

# LOCH ARTHUR FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Loch Arthur Camphill Community

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Newsletter - November 2014

Dear Friends,

We are just nearing the end of our second year in our wonderful new Farm Shop & Café. I could comment on a lot of different ways by which we might measure our success, our growth, our reaching and exceeding of targets but that's not what really stands out.

What stands out is;

- The way in which Loch Arthur Farm Shop and Café has become a destination, a meeting place, a focal point in people's social lives
- The incredible sense of Community that has grown in and around the shop and its many loyal customers and supporters
- The relationships that have formed between those working in the shop and café and those supporting us with such remarkable commitment

It has become a place that is much more than the sum of its parts!

Having said that, we have had a year of remarkable accolades and recognition of our work

- At the **Chamber of Commerce Business Awards** in March we were voted as Dumfries and Galloway's most '**Outstanding Social Enterprise**'
- At the **British Cheese Awards** in May our **Mature Farmhouse Cheese** was awarded a **Gold Medal** ... the only one in its category
- After our recent inspection by **Visit Scotland**, we were awarded a very rare **5 Star Rating** as a food tourism destination

These forms of recognition are not 'the real thing'. The real thing is what takes place day in and day out. However they are a wonderful affirmation of the quality of endeavour and fulfilment.

We have all revelled in the joys of the remarkable summer that we experienced this year ... and equally, we have revelled in the wondrous and abundant produce that has been grown in our gardens, greenhouses farms and fields.

What a joy to behold ... and how incredibly nourishing and what a remarkable first year for our very able new gardener, Rudy.

Our kitchen has also become well settled and productive with no end of treats and delights arriving daily on the deli and in the café; cakes, pies, scones, biscuits, chutneys and pickles. A lot of the success of our kitchen has been due to the calm & experienced presence of our dear Canadian friend, Paula, who has been guiding the kitchen for the past two years and who will, sadly for us, be returning to her homeland early next year. (Anyone out there who feels they could fill that gap should contact us soon)

So, once again, Christmas is looming and we look forward to welcoming you into the shop to browse, socialise, eat, drink, enjoy and revel in the wonderful offerings.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHEESE

We have decided, after difficult events earlier in the year, to cease production of Criffel and Kebbuck for the time being. This is a bit heart-breaking for us and very disappointing for many. However, we are now producing 2 new cheeses alongside our Farmhouse Cheese and Crannog; a firm, Dutch-style cheese called Killywhan and a simple, 'Feta-style' salad cheese. All can be found on our deli alongside our fine range of hand-picked cheeses from artisan UK and continental producers.....A cheese-lover's paradise!! Also all available by mail order (see below)

...Or try your hand at making your own... with our very popular home cheese-making kits.

- Mozzarella & Ricotta
- Crowdie
- Goat's cheese
- Halloumi

A perfect gift at just £20

## CHRISTMAS TREATS

All the classics ... hand-made in our own kitchen.

- ❖ **Christmas puddings** (now in 3 sizes and a wonderful, new, rich and fruity recipe in a handy re-useable pudding basin)
- ❖ **Fruit mincemeat** (the finest ingredients)
- ❖ **Mince pies** (you know how good they are!)
- ❖ **Biscuits, Stollen & other seasonal treats**

## CHARCUTERIE AND COLD MEATS

Those who have become regular consumers of our wonderful range of cooked meats have come to know their quality!

- Loch Arthur's own Organic Roast Beef & Ham
- Free range, air-dried hams and salamis

## A GOOD BOOK IS A TREASURE

We are amazed how popular our selection of books has become. How heartening it is that in this digital age, people still respect and appreciate the quality of a good book!

- ❖ **Magical Children's books**
- ❖ **Delightful Foodie & Recipe Books**
- ❖ **Interesting topical books**  
(...yes, a book is still a special gift!)

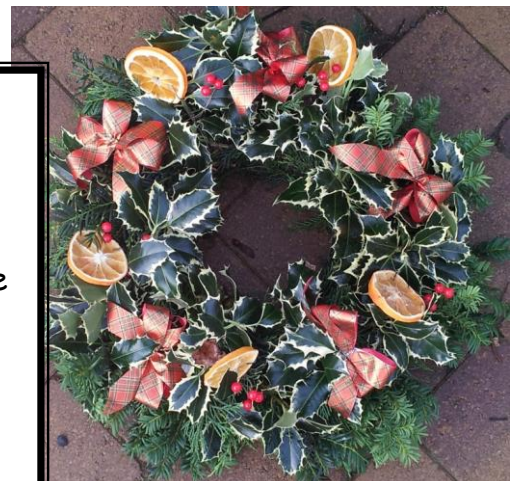
Our friends from Newtonairds Nursery will once again be selling their beautiful hand-crafted wreaths outside our shop starting from the 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Naturally decorated Christmas and Advent wreaths from £12.50**

available to order or to pick up on the day.

## A LITTLE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO DRINK

We are getting quite a following for our selection of **Organic, Biodynamic and ethically produced wines** from around the world. We also have Organic and local beers and ciders from the UK. We hope you enjoy exploring and sampling our choices. .... and James is usually on hand to advise and impart his extensive knowledge to you





## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ARTISAN AND FAIR TRADE CRAFTS

- ❖ Beautiful hand-made pottery
- ❖ Weavings and woodwork
- ❖ Fair trade crafts
- ❖ Beautiful Twister Necklaces
- ❖ Individual works of art and craft
- ❖ Toys, baskets, cards ...and much more.



### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FARM SHOP

- \*\* 6<sup>th</sup> December - Emily Smith  
"A Winter's Night" concert
  - \*\* 31st January - One Day  
Bread-Baking Course
  - \*\* 21<sup>st</sup> February - Artisan  
Cheese and Wine Tasting Event
- Please phone for further detail, booking or vouchers.

### LOCH ARTHUR CAFÉ

Beautiful, light, sunny surroundings.  
Warm, welcoming, peaceful & relaxing.  
Simple, hearty food made daily from finest organic ingredients. Classic organic coffees and teas served by people who love what they do..... why would you not want to spend time here??

**Our Mail Order and Christmas Gift selection** can be viewed on our website, [www.locharthur.org.uk](http://www.locharthur.org.uk) and ordered at our shop or by phone. We offer a range of selected gifts and hampers, to be collected from the Farm Shop or delivered and remember, we can make up and send special, personalised hampers of all sizes to suit your needs..... very popular.

.....or what about a **Gift Voucher** or a voucher for one of the wonderful events above (...a perfect gift idea).

### FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ....

... all Organic ...all as local as we can find ...all amazingly flavoursome and wholesome ... always plentiful, interesting and varied.

We are very proud of our selection of Organic fruit and vegetables and our following just grows and grows. So many people now choose to buy no other.

If you need a special order for Christmas, please let us know.

### HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BUSHEL BOXES

..... these very useful and reasonably priced reproduction wooden bushel boxes are great for storage, shelving, stacking or gifts.



**The Butchery** ... Douglas and Brian, with over 40 years experience between them, have formed a great team in the butchery. They are always happy to oblige and to give advice on various cuts and cooking techniques. This year we have continued our drive to support Organic farming by adding an Organic chicken supplier to our already brimming counter. Please place your orders soon for Christmas, especially if you want to be assured of certain cuts and sizes..... And don't miss our fantastic Organic Haggis, Black Pudding and Christmas Poultry (listed below). (Meat price list available on our website)

**Turkeys** ... two options this year

- **Organic** from 'Whitmuir Organics'  
West Linton.

at **£12.50/kg.**

- **Free Range** from 'Taste of Galloway'

at **£11.80/kg.**

3.5kg (8lb) - 9kg (20lb).

**Gammons, chipolatas,  
bacon, rib roasts and  
other special cuts** ... please

enquire at the butchery or  
call us on 01387 259669.

**Geese** ... these quality, hand-reared, free-range birds are grown right here in Galloway.

**£12.80/kg.**

They weigh between  
3.5kg (8lb) - 6kg (13lb).

**Ducks** ... hand-reared, free-range birds supplied by 'Gartmorn Farm'

**£9.20/kg.**

They weigh between  
2kg (4lb) - 3.5kg (8lb).

**SPECIAL MEAT AND POULTRY ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS** ...please place your orders by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December to avoid disappointment.

**Our opening hours over the festive period will be as follows:**

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> December:	OPEN 9am - 5pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December:	CLOSED
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	OPEN 9am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	OPEN 9am - 5.30pm
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 9am - 1pm
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec:	CLOSED
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> December:	OPEN 9am - 4pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 9am - 4pm

We will then be taking our annual break and the shop and cafe will re-open on  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

As always, we thank you all for your incredible on-going support and patronage. The relationships we form through the work of our 'Social Enterprise' are very important to the life of our Community and the income is much valued for our on-going development.

With best wishes,  
*Barry Graham*