

**Countrymen Chatter**  
*Keeping in touch on a regular basis*  
**Spring 2021**  
**Welcome to our spring newsletter!**



*Do you remember holding a buttercup under your chin to see if you liked butter?*

**Spring is finally here, the vaccines are being rolled out fast and we can finally see a real glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel! What a year we have all had. I now appreciate how cattle feel when they are turned out in spring, I can't wait until we are back to some sense of normality.**

We will now be producing newsletters quarterly to tie in with the seasons. If you have anything you would like to add in, please do let me know and please share this newsletter with your friends and family!

Club members will be getting a letter with dates for the next three months from April. These may be subject to change, but we will do our best to keep you up to date on what is happening. Please remember we will be following strict social distancing rules for the foreseeable future.

We are also welcoming new members. Please contact us if you would like to come and have a look round. We welcome all new enquiries.



We are just one of 12 farms nationwide offering Countrymen club sessions  
Countrymenuk.org

**You can keep in touch by email, telephone or post**

For anything related to the newsletter, or general enquiries

**Email:**

[jan@countrymenuk.org](mailto:jan@countrymenuk.org)

**Phone the Countrymen's office:**

**01963 210789 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)**

**Or contact the main office:**

**01963 210703**

**Post will reach us at:**

Countrymen Club,  
Rylands Farm, Boys Hill, Holnest  
Sherborne DT9 5PS



[www.facebook.com/countrymenuk](https://www.facebook.com/countrymenuk)

We hope as many of you as possible can access the fun on Facebook.

The page is called CountrymenUK Dorset.

**Emails can be sent to**

[jan@countrymenuk.org](mailto:jan@countrymenuk.org)

Have you heard this old country saying?

**March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers**

What do you call a sleeping bull?

A bull dozer!

## Spring has sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdies is!



On the farm, it has been a great relief to allow the geese back out on the pond. Recent government regulations have dictated that all domestic birds must be kept in covered yards to prevent the spread of bird flu. There was a case in Gillingham, so it did get rather close to us. The regulations have now been lifted.

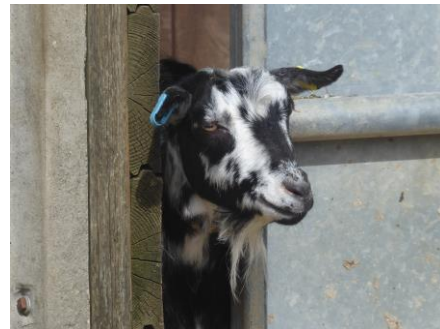
### A special birthday.



Dave celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with us recently. He delighted us all with a rendition of some of his own poetry.

### Stand and stare.

*A very poignant poem written by one of our countrymen.*



When I left home this morning  
I never had a care  
Until I saw some people  
Who stopped to have a stare.  
I wondered what was different,  
I'm sure I brushed my hair  
So what was not quite right today  
To make them stand and stare?  
I know I'll call out "Good morning"  
To those few over there,  
Will they move on, I doubt it  
They like to stand and stare.  
If I shout and move towards them  
You know, give them a scare  
They may all run down the street,  
Or they may just stand and stare.  
Should I let this upset me?  
Do I really care?  
No! it's just two or three  
That want to stand and stare.  
We need to make them understand  
To make them more aware,  
Then they may stop and think  
Before they stand and stare.  
We don't want your sympathy  
Just show us that you care.  
Is it too much to ask?  
Please don't stand and stare.  
Andy Pollard.



## A big project?

At the time of writing, we are patiently waiting for the arrival of the first lambs. It is always special to see them gambolling around the fields. Check out our FB page for updates

Fancy a restoration project? I saw this old workhorse at an auction a year or so ago. I think it might need a bit of work!



## Out and about.

Local farmers have been waiting for the ground to dry up before they start preparing the seed beds and planting the spring barley.

Grass fields will be harrowed and rolled and fertiliser will be helping the grass grow!



## We have a winner!

Some of you kindly bought one of our quizzes before Christmas. We had several correct answers and the winner (Woody's neighbour) was drawn out of a hat. They won a tub of celebrations.

## GALLERY



Nigel trialling a zoom singalong



Some of the younger club members have produced some great art work recently.



WE'RE READY FOR THE SPRING PLANTING!

## SPRING QUIZ!

- Complete the saying “In like a lion...”(out like a lamb)
- Who was warned “Beware the Ides of March”? (Julius Caesar)
- Who “Wandered lonely as a cloud”? (Wordsworth)
- Complete the saying “Mad as a March ....” (Hare)
- When is St. David’s Day? (March 1<sup>st</sup>)
- According to the well-known rhyme, in which month does the cuckoo arrive? (April)
- What type of tree is often found in churchyards? (Yew)
- Complete the saying “March winds and April showers...” (bring forth May flowers)
- What does N, P and K stand for (Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium)
- Why would you dip a newborn lamb’s navel with iodine (to prevent infections such as joint ill)?
- Complete the saying: “Ash before the oak...” (We will get a soak, oak before the ash we will get a splash)
- Which creatures are St Patrick said to have banished from Ireland? (snakes)



YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO HAVE FUN!



WAITING TO LAMB!





## The back page.

This page is for wives and carers of our countrymen.

We are here to support you all and sign post you to the right people if you need extra help. Have a look for a booklet entitled "If only I'd known that" by Susan Hartnell- Beavis. You can get a paper copy if you contact [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or it is available online to read. It contains lots of valuable information and links.

One of the group recently asked me if we could think of good days out for them to take their partners once lockdown has eased. Preferably places that don't involve too much walking, have disabled facilities and a café! My recommendation is the Somerset museum of rural life near Glastonbury. Please check when it reopens.

<https://swheritage.org.uk/somerset-rural-life-museum/>

Please let me know of any suggestions and we can share them here.



**Take care and stay safe. We hope to see you all very soon.**

## JUST FOR FUN!

Everyone is worried,  
When will we get our jab?  
we're all stuck in lockdown  
life has become so drab.

We should hand it to the farmers  
It would only take a week,  
They've had lots of practice  
Injecting all those sheep.

I reckon they could do it  
They've got some decent kit,  
If they line up all their hurdles  
They'll do it in one hit.

The ones who keep the cattle  
Well, they could use a crush,  
The dogs would sort the queue out  
There is no need to rush.

They may even change the needle  
Every hour or so,  
And they will keep on going  
Through wind and rain or snow.

And whilst we are together  
They could even check our teeth  
And fire up the shearing handsets  
And give us a trim beneath!

