

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

- Topics:**
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 - Add an extra drinker**
 - Cedar Beehives**

Summer Hols ...

August is always a tricky month for us to predict, the shop can be extremely busy at times during the school holidays with families spending time together to set up or **improve** their chicken runs or home farming projects, but it can also be quiet with families away on their summer holidays. We even managed to get away ourselves this summer, it was looking a little unlikely when Dan left us a few weeks before our holiday and our other cover was unavailable, but Dan came back to cover on our shop days and thanks to Andrew, Fred and Mike stepping in we found all was well when we got home.



The Bee Boles at Heligan

A summer holiday on a smallholding is always a tricky thing to do – with animals to care for, a shop to run and then as anyone who has an allotment or veg patch knows; no matter when you go away all the fruit and veg grown seems to need watering or picking just as you are away! So, it was a mad few days before we went to pick the plums, peaches and other fruit and then lots of jam and chutney making, blanching and freezing, but with all in place we managed to get away and have a lovely break! Thanks to Andrews watering we even had tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, runner beans and potatoes to pick when we got back.

When we got home we noticed how everything had overgrown! And with all the rain the pig pen now looks like one big wallow! So we plan to cut the hedges and do some weeding, luckily the cuttings make great treats for the pigs to enjoy and one advantage of the hedges overgrowing is that we have a lovely crop of blackberries to enjoy.

Our local weather forecast

August has been truly a grim month with almost three weeks of constant rain. However the first weeks of September do look better and more settled and with the Bexhill Festival of the Sea happening at the weekend (5th and 6th) that is a good thing. Its looking breezy but sunny so if you want to sample some great seafood or learn more about the sea and angling come along on Saturday and Sunday (www.bexhillseafestival.co.uk) - entry is free.

As for the rest of September is we will be heading into autumn and this sometimes brings settled periods interspersed with wet windy days. Lets hope we can look forward to an Indian summer and the signs are this is on the cards. Our bees will be preparing for winter and we're hoping for a good crop of Ivy pollen to help them through the early part of the autumn –and by the end of the month our chickens will be moulting so egg production will drop sharply.

Special Offers, New Products and Services

10 Bags of Woodchip for £35.00



Your Chicken and Duck pens may have become muddy during a wet August, so why not refresh the pen before winter and add a layer of woodchip?

**During September buy 10 bags of woodchip for £35.00 –
Normal price £3.95 per bag**

Only a few ducks for sale



Our call ducks are selling quickly so if you are thinking of a few ducks don't delay as we won't restock now until the spring

White, Chocolate and Black & White ducks (and drakes) available
Ducks can be purchased through our website for collection from the farm, or by simply calling into the shop

£30.00 each, reserve with a £5.00 deposit

24 Egg boxes



Stock up on your egg boxes with our special offer on 24 egg boxes for **just £2.60; Saving £1.00** Normal price 15pence each.

Available in Blue, Green and Beige

Loyalty Cards



Dont forget to bring along your loyalty card. Now available on all 5kg and 20kg sacks of feed

Buy 10 sacks and receive 1 free

With best wishes from all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarm.co.uk