



Finest quality birdseed from our conservation farm

Summer 2019 Newsletter

Special offers for all our customers over Birdfair Weekend!

It's that time of year again where we can get excited about three days of Birdfair! Join us there from 16th – 18th August 2019 at Rutland Water. Birdfair, aka British Birdwatching Fair, aka the Birdwatching Glastonbury, encompasses the whole spectrum of the birdwatching industry whilst at the same time supporting global bird conservation. This is the event of the year if you're into birds and wildlife.

**15% off
online!**

Look out for us at Birdfair in Marquee 6 stand 19 among the hundreds of stands selling the latest products for wildlife enthusiasts. You'll find everything, from scopes to sculptures, binoculars to bird food, eGuides to eco-holidays! To celebrate Birdfair we have a host of special offers on over the weekend for you and your birds to enjoy...

Visit us at the show – Visit us in marquee 6 stand 19 to take advantage of our special show prices – great savings are available on mealworms and suets! We also have free samples to take away, goodie bags and a great competition to win some of our seed!

Visit the farm over Birdfair Weekend – We are lucky enough to be on the doorstep of this wonderful event, literally down the road, so do take advantage of our proximity and call in to see us! Our opening hours are extended for birders going to and from the show, and all offers at the show are also available from the farm! Open Friday 16th – Sunday 18th August 8am – 8pm

15% off Online Purchases - Not attending Birdfair? Don't worry you won't miss out! Over Birdfair weekend there is 15% off all products purchased through our website or over the phone. Visit the website from 17th – 19th August and enter **BF19** at checkout to receive your discount and enjoy the special offers from your home!



Fay & Sadie receiving 2nd prize for the best commercial stand at Birdfair last year – for the second year running!

Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds

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Help the Bees in Your Garden with our Wildflower Mix

Help support us in our Bee campaign by encouraging bees in your own garden. Our packets of wildflower mix provide vital pollen and nectar throughout the season for your bees, as well as providing a beautiful splash of colour in a border.

This Annual Summer Bee mixture is bright and beautiful, producing nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. The species contained in this mix create an attractive display from May to October. It is suitable for creating habitats across a diverse range of soil types. This mix is recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society as 'Perfect for Pollinators' and contains 14 flower species including Cornflower, Sunflower, Borage, Evening Primrose and Corn Marigold to give a full season of vibrant colours. Each pack contains enough seed to sow two metres square of wildflower mix in your garden.



Farm Walks

Through the months of May & June we hosted many organised groups on conducted walks around the farm. Groups varied from ramblers to farmers, Beavers to WI and many in between. All groups had a most enjoyable time learning about British food and farming, conservation and stock farming, with all enjoying a well-deserved cup of tea and homemade cake on return to the farmyard. For the children highlights included finding the ear of wheat growing up the stalk, making their own bird seed mixes, sitting on a tractor and climbing up the wheat heap!



New products

This new collection of timeless wrought iron seed and water feeders create a beautiful focal point in any garden. The dishes forged in wrought iron age gracefully, and are an elegant addition to any garden. The Old Iron Birdbath can sit on lawns, flowerbeds or patios and the textured surface detail gives birds a sure grip at any depth. The Old Iron Wall Feeder is a dish style feeder with bird detail, the sturdy bracket screws into a wall or fence post.



Old Iron Wall Feeder £11.95

Old Iron Bird Bath £14.95



Jimmy's Big Bee Campaign on Channel 4

We are very excited to be involved in a C4 series *Jimmy's Big Bee Campaign*, where Jimmy Doherty will be raising awareness of the plight of our bees and encouraging everyone to grow food and habitat for them. In this series, insect enthusiast Jimmy embarks on a campaign to change habits and habitats to improve the plight of Britain's vital pollinators. Jimmy will encourage communities, farmers, supermarkets and local councils to do what they can to increase insect activity, and ultimately help sustain and increase bee, bug, and butterfly populations aiming to show what we can all do to reverse the decline of essential species.

Last week Jimmy and the C4 team visited Rectory Farm to film a Bee count. The farm was a hive of activity with camera crews and a fantastic team of local volunteers who came to count the insects on the farm. The day finished with a cup of tea in the barn and a complimentary wild flower mix to take home for all involved to grow in their gardens



Now the count has been completed, in the next few weeks we will be planting strips of pollen and nectar mixes along hedgerows to provide food for the bees. Jimmy and the C4 team will be back throughout the season to see how the strips are growing and chat to Fay about how to get more farmers involved in providing more food for the bees. This time next year a count will commence again to see how successful the flower mixes have been in helping the bee populations on our farm.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram to keep up to date on the progress of our new habitats



We are so excited to be involved in a project highlighting the plight of the humble bee. As farmers, bees are of upmost importance to us, playing a vital role on the farm as they pollinate the crops we grow. A thriving countryside and food production go hand-in-hand, over the past 30 to 40 years, farmers have carried out a huge amount of work to encourage wildlife, enhance and protect our landscape, maintain healthy soils, and reduce their impact on the climate.

Nationally farmers have planted around 10,000 football pitches of flower habitat across the country to support a healthy bee population and give them a good home, let's hope Jimmy can get more farmers involved!



Down on the Farm

Like all of us, the farm has been feeling the effects of the extreme hot then wet weather over the last few months. We managed to get a good crop of hay in June to feed the sheep through the winter months, and the pastures are lush and green rather than the yellow of last year!

At time of writing the oilseed-rape harvest is well underway. These tiny black oilseeds are taken from the fields back to the farm and stored. The seeds are used in our birdseed mixes, and what we don't use travels to Erith to the UK's largest Oilseed-Rape crushing plant. The oil from the crop is used for food processing and the meal left over is used in animal feeds. Our wheat crop will be harvested next, the straw from the wheat will all be baled and used for animal bedding. Harvest is such an exciting time of year, as well as the crops being gathered in we get to see a host of wildlife as the combine goes around the fields. We have had a particularly successful year for tree sparrows, skylarks, linnets, hares and we have even spotted some grey partridge.



New Trainees at Rectory Farm

We have two youngsters starting work at the farm this summer learning the ropes – Josh & Bonnie! Josh has just finished his GCSE's and is keen on a career in farming, so has come to Rectory Farm for his first placement. We trained Josh up in May and he was successful in passing his tractor test. Since then Josh has been tractor driving, birdseed mixing and busy preparing the machinery for harvest, as well as his favourite job - working with the sheep with our other new farm worker Bonnie the sheepdog!

Bonnie is now learning all about rounding up sheep from her mum Bess, the pair work very well together – though Bonnie is a little over enthusiastic, Bess is most patient and corrects all her mistakes! Bonnie loves working hard but at only 2 years old needs to take it slowly and has a well-earned nap for a few hours in front of the aga after a morning of sheep work.

We will keep you updated with Josh and Bonnies progress as they both become important members of the team at Rectory Farm

Birds in the Garden

The garden has been very busy this Spring, full of fledglings which has been most entertaining to watch! We have seen clutches of blue tits, black birds, robins, goldfinches and wrens all reared and fledge successfully. We were most pleased recently to have greenfinch and thrushes back in the garden for the first time for a few years. The Gnomes all watched on as a thrush potted around the rockery finally finding a snail and cracking it open! We also had swallows nesting in the farmyard with four successful fledglings, and our usual resident house martins visiting to take the mud from the puddles to make their nests.

