Shop expands in family's £1m quest



CHRISTMAS CHEERS: Charlotte and Ben Hollins, from Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, are expanding their farm shop to accommodate local produce in time for Christmas.

Picture: Shaun Smith

A BROTHER and sister team have expanded the range of produce on offer at their farm shop. Charlotte and Ben Hollins, who aim to raise £1 million by next year to save Fordhall Farm, near Market Drayton, from being sold for development, now sell pork sausages, free-range eggs, fresh locally grown vegetables, jams, speciality cheeses and organic ice cream.

The shop, which was set up in 2004 when volunteers helped to renovate an old cattle shed, also offers advice on healthy eating and has a designated area promoting The Fordhall Project — established to prevent their family home from being lost to development.

Charlotte, aged 23, and Ben, 21, who took over the running of the farm following the death of their father in January, have been inundated with offers of help since they launched the initiative, and have now raised £20,000. Ben said: "To maintain full traceability we only sell meat from our own livestock. Fresh meat is available every week and there is always frozen meat. "Meat is slaughtered and butchered locally."