

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Stone District Agricultural Society helps The Country Trust**

The Stone and District Agricultural Society has recently given a generous donation towards the work of educational charity, The Country Trust. The cheque will be presented by Stone Chairman, Antony Key and his wife Ruth during a visit by children from Burnwood Community Primary School in Chell Heath, Stoke-on-Trent to their goat farm at Hollywood Cottage, near Stone on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Antony said: 'The Society has an annual raffle to raise money for the Chairman's chosen charity. I am very happy to be supporting the Country Trust which gives children the opportunity to visit farms. By helping in this way, the members of our district can appreciate the needs of others and raise awareness of the good work of various charities like this one.'

During the course of the day children from Burnwood Community Primary School will learn about milk production from farmer John Millington at Hardiwick Farm on the Sandon Estate. They will see cows milked and Joseph Heler Cheese, will supply some award-winning cheese from their dairy at Laurels Farm, near Nantwich for the children to take home. John Millington said: *'We get great pleasure from working with The Country Trust. I believe we teach children best by giving them hands on experiences that stay with them, and the Country Trust enables this to happen. Often children arrive and comment immediately on the 'country smell', but at the end of the day do not want to leave, or ask when they can return with their families. If we can teach them about food production, animal care and the countryside stewardship at the same time, then everyone wins.'*

David Wells of Joseph Heler Cheese said: *'The farms and the cows that supply the milk for our cheese are the first and one of the most important parts of the cheese-making process at Heler's. We love working with The Country Trust who do such a great job in showing children a real 'link' between the farm and the finished cheeses they have in their fridges at home.'*

The children will spend their afternoon at Hollywood Cottage which supplies meat to local shops and restaurants.

Burnwood Primary School is in one of the most deprived areas of the country and children from the school have enjoyed numerous countryside experiences with The Country Trust since 2006. Headteacher Diane Herbert said: *'Many Children from Burnwood Community School may never have the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the working countryside without the help of The Country Trust and the landowners who host these events. We are grateful to them for making this happen and supporting our school in gaining the Food For Life Award. We hope this visit to Hardiwick Farm and Hollywood Cottage helps broaden the children's understanding of the welfare of animals and where we get good food from.'*

The charity's regional manager Cathy Evans said: *'It was a lovely surprise to receive money from an organisation so closely associated with our work. I often take children from primary schools in less privileged urban areas on farm visits around Staffordshire, in order to learn how our food is produced and this gift will help to fund these trips in the Stone area.'*

If you would like to know more about the work of the Country Trust or wish to make a donation, please visit our website. Go to [www.countrytrust.org.uk](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk)

**-Ends-**

### **Photo opportunities**

Presentation of the cheque will take place at **13.00 hours** at the following address:

Hollywood Cottage  
Uttoxeter Rd  
Stone  
Staffs  
ST15 8RA

For more information please contact Cathy Evans on [ce@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:ce@countrytrust.org.uk) or call 07808821310

### **About The Stone and District Agricultural Society**

- The Stone and District Agricultural Society is a district of the Staffordshire and Birmingham Agricultural Society which owns and operates the County Showground at Stafford and puts on two major farming Shows, the Staffs County Show and the English Winter Fair.
- The purpose of the society is to promote farming and encourage best farming practice. The Districts encourage farmers to enter crops and livestock into competitions between themselves which leads to improvement. Members also meet fellow farmers socially such as at the recent garden party, kindly hosted by John Millington and his partner Janty Milloy.

### **About The Country Trust**

- The Country Trust is a national educational charity (registered with the Charity Commission, no. 1122103) that has been organising and conducting educational day and residential visits to the countryside for 30 years.
- The Trust's services enable schools throughout the country's most disadvantaged urban areas to provide high quality educational excursions to farms, estates, woodlands, nature reserves and rural businesses for c.30,000 children annually.
- The Country Trust makes no charge for its services and depends on the support of generous donors and a network of part time regional managers, hosts and volunteers.
- In 2014, more than 2,000 primary school children, together with their teachers and adult helpers from schools in areas such as Telford, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent took part in 100 day trips in the West Midlands Region.
- With the help of people living and working in the countryside, children enjoy learning through experiencing activities in the great outdoors. The form of expeditions is a flexible, but carefully planned programme that is safe, educational and fun. Topics link into many different aspects of the curriculum, such as science, geography, history, mathematics and literacy. Children also improve their listening skills, and ability to cooperate with others in a team.
- To visit a farm and see lambs born; build a den in a forest; see cows milked or walk through a field of golden wheat has a profound and lasting effect on youngsters who may have never left the city before. They realise that the world is bigger and quite different from where they live and this helps to reduce the gap in understanding between urban and rural dwellers.
- The more exposure urban children can get to the world outside the cities the more likely they are to care about what happens to the environment and the rural economy that supports and conserves it. The countryside is above all else a place of work, not a huge theme park. With this in mind, the Trust's excursions are designed to present a balanced view of the countryside in all its guises.

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