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PRESS RELEASE

FARMERS MARKET...20 YEARS ON

Can you believe it? After 20 years, Farmers Market traders, Posh Janet and Kevin (Morgan Pell Meats) are still going strong and remain loyal to Leighton Buzzard's Farmers Market, a long-running speciality market that runs alongside the Charter Market every 3rd Saturday of the month.

Janet and Kevin were the key instigators of the Farmers Market 20 years ago and the anniversary of its first day will be celebrated on Saturday 19 October between 0900 and 1300.

Janet described Kevin as "a young, keen and enthusiastic farmer." when they joined forces. These days Kevin is worldly-wise and remains a strong supporter of the Farmers market, as is Janet.

Farmers Markets bring local produce to the area allowing customers to meet and buy directly from the producers. Kevin sells home raised and butchered beef and lamb. Janet sells homegrown and homemade produce, honey and lately Chiltern Rapeseed Oil, whilst Debby (K.C.Robbins) sells pork, bacon, sausages and pies. There are of course more traders to discover when you visit.

Janet continued, "It has been the loyalty of customers over many years that reaps its own reward. We have faced several food crises; BSC, foot and mouth, horsemeat in Supermarket products, fuel protests not to mention the challenges of the weather. More recently we have had to explain the effects of growing food on the land, global warming, and climate change whilst combating vegans, chained to a Lamp post."

As ever, there is room for everyone on Leighton Buzzard Market and speciality markets. The benefits of shopping at the Farmers Market are many:

- You can purchase fresh, locally produced, high quality, great value food.
- Food miles are kept to a minimum reducing transport emissions.
- Farmers can tell you how their products are produced and where they are from.

Traders are there in all weathers. You can pre-order products and the trading is mutually beneficial through shopping locally with sustainable and competitive prices.

The Farmers market is modest in size and new traders would be welcome. The running time is 0900 to 1300 because the traders need to return to their businesses to tender their livestock. Are you a trader and interested in having a pitch?

Email: markets@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

The final message comes directly from Janet and Kevin “Come and find us in the High Street on the third Saturday each month and become known to our stallholders. We look forward to meeting you.”

END

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Word count: 403

Date: 15/10/2019