

Farm seeking volunteers



Community development officer Hannah Saunders is ready to help out

Site wins Lotto funding

Residents are being invited to get their fingers dirty after Big Lottery Funding was awarded to a Shropshire farm for a community garden.

A three-year grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food programme has enabled the Fordhall Farm Community Land Initiative, near Market Drayton, to set up a community garden to encourage people to go along and be a part of the growing scheme, to learn to garden and feel more confident about growing fruit and vegetables.

Bex Syrett, the gardening co-ordinator, said: "Thanks to money from the local food programme, we have an opportunity to set up and establish an organic growing area on the farm.

"We shall be growing vegetables on four raised beds in the picnic area, where there

By Suzanne Roberts

will also be fruit bushes planted and an orchard in the pig area.

"The focus of the project is to encourage people of all ages to grow more of their own food, whether in pots on their window sills, back garden or allotments.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to be part of this exciting project and it really doesn't matter if you know nothing about gardening, as here is your chance to come along and give it a go."

Fordhall Farm is also holding a volunteer weekend on July 3 and 4. Volunteers can help with a range of projects including improving access for the community around the farm or working on conservation projects. Call (01630) 638696 for details.