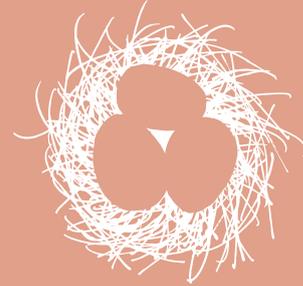


It's nice getting fresh eggs — that's a benefit as well. With your own hens you know what you've fed them and where the eggs are coming from. We use them for baking and we give some away. They're always in demand with people nearby.

Looking back, this has been beneficial for Linda and she has got a lot of pleasure out of it. Next she's talking about getting a couple of piglets!

Hen House



It's just me and my daughter Linda here now the others have grown up and left. Because she has learning disabilities, the main thing is that I have to plan everything and have everything organised for her.

Linda loves all kinds of animals but she had particularly wanted to get hens for a while. This grant helped that to happen. For us, putting the grant towards a henhouse was a better way of using the money than me going somewhere. It just wouldn't work if I went away with some others my age - she wouldn't take kindly being excluded like that. This way Linda was included in the way the grant was used, and it was a project on the doorstep which got her involved and gave her an interest.

First we had to make an area suitable for the hens so they weren't going to be wandering about. It's very windy here so we had to protect it. We got a few of those wooden panels to create a shelter. Then we built the henhouse in the college at an adult education class. Everyone else was there building things as well. I'm not much use with a saw and hammer but the people at the college prepared the wood for us and we put it all together. Linda enjoyed doing that.

That was two or three years ago now and it's still going strong - it's just become part of life. Linda helps out with the hens, looking after them and feeding them. She enjoys that. I think that anything which encourages an interest in how to work the land and lets you get involved in that, is a good thing.