



# FUTURE ROOTS



## NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2025

Welcome to our latest newsletter! The days have grown longer and brighter, and there are lots of things to share with you. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting things that have been happening here on the farm at Future Roots.....

### Ambassadors -Film Presentation Evening

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, we welcomed a select group of professionals who work with young people to view our lottery funded short film – ‘Can You See Me Now?’

The evening commenced with a tour of the farm, showcasing the comprehensive working practices our mentors undertake while working with animals here on the farm and supporting young people who feel isolated or have experienced trauma. This event provided attendees with the opportunity to experience the calm, safe, environment of the farm and to better understand the narrative set out in the film through the voices of our ambassadors.

The film received an overwhelmingly positive response and the feedback gathered both during the event and afterwards has validated the courage of our young people who bravely shared their challenges with the film maker and the wider audience. Initially we aimed to use the film for future training purposes, and as a result of this presentation we have been invited to deliver several screenings in the near future.

Following the film, we engaged in an interactive discussion on the considerations necessary when working with young people facing challenges. This again was well received and after hearing one of our young ambassadors share their views on the topic, some of the practitioners reflected on potential adjustments they could make to better engage young people. Future Roots remain immensely proud of our young ambassadors and we look forward to future events.



### Nurture Through Nature

We have an exciting new provision which will be based here at Rylands Farm for primary school children aged between 8 -12 years who are struggling with mainstream school. This new exciting programme starting in September will be run by a qualified teacher and managed by a Nurture UK trained professional. Sessions will be either mornings 9.30am - 1pm or afternoons 1.30pm - 3.30pm and is to run for a minimum of 12 weeks, but ideally 24 weeks for the greatest impact. Group sizes will be between 6 - 8 young people led by 2 workers, individual sessions can be provided if required. Transport must be provided, please call us on 01963 210703 if you are interested in arranging a visit for a staff member and pupils from your primary school

### WELCOME

We would like to say a huge welcome to Alfie and Hannah, they will both be joining the team in September as Learning Mentors, we look forward to working with you both.



We are really grateful for every donation we receive, if you would like to make a donation to help our work with young people

please visit [www.localgiving.org/charity/futureroots/](http://www.localgiving.org/charity/futureroots/)



### Sherborne Fair 2025

Future Roots Mentors and Young Ambassadors had an amazing day at the annual Sherborne Castle Country Fair. We were all introduced to Dorset and Somerset High Sheriffs and we were able to explain our ethos and vision of the farm and its connection to the young people that attend. Our Young Ambassadors also voiced their own narrative of what the farm means to them and the importance of being listened to.

We made a collective sum of £400 from selling crafts that the Ambassadors helped to make and interactive games such as splat the rat and hook a duck. The face painting and hair braiding were as popular as ever and the odd glitter beard made an appearance too!

We would like to thank all of the Future Roots Mentors and our young ambassadors for working together to raise funds towards helping the charities A Child in Crisis and Countrymen UK. We look forward to attending the fair next year and are excited to try new ideas for our stall and engaging with those that love our countryside as much as we do.



### THANK YOU

Thank you to the Members of the Kings Command in Milborne Port for donating the funds raised from their annual performance.

To the volunteers from Wessex Water for spending the day volunteering on the farm, painting and cleaning, we are truly grateful for all your hard work.

AJN Steelstock, thank you for the amazing amount raised at the Sherborne Fair Dragon Boat Race.



The Dorset Youth Fund for funding the Christmas meals and leavers celebratory meals

Delamere Dairy Foundation - Thank you for your support

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### AMBASSADORS PRESENTATIONS 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

Future Roots Young Ambassadors were invited by Level Up MYTIME to showcase an amazing presentation of our film – Can you see me now? at two fantastic venues

The first venue was Kingston Maurward Agricultural College and Abi & Lucy – two of our older Ambassadors delivered our young people's views on what they felt a practitioner needed to consider when working alongside young people who have experienced isolation or trauma. The audience consisted of practitioners from the N.H.S, Schools and Dorset Council. The second venue was at The Brewery Tap in Blandford, which is owned by Hall & Woodhouse. Jack and Charlie were our ambassadors delivering this presentation for our young people's voice to practitioners in Secondary Schools, The Colorworks Foundation, Social Services and even an artist!

The film again was greatly received and encouraged a super discussion on working alongside Isolated or trauma experienced young people - it brought to the forefront any possible small changes/adaptions to working practices that could be made to aid better communication and engagement with our young people.



**Two clear messages from our Young Ambassadors being:**

1. Don't start a conversation if you don't have time to listen
2. Please don't expect me to tell my story over and over to different workers

### Year 11 School Leavers Treat

Future Roots mentors arranged a fabulous opportunity for some of our young people who have completed a two year course here to have a driving experience at the Clay Pidgeon Go Kart racing circuit last week. The group of young people enjoyed the thrill of the engines and in some cases learning a new skill by learning to drive for the first time. They were given safety instruction and a computer read out to try and better their lap time after stopping for a break from the racing. The boys really enjoyed the competition between themselves and were so grateful to have been given this opportunity.

A second group of young leavers also had an evening out at Bowlplex - 10 pin bowling in Yeovil again they had an amazing time and were especially grateful for the chance to have a social evening to say goodbye to their school friends and the farm which had been a big part of their learning experiences.

Future Roots and our young leavers would like to give a huge heart felt THANKYOU to Dorset Youth Fund as without their generous funding this would not have been possible



### Ryewater Nurseries

Groups of other young people have also visited Ryewater Nurseries near Sherborne, and we are really grateful to the team in this beautiful setting for giving up their time to show us around and to learn all about the butterflies and wildlife, we all had a great learning experience





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### Functional Skills Achievements

We wanted to share the amazing achievements of our young people:

19 achieved their NOCN Future Farmer level 1 Certificate

8 achieved their NOCN Future Farmer level 1 Award

18 young people achieved their qualifications in Maths and English

Well done to you all



### Our Futures Plus Programme 2025

Well done to each and everyone of our interns who have recently finished their internships with us. We are all so proud of what you have done and achieved whilst here at the farm, with many of you leaving to forge your own careers in farming and hospitality we all wish you all well in your chosen careers.

You all made great progress in gaining work related skills and also as young people, making the important steps into adulthood. It's been a privilege to work alongside you all over the last year.

We wish you all the best for your future... **Once a Future Rootie always a Future Rootie.**



*Good  
Luck*





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### **EDUCATIONAL FARM VISIT**

If you are a small group of people (minimum of 4 and max of 8) and would be interested in an educational tour, please contact our office on: 01963 210703 or email: [office@futereroots.net](mailto:office@futereroots.net). (we are sorry, but this is not open to youth or toddler groups at present). We very much look forward to hearing from you.



Our annual Auction will be held on Saturday 9th August 2025

Tractor Road Run, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025-  
Raising Funds for Future Roots & Countrymen UK

### Leavers and Awards Ceremony 2025



On the evening of Wednesday 9th July, we held our annual leavers and awards ceremony, this is a really special event in our calendar, and a chance to celebrate the achievements of our young people and also to say goodbye to those who start their next steps in education or their chosen career path.

The weather was really hot so the ice creams and refreshments were very welcome.

The mayor of Sherborne Jill Warburton and the High Sheriff of Dorset Callum Bremner kindly came along to present the awards, we are really grateful to them both for their time.

It was really lovely to meet all the parents, carer's and family members too and not forgetting our past team members Tim & Chris who also came, we thank you all for coming along to celebrate the young people achievements.

