

LOCH ARTHUR CREAMERY & FARM SHOP

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Dear Friends

I write these newsletters much less frequently than I used to. It's been over 10 years now that I've been writing them and it always needs a lot of thought but is a great joy! They've always been very personal and I try to be honest ... this is not a marketing tool; it's a means of communication! You are not just 'customers'; you are 'friends'. Well this week I was under great pressure and yet I managed (in the early hours of one morning) to get into the flow. I sat down and, after much struggle, became inspired. I wrote about change, about going positively into the future, about facing new challenges as so many people in the world are having to do in so many different ways at the moment. And then, focusing very much on the development of our new farm shop, I looked at how we face the changes and challenges that stand before us. So the following morning I woke up andwait for it I had forgotten to press the "save" button and all my work had disappeared!! (Interesting, in light of recent conversations I've been having about our over-reliance on computers!). How pertinent this felt, when I had just been writing about letting go of all the things which we, as individuals, have built up and allowing them to take a new form into the future!

Well, I'm not going to try and re-create that 'lost' newsletter. The content is very clear in my mind but is obviously not destined to find its way into print. However, I will let you know that **building work starts on our new farm shop on Monday 18th April** and the project should take just over a year. Those of you who come up to the shop regularly will have noticed the ground staked out on the site already and will, no doubt, accompany us on this journey as the building rises out of the ground. Of course, this journey wouldn't be taking place if it weren't for all the remarkable support that we get in so many different ways from so many different people.

The one thing I did point out in my original newsletter is that it is 14 years (almost to the day) since we staked out the ground for the building of our then 'New Creamery' ... and I certainly remember the shock of seeing the size and magnitude of that building after working away for years making cheese in the little shed at the back of the house. Well, 14 years on that building has filled out, taken on new tasks and now houses our wonderful farm shop and all its activities! Change is never easy, but it is certainly put into perspective by the passing of time!

So what's new ??

- ❖ **Our Data-base Survey** Most of you receiving this newsletter will have responded to our survey. Thank you for doing that, it helps to keep our records up to date. Some still haven't and we are still sending this out to you because we feel you may wish to remain on our list. If that is the case, we have included a final questionnaire. **Please respond if you wish to stay on our mailing list !!!**

- ❖ **The Shop.** A warm welcome back to Mo who has just returned from a few months away and an equally warm welcome to Steff who has joined us recently and will be very much present in and around the shop and kitchen. As always, we are astounded by the on-going busyness and activity in our little shop particularly in these times of economic austerity. It's always gratifying to know that what we offer is appreciated. And, speaking of offering, **we've just got in another load of 'Trealy' cured meats and salamis they just seem to get better each time I taste them! They are very good value and well worth a try.**
- ❖ **Fruit & Vegetables.** First Spring greens have arrived from our gardens - always a great joy ... but very limited in supply. If you do see it on the shelf, don't miss it - baby spinach, rocket, lettuce .. all delicious! Stocks of bought in fruit and vegetables are good. Our suppliers are incredibly reliable and the quality is superb!
- ❖ **Fresh-Meat Days.** The quality of our lamb this year has been outstanding!! We'll have lamb again next week for Easter ... and then again in May. That'll then be the end of our lamb stocks until the Autumn when our new season lamb will be ready! Our new supply of Free Range chickens from Gartmorn Farm in Lanarkshire has proved incredibly popular. We get in fresh supplies of chicken almost every fortnight but also have frozen available at all times. We're particularly pleased to have portions once again - breasts, thighs, legs and livers. A reminder that this chicken is not certified organic but is of a top quality and GMO Free.

**Our next fresh meat days will be from
Thursday 21st till Wednesday 27th April**

There will be a good supply of Beef, Lamb, Chicken, Pork & Bacon.

**Our following fresh meat days will be from
Thursday 19th till Wednesday 26th May**

- ❖ **Easter Plans ...** We will have our delicious Hot Cross Buns available on Wednesday, Thursday and Good Friday - limited supply so please order.

Please note that our Easter Opening Times are:

Good Friday:	Open 9am - 2pm
Easter Saturday:	Open 10am - 3pm
Easter Sunday:	Closed
Easter Monday:	Closed

We wish you all the best for Easter, a joyful spring and a good summer ahead.
With best wishes

Barry Graham