

# Animal Ark Newsletter January 2010



Greetings from snowy Norfolk

## News and Events

- Halloween
- Santa's Visit to the Animal Ark
- Snowed in at Christmas!
- Forthcoming events

***“Mitch thought it was O.K. to trash his summer house when the batteries ran out on his favourite Xmas toy!”***

## Happy New Year from everyone at the Animal Ark!

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are now refreshed and looking forward to the New Year.

2009 was a busy year at the Animal Ark and we are pleased to say that we had an increased number of visitors to the centre. It was encouraging to see so many new members signing up to the Pre-School Pass scheme which has proved very popular last year

We are planning new schemes for 2010 to help reduce prices for certain

groups including discounts for single parent families and others. Details are available on the Discounts page of the web site.

Schools please note that we will be holding last year's prices for educational visits this year.

Go to the Educational pages on our web site for more information, or ring Barbara on Box Office number 0779 336 9946 if you'd like to discuss your requirements.

Risk assessments and a free site visit are available on request.

## October Half Term

There was lots of Fiendish Fun at the Animal Ark last Halloween. The fancy dress competition proved popular with lots of children dressing up for the part and the quizzes and puzzles were good fun.

The keepers put on some special creepy critter talks this time with spiders and bugs from their own collection. The boys were most impressed with the bugs but the girls preferred the bunnies and guinea pigs. Don't tell anyone but they are my favourite too!



I guess even otters get bored at Xmas. Mitch found a little nick in the felt roof of his box so it had to go!

The whole family joined in until the sun went down, then they all went back to bed!

You can see Mitch and his Family during the Whitsun Holiday



Duncan is a handsome Anglo Nubian Goat. He arrived recently from Monarch Farm and is very anxious to meet his girl friend Lucy and start a family.

Hold your horses Duncan, Lucy is busy at the moment but will visit you soon!

## Duncan the Stud

Duncan is an Anglo Nubian Goat who arrived from Monarch Farm last month.

We will be introducing him to Lucy a 3 year old Nubian cross, who is currently still suckling last year's youngsters.

Duncan was born in July 2009 at Monarch Farm in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire and comes from a long line of prize winning pedigree goats.

The farm is famous for its herds of milking goats from which it makes delicious, award winning ice-cream. It also has a riding stables and breeds many other farm animals.

Visit <http://www.monarchfarm.co.uk/> to see the latest news and events at the Farm.



## Max and Ruby

We are hoping for the patter of tiny piggy feet this summer as Max and Ruby, two piggy pals, are likely to produce a litter of spotty babies around May/June. It's early days yet but keep your trotters crossed!

## Santa's visit to the Animal Ark

For the first time in our history Santa visited us at the Animal Ark this year 4 weekends during late November and early December.

We built him a super ice grotto and a cosy house in our school classroom and packed it full of Christmas presents and toys for the children. He even had his own Christmas tree and log fire.

Although the weather was cold and wet lots of children visited Santa including two groups of cubs and brownies. The children enjoyed sharing their Christmas stories with Santa and he promised to do his best to deliver the presents they wanted.

Sadly Santa was soon flying back to the North Pole to check all his presents were wrapped and Rudolph and the rest of the reindeer were fit and ready for their long journey Christmas Eve.

We are planning to ask Santa to visit again next Christmas and will send you the dates later in the year.



Here is Julie enjoying a warm cuddle with Hector the guinea pig

## Snowed in at Christmas!

Although frozen pipes and deep snow have made life difficult over the past few weeks the snow has turned the Animal Ark into a Winter Wonderland. Go to this web page to see some beautiful snowy scenes.

[www.theanimalark.org/Snow%20photos/index.html](http://www.theanimalark.org/Snow%20photos/index.html). If you have some photos of your own animals in the snow then email them to us at [info@theanimalark.org](mailto:info@theanimalark.org) and we'll dedicate a page to pampered pets.

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*Visit the Animal Ark  
soon for adventure,  
play, fun and  
education*

## Looking forward to a new season

We look forward to the new season which starts February Half Term Holidays and to welcoming old and new faces.

We hope that our existing members will return in the spring and bring lots of their friends and family to visit us. We are working hard to make improvements which we hope will please everyone.

Our first event is the ever popular Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday where there will be lots of chocolate eggs for the children and a prize draw to win a giant chocolate bunny!

Let's all keep our fingers crossed for fine weather!

## Forthcoming Events!

- Half Term February 15th - 21<sup>st</sup>
- Egg Hunt Easter Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Meerkat Mayhem Whitsun Holiday 31<sup>st</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June
- Bugs Galore Family Fun Day – date to be confirmed in July

*"Here's to the bright New Year,  
and a fond farewell to the old;  
here's to the things that are yet to  
come, and to the memories that  
we hold. Cheers to a new year  
and another chance for us to get  
it right!"*

**Oprah Winfrey**



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN APRIL.....**

Send this to a friend -



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**Norwich, NR9 5QS**



Friend's Name  
Street Address  
City  
County, Post Code