

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE USE
04/01/2018



Charity's work with refugee children on BBC Countryfile

A national educational charity's project to bring newly arrived refugee children to the British countryside is to be showcased on BBC Countryfile.

This weekend's episode, filmed in the stunning Ribble Valley, Lancashire, showcases the work of The Country Trust – a charity that works with schools and farmers from across the country to bring food, farming and the countryside alive for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The episode filmed at Lower Gazegill Organic Farm in Riminton, Lancashire, features families who have been newly placed in the Bradford area from Sudan.

Viewers will see presenter Anita Rani join Country Trust Farm Visit co-ordinators and farm staff as they give families a tour of the farm and enjoy the snow for the first time.

The project aims to provide positive experiences to families who may have had traumatic or chaotic experiences, while introducing them to the best of the British countryside.

Chief Executive of The Country Trust Jill Attenborough said: "We are absolutely delighted that our work with vulnerable families is being given such prominence, and so grateful to the farmers who welcome children onto their farms.

"We are very proud to be bringing opportunities to children and families that have such a positive impact on health and wellbeing, that help to build bridges between communities, and give children rich, happy memories to share with family, friends and teachers, stimulating language and building self-esteem.

"2018 marks our 40th anniversary as a charity working with schools, teachers and schoolchildren from across Britain and it is great that our work as a leading educational provider has been recognised."

The episode will be broadcast on Sunday January 7th, 2018 at 6.30pm on BBC One.

The scheme has been running since the summer thanks to sponsorship from the ethical interpretation and translation community interest company, Enable2. Lower Gazegill Organic Farm is an award winning 250-acre family-run agricultural enterprise specialising in raw milk, organic meat and organic herbs. The visits are supported by NHS provider Bevan Healthcare.

The Country Trust works with over 25,000 children a year, primarily working directly with schools, educating the most disadvantaged children in Britain. The charity gives them access to the countryside through visits to real working farms, delivering year-long Food Discovery Programmes and offering residential visits.

The charity hopes to transform their understanding of the countryside and how our food is produced, helping them to become responsible consumers of the future who care about their own and the wider environment. Crucially the aim is also for children to have fun and build happy memories.

This project with refugees and their families is an exciting extension of the Country Trust's work and gives farmers a great opportunity to share friendship and knowledge with some of the most vulnerable in society. The charity and Enable2 are now working together with the hope of expanding the programme to more families across a greater area.

Details about the upcoming programme can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09m4x61>

To find out more about the work of The Country Trust including how to become a supporter, a host farmer or enrol a school for visits, please go to www.countrytrust.org.uk

-Ends-

Editors' notes

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 2016 The Country Trust enabled
 - 18,079 children to go on a farm or estate visit
 - 6,650 children took part in farm led assemblies and food and farming workshops
 - 1,113 children took part in Food Discovery Programmes
 - 918 children went on 29 Residential visits
 - 361 children with Special Educational Needs took part in Countryside Adventure days in Hampshire.
- The Country Trust currently works with schools in and around London, Essex, 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.

Chief Executive: Jill Attenborough

TEL 07760 171 146

PR: Corinne Caddy

TEL: 07947 388 956

Head Office: Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 7PX

E-Mail: info@countrytrust.org.uk

Web: www.countrytrust.org.uk

Lower Gazegill Farm: 01200 44 55 19 Lower Gazegill Farm, Cross Lane, Rimington, BB7 4EE
www.gazegillorganics.co.uk

Enable2. Telephone 01274 753 030 Westend Mill, Sunbridge Rd, Bradford BD1 2HA www.enable2.com

Bevan Healthcare: Telephone 01274 322 400 Bevan House Primary Care Centre, 14 Piccadilly, Bradford, BD1 3LS www.bevanhealthcare.nhs.uk

High Resolution images are available, please email ccaddy@countrytrust.org.uk Please credit The Country Trust