel 256520, email wiliam.waites@btinternet.com

Diary date

A barbecue has been pencilled in to take place at Wansford church on Sunday May 23. See the Facebook page for any updates.

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A year of firsts for the parish...

First 'Yorkshire' Suffolk Punch in 40 years

On Tuesday March 9 at 6pm, a beautiful strong and healthy colt foal, White Rose Phoenix (Pheo), was born in the barn at The Cottage, Carr Lane, Wansford, to his mum Holbeache Mirabelle (Miri).

A true lockdown foal, Pheo was conceived when Miri was taken to the Rainbow Equine Hospital at Malton on March 24 last year—the first day of the first national lockdown—to be inseminated.

Vet Pheobe was brilliant and Miri came home after four days' stay. All our fingers were crossed for a successful pregnancy diagnosis. As Pheobe was furloughed Miri was confirmed in foal two weeks later by one of the partners at Rainbow who scanned her in The Cottage yard.

Luckily, Miri has excellent temperament and didn't require any sedation for scans, so she could continue to have them at

home - so much easier and safer in the middle of a pandemic! A due date was set at March 3— 344 days into the pregnancy.

We not only hoped that the foal would come either on March 3 (Mum's birthday) or March 5 (Mum and Dad's emerald anniversary) but also, as does every Suffolk owner, that it would be a filly.

We lightly exercised Miri until October when her saddle no longer fitted and she went on maternity leave.

The normal stables would not be suitable being too small for a large mare to safely foal. Our vets offered to have Miri at Malton but we felt it would be best for her happiness to remain at home. This left the barn; hours were spent lining its walls and making it cosier. Steve installed CCTV to the field and the barn so that we could keep an eye on proceedings day and night and



we were as ready as we could be. Day 344 came and went. Days passed and then on the Monday I rang the vets to warn them she was imminent, so Phoebe, now back from furlough, was on standby.

At 5.25 pm I noticed Miri's waters had started to go and called the vet en route to the barn where I could see two feet in the process of being delivered. However, despite pushing Miri was not making much progress so Phoebe told me to start feeling for the foal's head. I managed to pull gently

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Time to party—as long as Covid rules allow

A Wansford get-together in the village hall is planned for Saturday June 26 starting at 3pm, provided the Government road map keeps on track.

All are welcome as are contributions towards the celebratory tea.

The village hall annual meeting will take place on Friday June 4 at 7pm; all are welcome to attend and Covid regulations will apply. Crafty Fingers and village coffee mornings will resume as soon as village hall committee members feel they can do so.

until the legs and head were out and then Steve came in to help. Once the hind legs were out the foal took a breath and sat up looking at me. The vet visited to help latch him on and he hasn't looked back since.

We couldn't turn out for a couple of days but we did manage to get them in the paddock for Steve Shipley to visit on the Friday for some first photos (see the Wansford YO25 Facebook page for the pictures).

Since then we have taught him to lead on his halter alongside Miri, although he will walk around the yard to the gate on his own now if mum says OK.

He ties up in the yard and has learnt to stand quietly; he enjoys being brushed and joins in with grooming his handler, although now he has teeth we are encouraging gentler foal grooming. He's very bright and knows how to move backwards when he is asked; he will briefly pick up all of his feet and allows you to touch any part of him. He's becoming accustomed to pressure on his head meaning he has to walk on and he's so friendly he comes straight up to be caught in the paddock.

He is learning new skills and behaviours every day. Miri is firm but fair with him and she has him well trained; he's already grown significantly and is starting to pick at grass and his mum's dinner now he has some teeth.

We are hoping, dependent on finding a home for him willing to keep him entire until he is two, that Pheo will be able to stand as a stallion even for a short while.

If he doesn't make the grade, I am sure he will make a wonderful riding Suffolk, like his dam and his sire, Bertie, progressing to dressage with his wonderful balanced paces.

However, we have the whole summer to enjoy him, to teach him new skills and boundaries.



Hopefully both Pheo and Miri will go to Driffield Show as so many people would love to see them.

Miri will have a break for a year or so; I really want to have another competition year with her, requalify her for the BD Draught Series Championships as well as qualifying her for Equifest in the Young Rider Ridden Heavy Horse with our young friend in the saddle. I will continue to ride her in the Horse of the Year qualifying classes at county level as well as continuing dressage and ridden heavy horse classes at novice level with Dusty.

Dusty will compete this year in agricultural turnout in harness at which she will excel and will make Toby extremely proud.

Then, there will be more foals, both for Miri and also Dusty; hopefully the filly fairy will visit us next time BUT, in a breed as rare as the Suffolk ANY foal is precious and should be nurtured and valued.

Pheo, I have no doubt, will achieve great things and fulfill his fabulous potential, as well as hopefully siring his own foals.

Sally Bates

Large scale murmurations a first for Wansford

From mid-February to about March 23, Wansford villagers were treated to a nightly show as tens of thousands of starlings put on a spectacular murmuration each morning and evening.

The murmurations were highlighted both in the Driffield & Wolds Weekly and on Look North as visitors flocked to the village most evenings to see the

amazing show.

However, it was not without its drawbacks...

House windows and cars required regular washing but the general consensus seemed to be that it had been well worth the inconvenience.

Picture shows one of the earlier murmurations over Tythe Farm, Carr Lane.



First 2021 garden event planned for June 13

Visitors disappointed last year that our Tythe Farm, Wansford, gardens had to be closed to visitors in the spring and summer are now able to book organised visits for dates after May 17.

Lots of new planting, new Italian statues and a greenhouse along with other improvements have been added since our last opening in 2019. Susanne and I look forward with great pleasure to welcoming old friends and new.

Our main event however takes place on the June 13 when all visitors are welcome without any need to book.

Ample car parking will be available thanks to Roger and Richard Thornhill and, hopefully, the gardens will be looking their best at this time of year.

Susanne and her team of lovely volunteers will be on duty serving tea, coffee and a selection of home-baked fare. All proceeds from all events are to be donated to the National Garden Scheme charity which distributes funds to cancer care charities.

Several other bookings are already in the diary. Among other events we are very pleased to welcome the East Yorkshire Thor-



Terry and Susanne with granddaughter Felicity in the garden at Tythe Farm

oughbred Car Club who have booked two events at our gardens on the July 3 and September 12. Their vintage cars will be parked on lawns around the lake. Visitors are welcome on

these days with no need to book.

Keep up to date at www.tythe-farmgardens.com or by telephoning 07951 126588.

Terry Hardcastle

Plea to the walkers and dog owners

The behaviour of some of the parish's dog owners has led to a certain unease – and occasional discord – within the community.

That those irresponsible owners fail either to pick up their doggy's droppings or leave poo bags on the fields and footpaths attracts general censure is a given.

However, there is another cohort who appear to have wrongly assumed 'the right to roam'* on agricultural land, allowing their dogs to exercise among growing crops.

While failing to pick up the poo from agricultural land, thus creating a minefield for farmers, growers and agronomists in-

specting the crops, is not an offence under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, nevertheless, it is an offence against common decency and consideration for your fellow man.

This abuse of other people's land—and crops—is not acceptable, and causing some ill-feeling. Please, please, for the sake of parish harmony pick up after your pet, wherever you may be.

To report someone failing to clean up after their dog in confidence telephone the ERYC Dog Warden Service on 01482 393939, or e-mail dog.warden@castriding.gov.uk with details of the incident, the dog, its own-

er and, if possible, photographs. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a fine of up to £1000.

* The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 implements the so-called 'right to roam' only on certain upland and uncultivated areas of England and Wales.

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