

Poultry



Poultry steward John Redler
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IF you think birds are dull, think again. The popular poultry section has a fascinating display of rare and traditional ducks, geese, turkeys and chickens of all shapes and sizes — as well as an egg exhibition.

This year the breeders are keen to highlight the advantages of keeping poultry and to encourage people to give it a go.

Poultry steward John Redler, who breeds Bantams, a miniature variety, said: “I will be exhibiting some of my birds, such as Partridge Wyandottes, which are grey chickens with a white flick. For me it’s been an interest since childhood and I try to

encourage as many youngsters as possible to come in, because they will be the ones carrying on the trade when the older people go.

“For youngsters raising birds is a really good hobby. It is fun picking the eggs in the mornings and taking care of them.”

The Poultry Club of Great Britain has upgraded the show to regional status, which means some of the classes have become prestigious cup classes.

“I am very much looking forward to the show this year. As long as bird flu

keeps it away it should be good!” said John.

For the Wakeham family, of Sign of the Owls, in Ivybridge, breeding birds is a family affair.

Derek and Julie, and their children, Daniel, Andrew and Kelly, keep rarer breeds of ducks, chickens, turkeys and geese and have won many national awards.

“We have won best in show with our Sumatras twice,” said Andrew. “The county show is good exposure for us. We put the best birds up and if people are interested hope-

fully they will get involved too. I do think more people should keep chickens. They are fascinating creatures.

“Depending on the size of the bird, a three foot by three foot hutch will hold up to six as long as they can come out in the day and have room to run around in.”

Andrew says of all the colourful birds he looks after, his favourite is the Orpington.

“They look big, but they are just soft, gentle giants,” he said. “Come along and have a look!”



BENEFITS:

- Generous weekly allowance
- Summer Holiday & Loyalty Payments
- Continuous Training
- 24/7 support from our qualified, professional social work staff
- Monthly support group meetings

COULD YOU BE A FOSTER CARER?

There is an urgent need for foster carers in the South West

Nicci Willock, Regional Manager for the South West, said; Foster carers have a vital role to play in giving children and young people the best possible start in life and we need to recruit a whole range of carers who reflect the diversity of the children and young people who need foster care.

You may wish to look after children for short periods of time or you may prefer to care for a young person until they reach the stage in their life when they can become independent. You may wish to care for younger children or may have the skills and experience to care for teenagers.

Nicci added, many people do not come forward to foster as they believe they are not eligible, however we are trying to encourage applications from all walks of life. You may be married, live as a couple, or be single or divorced.

You may be employed, unemployed or retired. You may be a home owner or a tenant. We welcome applications from all ethnic backgrounds, cultures and religions.

Many prospective applicants are worried about the process however, it is important for applicants to know that support is available throughout the whole process. Free training is available before applicants begin the assessment, which is part of the process of becoming a foster carer and usually takes about 3 months to complete.

Once you become a foster carer our qualified and highly experienced staff provide ongoing support and are available 24 hours per day, therefore you are never alone. In addition further training is provided in order that foster carers gain valuable skills, knowledge and experience.

Being a foster carer is a challenging profession but if people feel they have the skills, patience and space to look after a child we urge you to come along to one of our local recruitment events and find out more, alternatively visit our website or telephone for further information.

For more Information you can find us at:

The Devon County Show,
in Avenue B; Stand Number 151

Thursday 15th, Friday 16th & Saturday 17th May

Westpoint, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon EX5 1DJ

CALL US NOW ON:

0845 200 4040 calls at local rate

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