

Congratulations to Vicky and Will

Vicky and Will are the proud parents of Bay Geoffrey Giles Sheppard, who was born on the 10th of September. Both Vicky and Bay are doing very well and Vicky is already up and about on the farm. We will continue to keep you all updated.



TB testing deadlines

Just a reminder to make sure you have all got your TB tests booked in before the deadline for your test to ensure you don't get fined or shut down. We do not always get notified about animals that are found at the abattoir or animals that are subject to a trace test which means the letter you receive notifying you from APHA is the only warning you will get. As soon as you get the letter please contact us to arrange the test within the time window permitted on the letter. If you do the test too early it will not count and if it is done too late you risk being shut down or fined. We are getting very booked up so please call early to arrange your test as soon as you can.

Cow signals course

We are pleased to announce that we will be running a cow signals course on farm in the coming months. This will be in collaboration with Biotal and will include practical tips and assessments that can be carried out on your own farm to maximise cow comfort and productivity. More details to follow soon.

Foot trimming course

Chris and James will be running a foot trimming course next month. We need to have 6 people in order to make the course as beneficial as possible for those who attend. Currently we have 4 confirmed as attending and the remaining places will be on a first come first served basis. We will be going through foot trimming and updates on trimming best practice and current thinking on the treatment of the most common causes of lameness. The costs and details of the course are to follow. Please phone the practice if you are interested in joining the course.

Deep digital sepsis treatment

The treatment of deep digital sepsis in lame dairy cattle has always been challenging, as there is often a lot of swelling associated with the lesion higher up the leg as well as a lot of dead infected tissue within the claw. Deep digital sepsis usually happens when a solar ulcer becomes infected and the deeper structures of the foot become infected as well, resulting in a very swollen claw. These may respond to trimming and antibiotics but in those cases that don't they often become chronically lame and end up as cull cows.



A new surgery was performed in the practice a few weeks ago on one of these unresponsive chronic cases which involved drilling out the infected tissue and placing a drain through the claw to flush the hole and keep it clean, allowing the claw to heal up and the swelling to resolve. If you have any cases you feel may fit this criteria then please phone the practice to discuss it with one of the vets who will be happy to go through it with you.

Foot Trimmer update ...

Garston Vets are delighted to introduce Rob Todd who will be providing a foot trimming service in affiliation with us. As most of you will have heard Steve West has had the opportunity to go off share farming and is relocating up country. We wish him all the luck with his new venture.

Rob has been working and will continue to be a self employed foot trimmer in the area. He has worked here for many years now and already does some work for a number of our clients. He is trained and registered with the NACFT. Rob has agreed to work alongside Garston to provide a more complete foot trimming package.



At the end of each foot trimming session farmers will receive a lameness report detailing the findings on each foot and giving a summary of the visit. This data will be sent to us and directed to your routine vet with an action list of any cows needing veterinary input.

Over the last few months we have been expanding the treatment options for chronic issues such as partial toe amputations for toe necrosis and drilling and inserting drains in infected sole ulcers. We hope that early detection of these sorts of issues by Rob will help us to implement some of these techniques on farm and save cows that previously would have drifted on to the cull list.

Clients will be invoiced by ourselves rather than Rob so any work will go onto your accounts in the same way as any vet visits. To book with Rob or to ask any questions please call the surgery on the usual number 01373 451 115.

Letter to the editor

Sir,

I write to complain about the 'so called' useless fact in the last edition of the newsletter. If you had done your research thoroughly you would have known that some obscure crisp manufacturers have expiry dates on a Thursday rather than a Saturday as you so erroneously pointed out. I would appreciate in future that you get your useless facts straight.

Yours, Anonymous

Dear Mr Phippen of Buckland Dinham

Thank you for your valuable feedback and for highlighting the error. Our previous editor Tom Cook has been sacked on the spot and our new editor James Ryder will not make the same mistake again. Ed.

Greg's (properly researched) Useless Fact

The term '**fed up**' comes from the world of falconry where a bird that has been fed with a full crop will not hunt and just sits around. The term '**Hoodwinked**' has a similar origin.



The easiest way to pay your bill.

If you'd like to pay your vet bill by direct debit please contact reception for a form.

