

TURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2006

Farming siblings cook up a storm on TV



Brian Turner, Charlotte Hollins, Ainsley Harriot, Ben Hollins and Lesley Waters during the show

BBC showcase for county produce

Shropshire farming siblings Ben and Charlotte Hollins hooked up with TV chef Ainsley Harriot when they appeared on his popular cooking show Ready, Steady Cook.

And Ben and Charlotte, of Fordhall Farm, near Market Drayton, took along plenty of county produce to the recording in London.

They were teamed up with chefs Lesley Waters and Brian Turner and cooked up a storm by using steak and bacon from the farm and local organic vegetables including horseradish from Childs Erccall.

They also took along some produce

from neighbouring Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Fordhall project manager, Sophie Hopkins, who went on the trip to the studio, said the winner was top secret.

"They both had a lovely selection of organic and local food and amazed the crowds with the culinary delights they whizzed up with a little assistance from Lesley and Brian," she added.

"Everyone was very welcoming and really interested in Fordhall."

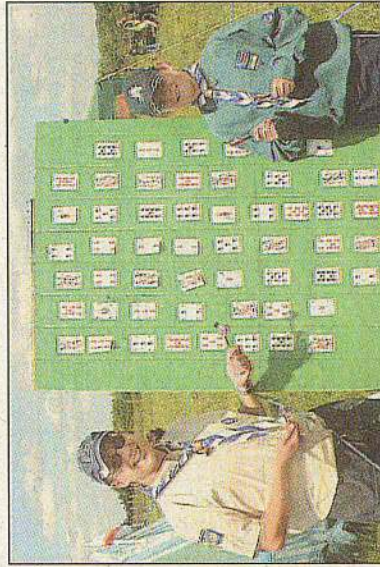
The Hollins' have built up a thriving business from the farm, but faced eviction last month unless they raised £800,000.

They set up the Fordhall Community Land Initiative to sell £50 shares to the public and managed to meet the deadline.

Miss Hopkins said: "Following the show we managed to leave with an apron each for Ben and Charlotte and a few signed share certificates."

"The food was so delicious and we all had a really great day. Ben now has to come up with better excuses to avoid being in the kitchen."

For further details about Fordhall, to buy shares or find out more about the project log on to www.fordhall-farm.com or call (01630) 638696.



Market Drayton Scout Leader Gareth Genner is pictured with Scout Andrew Haycock in front of the card game the Scout's organised for Fordhall Farm Fun Day.

AVS
Market Drayton Scout Group lent a helping hand to Fordhall Farm earlier this month when they raised almost £50 during an open day at the farm.

The scout group had three fundraising games including a dart game, buzzer game and a whack the rat - all of which proved popular with visitors.

Scout leader Gareth Genner said the group raised £48 for the farm from the day.

14-7-06