



Finest quality birdseed blended on our conservation farm

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Spring Newsletter

Dear customers and friends, welcome to our Spring newsletter, and what a start to spring we had! The snow here, as with most of the country, was extreme, with drifts closing roads and causing chaos! Thankfully our delivery drivers managed to get through and seed was sent each day to keep your birds happy. We had some great pictures sent to us of birds flocking to feeders to eat enough food to have enough energy to get them through the night. On the farm thankfully the ewes kept their legs crossed and lambing stalled whilst the snow fell which meant all the ewes and lambs were warm indoors.

Rambling Award

We are very proud to announce that we are the overall winners of the best footpath in Leicestershire and Rutland!

Back in August 2017, on a fine sunny day, we were one of many participants in the best kept footpath competition in the County.

We met the President, Chairman and Environment Officer from the Leicestershire and Rutland Ramblers who visited to judge our farm footpath. Last week, in the snow, they returned to inform us we were the winners and present us with our certificate. Our footpaths run along the ridge behind the farm overlooking the Eyebrook Reservoir, providing a beautiful vantage point to survey the Eye and Welland Valley. They also provide a great opportunity to see the impact of the conservation work on the farm, marked by the wonderful array of farmland birds, birds of prey, brown hares and wildlife on display through the changing seasons.

We have always welcomed the public to Rectory Farm to engage with the community and share the beautiful environment we are privileged to work in. These paths are an important part of the farm for people to enjoy, if you are in the county do visit us at our shop, pick up a map and set off on your walk.



Lambs

We are now well into lambing and thankfully the weather has been kinder with temperatures rising and snow disappearing.

The lambs stay in for the first few days of their life until they are strong enough to venture out onto the lush pasture.

There is no finer sight than turning out ewes and lambs and watching them skip and play each morning. This, along with Sue's chickens scratching around the paddock and the daffodils in full bloom really brings Spring to the farm.



Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds

Rectory Farm, Great Easton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 8SN

Tel: 01536 770771 Email: rectoryfarm@eyebrookwildbirdfeeds.co.uk Web: www.eyebrookwildbirdfeeds.co.uk



Eyebrook in the community

February saw the return of the RSPB's big school bird count which we support with great gusto! This is a fantastic initiative to get school children involved in bird watching and nature. As usual we provided local schools and playgroups with free seed to encourage them to take part in the activity, which the children and teachers all loved. Thank you to all who took part, the results are currently being collated and we look forward to hearing the outcomes!

In addition to encouraging school children with the bird count, we also have them visit the farm, this is a class visiting the lambs, they also get to collect an egg, enjoy a sit on a tractor and pet Bea the pony.

In the Garden

The garden at Rectory farm has sprung into life - all the Spring bulbs are up, with crocus, daffodils, snowdrops and wall flowers. The birds are busy feeding. The colder weather even brought birds, usually only seen in the fields, to the garden such as fieldfare, redwings and brambling. We have some very friendly black birds who have discovered the samples of our home mixed birdseed in the shop – they frequently pop in and help themselves to all the raisins, suet pellets and mealworms from the mixes on display! They will soon be pairing up as the breeding season gets underway. Why not try our fledging mix to give them the extra boost they need through this busy time?

Enjoy 15% Off Fledgling Mix over Easter Weekend! Order online, over the phone or visit us at our shop to take advantage of this offer



Spring Feeders

Enhance the Spring colours in your garden with our flower feeders. These beautiful flowers look delightful nestled in a flower bed, or used to brighten up a corner of the garden, as well as looking lovely they double up as feeders for the birds to enjoy. You can place seeds, worms or pellets in the decorative cast iron flowers or use them as a water feeder. By purchasing our flower feeders you will not only benefit the birds in your garden, but 50p from the sale of the Poppy's and Daffodil's goes directly to the Poppy Appeal and Marie Cure respectively.

In preparation for the imminent nesting season we have an additional use for our fatball springs – stuff them with nesting material! We had a quick scout round the farm yard and found wool, but you can use pet hair, straw or anything attractive to the birds. When the nesting season is over these quirky little feeders hold two fatballs, or apples or whatever bird snacks you have to hand.



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