



January 2010

# HAMPTON NEWSLETTER

**Our next beef collection day will be on FRIDAY 29th January 2010**

A rather snowy **Happy New Year** to all and for those surrounded by the white stuff we all hope that you have working electricity, logs, enough central heating fuel and a good bottle of malt to see you through. We have plenty of snow here and Hampton looks extraordinarily pretty especially in the sun. Trees are laden with an icing layer of snow, the fields are welly boot deep and in front of the house we have the Hampton igloo big enough for at least three Eskimos.

Our first collection day this year will be **FRIDAY 29th JANUARY** and we will have **Hampton prime beef** available in our 10kg family bags. You might like to stock up again after the warming casseroles, stews and pies that no doubt have been cooked to perfection during the cold spell. We will have a good supply of Hampton herby sausages and it will also be the last chance for fresh oven ready pheasant. The shooting season ends on 1st February and we will not have fresh birds until next November.

**Venison** supplies at the moment are low. Our wild roe deer hide away in the bushes and cover all round the estate even more than usual in these conditions. We are also lacking in good amounts of daylight this month so the culling team stands little chance of success. This will all change once spring dawns and if you would like to order venison at any time for collection at a later date please feel free to do so.

Due to the great demand for beef in December, I am afraid that we will not have any Hampton Special Steak Pies on 29th January. I know that this is disappointing for many and I do apologise, however we will hope to have good supplies of pies at our February collection day.

It is amazing how Mother Nature reacts to wintry conditions and all the cows and calves roaming the snowy landscape have grown thicker than usual coats in the last week. I can hardly see their eyes! We are feeding hay and straw every day and topping their rations up with a little side order of cow cake. This sadly does not come with coffee icing and candles but in the form of pellets in a large plastic sack. The herd all think it's just as delicious as a good sponge. In fact, they thrive in these conditions so long as they also have a good supply of fresh water which means de thawing water troughs each morning with a blazing straw fire.

Bridget and I look forward to seeing everyone who comes to collect on Friday 29th January and at this rate it will be gluwein and hot chocolate for all rather than coffee and wine. Please order as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, including any special joints or cuts which might be needed.

Our collection day in February will be **Friday 26th**, an early date for your diary.

Please email your order to [Hampton.estate@farmline.com](mailto:Hampton.estate@farmline.com) or ring Kate, Bridget or Bill at the Estate Office on 01483 810465.

Happy cooking and very best wishes

Bill and Bridget

