

Newsletter: October 2018

What a difference three months makes. Our last newsletter started by thanking people for braving the summer heatwave and coming along to our Open Day, and this one includes an item about Christmas trees!

Hopefully, there's something here for everyone, so enjoy, and do please forward to others or print out for your noticeboard.

Jude and the Phoenix Team

Firstly, a look back at the summer and our BBQ, where we celebrated the achievements of the trainees, thanked our volunteers and supporters and ate a lot of hot dogs! It is fair to say that a good time was had by all.



We said farewell to a few volunteers recently, including two of our regulars, Shiina and Beryl, who, respectively, provided considerable expertise in the kitchen and garden - our thanks and appreciation to them both.



We also said goodbye to Anna, our cook during the summer, who left to start a degree in Biological Science at Sheffield University – we wish her all the very best. However, we are delighted to welcome Alie Rowbotham to Phoenix. Alie has an education background, and her previous experience in the voluntary sector includes organising the Gala Day at EACH in the village. Alie has lots of new ideas about how to further develop the placements we offer in the kitchen and is keen to continue our focus on healthy eating. As well as being an excellent cook, Alie is also a keen gardener, and is already busy helping to plan what to grow in our vegetable patch to prepare and eat at lunchtime.



We have lots of lovely people to thank this month!

COEL continue to make a real difference on site, with some much-needed decorating in the factory, and the donation of paint. Our lovely neighbours Brewers and Dulux, also helped with painting and decorating supplies, and Giuseppe, Jack and Ian from Giuseppe Piran, Specialist Painters, gave up a Saturday to come and paint our reception and canteen area.

Finally, on October 2nd, we hosted a whole team of volunteers from Pulse Secure, based in St John's Innovation Park, who turned up and worked their socks off. By the end of the day they had painted and decorated our old office and the locker room, plus the front of the portacabin, the main woodshed and the courtyard. They also created new flower beds by the pond, a wonderful new path showcasing all our paving slabs and a stepping stone trail winding through the site. Finally, a group of volunteers pallet busted the whole day long, so we now have a stack of wood all ready to be made into products for sale.



Before we move straight on to winter, a final thank you to everyone who supported our stall at Milton Country Park. The weather was glorious, and it provided a great opportunity to talk to the public and wider community about our services and products.

At the start of this newsletter, you were promised news about Christmas trees, so here it is – we will be selling them!

This is an exciting new venture for us, but one that we hope will be both fun and profitable. The trees are premier field cut Nordmann firs, so a non-drop variety, available in sizes ranging from five to eight feet. The trees will be available throughout December, and additionally, we are opening on Saturday and Sunday, 15th and 16th December.

More information to follow – so watch this space, but also, please do spread the word. In the meantime, here's a photo from Friezeland Farm, where our trees will be coming from.

