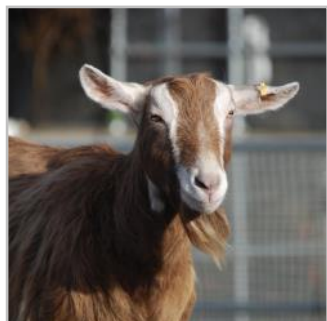


SURREY DOCKS FARM PROVIDENT SOCIETY LTD

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023



Registered Society No: 22829R

A registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a tax exempt charity

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OVERVIEW

THE FARM

Surrey Docks Farm is a working city farm and education charity that enables the whole community to learn about farming, food production and the natural environment.

We run a range of community projects targeted to engage those who will benefit most and are supported by over a hundred dedicated volunteers who attend on a weekly basis.

The Farm was established by local people in 1975 and has been serving the community from the banks of the river Thames ever since.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5ET

Telephone: 07309 730 531

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Website: www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

Social Media: @surreydocksfarm

HIGHLIGHTS

ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENTS

We have had another successful year in terms of engagement, working with thousands of people from our local community and beyond.

We have listed a flavour of activities and numbers of people who have benefitted below, read on for further details and participant quotes:

- Over 50,000 visitors enjoyed free access to the Farm's site.
- 65 young people aged 8-18 attended our weekly youth clubs. 15 children were engaged through our weekly Forest School programme and 85 children took part in our holiday provision.
- 6 young people developed leadership skills in our Youth Committee, informing the direction of the Youth Programme and delivering social action projects.
- 2 apprenticeship placements enabled local young people to gain qualifications and progress in their careers.
- 30 weekly training placements for adult students with learning disabilities were delivered onsite.
- 10 adults referred via Southwark Wellbeing Hub to our weekly Gardening for Wellbeing workshops
- 118 primary school classes took part in educational tours and workshops.
- 106 local people aged 14+ volunteered on a regular basis, with an additional 57 drop in volunteers attending in the summer months.
- 70 work experience students gained animal care experience as part of their studies.
- 20 corporate volunteer days delivered, engaging 278 individuals.
- 17 plots hired by local families and couples to grow food.

We were awarded London Youth's City & Guilds accredited Gold Quality Mark for our Youth Programme and gained our Green Flag Community Award.

LIVESTOCK

OVERVIEW

We encourage people to look, touch and learn about livestock. We care for a range of animals including goats, sheep, pigs, donkeys, poultry and small animals.

We are proud to be a working farm. We produce meat and eggs which are sold through our farm shop.

We support young people to progress into the Livestock industry through our 18 month apprenticeship programme.

We have an apiary in our orchard with several bee hives. We engage participants to learn about our bees and honey production and sell the honey to our local community.

Every day we muck out the animals, piling dirty straw up on the muck heaps. To speed up the rotting process we 'water' with the run-off and effluent from our bio-digesters. Once rotted, the manure is either used on site for natural fertiliser or loaded into ton bags to deliver to other community gardens. This turns a waste product into a resource.

HIGHLIGHTS

This year we've seen several changes in our livestock. Our much-loved elderly donkeys Alice and Hermione were retired to a new home and we took on two new donkeys under the Donkey Sanctuaries Guardian Scheme. Thanks to support from the Worshipful Company of Farmers we also took on some Oxford Sandy & Black grower pigs, two calves and a new breeding Berkshire sow from Stepney City Farm. Piglets were born on site again in October.

We welcomed several visits from NFU members and the Lady Mayoress.

We took part in several events offsite including the Lambeth Country Show, the Lord Mayors Show, the London Sheep Drive and the London Harvest Festival - where one of our Young Farmers gained first place in the Young Handler class.

We were also excited to feature in a dedicated episode of 'The Farmers Country Showdown' on the BBC which aired in January!

LIVESTOCK

"It was great to have you involved [in the Lord Mayor's Show] what an enthusiastic bunch of children you brought along! Thanks for taking the time to show our student ambassadors around your Farm, it was wonderful seeing what you were doing for farming in an urban community and how much you can do in a small space compared to countryside farms. The ambassadors were amazed and very impressed - they kept talking about it afterwards." Amy Hubbard, NFU



"My son has always loved the Farm from being a toddler spending many a happy hour feeding the goats! Since the Forest School sessions, he's started describing being with animals as his therapy. He spoke about how he is one of the few children to be able to hold an anxious rabbit. He spoke about why the rabbit might be anxious and how he can help it. So I think the animals help him connect with himself in lots of ways." Parent of a Forest School participant

"Thank you for making [our son's] work experience over the past two weeks so fantastic. He really enjoyed it and really appreciates having the opportunity to be supported to work with the animals. It sounds like an amazing place from all we've heard!" Parent of a work experience student



FOOD GROWING & GREENING

OVERVIEW

The Farm's green spaces include large community gardens where local people are taught the practical skills needed to grow fruit and vegetables; an orchard producing a fine harvest of apples; a wildlife garden and hedgerows; a herb and natural dye garden; and more!

Our green spaces are accessible and open for visitors to explore. Our farm shop sells our seasonal fruit and vegetables, and a selection of plants.

We continued to engage with members of our 'Rotherhithe Community Gardening Network' meeting online and in person at different sites, to connect and support local community gardens, allotments and home growers.

We continue to benefit from, and develop the use of, our fantastic greenhouse that was installed in March 2021. For example installing hot beds that have extended both the growing season and add warmth for community groups to work in the space in Spring and Autumn. The hot beds are made by filling bays with woodchip, waste coffee grounds and water which creates a lot of heat as it rots down. The final woodchip mixture is then sieved and used as a peat replacement in our potting compost.

HIGHLIGHTS

We celebrated gaining our 'Green Flag Community Award', an international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Our Horticulture Apprentice attended the RHS Chelsea Flower Show as part of our Flourish Fund grant support.

The horticulture team had great success at the London Harvest Festival and gained first place overall for their incredible vegetable display!

We've delivered additional seasonal gardening volunteer groups to help maintain the site and maximise the benefits of green spaces for local people. We've also hosted a workshop for Walworth Garden trainees.

FOOD GROWING & GREENING



"Following surgery and family bereavements in Spring, I hadn't the energy to begin gardening until the Summer. Then it provided a great therapy for me to "plotter" and tend my plants as my health improved. I've enjoyed watching my plants grow and picking beans, tomatoes, chard, courgette and spinach." Plot holder



"I have learnt the overall process of caring for plants from start to finish. For example, pricking out was a new skill I learnt. I think gardening skills are pretty useful to learn e.g. knowing when you need to take a plant out of its pot. The farm gives us great tools that can be useful for life." Youth Club participant



FARM TO FORK

OVERVIEW

We grow delicious seasonal produce which we either sell through our farm shop to our local community, or give to our participants to take home or cook and eat on site. We aim to teach and engage people in the whole process from rearing animals and producing meat, to collecting eggs for baking and eating seasonal fruits and vegetables. We promote healthy eating, reduced food miles and raising awareness of animal welfare and British farming practices.

All our community programmes include an element of eating, or drinking, food harvested and foraged from the Farm site.

For example we deliver an established training programme for adults with learning disabilities called 'Farm Produce'. This group choose what they want to cook from vegetable soups to pasta to bread, or even using our fruits to make jams and chutneys.

Our Youth Programme participants love cooking and eating together. Forest School members cook over the fire they have built and drink herbal teas with ingredients they've foraged from the site; while our weekly youth clubs love cooking meals together.

HIGHLIGHTS & FUTURE PLANS

Following feedback from the annual youth consultation, we now programme monthly cooking sessions for the youth clubs to cook and eat a meal together. These sessions have been hugely popular with the young people and their families who have benefitted from food taken home and shared recipes! The youth clubs have cooked a cottage pie, chickpea curry, quesadillas, autumn stew, festive biscuits and more!

The Youth Committee met in January 2023 to discuss how to improve our cooking opportunities and have highlighted the need for a dedicated, accessible kitchen for the whole youth programme to use. As such this is a funding priority for the next financial year!

FARM TO FORM



"My daughter has developed a greater understanding of how foods are grown and has tried a number of different vegetables and fruit over the last few months. She shows an increased interest in cooking and preparing food from scratch which is as a result of cooking experiences she has had on the farm." Parent of a Youth Club participant



"The farm enables my daughter to see many aspects of food production firsthand - discussing animals being bred for meat; planting, growing and picking crops and even visiting a dairy farm. She is gaining an insight into how food comes to be on her plate and is exposed to a wide range of produce. I believe this will give her a greater appreciation of food and lead to her making more informed and healthy food choices."

Parent of a Youth Club participant



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

OVERVIEW

As a working farm in central London we're not the usual place you'd associate with wildlife, but we work hard to make the Farm a home for nature. We 'garden for wildlife' and follow organic principles. We grow wildflowers for pollinators, leave nettle patches and log piles for invertebrates. We install bee, bat and bird boxes and have a dedicated Wildlife Garden and pond that hosts over 50 frogs each Spring.

We work with organisations in the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership to deliver the Southwark Nature Action Plan 2020 by increasing biodiversity at the Farm; with a particular focus on improving habitats for amphibians, house sparrows and bees. We're also part of Green Connections with other local environmental organisations to inform and advise local developers.

We are a demonstration site for sustainable energy practices. We harvest rainwater to flush the toilets and water the gardens; we gain energy from our solar panels; and we boil the kettle with gas from our bio-digester (which is fuelled by animal waste). We have very little machinery but any we do need is run on electricity generated from our solar panels.

HIGHLIGHTS

We engaged visitors in the Big Butterfly Count with spotter charts available at the Farm entrance. Our Youth Programme members took part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch and carried out their own 'bioblitz' reporting their findings on the iNaturalist website. They've gained several AQA's to evidence their learning.

One of our Greenagers gained funding to lead and develop his own event called 'Nature, what's the point?' with the help of his peers and youth workers. Visitors had a fantastic time getting involved making insect hotels, tasting foraged teas, learning how to help bees, and planting seeds! His hard work and dedication were recognised through the Jack Petchey Foundation's Environmental Award.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



"When I first started in the Club I knew a bit about wildlife but since joining the farm I have learnt 100% more things than I started with. I've learnt a lot more about birds and animals on the farm and I have learnt how to appreciate nature." Young Farmer



"Our daily lives are spent in a forest of concrete and glass, not a forest of trees, and we often find ourselves 'too busy' to pursue the great outdoors... I'm a Young Person who has a passion for the nature around us. I constantly get the privilege of being connected to our living environment at my youth club at Surrey Docks Farm, so wished to share why nature is something worth exploring, celebrating and cherishing, and why it matters to you."

Youth Club participant who ran 'Nature, what's the point' event



PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

OVERVIEW

We provide opportunities for the whole community to engage in farming, food production and the natural environment.

This includes a range of meaningful volunteer opportunities for local people; delivering a weekly youth programme for those aged 8-14; developing partnership projects with community organisations; linking with local schools; delivering training projects for adult students with learning disabilities; providing plots for local people to grow their own food; and much more.

We ensure our participants voices are heard and acted on through promoting individual choice in our training programmes, to facilitating and acting on the views of our Youth Committee.

VISITORS & PARTNERSHIPS

Over 50,000 visitors enjoyed free access to the Farm, seven days a week.

We partner with many community organisations to ensure we are fully inclusive and are engaging a cross section of the community.

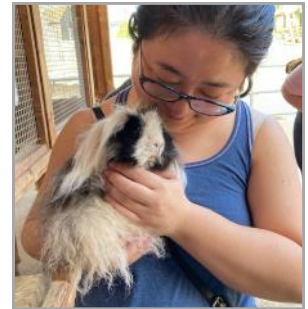
For example we host:

- Weekly carpentry reparation sessions for Southwark Youth Offending Service
- Weekly volunteering for the BEDE learning disability team
- Weekly English lessons for participants from Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers
- Seasonal visits for Time & Talent's older people's groups

We also engage with a range of referral organisations to welcome those most in need into our dedicated community projects.

PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

"The Farm provides our young offenders with a safe, inclusive and educational space for them to explore, learn and grow, outside of their normal environment and away from the pressures of their everyday life and peers; a space very unique to the environments in which they are usually accustomed to. Without the Farm's generosity and open mindedness in trusting our young offenders on their site, we would not be able to provide such a fulfilling and fruitful reparation experience."
Leila Boghdadi, Southwark Youth Offending Service



"As I made my way out of the farm I was in a mood I can only describe as ecstatic. I had a lovely morning in the sunshine, a goat had nibbled my finger and the serene, quiet atmosphere at the farm had briefly made me forget I was heading back the office"
My London journalist review



PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

YOUTH PROGRAMME

Surrey Docks Farm's Youth Programme transforms young peoples' lives, providing the skills, experiences and horizon-widening opportunities they can't get elsewhere so that they can thrive and build happy, healthy and secure futures.

Young People are actively involved in the day to day life of our working farm through weekly, long-term and impactful programming. They take part in animal care, food growing, cooking, nature and social action projects. Their learning is evidenced through AWA awards and they regularly attend trips and events off site to broaden horizons and engage with the wider community.

This year we engaged 65 young people in our Young Farmers and Greenagers programmes. We also welcomed 85 children through our holiday programme and 15 home-educated children through our weekly Forest School provision.

In January 2023 we re-established our popular Family Piglets Club, welcoming 28 toddlers and their parents to benefit from the Farm environment.

Our Youth Committee meet six times a year to inform the direction of our Youth Programme. They also meet with our Management Committee to ensure we are hearing directly from young people at board level.

We were thrilled to be awarded London Youth's Gold Quality Mark recognising the excellence of our Youth Programme.

SCHOOLS

The Farm has an excellent educational reputation. We welcome over 100 different primary schools each year offering self-led visits and staff-led workshops and tours, that are tailored to support the National Curriculum and specific teacher requirements.

We have seen a huge demand for our workshops this year, with many children having missed out on two years of trips due to Covid. Our outdoor, green spaces and hands-on activities have all had a big impact on children's learning.

PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS



"The range of opportunities for different ages is great and there is an emphasis on personal and professional development for those as young as 8 to join in with! The engagement of the Youth Committee is great and heart-warming to see how young people have impacted and influenced decision making for the community. This was an inspiring assessment to have undertaken."

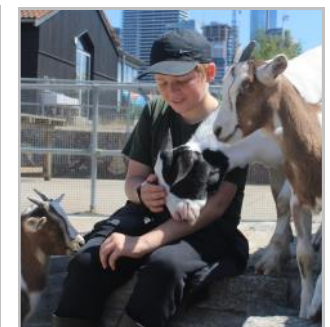
London Youth Assessor

"We brought our pupils with EHCPs. A few of these pupils find class trips very hard to access e.g. museum trips, so we wanted something they could access successfully and in a quieter environment and the Farm delivered." Primary School Teacher



"Being a young farmer is fun, you get to do activities most people won't get to do like make a fire, spend time with the animals close-up, build things in the wildlife garden and grow vegetables."

Youth Club participant



PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the running of the Farm.

Over the year we engaged 106 people aged 14+ who volunteered on a regular weekly basis. The majority have all reported the tremendous benefit their time at the Farm has had on their physical and mental health, as well as being able to meet other people in their community.

An additional 57 adults attended on a drop in basis, through our evening Farm Gym group or via the organisation GoodGym Southwark on weekend afternoons.

We also engaged 70 work experience students in animal care placements.

Together volunteers and work experience students contributed over 13,500 hours of their time over the year.

TRAINING PROJECTS FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

We deliver a range of training projects for adult students with learning disabilities. Students attend on a weekly basis in projects that develop practical skills in animal care, cooking and crafts, gardening and retail.

The projects also enable development of social and life skills. Training takes place in the public environment of the Farm, ensuring visitors witness the skills and contribution our talented students have to offer.

There is a real sense of team work and most importantly, our projects are fun!

GARDENING FOR WELLBEING

We have continued to develop our partnership project with Southwark Wellbeing Hub, who refer participants to our weekly 'Gardening for Wellbeing' sessions. These sessions have proved hugely popular and beneficial to all involved and we're grateful to our funders who have enabled this to become part of our core weekly offer.

PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS



"Since I discovered the farm and started volunteering, it's given me a new lease of life. Working with the animals gives you a sense of purpose. It's a real privilege to come here and escape the city! The people that work here really make you value your contribution and make you feel part of the team."

Livestock Volunteer



"The Farm garden has been a safe and welcoming space. It's a place to come to each week where I can be exactly who I am, and feel exactly the way I'm feeling. We all learn with and from each other; whether that's in the garden, sharing recipes for the food we have collectively grown or in discussing the situations we are facing in our lives."

Gardening for Wellbeing Participant

FINANCE

OPERATING RESULTS

The Farm's financial model is based on income from 50% restricted grants and 50% unrestricted income earned from activity fees, produce sales, personal budgets, rent and donations. The staff team ensure costs are well-controlled and spent in line with the annual budget approved by the Management Committee.

We received a total income of £496,158 in the financial year. This income was made up of 45% restricted grants and 55% unrestricted income.

Donations were gratefully received and totalled £38,347 that were mainly from generous local supporters and visitors. The Management Committee and staff team would like to send a special thanks to everyone who has continued to support us and ensure the future of the Farm.

Before accounting treatments, including fixed asset depreciation and additions, had been applied, the total expenditure for the financial year was £486,636

This resulted in a small surplus of £9,522.

A breakdown of the Farm's operating costs for this financial year is shown below:

Operating Income			Operating Expenditure		
Restricted Grants	£220,920	45%	Salaries & on costs	£317,729	65%
Sales & Fees	£133,141	27%	Livestock	£82,273	17%
Personal Budgets	£79,360	16%	Project Costs	£40,842	8%
Donations	£38,437	8%	Premises	£27,444	6%
Rent	£24,300	5%	Administration	£18,348	4%
Total Income	£496,158		Total Expenditure	£486,636	

FINANCE

ACCOUNTING RESULTS

After accounting treatments (explained below), the Farm's financial statements show a total expenditure of £512,437.

This results in a subsequent loss of £16,279.

The accounting treatments that have the biggest impact are the fixed asset addition of the horsebox purchase totalling £48,070 that was made at the end of this financial year. Plus, the significant depreciation charges of £73,871 as a result of the Riverfront Development which although fully grant funded in 2020 needed to be capitalised as a fixed asset.

Combined, this gave an overall depreciation charge of £25,801 resulting in the accounting loss.

Overall we have had a successful financial year. We were able to increase our free unrestricted reserves in line with the reserves policy, whilst continuing to support and serve many more people from our local community and beyond.

For full details of the Farm's finances, please see the accompanying document: 'Surrey Docks Farm - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023'

THANK YOU

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Farm is governed by a team of unpaid volunteers who meet on a monthly basis to steer the direction and guide the organisation.

Thanks to: Brett Bennett-Smith, Chair; Matthew White, Secretary; Jolin Holme, Treasurer; Mary Budd, Alan Chadborn, Rosemary Petronis and Andrew Tipler

STAFF TEAM

Thanks to our dedicated staff team:

Gemma Hooper, Manager
Claire Elson, Livestock Manager
Lucy Tarver-Jones, Youth Manager
Tracey Neil, Education Manager
Melisha Khyriem-Edwards, Finance Officer
James Taylor, Pat Lipscombe, Training Coordinator
Fay McMath and Jessica Thompson, Livestock Workers
Carla Conte, Jo Baden-Morgan, Clare Justice, Youth Workers
Siobhain Yates, Livestock Apprentice
Kate McKinney, Horticulture Apprentice
Rebecca Clarke, Green Mentor
Cecil Lee, Cleaner

VOLUNTEERS

Surrey Docks Farm is lucky to have a team of committed volunteers who contribute to the running of all areas of the Farm; including animal care, gardening, maintenance, serving customers in our farm shop and assisting in the delivery of our community projects. Along with their hard work volunteers bring ideas, enthusiasm and a wide range of skills.

Volunteers are essential to the Farm, we simply wouldn't exist without them!

THANK YOU

FUNDERS

Surrey Docks Farm would like to send our thanks to the funders who have supported the organisation this year contributing to both delivery and core costs.

These funders include:

Southwark Council, City Bridge Trust, National Lottery, The Farmers Company, Bernard Sunley Foundation, Mercers' Company, Grange Farm Centre Trust, Jack Petchey Foundation, British Land, Amicable Society Rotherhithe, RHS, North Southwark Environmental Trust, Newcomen Collett Foundation, Finnis Scott Foundation, Wakefield & Tetley Trust, United St Saviour's Charity, London Youth, Albion Street Community Charity Ltd and several more.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our community, who have supported the Farm by championing and promoting our work, fundraising on our behalf, buying produce from our shop and generously donating.