

## Social Farming Across Borders Pilot Farm Profile:

### Section 1 – Your Details

<p>Name: Simon and Jennifer Bullock</p>		<p>Address: Derrylin, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh</p>
<p>Contact to be made via the Social Farming Across Borders office: Laird House Drumshanbo Leitrim</p>		<p>+353 (0)71 964 1772 <a href="mailto:socialfarming@ldco.ie">socialfarming@ldco.ie</a> <a href="http://www.socialfarmingcrossborders.org">www.socialfarmingcrossborders.org</a></p>

### Section 2 – Your Farm

#### About my Farm:

- The farm house is a traditional stone built, reed thatched, whitewashed cottage. Once a common style in Ulster, it is now one of approximately 100 that remain, of which very few are still used as family homes. The cottage is the centre of a square of traditional stone barns that have been recently refurbished.
- We also have the care of a ruined stone 17<sup>th</sup> century plantation castle on our farm, which was the home of the Creighton family before they moved three miles down the river to Crom Bay and took on the title of Earls of Erne.
- The surrounding cottage gardens are filled with mature trees which have been planted by the family over the years starting with the current owners Great –Grand father who once worked at Kew Gardens, and was the estate gardener for the Earls of Erne. We feed wild birds to encourage breeding on the farm and have a host of visiting water birds to our pond, such as Kingfishers, Herons and Whopper swans. The farm has recently been renewed a place in the Dept of Agriculture Country Side Management Scheme. The farm land extends to just over 100 acres of grazing lands.
- On the arrival of the children it was decided that a slower pace was needed and we dispersed our Ayreshire/ Friesian milking herd in 2009 and are currently renting the majority of the grazing area to local farmers while retaining the use of the farm yard.



Farm Activities offered to the Participants:

- Vegetable and herb planting/ harvesting.
- Soft and tree fruit planting/ harvesting.
- Jam making and baking.
- Window box construction.
- Planting/ maintaining woodland areas, flower beds, and water areas to provide the ideal habitat for wildlife.
- Wild bird feeding and identification.
- Assisting with sheep farm activities.



Preferred days of the week:

Mondays

Projects on-going at the moment:

- Finishing the winter hedge laying and preparing to erect protective fencing to protect from the sheep.
- Preparing the vegetable seed beds for early potatoes & onions
- Spring tidying the garden of old leaves and dead vegetation from last year
- The sheep have started to lamb and will continue for another month

**Section 3 – Your Locality & Community**

Nearest Services: Teemore village, Belturbet —all local village facilities available

Nearest towns: Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen, Belturbet Co Cavan

Nearest public transport or rural transport initiative:

Ulsterbus route from Enniskillen to Belturbet stops nearby

My locality and community interests :

We live 2 miles from the National Trust estate at Crom which is a haven for wildlife and supports an amazing array of species of wild birds, mammals, flora and insects. We attend Crom Estate church, where Simon rings the peal of eight bells most Sundays and we are well known within the local community.

The local community are very supportive with regard to our family's special needs and we have been offered much assistance in the development of our social farming pilot scheme. Local people with great traditional skills on fruit & vegetable growing, moth trapping and recording, jam & cake making ,hedge laying etc are keen to be involved to share their knowledge.

## Section 4 – You, the Farmer

### Me and my Farm:

Simon and Jennifer Bullock live on the farm with their 3 children. Simon is the fifth generation of the Bullock family to live and work on the farm. After attending Agricultural college Simon has improved the farm while maintaining the natural environment. Simon has experience in working with people with disabilities through the Riding for the Disabled, Assistance Dogs Northern Ireland and has recently established Annagh Care Farm on his other farm at Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone.

Jennifer was brought up on a farm and also loves the outdoor environment. As a senior Occupational Therapist, Jennifer has experience treating and working with people who have physical and learning disabilities and people with mental health issues. Also, Jennifer and Simon have immediate family experience of working with individuals with specific care needs, which gives them personal experience of the joys and challenges of caring for a person with a disability.



Photographs: - Our farm Cottage, traditional farm barn which will be used as a base, harvesting blackcurrants and harvesting apples in our old traditional orchard.