

# NETWORK NEWS

The newsletter of the National Farm Attractions Network

Issue 62  
Autumn 2014



National  
Farm  
Attractions  
Network

## MK Dons Stadium to host 2015 NFAN Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition

THE biggest event in NFAN's calendar is back for 2015! Taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February at MK Dons Stadium (Doubletree by Hilton), Bletchley, Milton Keynes, this is one event you do not want to miss.

Next year's conference is set to be huge, with the main conference all taking place under one roof. You'll be inspired with informative talks, road test Mead Open Farm's latest attractions on the pre-conference tour, explore over 60 trade stands and maximise networking at the informal NFAN Awards Dinner. Combined with a trip to 360 Play and the adjoining Kids Play Day Nursery, as well as exclusive MK Dons Stadium tours, plenty has been packed into the event.

Especially created for farm attraction operators, the speaker programme

includes a keynote from Ian Piggott (founder of Open Farm Sunday), a review of three Christmas farm park models, an assessment on income potential from glamping and an overview of how and when you should invest in new attractions. In addition, hear from the 2015 NFAN Farm Attraction of the Year Winner, while a panel debate will provide an opportunity for delegates to ask the questions.

You can view the full programme and book places online at [www.farmattractions.net](http://www.farmattractions.net)



### Packed Programme

**NFAN Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition, MK Dons Stadium**

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February**

**Tour of 360 Play**

**Tour of Kids Play Day Nursery**

**MK Dons Stadium Tour**

**Informal Networking Supper**

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Pre-Conference Open Day at Mead Open Farm**

**Drinks Reception**

**Awards Dinner**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**Main Conference**

**Trade Exhibition**

Book online today, go to [www.farmattractions.net](http://www.farmattractions.net)

### More time for Trade Exhibition

As usual, the trade exhibition will run alongside the conference enabling you to visit the exhibition before the conference and during the breaks. At the request of delegates, however, we are also opening the trade exhibition on the night of the awards dinner for a drinks reception, providing more time to view the exhibits.

Trade suppliers attend from all over the UK and often give delegates exclusive special conference discount and offers. There's a huge variety of companies offering indoor/outdoor play equipment, ticketing systems, insurance services, go-karts, battery operated vehicles, toys, party supplies, marketing services, mascots and costumes and much more.

To book a trade stand, please visit the NFAN website.

### Book now for special accommodation rates

NFAN has arranged a limited number of rooms for NFAN Members at just £110 per room inc VAT in the same venue as the conference; The DoubleTree by Hilton, until 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Available on a first come, first served basis and early booking is advised. The DoubleTree by Hilton is a 4-star hotel built into the grounds of the MK Dons Stadium. It offers a host of excellent, modern facilities. Book online today.

### With thanks to our Gold Sponsors



## New members community forum



HAVE you used the new forum yet? Are you looking for advice or can you offer any? The new forum is a central place for members to interact and have discussions on different topics of mutual interest.

It's a great member benefit and topics so far have included items for sale, health & safety, marketing, requests for contacts, policy changes and much more. Access to the forum is password protected. Members can login using their existing username and password. If you have forgotten your password, please email [marketing@farmattractions.net](mailto:marketing@farmattractions.net)

Visit the forum today. Go to:  
[www.farmattractions.net/forum](http://www.farmattractions.net/forum)

## What's New e-newsletter, a great trade member benefit

ARE you a trade member? Do you have a new product or service you would like to promote to NFAN farm members? We're now seeking content for the autumn issue of the *What's New* e-newsletter.

Sent out to farm attraction members via email, you can include up to 100 words, image and link to your website.

If you would like to be included in this e-newsletter, please send details to Jodie Kimble [marketing@farmattractions.net](mailto:marketing@farmattractions.net) by mid-November.

## New investments for 2014

WE asked the NFAN Farm Attraction of the Year Winner's Cotswold Farm Park what their best investment of 2014 was. Kate Lord, Farm Park Manager, tells us...



### Cotswold Farm Park Wet Room

"In January 2014 we converted the end part of an existing lean-to into a 'wet room.'

The main benefits are having a designated area for cleaning contaminated equipment, while it is also a control point for staff who have been working on the farm to carry out a second cleansing (there is also a boot washer and foot disinfectant outside) before coming into the visitor environment. The room was designed to include a large stainless steel sink, a stainless steel work surface, staff hand washing and drainage areas. We have installed built-in dispensers from our cleaning company, which are connected to our plumbing system and dispense the correct amount of ready mixed cleaning product or sanitiser as required.

The walls and floor are all wash proof and enable us to rinse the room down regularly with the flexi-hose. A hole in the

## Welcome to new members

SEVERAL new members have joined the NFAN in recent months and we offer them all a very warm welcome. Take a look below to see the new members:

### FARM

Swithens Farm Shop Ltd., West Yorkshire  
Courtland Riding Stables & Farm, Hertfordshire  
Hasty's Adventure Park, Essex  
Farms for City Children, Devon  
Real Farm Holidays, Dumfries & Galloway  
Muddy Boots Fife, Fife  
Hatfield Park Farm, Hertfordshire  
Miniature Mayhem (Mucky Bucket Farm Ltd.), Hants.

### TRADE

Flame Concepts Digital Solutions, Cumbria  
Unique Catering & Management Services Ltd, Warks

## Visit NFAN at the Farm Business Innovation Show—Stand 762

THE NFAN are exhibiting again at the Farm Business Innovation Show at Olympia, London (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November) on stand **762**.

Our chairman, Matt Heast (Mead Open Farm), will be speaking at the event on the Industry Code of Practice.

Register for your FREE ticket at [www.thefarmingshow.co.uk](http://www.thefarmingshow.co.uk), using code FLY1.

We would love to see you at this show.

corner of the sloping floor leads to our drainage system which enables quick runoff during washing, but also means we can leave large items such as buckets/wellies/troughs in the room overnight to drain.

The equipment was all purchased from catering suppliers and is stainless steel, so easy to sanitise and keep clean. The project, including fittings, cost around £2,500.

We are continuing to develop the room and will be adding more draining racks and a place to hang mops to drip dry."

**Our thanks to Kate for this contribution to Network News**



## Code of Practice compliance

AT NFAN we continually encourage all operators to comply with the Code of Practice and as an organisation we remain committed to raising standards across the industry as a benefit to all operators. To take a look at our short video and for more information please go to

[www.farmattractions.net/nfan-resources/code-practice](http://www.farmattractions.net/nfan-resources/code-practice)



## Ice bucket challenge

WE'RE sure you haven't escaped hearing about the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' that has seen thousands worldwide having ice cold water tipped over their heads for charity.

Members of the public and celebrities alike joined in the summer craze on social media to help raise money to fight amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known in the UK as motor neurone disease, and millions of pounds have been donated to this cause plus others.

It also went viral through the farm attractions with NFAN members nominating each other and stepping up to the challenge.

It's a worthy cause and we'd like to thank all those members who did their bit to raise funds and help increase awareness of this debilitating disease and other charities. Some of the team at Hoo Farm in Shropshire (pictured below) were just some of those among our members to get involved.



## Open Day sells out weeks ahead

STOP PRESS!

Despite raising the attendance limit TWICE, the November Open Day at Marsh Farm, Essex sold out two weeks before the event, with a turnout of **150 people!**



Open Days are always a great success, perfect for networking with fellow operators and a chance to view other attractions.

The 2015 Open Day events schedule will be announced soon. Don't forget, early booking is advised as places are limited.

## The impact of the last budget

Have you seen the recent advice from Chartered Accountants Haines Watts on the impact of the last budget? Visit [www.farmattractions.net/nfan-resources](http://www.farmattractions.net/nfan-resources)

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## NFAN committee

Chairman

**Mr. Matthew Heast**  
**Mead Open Farm**  
Tel. 01525 852954

Vice-Chairman

**Mr. Colin Evans**  
**Cantref Adventure Farm**  
Tel. 07977 120533

Treasurer

**Mr. Barry Davies**  
**Davies & Co.**  
Tel. 01536 524808

**Mr. Andrew Wolfe**  
**Willows Farm Park**  
Tel. 01727 822106

**Mr. Neil Milbourn**  
**Walby Farm Park**  
01228 573056

**Mr. Steve Vinden**  
**Odds Farm Park**  
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**Mr. Richard Waring**  
**Rand Farm Park**  
Tel. 01673 858904

**Mrs. Louise Possegger**  
**Springbarn Farm Park**  
Tel. 07711 069555

**Mr. Richard Powell**  
**Park Hall Countryside Experience**  
Tel. 01691 671123

**Mr. Phil Pickersgill**  
**Innovative Leisure**  
Tel: 07860 868104

**Ms. Lesley Knight**  
**Rupert Oliver's Ideas Factory**  
Tel: 07762 124325

*All general enquiries should be directed to the NFAN office using the contact details above.*

## NFAN volunteer regional representatives

### North East

Ann Darlington, Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester, County Durham, DH7 0TA  
Email: [ann@hallhillfarm.co.uk](mailto:ann@hallhillfarm.co.uk) Tel. 01388 731333

### North West

Neil Milbourn, Walby Farm Park, Walby Grange, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4QL  
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### West Midlands

Frank Cartwright, Ray's Farm Country Matters, Billingsley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PF  
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### South East

Liz Strain, Hand Made Places. Email: [liz.strain@handmadeplaces.co.uk](mailto:liz.strain@handmadeplaces.co.uk)

### South West

Sandra Palmer-Snellin, Farmer Palmer's Farm Park, Wareham Road, Organford, Poole, BH16 6EU  
Email: [info@farmerpalmers.co.uk](mailto:info@farmerpalmers.co.uk) Tel: 01202 622022

### Scotland

Gillian Alexander, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Alloway by Ayr, KA7 4LD, Scotland  
Email: [gillzi1@aol.com](mailto:gillzi1@aol.com) or [info@headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](mailto:info@headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk) Tel. 01292 441210

## Helpline - free advice for NFAN members

**PLEASE remember that our experts earn their livings through the expertise you are using. Please limit your free calls to one per annum. Thereafter, the experts can advise you further, subject to their terms of business. You will find them all prepared to offer special rates for NFAN members.**

### Planning legislation and business rates

Barry Davies, Davies & Co. (Chartered Surveyors)  
Tel. 01536 524808 Fax. 01536 415095  
Email: [info@daviesandco.co.uk](mailto:info@daviesandco.co.uk) [www.daviesandco.co.uk](http://www.daviesandco.co.uk)  
Specialising in planning legislation incl., change of use, enforcement notices, advertising boards and business rates appeals.

### Health & Safety/Environmental Health Guidance

Ray Hipkin, Health & Safety Practitioner, 3 Park Lane, Kingston Blount, Oxfordshire, OX39 4SL. Tel. (01844) 353407. Email: [randkhipkin@btinternet.com](mailto:randkhipkin@btinternet.com)  
[www.rayhipkin.co.uk](http://www.rayhipkin.co.uk)

### Exclusive insurance scheme for NFAN members

Marsh and Company Insurance Brokers  
Contact Steve Taylor  
Tel. 0116 204 3415 or 0116 204 3400. Fax 0116 204 3420.  
Email: [staylor@marshcompany.co.uk](mailto:staylor@marshcompany.co.uk) [www.marshcompany.co.uk](http://www.marshcompany.co.uk)  
Providers of a specialist, competitive insurance package covering all your requirements, including unique cover extensions such as business interruption following closure of premises by a competent authority for E.coli outbreaks at your premises or in the vicinity. We offer a site survey and full assessment of your insurance requirements.

### Catering

Turpin Smale Catering Consultants  
Contact Chris Brown  
Email: [chris.brown@turpinsmale.co.uk](mailto:chris.brown@turpinsmale.co.uk)  
Advice on all matters catering including help on increasing sales, improving standards and making margins. Turpin Smale helps farm attractions get serious about their cafés, kiosks and kids parties with solid, practical advice. For more details visit [www.turpinsmale.co.uk](http://www.turpinsmale.co.uk)

### Accountancy, taxation and financial services

Haines Watts  
Contact Ben Young  
Tel. 01536 483513 Email: [nfan@hwca.com](mailto:nfan@hwca.com) [www.hwca.com](http://www.hwca.com)  
Chartered accountants and business advisors specialising in advising and supporting owner managed businesses.