

PRESS RELEASE
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Sticking the boot in for charity!

Chelmsford College students support the work of education charity The Country Trust by making boot jacks for primary children.

Students from Chelmsford College, Essex have been busy handcrafting wooden boot jacks for primary school children from Suffolk. They will be presented to national education charity, The Country Trust and Farmer Alice Pawsey from Shimpling Park Farm, Suffolk on **Monday 9 May 2016** at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford.

The boot jacks, made by the level 1 carpenters and decorated by the Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, will be used by young children to help them to remove muddy boots and wellies easily and without the need to get their hands dirty after farm visits.

Alice Pawsey is one of the Country Trust's network of farmers who welcome children onto their farms and provide amazing hands on opportunities to discover food, farming and the countryside. Alice has lots of school visits to Shimpling Park Farm every year and the children often have education sessions in her converted barn, where they need to remove their muddy boots before going in. Alice says *"I am so grateful to the students and staff from Chelmsford College for making these wonderful boot jacks. They are a simple little device which will make life so much easier for children attending visits to my farm."*

Coach drivers will also be delighted as children have to change out of their muddy boots before getting back on board for the return journey to school. The students have made a total of 30 boot jacks which have been donated free of charge to The Country Trust, with an offer to make more for other host farmers. Wendy Johnson, Curriculum Team Leader in Carpentry & Joinery at Chelmsford College was delighted to be able to help. Wendy says *"When I was contacted by The Country Trust, I knew this was something my students could help with and would enjoy making. It is great to be able to donate something practical and helpful to these wonderful farm visits"*.

Jill Attenborough, Chief Executive at The Country Trust added *"This is the first time we have received a donation like this and I know the boot jacks will be very well used. It is fantastic that students from Chelmsford College have been able to support our charity in making a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children."*

If you would like to know more about the work of The Country Trust or become a supporter, please go to www.countrytrust.org.uk

-Ends-

Editors' notes

The boot jacks will be presented to Farmer Alice Pawsey and Jill Attenborough, CEO of The Country Trust by students from Chelmsford College on:

Date: Monday 9 May 2016 **Time:** 10.30am **Venue:** Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7PX

For more information, please email Phil Hesmondhalgh at phesmondhalgh@countrytrust.org.uk or call 01245 608363.

About The Country Trust

- Founded in 1978, The Country Trust is the leading national educational charity that brings the working countryside alive for those children least able to access it, whether through disadvantage or disability. Every year we support hundreds of volunteer farmers and landowners to welcome thousands of disadvantaged children from all backgrounds and faiths onto their farms.
- The Country Trust has 3 main strands of activities:
 1. Farm Discovery - day visits to real working farms
 2. Countryside Discovery - residential visits to the countryside
 3. Food Discovery - yearlong programmes exploring every aspect of growing, cooking and even selling food
- The Country Trust focuses on working with the following:
 - Primary age children from schools with an above average percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals
 - Schools catering for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - Looked After Children and Pupil Referral Units
- In 2015 The Country Trust enabled
 - 17,961 children to go on a farm or estate visit
 - 6,600 children took part in farm led assemblies and food and farming workshops
 - 860 children took part in Food Discovery Programmes
 - 883 children went on 29 Residential visits
 - 415 children with Special Educational Needs took part in Countryside Adventure days in Hampshire.
- The Country Trust currently works with schools in and around London, East Anglia, Hampshire, Birmingham and the East and West Midlands, Yorkshire, the North West, North Wales and Northumberland.

What we do

- We make it easy and safe for children to visit farms and for farmers to share their knowledge and passion.
- We bring urban and rural communities together, increasing communication, respect and understanding of the countryside as a place of possibilities but also a place on which livelihoods depend.
- We facilitate children's cultural understanding about the life and work of the British countryside through visits and talking with those who live and work there.
- We enable children to experience the wonder of the countryside:- open space, breathing space, the people who live and work there, habitats, farm animals and wildlife.
- We enable children to understand the possibilities of food, what a variety there is, why and how it grows, who grows it and where, what it tastes like, why all this matters.
- We introduce adult role models who nurture and take responsibility for crops and animals. People who often work in strong family units.
- We bring two interdependent but disconnected communities together for a stronger future. Our school community includes many urban children and a significant number of children from ethnic minorities.
- We can help schools to meet the new Ofsted common inspection framework which now includes a judgement on 'personal development, behaviour and welfare'. Ofsted states that the first-hand experiences of learning outside the classroom can help to make subjects more vivid and interesting for pupils and enhance their understanding. It can also contribute significantly to pupils' personal, social and emotional development.

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