



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RHUBARB FARM

More information can also be found on the Rhubarb Farm website www.rhubarbfarm.co.uk and on the Rhubarb Farm Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rhubarb-Farm/222740847792024>

Rhubarb Farm is a horticultural social enterprise set up and registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC No. 7059841) on 28th October 2009. It started operating on long-disused allotment land in January 2011.

It provides employment, work placements, training and volunteering opportunities for people with long-term needs - unemployed, ex-offenders, NEETS (young people not in education or training), drug and alcohol misusers, school children struggling with their behaviour at school, ex-servicemen with PTSD, older people who want to stay fit and engaged, people who have physical or mental ill health, or learning disability in the Mansfield, Bassetlaw and Bolsover District Council areas. A growing number of volunteers are now paying placements, because of high support needs.

We take school students on alternative placements once or twice per week, to engage them in learning, a work discipline and positive, purposeful activities. Their response is usually very positive and they do well with the high levels of support that we give them - usually one-to-two or three support.

Everyone who comes is called a volunteer, to acknowledge their value and the economic contribution they make, no matter what their needs or abilities. About 50 volunteers a week come to the Farm.

We provide therapeutic outdoor activities through the organic growing of fruit and vegetables in a safe and supervised surrounding. This is the core means of engagement for volunteers, but they are the reason for our existence. Support needs, no knowledge of growing and some turnover of volunteers means that we suffer 'therapeutic loss' whereby our crop production is much less with 75 volunteers than if just a handful of knowledgeable people farmed the same piece of land.

Rhubarb Farm has 14 staff, 60% of whom originally came to the Farm as volunteers. All staff at the Farm take part in all aspects of work on site - horticulture, crafts, cookery, construction, quiet activities, training and events. We are a small team and all need to pull together, helping each other on a wide variety of tasks.

Rhubarb Farm is based on 2 acres of land in Langwith village, situated at the end of Hardwick Street, Langwith, NG20 9DR.