

Ansty PYO and Farm Shop celebrate their 25th Birthday!

On the 28th August, 2023, the Ansty PYO and Farm Shop team celebrated their 25th Birthday!

To celebrate this anniversary Karren and the PYO team held a surprise 'birthday party' at the monthly Ansty Village Coffee Morning! It was a reverse of a the normal 'surprise party' – in that the guests didn't know they were coming to a party!

The guest of honour was one Beryl Beale! The Osborne family (K's family) purchased the Pick Your Own site from the late Alan Beale and his wife Beryl back in 1998.

The Beales originally planted the PYO fields at Copseside Farm, in Ansty and a few years later moved it up to Barnfield Farm on the A30 at the site we all know as Ansty PYO & Farm Shop.

Alan & Beryl had worked hard on Barnfield Farm and planted strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, rhubarb and tayberries and had a small shop selling gardening items in the barn on site.

The Osborne family have faithfully kept the roots of the business and still grow those 4 fruits but now with a lot more besides.

Over the quarter century since, a farm shop was added, an annual Maize Maze created, a wonderful tea and coffee room built, and many more fruits and vegetables have been grown. The business is now a hive of activity all year round, helped by the installation of a large stretch tent which allows evening

entertainment with great food and drink along with popular craft stalls and other presentations.

Ansty PYO starts in earnest as early as February in with the rhubarb crop! It is incredible to think that PYO's Rhubarb "hedge" began with just one crown planted by Alan!

The season then moves on to Asparagus in early summer and the summer months sees the fruition of all the summer berries and the many happy faced pickers. October is busy with the pumpkin season and then Christmas time is hectic with Christmas trees and mince pies! It has been wonderful to develop the business over the years! We have made so many friends and have seen families grow! It is lovely to see children of years ago now bringing their children to Ansty PYO creating more happy childhood memories of fruit or pumpkin picking!

Karren said that they planted a flowering cherry tree (that Robin grew) on the Surprise Party Day in the field behind the car park. So hopefully over the years it will grow into a lovely reminder of their 25th Birthday!

Here's to another 25 years!!

A footnote to all this is that the PYO site pays more than a courtesy to all those who have worked previously on this very land since Saxon times when peasants were growing crops on long strips in large open fields both for the Manor and for themselves. In feudal and medieval times this became a 3-field system and the PYO site is located on what was once Sheaf Field (corrupted to Shave Field – hence the boundary track Shave Lane). Click [here](#) to read more.



Top- The planting of the flowering cherry tree!

Right- The champagne flows!

Below- This picture of Barnfield was presented to Karren a few years ago by Alan and Beryl Beale. A lady painted it years and gave it to the couple. After many years Alan decided he wanted to give it to Ansty PYO, and it now has pride of place in the tearoom! They love it!

It really does remind one of those early open fields of centuries ago in Ansty when village peasants were doing much the same thing!

[Click here to see full sized picture!](#)



Happy 25th Birthday to Ansty PYO!



The 'surprise party' guests with Beryl, Karen and family in the PYO tea-room.