



Another instalment of the story of the Northowram Scarecrows!

By Alison MacGrath

Last year we told you about 'Notty Owram' the original scarecrow Sally found in her garage and how the Northowram Scarecrow Event came about. If you've not read it the story is here on the website on the "The story of Notty Owram 2016" button.

Last year Notty Owram went on his holidays for the Scarecrow Event. Many of you will have spotted him at Landemere Farm on Score Hill. Notty told us he had a great time there. After the Scarecrow weekend Notty thought he would be going back to the back of Sally's Garage, but no, it was decided he would stay in an outhouse at the farm until this year's event when he would move on again to a new location. Notty was delighted with this news as by then he was friends with all the scarecrows on the farm, the woodcutter and his wife, the flowerpot scarecrows called 'Rosemary and Thyme', the business man scarecrow from the field near 22 Bar & Smokehouse. It was definitely not going to be 362 days of boredom here as there always seemed to be something happening on the farm.



The Woodcutter & his wife!



Rosemary & Thyme



Business man



Notty Owram

The outhouse that became home to Notty was one of three in a row. He shared it with all the other scarecrows and that was always great fun, but there were also the pigs next door. Gladys the Gloucestershire Old Spot sow and her husband, the big black saddleback boar, called Bernard. Gladys was expecting a litter of piglets just after the Scarecrow weekend and by the end of May they had arrived. There were ten in total and all different from each other in their colouring and markings. Bernard the Boar was moved into the third outhouse for the time being while the piglets were being born and were still quite small. He was not happy to be excluded like this and he made his feelings known loudly each day when the farmer came to feed them.

Further down the Farm yard in what was known as the Croft was the hen run. There were 16 hens and they had a detached house to live in with Conrad the Cockerel. Now he was very noisy. Every morning as soon as dawn was breaking he set up his loud call. "Cock-a-doodle-do" he called over and over again. Notty did not mind, in fact he loved it as it was life going on all around him and after spending a lot of time in the back of Sally's garage he was happy to be out in the world again. All the animals on the farm were very friendly especially the big black bull called 'Lord Henry'. All through the year there were babies being born, the cows Mary, Connie and Betty Blue had calves and some of the hens hatched eggs so there was new life everywhere on the farm.



The camera-shy piglets



Conrad the Cockerel



Hen and Chicks



'Betty Blue' and calf



Lord Henry

The Scarecrows had to be very quiet during the day in case the Farmer or his family heard them chattering and the secret would be out. But at night when the farmyard settled down to sleep and the family had gone to bed, that was when the Scarecrows came to life. They laughed and joked among themselves and told each other stories of the time when they were out in the fields scaring crows and other birds away from the Farmers crops. There was the time when someone tried to take the Businessman Scarecrow's suit but thankfully the farmer had tie wrapped it on so well he was saved from being found naked in the morning. The Businessman scarecrow was so prim and proper they all giggled at the very thought of it!

Now see if you can spot Notty today on your way around the village.