

Farm siblings set a TV cookery bat

By Vickie Woodward

The brother and sister team behind a Shropshire farm saved following a £800,000 campaign are to appear on a hit television show.

Charlotte and Ben Hollins, of Fordhall Farm, near Market Drayton, are set to face each other on BBC Two's Ready Steady Cook. The pair will be cooking up a storm with celebrity chefs on opposing teams when the show is filmed later this month, and both said they were "very excited" and looking forward to it a lot.

The Hollins' had built up a thriving business from a run down farm, but faced eviction unless they raised £800,000 by July 1.

They set up the Fordhall Community Land Initiative and sold shares in the society.

After receiving support from all over the country, including from a number of celebrities, the pair were delighted to reach their target shortly before the deadline day.

Future

Now a month on, they are looking to the future, and embarking on plans to open Fordhall Farm to the public as an educational resource.

And the farm has recently expanded with the birth of Ben Hollins' newest family of pigs.

Miss Hollins, 23, said: "Local businesses continue to offer support and assistance and most recently this has resulted with a new lawn mower generously donated by Market Drayton Mower Centre."

"It is not the only local business to back the initiative - Market Drayton Chamber of Trade has also bought two non-profit making shares in the scheme, recognising that the scheme has an economic value to the area through increasing tourism."

"As Fordhall Farm has been put into community ownership forever it is great to see local people taking an interest in its future."

The aim of Fordhall Farm is to promote sustainable farming and healthy living.



Ben and Charlotte Hollins are set to put Fordhall Farm on the map as they appear on TV's Ready Steady Cook.