

November 2023

Established 1980



**Don't forget** that our next event is coming up on Saturday 28 October. Do you have what it takes to walk through the woodland graveyard nature path at night? We're hoping to build on the unprecedented numbers who turned out for our first Halloween spooky walk last year, we'll be open from 5:30, with food & drink available in the Chapel, and the woodland route opened **once it's dark enough!**

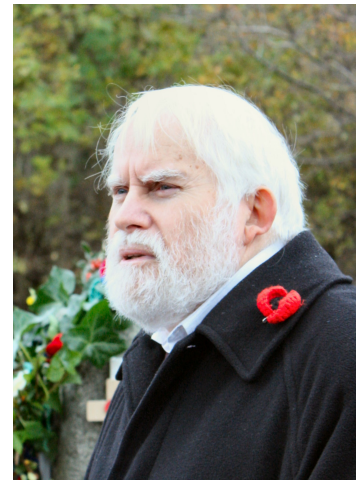
We're asking a small charge for this event, all of which will go toward the running of the Farm. This is a family-friendly event, which aims to be spooky rather than scary, so should be OK for even younger children – but it is both dark and scary in the woods at the best of times, so with a few added props and characters... who knows? Everyone is encouraged to dress to scare, but keep it clean please, this is a family event.

**That time** of year is here again, and for a limited period we have our own Rice Lane Honey available at £7 per 1/2lb jar, as ever it's selling fast, but there are still a few jars left, so ask a member of staff if you'd like buy one.



**11th Nov 1918** at 11am was the moment the fighting stopped in the First World War. Nearly one million British servicemen died. At the City Farm we have the War Graves of 36 men who died in the First and Second World Wars. There is also a small cenotaph and every year we hold a short ceremony to remember all those killed, including local people during the air raids in Liverpool of 1941, some of whom are also buried at the site. Join us at 10.45am on Saturday 11th November. The names of those in War Graves will be read out and there will be a 2 minute silence at 11am, the moment the guns fell silent on the western front in 1918. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the Chapel as part of our Winter Fayre.

**Four years** have passed since I took on the role of chairman. A lot has happened in that time. In 2019 the charity was perilously close to closing down, as there was not enough money in the coffers to pay the bills that month. Three of the Trustees however had faith in what could be done and donated their own money to keep things going. We also had to be careful with spending and more importantly raise funds from grants. This needed the rebuilding of trust with a number of funding organisations, as this had been lost for a variety of reasons. There have been lots of ups and downs during the time since. An expensive gazebo lent to us was stolen, lots of equipment belong to business was left at the site by someone who thought they could do this for free, and the children's play area has needed major repairs a number of times.



On the other hand our regular events have grown steadily, and we now have a loyal following. This Newsletter, which was at first resisted, is now welcomed but also anticipated. In addition to the local distribution, it's also emailed out, which keeps people living further away in touch. The staff and Trustees are working far better together than at any time in recent memory, and more grant applications have been successful in raising funds, since our events and the generous donations by local people typically cover less than a fifth of our costs, which are currently around £10,000 a month. The Trustees have to work continually to think of new ways to raise funds. Then there is the paper work of reporting to grant bodies how we spend their money, and also to satisfy the tax man and Charity Commission that we are operating legally.

New volunteers mean we can do more things, and working together gives "meet and make friends" real meaning. For myself, I would like to retire next year and I hope we can find someone who can take up the reins to help the Farm to further successes.

Lewis Lesley, Chairman.



**We're running** our usual playscheme again over the period 30<sup>th</sup> October until 3<sup>rd</sup> November, in the Old Chapel. We will be open from 11 until 3 each day, with indoor activities available throughout, plus opportunities to be out and about exploring the site and learning about the critters that inhabit it if the weather permits.

As ever, there will be no charges for the playscheme and free meals will be provided for children attending.

#### **Winter Fayre Saturday 11th Nov.**

The clocks have gone back to Winter Time but you can come and enjoy something different in our Winter Fayre starting straight after our remembrance ceremony, until 3pm. There will be a variety of stalls as well as our ever popular pizza's freshly cooked in the Farm's own Pizza Oven.

#### **Santa's visit on Saturday 16th December**

We hope that Santa will be able to stop by at 1pm during the Christmas Fayre, to find out what is the Christmas wish of local children's. With Santa's helper and lots of volunteers the day will be something special, opening at 11am until 3pm. You might even get some good ideas and help in filling any gaps in those Christmas Eve stockings ?