

PROJECT REVIEW

CREDITON & AREA VINTAGE FARMERS GROUP

CREDITON VINTAGE FARMERS

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Crediton Community Builder
Involve Mid Devon

December 2024

INVOLVE
VOLUNTARY ACTION IN MID DEVON

FCN THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01. Introduction

02. Objectives

03 Project plan and milestones

04. Member feedback

05 Highlights

06. Key Takeways

07. Acknowledgements



INTRODUCTION

Social isolation among older farmers has far-reaching consequences, not only for their well-being but also for younger farming generations. As older farmers face loneliness and declining mental and physical health, the burden of care often falls on younger family members.

Addressing the isolation of older farmers benefits the entire farming community.

By reducing social isolation, we not only improve the quality of life for older farmers but also alleviates the stress on younger farmers, creating a more resilient and supportive agricultural community.



OBJECTIVE

To create an engaging and welcoming social group for older farmers where they can connect with peers, share their wealth of knowledge, and enjoy a sense of community.

The group will offer opportunities for social gatherings and events fostering friendships and a renewed sense of purpose in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Tamlyn Fraiquin, Crediton Community Builder, Involve Mid Devon, and Richard Sampson, FCN Regional Support Officer for Devon, will collaborate to establish a successful and self-sufficient social group. Their combined expertise and community connections will ensure the initiative is well-supported and sustainable.

PLANNING

The planning phase is crucial to the project's success, as it lays the foundation for achieving its goals. While the first milestone is the launch event, significant work must be completed beforehand, including identifying the target audience and, most importantly, determining how to attract the older farming generation.

This involves tailoring outreach strategies such as using local networks, agricultural businesses, trusted community leaders, and accessible communication channels such as local newspapers and village notice boards. Social Media has proved successful, alerting younger generations to the group facilitating new members.



February 2024

Design of Poster and dissemination of information via:

- NFU
- FCN Volunteers
- Mole Avon Trading
- Crediton Milling
- Crediton Dairy
- St Boniface Vets
- Jonathan Woods Vets
- Rural Churches
- Exeter Cattle Market
- Rural notice boards (Lapford/Sandford/Bow etc)
- Social Media - Community Pages
- Mid Devon Primary Care Network - Social Prescribing Team

March 2024

As above plus

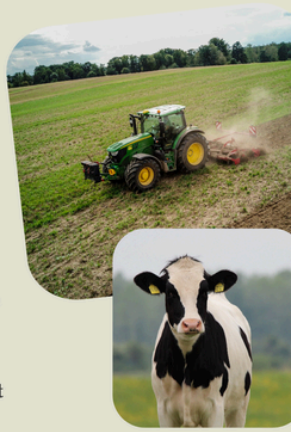
- Article in the Crediton Courier
- Stall at Mole Avon member evening

April 2024

- **Launch Breakfast Meeting**
- Crediton Courier attendance
- Local Community Police attendance

PLANNING

CREDITON & AREA RETIRED FARMERS GROUP BREAKFAST MEETING



We are holding an expression of interest event for a new community initiative the 'Crediton & Area Retired Farmers Group'.

If you live in the Crediton area and are a Semi-Retired or Retired farmer or aged 60 & over, please come and join us for a complimentary Breakfast to find out more.

Tuesday 16th April 2024

10am - 12 noon

The Red Deer
Exeter Rd, Crediton
EX17 3PH

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community.

FCN volunteers provide support in a number of ways. To find out more visit fcn.org.uk

To book your free place, please contact Tamlyn at Involve
Tamlyn@involve-middevon.org.uk
Tel: 07719014912

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Crediton Dairy
Presentation + Q&A

CREDITON DAIRY

Wednesday 30th October 2024

11.00am Meet for tea and coffee

11.30am Presentation and Q&A
Mr Andrew Butler
Agricultural Manager
Crediton Dairy



12 noon Buffet lunch



Waterbridge Golf Course
Down St Mary, Near Crediton
Devon EX17 5LG

The event is kindly sponsored by Crediton Dairy, with limited places.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 23rd October

Please contact Tamlyn at Involve
Tamlyn@involve-middevon.org.uk Tel: 07719014912

The event is kindly sponsored by Crediton Dairy

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CREDITON & AREA VINTAGE FARMERS GROUP

CREDITON VINTAGE FARMERS
Like fine wine, our farmers just get better with age

Talk, Tour & BBQ, Elston Farm



Crediton Vintage Farmers connects retired or semi-retired* members of the local farming community across the area.

We meet regularly for casual coffees, and events.

New Members always welcome

Elston Farm is a 160 acre regenerative beef and deer farm that is leading the way on a wide range of sustainable farming.

Join us for a Talk and Tour with Andy Gray, a thirteenth generation Devon farmer. We will then fire up the BBQ and enjoy a burger or 2.

Directions
Crediton to Elston Farm - on approach to Copplestone take a sharp right-hand turn before the farm shop (first right after the car garage). Follow Elston Lane for 3/4 of a mile taking the second right into Elston Farm / M C Kelly.

Barstaple to Elston Farm - take the A377 towards Crediton, go through Copplestone and take the left hand turning after the farm shop. Follow Elston Lane for 3/4 of a mile taking the second right into Elston Farm /M C Kelly.

Wednesday 31st July

5pm Arrival

Tour & Talk

Followed by

BBQ

Elston Farm,
Copplestone,
Devon, EX17 5PB

Please book your place

Please contact Tamlyn at Involve
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Tel: 07719014912

*Our definition of a retired or semi-retired farmer is any member of the farming community aged 60+, who possibly no longer works 70+ hours a week.

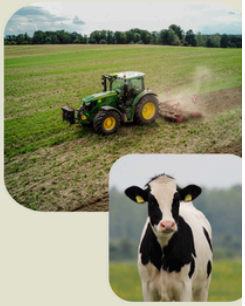
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CREDITON & AREA VINTAGE FARMERS GROUP

CREDITON VINTAGE FARMERS
Like fine wine, our farmers just get better with age

Are you a retired or semi-retired* member of the local farming community?

Please join us to connect for friendship and conversation over a cuppa.



Wednesday 27th November 2024

10am - 11.30am

Homeleigh Garden Centre

Barnstaple Cross
Crediton, Devon,
EX17 2ER

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Come along, order a cuppa and pull up a chair.

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Please contact Tamlyn at Involve

Tamlyn@involvemiddevon.org.uk
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FCN THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

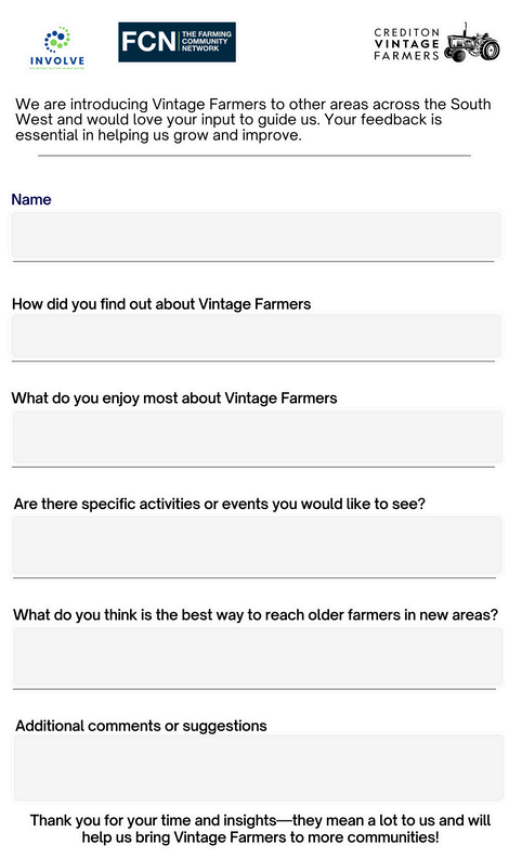
*Our definition of a retired or semi-retired farmer is any member of the farming community aged 60+, who possibly no longer works 70+ hours a week.

Devon AgeUK

FEEDBACK

The first Crediton meeting took place in April 2024, and since then, membership has steadily grown to 67. On the last Wednesday of each month, the group brings together between 34 and 54 members, highlighting the strong and consistent engagement within the community.

In December, we conducted a brief survey during the meeting, receiving 23 responses. Gathering feedback is crucial for understanding our current position, fostering engagement, and shaping the way forward.



INVOLVE FCN THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK CREDITON VINTAGE FARMERS

We are introducing Vintage Farmers to other areas across the South West and would love your input to guide us. Your feedback is essential in helping us grow and improve.

Name

How did you find out about Vintage Farmers

What do you enjoy most about Vintage Farmers

Are there specific activities or events you would like to see?

What do you think is the best way to reach older farmers in new areas?

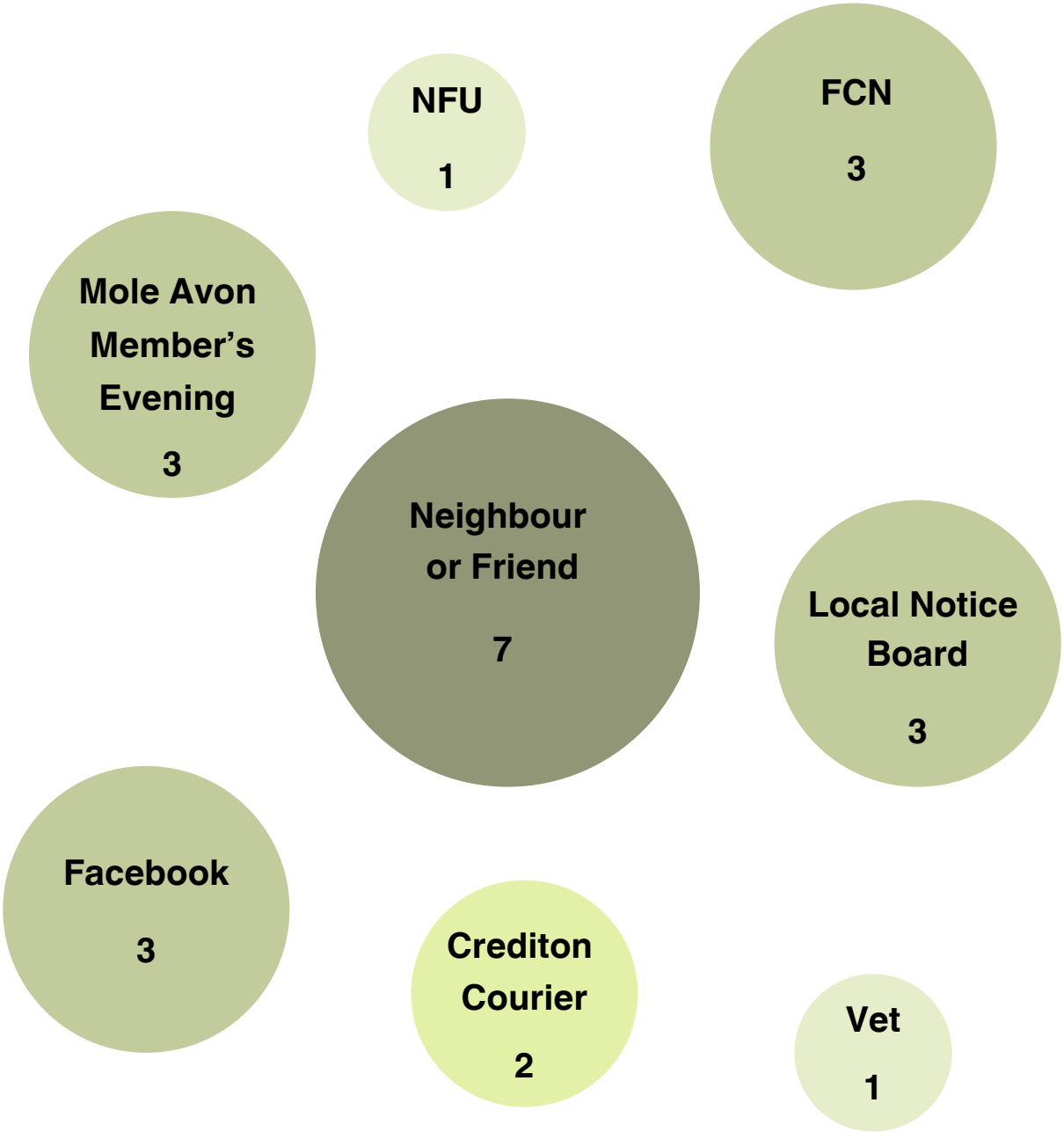
Additional comments or suggestions

Thank you for your time and insights—they mean a lot to us and will help us bring Vintage Farmers to more communities!

This insight will also guide the development of a strategy to expand vintage farmers into other areas, helping to establish social groups for the older generation where they are most needed.

FEEDBACK

How did you find out about Vintage Farmers?



FEEDBACK

What do you enjoy most about Vintage Farmers?

Being in the company of like minded people

Giving me a reason to go out! - thank you

Enjoying everyone's company

Meeting people with a shared interest

Meeting up with old friends in a social atmosphere

Going on the farm walk - and the chance for a good natter!

Chance to meet up with friends and meet new people

Meeting and chatting

Meeting up with people from my past and sharing stories

Meeting others and the opportunity to visit different places

The friendliness and warmth of all attending

Talking about the old days

FEEDBACK

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Very well organised, thank you for keeping in touch.

They are very good events, something we look forward to every month. Very many thanks for all you do.

Excellent. Thank you.

A most enjoyable way to meet up with like minded people in a relaxed atmosphere. Highly recommended! Thank you.

Splendid. The meetings take place during the day - the elderly sometimes are unable or want to go out at night.

Thank you for giving me a reason to get out again.

It is great to see everyone.

I look forward to the last Wednesday of the month!

HIGHLIGHTS

Launch Event - April 2024

FCN Funded Launch Breakfast
held at the Red Deer, Crediton

51 Attendees



Elston Farm Visit - July 2024

Mr Andy Gray, Elston Farm
Engaging Farm tour and talk
BBQ, cider punch and conversation



Crediton Dairy Lunch and Talk - October 2024

Crediton Dairy sponsored Lunch
Talk by Mr Andrew Butler,
Agricultural Manager



Coffee & Catch-up November 2024

Monthly coffee at Homeleigh
Garden Centre
Regular attendance of
30 - 42 members



Market the launch event well
Effectively marketing the launch event is essential. Feedback has shown that members have discovered Vintage Farmers through a variety of channels, highlighting the importance of using diverse methods to reach a wide audience and maximize engagement.

Listen to the members - they lead the direction of the group
We removed the reference to ‘Retired’ as feedback from the group felt this term was not relevant to them - Vintage Farmers was born!

Changed location to Homeleigh Garden Centre following negative feedback on original base, and saw an increase in attendees.

Keep in Contact
Capture contact details for all attendees and keep in touch. Share the contact with volunteers in the groups - aim to keep everyone connected.

Identify volunteers / Leads for the group
The key objective is sustainability, achieved by encouraging members to take ownership of the group. Supporting and empowering members to arrange visits and meetings not only strengthens their sense of responsibility but also fosters a renewed sense of purpose, ensuring long-term engagement and success.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this project.

A special thanks to:

Mr. Roger Pennington for his invaluable support.

Mr Andy Gray, Elston Farm for hosting the July event.

Mr Andrew Butler, Crediton Dairy for hosting the October event.

Stu and the team at Homeleigh Garden Centre for their warmth and hospitality.

The team at The Red Deer, Crediton.

Finally, we are deeply grateful to the local farming community and all who offered their time, resources, and encouragement. This project is a testament to the strength and spirit of our community, we couldn't have achieved it without your support.

Thank you all for helping us make a difference.

Tamlyn & Richard

Contact
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