



Mantel Farm Shop

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Chicken Boarding, Garden Farming
and Smallholding Specialists

Catsfield, Near Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9BN

Farm shop opening hours - Thu, Fri, Sun 10am-4pm



JULY NEWSLETTER

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Three Little Pigs ...

So we have pigs are in the pig pen again. They arrived later than usual this year and the greenery had grown several feet high, and so dense that we struggled to open the gate and get the wheelbarrow through to the pig ark to add a bed of fresh straw. The pigs didn't see this as a problem though, and they started munching the moment they walked out of the trailer and stopped only to sleep in their ark that night. The next day they slowed down a little but by the end of the week it looked as though they had been here for months with just a few stalks of nettles remaining!



This year we have Middle White Pigs, a lovely docile breed native to the United Kingdom. They originated in Yorkshire and became a recognised breed in 1884. They are ideal for outdoor pens and have lovely little upturned snub noses. Although more people are now keeping Middle Whites, as with many of the traditional

breeds of pig they are still listed as endangered by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Usually we avoid white pigs as they can suffer from heat stroke and sunburn in hot weather, so just 1 week after they arrive we have a heatwave forecast!! Well it will just mean lots of buckets of water to make a wallow each day so they can cool down and add a layer of mud to protect themselves from the sun.



The South of England show went well for us this year with great weather on all three days, our new 'uniforms' arrived in

time and this year we had two large chickens joining in the fun outside the chicken pen!

This weekend we will be at the Smallholders show, again at Ardingly Showground, we will be with the Small Farm Training Group in the NFU building and Jason will be giving a talk on keeping chickens in the training tent at 11am on both days.

More info on daily things from Mantel Farm in Dans diary:

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Diary



Our local weather forecast



After a much drier and sunnier than usual June – everything is getting a bit dry so make sure your chickens have access to plenty of water. The signs are that the weather pattern is unlikely to change much in July, a month when we usually get a heat wave of some sort. At the moment next week is looking sunny and warm with humidity levels rising steadily through the week but this may trigger thunderstorms.

In this relatively settled weather plenty of Cod are being landed by local sea anglers, our freezer is filling up nicely and I am sure they'll be more to come in July which is traditionally a good fishing month, particularly for Bass.

Bees are swarming everywhere – we've got an infestation of black bees in our chimney, our next door neighbours have one in their roof space and our own hive is full to bursting point – with bees and honey. They'll continue to frantically stock up as we approach the end of the summer.

Special Offers, New Products and Services

Pekin Bantam Hens for sale

We still have a good selection of Pekins available, although some of the colours have now sold out.

At £30.00 each we guarantee hens (although cockerels are also available). Both straight and frizzle feathers. Birds can be purchased by calling into our shop or you can reserve them through our website (for collection from our farm during our shop opening hours).



Diatom

To help to keep mites under control through this hot weather we have a special offer on our large diatom tubs

Just £7.95 for a 2kg tub!

Red Mite

With the hot weather forecast don't forget to regularly clean your chicken house against Red Mite. If you notice any mites at all then treat with a thorough soaking of Poultry Shield and dusting of diatom for several days in a row (and be careful where you put the old bedding so the mites can't travel back!). If you do see signs of mite then it is also worth setting a fumer in the house, as the smoke can travel to the joints in the house that you can't get to. If things get bad and you notice your hens combs are looking pale then make sure you get them out of the house immediately, give them easy access to food and water and add some 'Nopex' to their water to help them to recover.

Poultry Shield: £8.50/Ltr or £6.50 refills

Diatom: Reduced to £7.95/2kg

Fumer: Midi Fortefog P Fumer £7.95 / 2 x 3.5g

Nopex tonic: £9.50/Ltr



More Quail have arrived

For anyone who missed out on our first flock of quail, we now have more available, but this is our last flock for 2015 so don't delay in placing your order!

You can call into the shop to see the quail or reserve some on our website.

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectID=9775088&ViewAction=ViewProduct

Smallholders Show

Sat 4th & Sun 5th July 2015 9.30am - 5pm

South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL

Now in it's 29th year, The Smallholders Show Ardingly is an independent family run show to find anything you could want for your smallholding, small farm or large garden. Whether you are an experienced Smallholder, enthusiastic gardener, or simply take a keen interest in rural life.

for more info visit: <http://smallholdersshows.co.uk/small-farm-training-group>



With best wishes

From all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarm.co.uk