

LOCH ARTHUR CREAMERY & FARM SHOP

Camphill Village Trust Ltd

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Dear Friends,

It's hard not to fall for the temptation to comment on how quickly this year's flown by ... but it sure has!!!!

I just read my newsletter from last Christmas and there are so many things that seem like yesterday.. not least of all the mention that we were just 'finalising' the plans for our new farm shop! Well, blow me down.... here we are a year later and, guess what?we're just finalising the plans for our new farm shop!! But this time we really are. Plans are very advanced and builders should be on site early in the New Year.

This lovely new building will incorporate a bakery, a coffee shop, art and craft display area and will be a place to meet, to linger, to play and to roam. This is a massive step for us at Loch Arthur. It's been a long, long time in the planning, and it's certainly going to make some substantial changes - both for us and for you all!

For all the devoted people who work here, the improved conditions of storage, work-spaces and facilities are long over-due and will be much welcomed. For all the devoted people who shop here and support us in so many ways, we hope that this new development will provide a warm, social, welcoming, well-stocked and enjoyable environment for many years to come. No doubt, the spaces will feel large and foreign when we first move in, especially after the tight and cosy space up at the Creamery but we know that we are building for the future and for the potential of what this venture can grow into.

Watch this space we'll keep you informed !!



And so, what news ??

- ❖ **Database Survey.** We've either enclosed with this newsletter, or have already sent you by email, a short survey. I know that surveys are a pain in the neck ... but we now have thousands of names on our database and it is so vital that we update our information. We know that much of the information we hold is out of date ... and it seems pointless to be sending out mailings to people who are either no longer there or don't wish to receive our mailings. **So, please take 5 minutes to fill out the survey. It will be an enormous help to us! You can do it on the enclosed form or on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/5D2LYV6**

- ❖ **Our Garden.** We've had a wonderful and productive year in the garden. Pat and the team have really turned the garden around this year with lots of energy and ingenuity .. planting seeds for the future both literally and metaphorically! A lot of work has gone into building up fertility in the soil, bringing order to the garden and generally creating a healthy and well cared for environment. I'm sure this will reap on-going benefits in the years to come!

- ❖ **Our Shop**crowded, chaotic, delightful and delicious as ever! What more can I say you all know what it's like. So come, enjoy, tell your friends, bring your friends! We love a busy shop!

Things to look out for in the shop:

- **JUST ARRIVED ... unique and very special !! Beautiful, organically tanned sheepskin fleeces from our own lambs here at Loch Arthur. Have to be seen (and touched) to be appreciated !!**
- **A select range of pottery from our friends at Taurus Crafts (Camphill Community) in Gloucestershire, plus a beautiful selection of bowls and mugs from some fine local potters; weavings, scarves, platters, beeswax candles, candle holders and wooden toys from our own workshops.**
- **An extensive range of our classic 'Eco-Silk Bags' ... with a few new varieties and styles .. one of the most simple, affordable and appreciated gifts. The perfect stocking-filler!!**
- **Our delicious, hand-made Christmas Puddings, Fruit Mincemeat, and Mince Pies and many other delightful Christmassy things!!**
- **Chutneys of every imaginable variety - made right here in our shop kitchen. ..and new from our kitchen ..a luscious, yummy 'Bread and Butter Pudding'. This is no ordinary pudding...it's simple, classic & very more-ish!**
- **Genuine, continental-style Organic Salami, Chorizo and Prosciutto made by Peelham Farm in Berwickshire go on, treat yourself this Christmas!**
- **A select range of natural cosmetic and body-care products and gift packs.**
- **And, of courseour renowned range of quality cheeses from select cheesemakers to offer you a variety of blue cheese, goats & sheep's milk cheeses, brie and smoked cheese, alongside our classic Loch Arthur range.**
- **And, if you're still not sure what to buy ... why not pick up a Loch Arthur Gift Voucher - redeemable for goods in our shop for up to one year. Or let us help you make up a personalised hamper ... always appreciated!**

❖ **Fruit & Vegetables.** Range .. variety ... quality .. reliability .. it's all there!
We have a fantastic selection of squashes and pumpkins - great for making soups, roasting or stuffing at this wintry time of year. Please remember that **if you want to be assured of particular vegetables for the Christmas week, you might be well advised to place an order.** However we should be well stocked right up to the 24th.
Seville oranges should be in stock within the next few weeks.

❖ **Our Christmas Gift Leaflet** is enclosed, offering a range of selected gifts and hampers, which can be collected from the Creamery or sent away on your behalf. **A new addition to our range is the 'Cheese Lover's Slate'.** This is a simple, rustic but very elegant slate platter which comes with a selection of cheeses (ours and others) and oatcakes a lovely gift! And remember, we can make up, and send, personalised hampers of all shapes and sizes to suit your needs. Our Farmhouse Cheese Truckles were immensely popular last year. They are matured Christmas!

❖ **Fresh Turkeys** will be supplied again this year by our friends at 'Garvald Farm' in Lanarkshire. Their turkeys are organically reared and are extremely tasty and succulent. **The price this year will be £10.20/kg.** This is still below the price of any comparable Organic Turkey that we've found (and many non-organic). **They weigh from 4kg (9lb) - 9kg (20lb).** **Please place your orders soon and specify what size you are looking for. We will do our best to meet your requirements.**

❖ **Fresh Geese!!** Unfortunately the flock of geese that were getting along really well on our farm, fell prey to some marauding creature one night .. we're not sure what - fox, minx, ferret - but whatever it was certainly decided that Christmas had come early ... and had its feast there and then!! So we have turned to an excellent Scottish producer of Organic geese to supply us and are now able to offer a limited supply of top quality Scottish Organic Geese for Christmas. Unfortunately, this means that the price is up on last year and we can only get slightly larger birds .. but the quality should be excellent, and worth every penny! **They should range in size from about 4.5 - 6.5 kg and will sell at £12.40/kg.** **If you're at all interested, please order very soon to avoid being disappointed!**

**Turkeys and Geese will be available fresh for collection on
Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th (till 1pm).**

❖ **Fresh-Meat Days.**

**Fresh meat will be available constantly from
Thursday 16th to Friday 24th December!**

There will be a good supply of Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Chicken, Pork & Bacon available. There will also be **Gammons** available, although they are limited in supply and must be ordered - and **Turkeys** and **Geese** (see above).
Please order early.

If you want to be assured of getting particular cuts of meat for Christmas, especially larger joints, we would advise that you send or email an order form or phone in your order by Friday 10th December. (Our meat price list can be accessed on our website) Please remember to specify your collection date. If you don't wish to place an order, feel free to stop by any time as we should be well stocked with meat throughout the period.

**Our first 'Fresh Meat Days' in the New Year will be on:
Thursday 10th to Wednesday 16th February 2011**

(Please make a note of this in your diaries as we're not likely to be in touch again before then.)

Our opening hours over the festive period will be as follows:

Saturday 18th December:	OPEN 10am - 3pm
Sunday 19th December:	CLOSED
Mon 20th - Thurs 23rd Dec:	OPEN 9am - 5.30pm
Fri 24th December:	OPEN 9am - 1pm
25th, 26th, 27th, 28th Dec:	CLOSED
Wed 29th & Thurs 30th Dec:	OPEN 9am - 2pm

We will then be taking our annual break and the shop will re-open on Tuesday 11th January 2011

And ... last, but not least .. **a very fond farewell to Helen Fisher..** who came in to give us a hand in the shop for a weekend 18 months ago ... and has never left since! Helen has been a wonderful presence in our shop and kitchen. A real stalwart and a delight to have around, as many of you will know. We wish her all the best as she sets off in pursuit of.....who knows what in the New Year!

We will be advertising to replace Helen in January so, if there is anyone out there who might be interested in a job in our shop, please contact Barry or Rene on 01387 760296.

We thank you all for your on-going support, custom and friendship and look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks.

And, from all of us here at Loch Arthur, we send you greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

With best wishes

Barry Graham