



## Pigs, polytunnels and “PYO” ...

The Story of a Family Farm in Surrey

As told by John Shinner and his daughter Melanie

**In 1957 John and his wife Wendy bought Priory Farm in Nutfield. It consisted of 140 acres of grass fields, some woods, a lake and some old Victorian buildings.**

Over the decades that have followed, with their three children, Melanie, Nic and Anthony, they have developed and changed Priory Farm from small scale sheep, cereal, pig and chicken farming into the diversified business it is today.

The main enterprises now are: Farm Shop, Plant Centre, Coffee Shop, Discovery Walk and fishing with some areas of fruit growing and other activities including Mountain Boarding and Corporate Entertainment.

**With some amusing anecdotes John will reveal the struggles to build a viable business and bring up a family on a small farm. He will tell of his pioneering efforts in the marketing of strawberries and other fruit and vegetables by “PYO” (pick your own) in the early Seventies, pig breeding to produce better quality lean meat and the story of how The Plant Centre grew from one small polythene tunnel, growing bedding plants, to the thriving business it is today. To finish, Melanie will bring the story of Priory Farm up to date and talk about all our new and exciting initiatives.**

Duration of talk – approximately 45 – 60 minutes but to suit requirements

Equipment – John and Melanie will bring projector and screen to illustrate their talk with a PowerPoint presentation.



*Harvesting in the 60s*



*Strawberry Fair, 2010*

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**For talk bookings, please phone 01883 744653 and ask for Donna or Tracy**