

Land for a Healthy Future – nurturing people and planet



Leave a gift in your Will and be part of our story

Fordhall Organic Farm – our journey so far...

The Fordhall story has evolved over the last 100+ years, from Arthur Hollins pioneering organic farming and yoghurt production, to the present day Fordhall which is a thriving, bustling diverse community resource, centred on the land which feeds us and its wildlife.

With a gift in your Will we can continue to build something truly amazing.

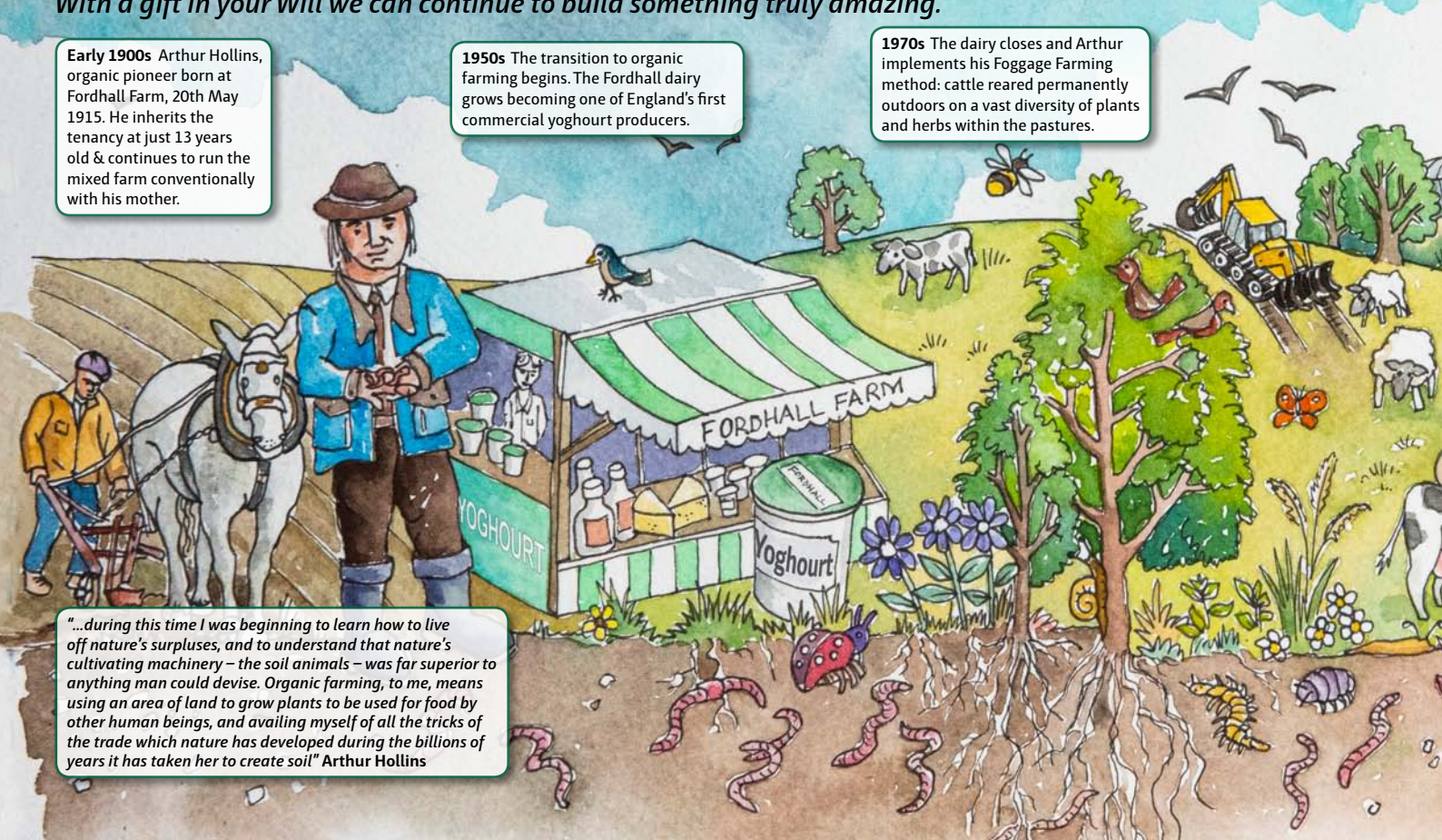
Early 1900s Arthur Hollins, organic pioneer born at Fordhall Farm, 20th May 1915. He inherits the tenancy at just 13 years old & continues to run the mixed farm conventionally with his mother.

1950s The transition to organic farming begins. The Fordhall dairy grows becoming one of England's first commercial yoghurt producers.

1970s The dairy closes and Arthur implements his Foggage Farming method: cattle reared permanently outdoors on a vast diversity of plants and herbs within the pastures.

"...during this time I was beginning to learn how to live off nature's surpluses, and to understand that nature's cultivating machinery – the soil animals – was far superior to anything man could devise. Organic farming, to me, means using an area of land to grow plants to be used for food by other human beings, and availing myself of all the tricks of the trade which nature has developed during the billions of years it has taken her to create soil" Arthur Hollins

1990s A legal battle ensues after the private landlord serves eviction notices to the Hollins family to enable him to sell the land for industrial development. The farm falls into disrepair.



2003-2004 Arthur's children, Ben (19) and Charlotte (21) take on the fight to save the now run down farm, with no funds and barely any livestock. A new 18-month tenancy is granted 24-hours before the family is due to be evicted.

2005 Arthur Hollins dies, four months before his 90th birthday, but a campaign is beginning to gain traction to help save Fordhall Farm and his life's work.

2006 With their innovative community share issue embraced by the media, Fordhall Farm is saved from development and placed into community-ownership in perpetuity. The new 'Fordhall Community Land Initiative' flourishes and Ben becomes a tenant farmer to the community.

2007-2011 Community and farm come together; with school visits, community events, free farm trails, volunteering, Care Farm, Youth Project and conservation work onsite. An eco-friendly building is created to house a café and farm shop.

2015 Celebrating Arthur's 100th Birthday, over 1,000 native mixed trees are planted onsite and new streams are created. A gift left in a Will to Fordhall enables the Roundhouse to be built in the woods.

2019 The Old Three Ponds are renovated. Wildlife is thriving and they open to the public.



2020s Despite the pandemic, Fordhall shows great strength and with continued support from our members finds new ways to support the local community.

The Future Fordhall continues to be a place close to people's hearts both near and far, connecting people with food, the environment and organic farming. The journey to engage both hearts and minds, sow the seed, and create real change to protect and nurture the planet for future generations continues.

Our Vision: By restoring connections between hearts, minds and the soil, we will encourage and create meaningful change, which helps build health and resilience within people and planet.

As one of England's **oldest organic farms** and England's **first community-owned farm** we couldn't be prouder. We may be a small charity but we have BIG impact.

We are passionate about fostering a future where farming livelihoods are secure, where nature is valued and where people and planet work together. Our values and vision are based on this connected approach.

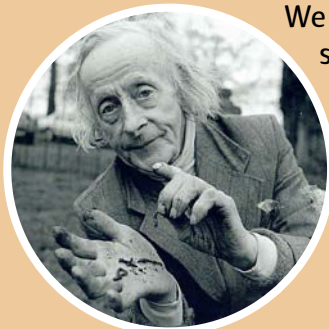
Your gift can help us achieve this.

A gift can be in a form which suits you.

We know that the impact of many small contributions is just as powerful as the big ones.

Indeed, this is the foundation on which Fordhall was built.

Arthur Hollins, organic pioneer, whose legacy lives within Fordhall's soil



When Fordhall Farm became community-owned, I changed from one landlord who didn't want me to farm here, to 8,000 landlords who did. My life changed for the better.



As a farmer and as a steward for the land, I was suddenly supported and encouraged to manage Fordhall sustainably and organically, whilst building my own business.

Unlike many tenant farmers, I am in the unique position of having a long-term tenancy and the security that comes with it. Knowing that there are succession rights for my children, or opportunities for new tenant farmers, gives me comfort that this land will continue to be nurtured organically for generations to come.

Ben Hollins – Tenant Farmer



Your forever gift can pay for...

a group overnight visit to Fordhall Organic Farm. It can be the catalyst to start a child's lifelong love of nature. With us, children will learn about the animals, the pastures, listen to the dawn chorus, learn to love trees and appreciate every living thing.



Photo credit: Jonathan Hammond @smartpics123





Some gifts are big. Others are small. But the ones that come from the heart are the best gifts of all

"The importance of Fordhall Organic Farm cannot be overstated. In a world where we risk losing our precious farms and farming families to intensive methods of food production, to the detriment of animal and human welfare, anything that can be done to prevent that from happening should be encouraged.

"By supporting Fordhall with a legacy, I am doing my bit to secure this fantastic community asset for future generations to enjoy. Without places like Fordhall, which provide such valuable services to so many different groups of people, that little corner of Shropshire would be a sad and dreary place."

Ruth and Jason



Your gift can create change

We can plant trees which are not only good for our health, the soil and climate, but also feed our livestock and provide a home for wildlife.





"I came to Fordhall by accident. It's certainly one of the best almost non-decisions of my life – not just for the peace and quiet, rest and relaxation or spiritual-like recharging, but for the hard work and unremitting mutual enthusiasm you find there. I think that for the long-term future of Fordhall I want to ensure that even when I'm not around there is part of me still there. Something I can do is to leave a legacy in my Will."

"Can I ask you to also consider making such a provision in your Will? Not only will that contribute towards what I regard as one of the most significant mutuals that I have supported, but to ensure that the hard work we have invested since those early days will be renewed in a cycle that is as old as the seasons. Thanks"

Dominic

Your forever gift can...

enable us to purchase additional land to be farmed organically. Your legacy will help nurture species-rich soils that support huge varieties of wildlife, as well as providing new opportunities for young farmers.





Family comes first

Family and community are at the heart of everything we do, which is why we know how important it is for you to put your family first when making decisions about the future of your Estate.

Once you have taken care of your nearest and dearest, you may think about the powerful action of leaving a proportion of what is left to a charity that is close to your heart.

There are many charities that need support. We simply ask you to consider smaller organisations too, where each and every gift, no matter the size, can really enable us to make a significant impact. Plus, as a charitable organisation, any gift to us is tax-free and therefore deducted before any tax is paid on your Estate.

By supporting us you become part of the Fordhall family, part of a truly incredible story, now and forever. Whether you decide to leave a fixed sum, or a percentage of your Estate to us, you are supporting a world connected to the soil and one that encourages compassion towards every living thing.



Your gift can create change

An appreciation of fresh, locally produced food is crucial to our future. Your gift can fund engaging cookery and nutrition sessions for individuals and families, or support our community growing space at Fordhall. A healthy home is a happy home (on a flourishing planet if we have our way!).



Every landscape tells a natural story of how to change with grace and glory

On the Hill

by Louisa Adjoa Parker

And I climbed to the top of the hill
and stood still, surveying the land
as if it was mine, and the earth
was green velvet dotted with pearls
and the wind nudged at my spine
and nipped at my ears, and a truth
came to me that the world wasn't ours
but we belong to the earth
and we belong to these hours
and the choices we make now
matter more than before





Fordhall Community Land Initiative Ltd.

Fordhall Organic Farm, Tern Hill Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3PS

Registered Industrial and Provident Society (also known as a Charitable Community Benefit Society) Reference: IP30030R

Registered as an Exempt Charity with Inland Revenue reference: XR91116

Next steps

We respect the decision to leave a gift in your Will is a private one, but we really appreciate you letting us know your intentions so we can thank you and keep you updated on our future plans.

You can notify us by completing the enclosed pledge form today. We also welcome a more personal touch, so do feel free to call us on 01630 638696, or even make arrangements to visit us onsite for a friendly, confidential conversation about your options.

We have more legacy information (including how to make or amend a Will through a Codicil) on our website
www.fordhallfarm.com/leavealegacy

Thank you for reading

Contact: Membership Officer on
01630 638696 or
membership@fordhallfarm.com