



# East Clayton Farm

East Clayton Farm

Nineveh Trust Report  
Year 1: 2017/2018

Jean Rolfe  
Development Manager  
October 2018



## Introduction

Lorica Trust is a charity which works with disadvantaged and marginalised people at our Care Farm in the South Downs National Park.

Activities on our 120-acre farm include livestock tasks (donkeys, sheep, pigs & chickens), conservation management (wild flower sowing, hedge planting, fencing) and horticulture (plant & vegetable growing).

Our main aims and objectives are:

- Providing opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged people to gain skills to improve their employability, instil confidence and a sense of purpose in a farmed environment.
- Providing opportunities for people to volunteer to gain additional skills, help others and enhance their appreciation of the countryside.
- Allowing those who are disadvantaged, as well as volunteers, to develop physical health and mental wellbeing through practical land based projects.
- Conservation including creation of wild flower meadows, lowland heath and stream restoration in conjunction with Natural England, National Trust, South Downs Conservation Board and Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

In 2017 Nineveh Trust approved funding for a three-year project to support the employment of Development Manager to develop, co-ordinate and deliver Lorica services for disadvantaged people on the Farm.

### Achievements – Year 1 - 2017/18

The three-year project will see 350 people benefit from our programmes, measured through three SMART outcomes, the following shows the outcome followed by the achievement for 2017/18:

150 people improve their employment credentials and vocational knowledge by the end of three years.

*82 people have taken part in activities including hedgelaying, coppicing and general farm duties that have helped improve their employment credentials and increase their vocational knowledge. 82% of those that took part in the hedgelaying have revisited the hedge on more than one occasion with family or friends, with 64% of these highlighting that they have used their newly learnt skill elsewhere in the county*

350 people are more confident and report an improvement in their feeling of self-worth at the end of three years.

*98 people have engaged with projects and activities including volunteering, dementia support and community service, that has helped improve feelings of self-worth and confidence. 95% of young people engaging with the Farm have reported feeling more confident as a result of their engagement. (An example survey form can be found at the end of this document)*

200 people improve their relationship with their local community at the end of three years.

*198 people, through volunteering, have supported over 22 community events during 2018, not only helping them to build a connection with their local community but helping to increase the profile of East Clayton Farm.*



Outcome 1: 150 people improve their employment credentials and vocational knowledge by the end of three years (achieved 82 in Year 1)

Since 2017 we have seen our school provision increase by 45% with 22 young people, all of who have been excluded from school, benefiting from alternative provision provided at East Clayton Farm. Of these young people over 90% have special educational needs (SEN), we have therefore developed programmes that provide additional support to ensure active participation and success for all those participating.

We now have a small minibus which enables us to collect young people who wish to engage with the Farm but have no means of transport, it has proved very popular. Demand for our provision is growing month on month and we hope by then end of this academic year that we will be offering provision on three days of the week (currently 1.5)

The young people get involved in all aspects of Farm life from cleaning out the pigs to raising new baby chickens



Our Learning and Development Centre (L&D) is now underway and awaiting final approval from ABC Awards. Our L&D Centre will enable us to offer vocational qualifications to all those that engage with ECF provision and programmes. Students will be able to undertake qualifications in small animal care, equine, horticulture and conservation, with qualification opportunities from Entry Level 1 through to Level 2 Certificates.







During January and February, we undertook some much need hedgelaying allowing over 50 volunteers to learn a new traditional country craft and associated vocational knowledge. Over 20 metres were completed, with feedback indicating how well it had been received. We have plans in place to continue this work over the course of the coming Autumn/Winter



Bees have now joined us at the Farm, 7 hives in total and an absolute hit with many of our young people and volunteers. 10 young people have been engaged with the project with a number adopting a hive and managing all the required up keep in return for honey in 2019! We have plans to run training days in 2019 to encourage others to keep and look after bees in the local community





Outcome 2: 350 people are more confident and report an improvement in their feeling of self-worth at the end of three years. (Achieved 98 in Year 1)

The highlight of the past year has to be the creation of our volunteer hub in partnership with WSCC and the South Downs National Park. This has gone from strength to strength with over 18 days of activities and 90 volunteers. Work undertaken has included fencing, scrub clearance, ramp construction, rights of way improvements and barn renovations, all making a significant impact on the local community and those participating.



The arrival of a piano caused much amusement earlier this year, with many of our volunteers intrigued as to its purpose. However once located on site, outside and easily accessible a surprising number of people, including some of our SEN students have enjoyed playing it. It has generated lots of discussion and enjoyment with a number of our dementia visitors stopping to play and reminiscing about pastimes and hobbies. Its lovely to see the impact this simple instrument has had on many that visit the Farm.



We were very excited to be one of only 9 Care Farms in the UK chosen to work with Dementia Adventure to develop dementia friendly opportunities at the farm. The aim is to create a bespoke programme that allows those that are living with dementia to visit the farm whenever they wish.

To help facilitate a space that is dementia friendly and safe we are working in partnership with Breathing Spaces to create a large dementia friendly garden. We have the plans in

place and are now looking at a phased approach to unlock much needed funding and develop the growing space over the next five years.

WSCC Community Service now use the Farm on a regular monthly basis with 8 young offenders having spent time at the Farm over the last 6 months. Through the work they undertake, donkey grooming, poop picking, building of seats and even a goat climbing frame, they are contributing in a positive manner whilst making a big difference to our users and animals.



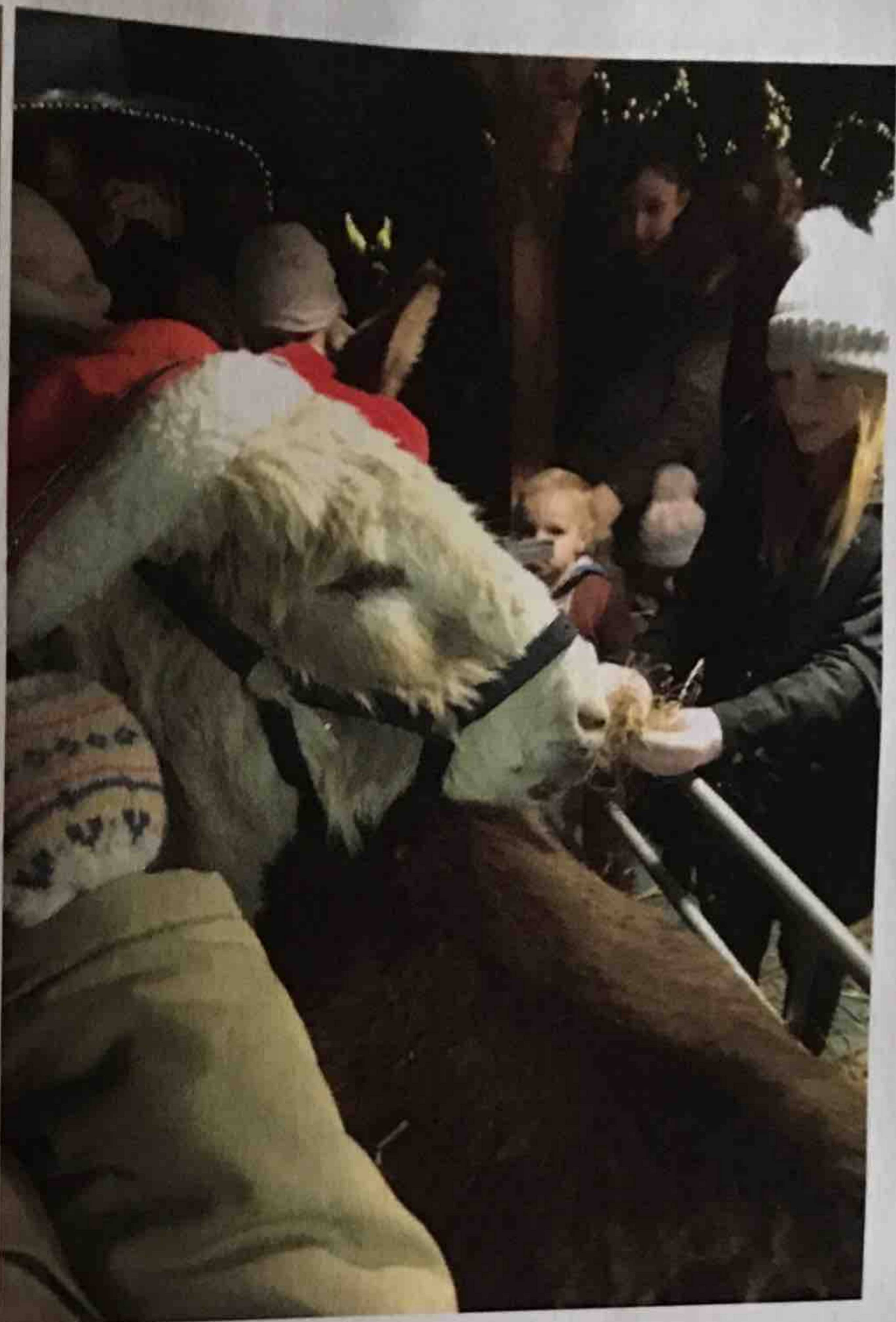
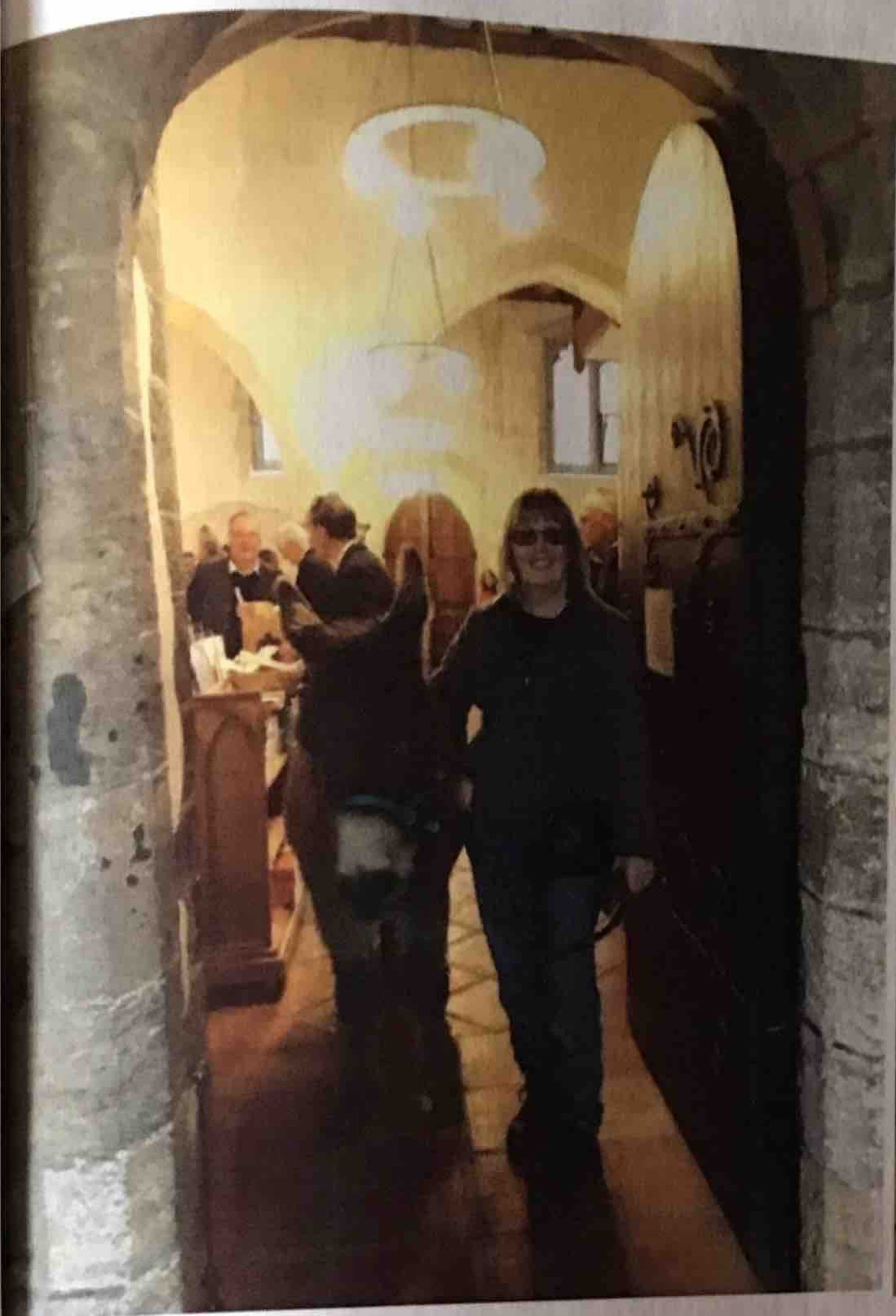
Outcome 3: 200 people improve their relationship with their local community at the end of three years.  
(Achieved 198 in Year 1)

Our volunteers continue to go from strength or strength with over 2300 volunteer days having taken place so far this year, an incredible increase of 557% from 2015/16. Of these volunteer days 184 have been spent supporting local community events. Our volunteers are integral to the running of the Farm and it would be impossible without them. Achievements so far this year include 22 community events, 36 donkey walks and 6 events hosted at the Farm for young people with life limiting illnesses in partnership with Forward Facing. 36 Forward Facing young people have visited the Farm, making memories and happy times with their families, they are wonderful events but always tinged with sadness.



Nativities and Palm Sundays are incredibly popular with our local communities and our donkeys and volunteers are kept very busy. We visited 7 Christmas nativities and 6 Palm Sundays so far this year with all our donkeys booked for Christmas 2018. It's a wonderful way of telling people about the work of East Clayton Farm and how they can visit and get involved.





Working in partnership with Angling for Education we have set up a small forest school resource at the top of the Farm. This woodland area is used to light a small fire, develop bush craft skills and talk to students about any worries and concerns. Most of the students who visit this area are very vulnerable and have very complex behavioural and emotional needs – to date 8 students have benefited





One new partnership designed to improve self-worth and confidence is with Stonepillow, a charity empowering homeless and vulnerable people to make positive changes in their lives. The partnership is in early stages but so far 6 homeless people have visited the farm and enjoyed time with our donkeys, grooming and walking them. It is hoped the time at East Clayton will help those that engage improve their outlook and gain the confidence to move forward in life by taking that first crucial step that only they can make.



Many thanks to Nineveh from all at East Clayton Farm, the funding received through the Nineveh Trust has made a huge difference to the impact and reach of the Farm, enabling many disadvantaged and vulnerable people to find a place where they can belong, grow and bloom.

