

## WINTER NEWSLETTER FROM BROCKLEBY'S

Since I last wrote there have been many changes and possibly the most exciting is that we've moved about 2 miles from the Parish of Upper Broughton to Goosenest Farm a mile outside of Wymeswold. This new farmstead is just what we needed as it has loads of new buildings and one even has pigsties in it, Annette's new project!

Our Farm Shop at Grange Garden Centre near Melton Mowbray, to be called Brockleby's, is progressing, if a little slowly, and is due to open this Spring.

We have now recruited our first member of staff. We were delighted when Susan Jones (Suzy) accepted our job offer as Farm Shop manager. She has had a bit of a culture shock, leaving a food processing company making meals for the Moathouse chain, to join me in the delights of chasing sheep round the countryside, trimming their feet and smelly parts and freezing to death at farmers' markets! Fortunately, she hasn't left yet!

The Xmas farmers' market we ran in partnership with Leicestershire Food Links Ltd was a great success and raised £460 for the Romy Appeal. There were 23 stalls selling a range of local produce and so many people turned up we had to use a tractor and trailer bus service to bring them into the Garden Centre.

Thanks to Chris & Dorothy Fox (Net's Folks) we now have another 40 acres of grass keeping at Kirby Bellars. The fields provide excellent grazing as they run along the river Wreake and a real bonus is that they are only 2 fields away from our new shop.

Some of you have been asking about Charlie our senior ram (owned by our friend Daren). Unfortunately after a bad bout of pneumonia, which he developed in the autumn, he sadly passed away in early January. The good news is that his genes will live on, for next season we have a new chap lined up for the girls, Puzzle, son of Charlie. He's quite mischievous and forever escaping so he's currently living with Net's parents while he goes through his difficult teenage stage.

Max is progressing well and has already learnt to speak, he's missed out mum and dad and can now say 'they're £10 a kilo thank you very much', or perhaps it's just a string of gurgles?

The new farm is a big challenge. Net has cleared out the pig sties in anticipation of the new arrivals (but I'm still looking for a good supply of rare breed piglets) and Suzy spent her first 3 days sanitising and converting an old army hut into our current centre of operations, if only it had some insulation!

Unfortunately we haven't managed to get any chickens yet, but at last I have a large hut for them to live in at night, so as soon as we move down the road to the farm shop the chickens can have my old office and then several months later we'll be able to offer you all some excellent home grown free range meat. Perhaps they'd appreciate some insulation?!

Our website [www.brocklebys.co.uk](http://www.brocklebys.co.uk) is currently going through a few changes, you can now see the new shop as it develops (sorry no web cam, just the odd photos of bare brick walls) and we have a new listing of events and markets for 2005. Some of you will be pleased to see that we now attend Retford Farmers' Market and Burbage Farmers' Market.

In our next letter we'll hopefully have that long awaited launch date for the new farm shop.

Happy New Year from all of us at Brockleby's.