© DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER



SWA JUNIOR WEEKEND IN SHROPSHIRE SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP IN GERMANY & AUSTRIA RURAL YOUTH EUROPE RALLY IN ESTONIA

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Have a read of this year's travel reports and get inspired to apply for the travel programme in 2025.

YFC programme over the summer, but for our Travel Chairman Alison Balsdon, it has been an incredibly busy one!

This month's edition of the newsletter is packed full with travel reports. Bethany Ansdell reports on the Senior Scholarship, where 19 members travelled through Germany and Austria. Jordan Winter reports on his trip to the Rural Youth Europe Rally in Estonia. And finally, Chloe Arscott, Katie Grist and Alison Balsdon had an unforgettable fortnight volunteering in Nepal.

The travel opportunities within YFC are amazing. They're the best opportunity to gain new experiences, make new friends and get to see a part of the world you may never have dreamt of seeing. A huge thank you to Alison for all her hard work. Have a read of the reports in this newsletter and get inspired to apply for the travel programme in 2025.

NFYFC TOW Finals

On my way back from the European Rally in Estonia, I thankfully was able to get to Shropshire in time to catch the National Tug of War finals to support our four Devon teams. I have loved supporting the TOW competition this year and was absolutely amazed by the sheer amount of grit and determination that was shown by Anstey, Honiton and Whimple and Broadclyst. All four teams made the top three and Anstey went on to retain their national title. An incredible achievement.

SWA Junior Weekend

What a weekend we had in Shropshire for the South West Area Junior Activities Weekend 2024! Devon juniors joined other members from across the South West for a weekend of paddle boarding, high ropes, zip wires, rifle shooting, archery and so much more. The evenings were also spent doing laser tag, discos and of course the infamous SWA water fight..!

I was joined by Anneliese Retallick, Hannah Gray and Jordan Winter as fellow leaders from Devon, alongside the rest of the SWA committee. This weekend has got to be one of my highlights of the year and is such a brilliant opportunity for

D.Grist Dan Grist County Chairman

our junior members.



Watch the SWA Junior Activities Weekend highlights video!







New Officer Training Dates for your Diary:

Club Officer Training Weekend Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th November YHA Bracken Tor Okehampton Arrival - 9:30am on Saturday Departure - Ipm on Sunday

Treasurers Training Thursday 14th November YFC Centre. 7pm.

Leaders Training (open to adult/ parental helpers too) Tuesday 12th November Tuesday 29th November YFC Centre. 7:30pm.

Online Safeguarding Training for new officers

As you may already be aware, NFYFC introduced mandatory online safeguarding training for Club Officers and anyone in a 'Position of Trust' in YFC. Once the County Office has received your club's AGM pack, any new officers will be enrolled onto the course and you will receive an email from NFYFC with your username and password. The training must be completed within 28 days on taking on your new position. Please note, the certificate lasts for three years therefore if you were in post 2023-2024 and completed the course, you won't need to do it again this year.

Safe Recruitment checklist for volunteers

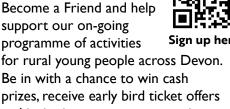
- DBS Certificate / ID checks
- Position of Trust application/ nomination form
- Self-Declaration form
- Online Safeguarding Training Certificate

Moving on from YFC? Don't be a stranger...

Are you moving on from YFC this year but would still like to be involved? We have lots of volunteering opportunities throughout the year and are always on the lookout for judges and stewards and helpers with events. Why not think about taking on a Leader role in your area? Feel free to register your interest by emailing admin@devonyfc.co.uk.

Friends of Devon YFC

support our on-going programme of activities for rural young people across Devon. Be in with a chance to win cash prizes, receive early bird ticket offers and invitations to commemorative events, for just £20 a year!











With over 10 years experience of successfully running bars at hundreds of events catering from 50 - 1500 guests, we have the professionalism and reliability you can trust.

All of our senior staff are qualified personal license holders, and are mostly from YFC backgrounds. So if it's a ball, party, or wedding, you can be assured of our best service.



ugust kicked off with the Tug of War National Finals at Tenbury Show with four Devon teams pulling against the best YFC teams across England and Wales!

Firstly, the juniors from Honiton came home with third place! After nearly going out in the pool stages, a heroic effort that involved turning a team right at the line and pulling them all the way back ensured they qualified for the semi-finals. They unfortunately lost their semi-final but went on to win the 3rd place pull off to come home with a bronze medal!

Next up were the ladies from Whimple and Broadclyst! They also managed to get through to the semi-finals where they lost to the eventual winners of the competition. It meant they were also in the 3rd place pull off to face their local rivals from Somerset - Polden Hills. After a brilliant pull, they went on to win to also bring home a bronze medal for Deyon.

And last but not least we had the two men's teams from Devon - Honiton and Anstey. Honiton qualified through a tough group to get to the semi-finals where they unfortunately narrowly missed

out on making the final with a close pull. But they went on to the 3rd place pull off with confidence and it showed... winning it over three ends to bring home yet another bronze for Devon!

But Anstey went to the national finals as defending champions and showed their class being unbeaten in their group and making it to the final which they went on and won! This meant they brought home the trophy for Devon yet again and are back to back National YFC Tug of War Champions. A huge achievement!

The best way to sum it up came from our Chairman Dan who said "it was Devon domination."

In other news, we have it confirmed that our Devon YFC vs Cornwall YFC rugby match will take place at Launceston RFC on 1st November. Details will be sent out shortly about the team selection, so watch this space!



We will also
be back again at Mecca Bingo in
Exeter for our Oktoberfest themed
Batty Bingo on 19th of October!
Finally, save the date in your diary
for the Christmas Ball on 7th
December!

COMPETITIONS **Jordan Winter**



ugust has been a quieter month for competitions, but lots has been going on behind the scenes and it's great to hear some groups have already completed their public speaking group rounds.

All speaking competitions for the new YFC year are in the diary please look out for emails to get your teams entered! Please see the Devon YFC website for all the rules and if you do have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the office.



Dates for your diary!

Thursday 17th October

Intermediate Brainstrust

YFC Centre

Wednesday 23rd October

Junior Reading

YFC Centre

Thursday 31st October

After Dinner Speaking

YFC Centre

Thursday 7th November

Situations Vacant

YFC Centre

Wednesday 13th November

Senior Brainstrust

YFC Centre

Sunday 26th January

Junior Public Speaking

YFC Centre

AGRI Ben May

ugust has been a quieter month for the agri programme as many members and farms have been busy with harvest.

Coming up on 16th September at 6:30pm is a farm visit to Tidwell Barton by kind permission of the Wastenage Family. Tidwell Barton is a 360-cow springer block calving unit trying to graze grass 365 days of the year. Maize is grown as well as

grass for the self-feed silage. They also graze fodder beet through the shoulders of the season to extend

the grazing round and rear all their own breeding replacements. There is a goat milking enterprise at Tidwell too. There will be a jotform out soon to sign up for this visit - I'm sure places will fill quickly!







members headed to Germany and Austria for the Devon Senior Scholarship trip!

As well as this, members headed off on National trips to Estonia and Nepal thanks to the NFYFC travel programme. Hear all about their amazing

experiences first hand in the following travel

reports!







"We all feel extremely fortunate to have had this opportunity. To anyone considering applying for YFC travel this year - just do it!"

Bethany Ansdell



Devon YFC Senior Scholarship

Germany & Austria

on the 11th August, Devon YFC waved goodbye to 19 members from across the county, as we headed off on the Senior Scholarship to Austria.

We started the trip with a bus to Heathrow which then saw us land in Munich later that evening.

We spent two nights in a hostel in Munich and we had one full day to explore the city. On Monday morning we did a city garden walking tour where we saw all the popular sites of Munich. Lunch was in a German restaurant where members tried some German delicacies such as Schweinshaxe (pork knuckle) with dumplings and a range of German sausages. In the evening, some of the group headed out to an Irish bar, followed by heading to Hofbräuhaus (beer hall).

On Tuesday morning we left
Munich on a train and headed for
Altmünster, Austria. We arrived
in the afternoon and soon headed
straight to the lake. As the evening
came in, so did the rain, hail and
thunderstorms. Fortunately for the
group, across the road there was a
restaurant serving the well known
Austrian cuisine - Chinese buffet!
After a long day of travelling in the

Austrian heat, we had a quiet night in the communal room of the hotel.

The following morning, some went for an early morning swim before we all headed off to Grunberg for the day which was a short boat ride away on the other side of the lake. We were then able to catch the cable car up over the mountain,

where we did a treetop walk and a toboggan. A fantastic way to see some amazing views of the Austrian countryside. After two days of exploring and lots of swimming, we moved to our final location of the trip for the final three nights in a village called Kollin.

op walk and

19 members

19 members
headed to
Germany and
Austria on the
Devon YFC Senior
Scholarship!





The final part of the trip was when we met up with the Austrians who are set to come back to England in October. They picked us up on Thursday night and took us to Burghausen Castle where we had a guided tour which was interesting to see how the castle is still used today, providing 50 flats for locals to rent and live in. The castle is 1051m long and conveniently for us Brit's abroad, there was a lake at the end which we could all go swimming in after another hot day of heats in the high 20's.

Later in the evening, the Austrians took us out for a traditional dinner at a lovely restaurant where we played games, sang songs and drank schnapps after dinner. The following day we had a quiet morning before being picked up in the afternoon and taken on a farm tour of a dairy farm which farms fleckvieh cows and makes their own yoghurt and cheese. The boys were in their element after spending six days away from farming and it was made even better that they were silaging that day too.



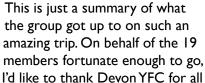


We finished Friday evening by heading to Austria's version of a young farmers party where they held a ploughing princess competition. Our very own Phoebe and Tom

took part in the completion which was great to watch them getting stuck in with the Austrian fun!

The following day we returned to the same farm from the night before where the ploughing match had begun. Another great showcase of the similarities between Austrian and English farming. After the ploughing

had finished and some schnitzel burgers had been consumed for lunch, there was a showcase of a range of different Austrian dances which were great fun to watch.



their hard work to organise such a brilliant trip. We all feel extremely fortunate to of had this opportunity and to anyone considering applying this year, just do it! I bet you won't regret it. A big thank you must also go to the welcoming and kind Austrians who were fantastic hosts and we look forward to seeing you in October. Próst!





"The whole week was crammed full

with laughter, education and new experiences.

A trip I will never forget"

Jordan Winter

Rural Youth Europe Rally Estonia

In July, myself and Rosie
Bennett were lucky enough to attend the Rural Youth Europe
Rally in Estonia. We were 2 of 5 members from across the country who made up Team England.

Rural Youth Europe is the umbrella organisation for all rural youth organisations across Europe. Their events aim to bring like-minded people together to educate each other and exchange ideas, build connections and above all have fun!

Our trip began in the capital city Tallinn alongside the Welsh team to take in the sights of this beautiful city prior to the Rally! On Sunday we travelled to Jogeva which was the official venue. Our first afternoon was full of settling in to our rooms and ice breaker games to get to know all the other teams. There were 99 participants at this year's rally - the biggest one yet!

This year's theme and the topic of the week was entrepreneurial mindsets with the tag line "care to stay, dare to change". The week had a packed programme of discussion groups, guest speakers, workshops and much more.

Our first day consisted of the opening ceremony where everybody wore their countries traditional dress. This was quite difficult for the English due to our lack of traditional dress, so in true country fashion we settled for tweed! In the evening we had one of the highlights of the week which was the "International Buffet" where we were required to bring traditional food and drink from our country. Team England turned up with Pimms, gin and Buckfast tonic wine (of which team Germany

loved), Eccles cakes, scones, ginger nuts and a tin of baked beans (Heinz of course!) It was great fun trying all sorts from blackcurrant schnapps from Estonia to seaweed from Northern Ireland.



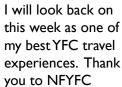
experiences. Thank you to NFYFC for giving me the opportunity to attend the Rally and I encourage all members to get involved with all things YFC travel - you will not

regret it!

Midway through the week we had an excursion day where we were taken to two very different farm tours, one of which was a commercial beef and arable farm and the other was a health farm where they take in guests to stay on the farm

and experience a more natural way of living.

The Rally is also where the General Assembly for Rural Youth Europe happens which is like their AGM. At this meeting our very own Rosie Bennett was elected as Vice Chairman for Internal Affairs. Congratulations to Rosie and good luck in your role!



TRAVEL





Chloe Arscott



NFYFC Volunteering

Nepal

n August, myself, Katie Grist and Alison Balsdon travelled to Nepal on an NFYFC volunteering scholarship.

After landing in Kathmandu where we experienced the crazy streets and traffic of the capital, we started with an induction learning about Nepali culture and our project.

For the first week, we were based at EduFarm, an educational farm that is open to children, schools and families to give them experience and education of where their food comes from, with a focus on healthy diets.

During the week we worked at Olga Puri, part of Nepal Youth Foundation. The site (3 acres) is split between a children's home, vocational school and farm. The children's home houses 80 orphaned children from 14 months old to 18 years. The vocational college teaches 18-25 year olds skills including woodwork, welding, electronics, plumbing and tailoring.

During our time at Olga Puri we helped with a variety of farming activities including preparing seed beds, planting a variety of vegetables including broccoli, spinach and beans, weeding and harvesting produce which the centre uses and sells to local people. It made us appreciate the machinery we have at home, especially in the heat and humidity we were experiencing.

During our first week we also spent a day working at EduFarm, helping the farm workers and local women

in the rice fields. The easiest way to weed the rice fields is to just take your shoes off and get stuck in! For most of the day we were barefooted and

at least ankle deep in mud.
Unfortunately for Katie she made friends with a leach whilst out in the rice field!

At the weekend, it was time to say goodbye to EduFarm and leave for a weekend in Pokhara, Nepal's second largest city. The journey to Pokhara was long and bumpy, the roads had sheer drops off the side. The roads varied massively from tarmac to mud tracks but 9 hours later we arrived in the city.

Our first full day in Pokhara started at 4am and it was chucking it down. We headed off towards Sarangkot for sunrise and to hopefully catch a glimpse of the Himalayas, however there had been a massive landslide due to the rain and the road was not passable by bus. Despite this we still got to visit the World Peace Pagoda which is a Buddhist temple on the top of the hill and Devis falls, a waterfall that goes underground.

After a quick break it was time to head back out to see some



more sights. Firstly we went to the Bindhyabasini Temple, the views from up here were insane, you could see right across the city and we caught some glimpses of the Himalayas which really put all the surrounding mountains into perspective.

The afternoon was free time to ourselves, so we went shopping, hired scooters and enjoyed a boat ride on lake Phewa. In the evening we got to experience the Pokhara night life. The following day we had the long 9 hour bus journey back to Kathmandu.

Our final project of the trip was at Zing Boarding English School where we were putting in a vegetable garden. We gathered some tools and seeds and headed off to create and plant 7 beds of vegetables as we had been taught earlier on in the trip. For our second day at the school we had to organise some activities. We split into groups and spent time teaching classes about agriculture and showing the children pictures of our farms, reading books we had bought with the younger children and we also painted a mural on the wall of the classroom, leaving a lasting reminder of YFC in Nepal.

Throughout the week we also had chance to fully immerse ourselves in different cultural activities including a language lesson, Momo making class (Nepalese dumplings) and henna tattoos. We also paid a visit to Bagalamukhi temple - the Hindu temple of love, the Golden Temple and the Monkey Temple where there were monkeys everywhere!



That is a brief summary of our two weeks in Nepal, it has been a great experience to work and travel, all whilst representing NFYFC and Devon YFC. We have learnt so much about Nepal farming, religion and culture, whilst making new friends with young farmers from across the country.









THE DAIRY EVENT

WEDNESDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2024

O1363 772212 cmc@creditonmilling.co.uk









CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



Candlelight to York inn and finishing at the Sidmouth arms, enjoying a few drinks along the way.

Our Summer disco was held on Friday 26th July by kind permission of the Burdge family at North Waterhayne farm. This year we had a new theme of a 'Ball Pool Party'. A lot of organisation went into getting 150,000 balls from Manchester to Devon, thanks to Burrough family haulage! The night was well attended with over 300 people attending, making profits of over £1,700 going towards our charity of the year - Yellow Wellies. Many thanks to the Burdge family especially for all the help and to members and advisory for help setting up on the night and packing away.

Our TOW teams have

also come on great leaps and bounds over the past year, so well done to them. The teams also have new TOW tops to fit the part - many thanks to all our sponsors.

Upcoming we're holding a Charity Cream Tea and big raffle on Sunday 8th September from 2pm at Yarcombe Village Hall. We also have our annual harvest supper on Sunday 29th September to celebrate the past years achievements as a club, followed by our AGM on 30th September.

Natalie Sampson

HALDON YFC

ugust has been a busy month for Haldon members, starting off with our successful Hawaiian Party, getting bigger and better every year! Thank you to Gooseford Dairy and the Courtier family for hosting us.

The 8th saw our annual rally at Okehampton show, allowing members to showcase their talents. We would like to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the day and had a cream tea!

Over the year, each club and its' members have gone from strength to strength, putting on fundraisers and socials, as well as competing in competitions - it's been great to see new people taking part in speaking competitions and getting involved with our men's, ladies, and junior tug of war team.

To close the year and thank everyone, myself and our Chairman Imogen would like to welcome you to our 2nd annual Dinner and Dance on Saturday 14th September, please see the Facebook event for more information!

Chloe Eyles





CLUB OF THE MONTH Supported by BRAUNTON YFC

This month's Devon
YFC Club of the Month
were responsible for the
YFC marquee at this year's
North Devon Show. It was
Braunton Young Farmers' turn to
coordinate the YFC feature and
the tent was packed with YFC
cookery, floristry, photography,
handicrafts and more.

Bethany Ansdell, Braunton YFC's Club Secretary, says: "It's always a lot of hard work to organise the tent at the show, but we were delighted to see the tent full of entries. It is so important for us to promote our 8 clubs within North Devon group, so that the public know that we exist!

"It was great to see members of the public walking around the tent and asking how their children can sign up! Which is brilliant considering we are about to start a new YFC year."

Although the club have recently been focusing on preparing for North Devon Show, throughout the year they have had a busy programme of activities. They have held charity events such as their calving bingo and tractor run, as well as community events that include their Big Breakfast and their recent community litter pick along the Tarka Trail.

For Club Chairman Sam Zeale, a highlight of the year was their tractor run in memory of former Braunton YFC President Eric Nott.

This was the club's 6th annual tractor run and their largest to date, with 39 tractors taking part.

Sam Zeale, Braunton YFC Chairman, says: "I have had a hand in organising this event every year since Eric sadly passed away in 2018 and every year I am truly "What we do is vital in helping to combat the isolation associated with living and working in rural areas."

Bethany Ansdell

humbled that so many people support this event and keep Eric's memory alive.

"Thank you to every single person involved in this year's tractor tun, which raised £1,000 for charity. Whether you made a cake, drove a tractor, came out to local villages to wave us through or got held up in your car and waited patiently -

thank you!"







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TALKWORKS Tips for September

Being active can help both your physical and emotional wellbeing. Did you know that Wednesday 18th September is National Fitness Day? While exercise is good for your physical health, it can also help to improve your wellbeing.

Eve from TALKWORKS (Devon's NHS Talking Therapies service) shares why she chooses to cycle rather than drive to work: "Cycling is a great way for me to have some time to decompress before and after work. It also means after a busy day, I have managed to fit in some movement and that helps a lot when things get busy."

Being active can help us to feel less stressed and can also help us to get a better night's sleep. If you are able to fit exercise into your daily routine, it can really help to boost mood and leave you feeling happier.

If you would like to access support from TALKWORKS or find out more about the treatment options that they offer, you can call the team on 0300 555 3344 or visit their website for further information.







Lameness has long been recognised as one of the most visible herd health and welfare challenges within the dairy industry. Taking steps to improve mobility has been an entirely positive experience for Ross Hedden of The Barton Farm in Weare Giffard. Join us, AHDB Dairy, and Sophia Elworthy who is Ross's Healthy Feet Programme mobility mentor together with the rest of the Torch Lameness Team at our next Lameness event on 24th September 2024, 10.30 am -2 pm.

You will learn:

- · The key factors affecting mobility while at grazing
- Practical ideas for addressing lameness
- The benefits of the AHDB Healthy Feet Lite program

The discussion will cover the risk factors that were identified during the mobility mentor visit and how changes have been made to contribute to herd hoof health, such as managing cow flow, corners, track surfaces, general maintenance, walking pace and distance.

This will be an interactive session including a farm walk and it is a must-not-miss meeting if you are interested in practical tips to benefit from the economic, emotional and social uplift which results from reducing the burden of lameness. You will hear more about the AHDB Healthy Feet programme, and the services mobility mentors can provide for your herd.



To book email events@torchvets.com or call your local branch!



The Barton, Weare Giffard, Bideford, EX39 4QP



HEALTHY FEET PROGRAMME





We have lots of training opportunities available to members, many of which are heavily discounted for Devon YFC members with support from The Laura Persey Trust and Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust (DCBT). Please contact training@devonyfc.co.uk if you are looking for a particular course.



Find out more and sign up to each course here!

Training Opportunity

Beginners Photography

Tuesday 10th September

Fingle Bridge, EX6 6PW. I session – £5.00. Training provided by Hannah Frost Photography. Members only.

Over 16 Mixed Self Defence

Friday 20th September

Over 16 mixed sex session. I session – £12.50. Training provided by Alex Thomas Fitness and Martial Arts Training. We have been able to offer this course at a reduced price due to funding gratefully received from DART Trust.

Under 16 Mixed Self Defence

Saturday 21st September

Under 16 mixed sex session. I session -£12.50. Training provided by Alex Thomas Fitness and Martial Arts Training. We have been able to offer this course at a reduced price due to funding gratefully received from DART Trust.





Responsible use of medicines course

Tuesday 24th September

Devon YFC Centre, Cheriton Bishop.

For members and non members. 18:30 to 21:30 with Synergy Farm Training. Red Tractor approved course. £35 members. £45.00 non members.



Lantra Telehandler 2 day course

Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ. 2 day course – £330.00 Funding from DCBT available.

Emergency First Aid at Work

Wednesday 2nd & Wednesday 9th October

Devon YFC Centre, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

2 evening sessions – £65.00. We have been able to offer this course at a reduced price due to funding gratefully received from DART Trust



Lantra Telehandler 1 day refresher course

Thursday 3rd October

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ. I day course – £210. Funding from DCBT available.

Food Safety & Hygiene Level 2 Course for Catering Online Course

This Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety course is suitable for anyone who handles, prepares or serves food in the catering industry. £24.00 per person. Please contact training@devonyfc.co.uk to enquire.



SEPTEMBER

7th: Bampton YFC's Big Barn Bash 8th: County Beach Volleyball 8th: Yarcombe Charity Cream Tea 14th: Haldon Dinner and Dance

14th: Withleigh YFC 95th Anniversary Dinner and Dance

15th: South Dartmoor Field Day **16th:** Farm Walk at Tidwell Barton

21st: Newton Abbot YFC Dinner and Dance

21st: East Devon Bed Push **22nd:** County Mixed Hockey

28th: Dartmouth YFC Dinner and Dance

OCTOBER

4th: Exe Valley YFC Dinner and Dance

5th: Cheriton & Tedburn YFC Dinner and Dance

8th: Farmwise

12th: Totnes YFC Dinner and Dance

13th: Bampton YFC New Members Evening

17th: Intermediate Brainstrust Finals

19th: Oktoberfest Bingo

19th: Travel Scholarship Interviews

23rd: Junior Reading Finals **24th:** Members' Meeting

25th: Bampton YFC Pumpkin Carving **26th:** Kenn Valley YFC Dinner and Dance

26th: Pillar Decorating **27th:** Harvest Festival

31st: After Dinner Speaking County Finals







Find information about all our upcoming training courses, from ATV handling to self defence, as well as all the forms to sign up here!





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Please send all newsletter contributions to: communications@devonyfc.co.uk

Deadline for the October 2024 Newsletter is Friday 27th September