

Achray Farm Gate – Autumn 2018 (Issue 5)

Welcome to Achray Farm on the route of The Great Trossachs Path. Please walk or ride through with care.

Updates – Autumn 2018

With works finally finished on the main farmhouse buildings, life has got a level easier & we have taken our first **rental bookings** (see below). As our creature comforts are reestablished, we are turning efforts to the barns for other animals. Re-roofed, watertight and with power, the goats will return to a warm and secure place for kidding in early 2019. In November, Nicola was at **Dartington** in Devon to visit Old Parsonage farm to refine our plans for the **dairy**. They are an example of integrated goat farming with ice cream production demonstrating how small-scale farming can combine quality produce whilst looking after the environment. All the buildings at Achray Farm are **listed** and so **renovations** are lengthy & done with traditional materials and craftspeople. Huge thanks to the National Park who have supported us with the **Built Heritage Grant** scheme. Part of the engagement will also be to present a traditional skills workshop to local young people.



As we manage to clear more and more waste from the site (we separate and recycle as much as possible) a large pile of rotten painted wood emerged as the community **bonfire** in early November, enjoyed by all. Our autumn planting has been 140 new **Honeyberry** bushes. These are relatively new to Scotland; bred for northern climes they should be ideal for our weather. Hopefully soon we will have our first healthy **blue fruits** tasting between a raspberry, blueberry and blackberry with a touch of elderberry and added 'zing'!

Accommodation

The "**Old Farmhouse**" is now available to book through **AirBnB**. Sleeping up to 6 with two bathrooms it has been sympathetically renovated throughout with a new kitchen and dedicated access & biomass heating.

History

There has been a farm, smallholding or settlement on this site for as long as there have been maps of Scotland. The census shows a population of shepherds, gamekeepers and water workers. The area was also popular with the 19th Century romantic poets and artists such as Walter Scott; the "Highland Funeral" by Guthrie was painted here. Information boards around the village explore many of these themes.

Our Plans

We are working to develop Achray Farm as a modern productive regenerative enterprise, growing to suit the conditions and following permaculture principles to meet and raise local food issues and awareness. We obviously have some considerable buildings to renovate into usable space (some working, some husbandry and some to provide accommodation) as we grow. We maintain an "Open Farm Gate" policy.

Follow our blog on www.AchrayFarm.co.uk or find us on Facebook or Instagram under AchrayFarm