

# DRAYTON

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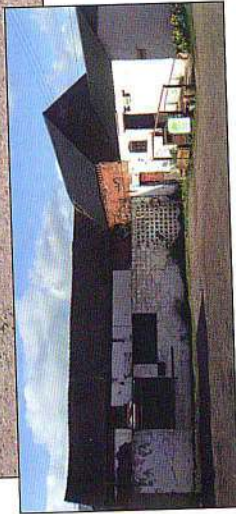
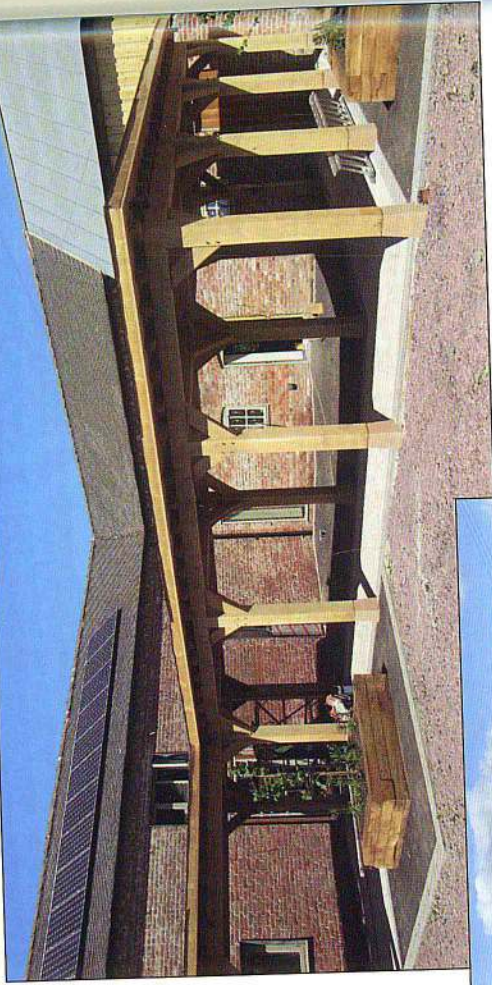
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in Market Drayton & Adderley**

Cover photo courtesy of Marian Wade

## FORDHALL FARM OPENS NEW BUILDING



The transformation at Fordhall Organic Farm is staggering. From a run-down farm that was saved from development in 2006, to a community facility which attracts tourists from across the globe, Fordhall really has turned a corner and we invite you to come and see it for yourselves. **Our new building is now OPEN!**

You may remember when Ben and I first called out for help over 5 years ago. Our tenanted family farm was due to be sold for development and our family were being evicted. But we were stubborn, and convinced that Fordhall could be made into a local asset once again. With the support of everyone in Market Drayton and the thousands of shareholders who eventually purchased Fordhall (through the £50 share scheme), the farm is now secured for the benefit of the community, forever.

Last year, the Fordhall Community Land Initiative (the community trust that owns the farm) launched an appeal to raise funds for the renovation of the Old Dairy. This building had

once housed cheese rooms, yoghurt making rooms and more, when our late father, Arthur Hollins, ran a dairy enterprise at the farm. Ironically considering the farms' neighbours, Muller Dairy, our father was one of England's first yoghurt producers. But this enterprise ended in the 1970's after which the farm became an organic beef farm and has remained so ever since.

The old buildings had progressively deteriorated and the trust decided it was time that something was done. Last year an appeal was launched and £100,000 was raised in two weeks through the generosity of the 8000 members who own the farm worldwide. Matched with a loan from the Regional Development Agency and the trusts own reserves, a renovation project began last November.

Working closely with Seven Architecture, WCP Associates and Shingler Construction, the team have turned the crumbling Old Dairy building into a beautiful and functional asset to the farm. Comprising of new classroom space for the many school visits, a new farm shop for Ben, the tenant farmer, offices for the community trust and a much awaited local food tearoom, to feed all the hungry visitors. Using natural building materials throughout, the construction of this