



Community Owned Farm Celebrates Movement as part of Ten Year Celebrations

Britain's first community-owned farm will celebrate its 10th anniversary by joining forces with more than 5,000 businesses across the UK to promote the positive impact community businesses have on the local economy and quality of life of its residents.

The Community Business Weekend on July 2 and 3 will see a host of inspiring events across the country promoting a sector worth £1bn and employs almost 27,000 people.

Britain's first community-owned farm was established after a David & Goliath-style battle by a brother-and-sister team to raise £800,000 to buy the tenancy.

Charlotte and Ben Hollins launched a campaign to save their late father's legacy at Fordhall Farm in Shropshire. Now 10 years on they are so grateful to the thousands of shareholders and volunteers who supported their cause they are key supporters of the drive to grow community businesses across the UK.

The farm which has proved a massive success story with a new farm shop and cafe added to the facilities during the last decade will be open for the July weekend.

"The support and encouragement we had from so many people over the years still never ceases to amaze and humble me," said Charlotte.

"It was so important to us at the time that we saved the farm for the community and now to see it thriving with tourists, volunteers, youth groups and other visitors is exactly what we hoped for.

"We certainly hope this weekend will show people what can be achieved and that each contribution, no matter how small, makes a massive difference and can improve life for all. If there is a further contribution that we can make as part of our legacy it is to encourage more communities to believe they can save and launch businesses together in their local area and take ownership of them to have a say in their own future."

Community Business Weekend is being supported by Power to Change, the organisation launched to support and help grow community businesses with £100m of Lottery funding,

"These businesses return control to the community and can have long-lasting benefits for health and well being," explained a spokesperson for Power to Change.

"What is even more encouraging is we have seen real growth in this sector with more community businesses being established adding up to £1.9billion worth of assets across the UK.



“This is why it is important now to let people see what is being done in terms of social cohesion and inspiring pride in an area and a sense of purpose.”

Community businesses are owned and run by the community with the main aim of helping to bring people together to improve their local area.

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