

Clare Blatchford-Hanna

From: Chris Parsons <landworks@dartington.org>
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To: Clare Blatchford-Hanna
Subject: DLW Update 23



Dartington

DLW Update 23



Hello

LandWorks are now the proud owners of 4 Hens, kindly donated this week. All are laying and rather touchingly named after each man. This has led to much speculation about who will be eaten first and, in what I assume to be a gentle dig at our predominantly veg lunch... how much everyone is looking forward to eating the other's bird, cooked in a variety of quite peculiar and unusual ways! These hilarious jokes thankfully came to a natural conclusion, as the first plate of scrambled eggs was served up.

Our lunch has become an absolutely essential ingredient in how this project works, it brings together so many fundamentals that we often take for granted, or to a certain extent, may even be missing out on, in our own lives. Most days we have an invited guest or two, anyone who is interested in the project, some have now visited a few times and are considered to be regular diners.

Recently we have started to invite local employers to lunch. An opportunity for them

to get an understanding of the project and for us, a chance to find out what they are looking for in an employee, make links and hopefully paving the way to future employment. All done sitting around the table sharing lunch... it is such a normal thing to do, to just sit down and eat with others...

But of course it is not the norm to sit down and eat with a bunch of prisoners, nor for a prisoner to sit down with people who until a few months ago may never have had any engagement. This works both ways, it can be fantastic, it can be harsh, it can be very moving, and many life stories unfold in this atmosphere. Increasingly, especially as our regulars return, it becomes just normal and I think this normality is one of the keys to re- habilitation, for all of us to play a part, even down to scrubbing scrambled egg from the pan...

Chris

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