



FARM SHOP



How to travel in style!

Telephone 01905 756490

E-mail nbgwillam@btconnect.com

Web-site: www.gwillamsfarmshop.com

Neville and Mary Gwillam

Well! What a surprise! I really did mean that Edition 35 was going to be my last but what with lockdown and all the depressing news that is with us each day, plus the fact that I was twiddling my thumbs I thought everyone needs cheering up so.....Edition 36.

I cannot remember such a wet and miserable winter. I know that when we first moved to Bevere in the 1960's the river flooded quite regularly. Indeed one year I cannot remember which, it flooded 3 times just before Christmas. We were fattening pigs in those days and had 200 of them in the two pig sheds. Neville asked Bill Merrick ,who used to work for us then and had worked for many years for Walter Smith the previous tenant “do you think the water is going to get into the pigs Bill?” “No gaffer” he replied, “it won't come no higher” this was late afternoon. Just after tea there was a knock on the door. It was Bill.”Strew'th Blow'd(his favourite expression) Gaffer! It's still rising” So at 7 o'clock at night we had to get the lorry out and anybody in the area that had an empty shed had some of our pigs for a couple of days until the water subsided. That time we felt particularly sorry for Frank Paterson and his wife and family. He was a dab hand at dealing with the floodwater when it got into Camp Cottage. All the downstairs floors in the cottage were flagstones, so he just hosed all the mud out that the river left behind and repainted whatever was mucky,but that year he was having visitors for Christmas, the river had encroached already a couple of times and he had dealt with it but then it came up again on Christmas Eve and Frank and his family had to spend Christmas in a hotel. Alas Camp Cottage is no more, it was demolished last spring. Over the years we have got used to the river flooding, you watch and get to know the signs when things are going to get difficult. This winter though, our river fields have had water on them from the middle of October till the beginning of March. The last flood this year was the worst. It came very close to getting in the house. The only way out was by tractor as you can see from the elegant picture on the front of this newsletter. This photograph and the one showing our drive looking towards the farm were taken by Jane Jones with great glee I might add.

The water had started to recede when these pictures were taken. For a couple of weeks we had a pair of swans roosting on our lawn just outside our patio window. What big birds they are? Quite ungainly on land but oh so elegant on water. They seem to like us because they have ousted the resident Canada Goose from the island on the lake and taken over her nest.

I hope you are all enjoying this marvellous spell of weather that we are experiencing. Farming wise David has managed to get the Marfona and Saphire potatoes planted in a field that does not flood. He has also with the help of Steve and Michael planted the runner beans, broad beans and beetroot: I am pleased to say that the seeds have all germinated and growing well. Now for the hard bit: keeping the pests off them. They will be planting cabbage, calabrese,cauliflower,leeks and sweetcorn very soon now.



Looking along the farm drive towards the farm buildings.

The cattle are all waiting to be turned out on the grass after being in the sheds all winter, they look very well and we have some very nice young cattle coming on. The beef that we are selling in the shop at the moment is not our own, it is Herefordshire Beef from Mr. Griffiths at Leintwardine, none of our cattle are ready at the moment.

Adrians Sheep.

This year Adrian decided to give his ewes a rest: no lambs, he was looking to put the ram in with them earlier in the year in order to have some lambs born around Christmas time. That was the plan. Unfortunately he did not tell the ram. The old devil caught one or two of the ewes before he was separated from them and then to add insult to injury so to speak, one of the little ram lambs kept from last summer to be fattened for market had his oats as well. When the time to castrate it came along only one testicle was visible so he could not be dealt with. He made good use of what he had got! He went to meet his maker with a smile on his face. Animals have a marvellous knack of making us humans look stupid.

Covid-19.

Now! What about this virus Covid-19? Who would have thought that such an inoffensive thing, pictured as a ball with bits stuck out of it could wreak such havoc throughout the world. Somehow it seems to have touched all our lives. Funny how after all those scenes of greed and panic it seems to have brought out the best in people. We are now realising how much we appreciate our NHS and other key workers. Even us at Gwillam's in our small way experienced the intimidation and fear generated by people who came to the shop who had never shopped with us before. That is why we closed for a few days. The new arrangement with self-distancing seems to be working along with restricted hours. We are sorry if it is a little bit inconvenient but we are afraid until this is all over that is what it will be. We are still providing a box scheme for people who are genuinely unable to get out but unfortunately we are only able to deliver to people in the Claines, Northwick or Bevere area.

It has been so nice to see people walking the footpaths across the farm and along the riverbank. Making the most of this glorious weather. How long is it going to last? In this situation I always think of the Flanders and Swann adaptation of the poem Months of the Year.

“Farmer's fear unkindly May,
Frost by night, hail by day”

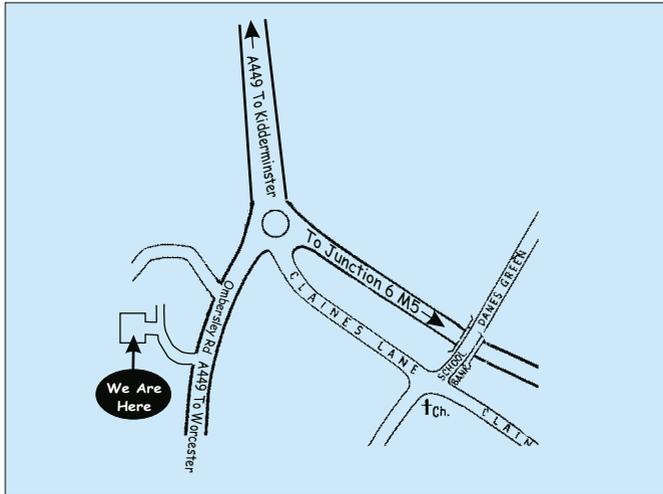
Will it be like that I wonder?

Neville and I are still alive and kicking. Bored out of our minds and thoroughly fed up. Let us hope that when this is all over the world will be a kinder and better place.

WHERE TO FIND US

Gwillam's is situated midway between Green Lane on the outskirts of North Worcester and the roundabout. The Farm Shop is clearly signed and you will find ample parking space. If you would like help to carry heavy items (e.g. potatoes) to your vehicle, please do not hesitate to ask.

LOCATION MAP



For fruit, vegetables, salad, dairy and a whole lot more

We value your custom and look forward to seeing you soon

Normal Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 9am -3pm
Sunday Closed