



# DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



**DEVON YFC  
CHRISTMAS BALL**



**FCN CAROL SERVICE &  
THE COUNTY CHOIR**



**CLUB UPDATES:  
HONITON, LEWDOWN,  
WOOLSERY & CLAWTON**

[www.devonyfc.co.uk](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk)

The Devon Rural Hub, Amory Building, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6JH

Tel: 01647 24120 Email: [admin@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@devonyfc.co.uk)



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## ***So here we are, 2025! A new year with many exciting things ahead.***



**S**o here we are, 2025! A new year with many exciting things ahead. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and new year.

It's been great to see you all getting into the festive spirit and helping your communities! From carol singing to tractor runs, wreath making to collecting Christmas trees, there has been so much great work from all our members.

One of the next big things in the calendar is our performing arts and dance competitions. I know lots of you are already getting those practices in and I am so excited to see as many of you up there performing as I can. This is always one of my favourite YFC events.

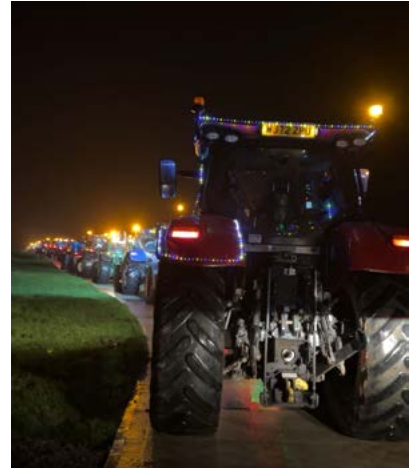
The county choir is also back! We were lucky enough to perform at the FCN Carol service and it was great to see our members representing YFC so well.

Lastly, I just want to touch on some sad news that has affected our community this last month. A couple young farmers sadly lost their lives in a car accident and this has been a shock to us all.

Please know there is always someone here, whether you just need a friendly face or help from charities such as FCN or RABI. The Devon YFC team and I are always here if you need anything or just want a chat. We are one big family that is here for each other for the good times, as well as the tough times. Please don't be afraid to reach out. Remember to enjoy life and grab every opportunity.

*K. Lovegrove*

**Kayleigh Lovegrove**  
County Chairman



**Woolsery YFC and Clawton YFC  
Tractor Runs**





# COUNTY ORGANISER

## Fern Lindsay



**W**ishing you all a Happy New Year from the Devon YFC office.

### Importance of Road Safety

Sadly, another road traffic accident during the festive period involving young people from the rural community has understandably deeply affected lots of our members, volunteers and general public. Clubs are already being proactive about educating members on the importance of road safety and looking after each other. Clubs could arrange a talk from their local Devon and Cornwall Police and Fire Service contacts to support them with this.

I recommend Clubs arrange an evening to share the Drive It Home curve module which helps to explain the importance of being safe on the roads and how to prevent a tragic accident.

Find out more!



### Organising a social?

We recommend your club introduce a key collection point on arrival for any drivers attending the event. The procedure is that drivers hand in keys to the security staff at the exit of the car park on arrival, who will then tag the keys with your details and then secure them in a safe. At the end of the event, the security will return to the car park to hand back keys if they deem the driver fit to drive. If the driver is deemed not fit to drive, the keys will be confiscated and a taxi called.

### Going on a night out?

Always plan ahead and do not drink or drug drive home. Arrange a taxi, use public transport, nominate a designated driver (or 'lift legend'), or stay overnight at a friend's or at a hotel.

### Support for the YFC Community

YFC guidance on signposting to support for bereavement and grief.



NYFC  
Guidance



**FCN**  
03000 111 999  
www.fcncn.org.uk  
help@fcncn.org.uk



**RABI**  
0800 188 4444  
www.rabi.org.uk  
help@rabi.org.uk

### Brake

The road safety charity  
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### The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

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# SPORTS & SOCIAL

## Phoebe Parker



**F**irstly, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

The highlight of our festive calendar was the Devon YFC Christmas Ball, where 500 young farmers gathered at Exe Valley Farm Shop on Saturday 21st December. It was an incredible night, and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the bar, door and cloakroom. Congratulations to Robin for making it such a successful event!



As we kick off 2025, our first sports and social event of the year will be County Bowling on Wednesday 29th January at Tenpin, Exeter. This one is already sold out, so I'm looking forward to seeing lots of you there!



Thank you to Hannah Frost Photography for the brilliant photos. This year she is donating all the profits to FCN!



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## Happy new year everyone!

Of course as we welcome in the new year, we can now kick off the 2025 travel year.

The long awaited Devon YFC ski trip jets out to Alpe d'Huez on Saturday 11th January, which is shaping up to be a trip of a lifetime with 60 young farmers ready and keen to hit the slopes.

With the scholarships selected a couple of months ago, fundraising will begin imminently, so watch this space for fundraising going on in your area.

year's Devon County Show. Keep an eye out for more information soon.

Going ahead into the new year I am starting to look at plans for an Agri trip and getting some farm visits booked in. If anyone has anywhere they would like to visit with Devon YFC please get in touch.

# TRAVEL Harry Sprague



## AGRI Chloe Arscott

**C**oming up on 22nd January we have our final Agri business session, with John Cossens from the Environment Agency on managing soils, understanding agricultural regulation and working within the law. Sign up through the Devon YFC socials or contacting the office.

Back for 2025 we also have the Farm Business Competition! This competition has not been run at a county or national level for some years now, so it's great to have it back. The competition is being supported by the CLA and Dan Meek from South West Norse. The competition launches on 27th March, where members will be invited to

attend a mock farm viewing day at a mixed use stock farm. This competition aims to give members the experience of applying for their own tenancy, it will equip you with the knowledge and practice you may need if you one day go on to look at tendering for a farm of your own. On the 27th March, you will have the opportunity to view the farm. Over the coming weeks you will then need to write a tender for the farm, including a business plan, this can be done as an individual or in a small team. We will hopefully put on workshops following the on-farm day to support members with this. The final stage of the competition will be a mock interview. Winners will be announced and prizes given at this

# COMPETITIONS Hannah Rich



**I** hope you had a great festive season and Happy New Year to you all. December has been quieter on the competitions front, but January marks the start of a busier schedule.

The year begins with Junior Public Speaking, taking place on Sunday 26th January at the county office. This is always a fantastic competition to get involved in and it's great to see a few teams entered.

Pantomime season is in full swing across Devon, with rehearsals well underway. I wish all the teams the very best of luck in their group

rounds over the coming weeks. It's fantastic to have entries from all six groups competing at the county round, which will be held on the 15th and 16th of February at Exmouth Pavilions. As part of the weekend, we'll also be hosting the Member of the Year competitions on the Sunday. The weekend is going to be a great showcase of YFC talent.



### Dates for your diary!



#### Sunday 26th January

Junior Public Speaking.  
YFC Centre.

#### 15th - 16th February

Pantomime and Member of the Year.  
Exmouth Pavilions.

#### 1st March

Ballroom Dancing and Cheerleading.  
QE School, Crediton.

I hope you're all getting your dancing shoes on and pulling your routines together in preparation for the ballroom dancing and cheerleading competition at Queen Elizabeth School, Crediton on Saturday 1st March. I look forward to seeing many of you competing over the next couple of months!



# Agriculture Apprenticeships

## Open Evenings

STS have been providing business training for over 45 years and is a main apprenticeship provider providing Level 2, 3 and 4 Agriculture Apprenticeships. Listening to industry and employer needs, programmes are designed and delivered to meet the ever-evolving agricultural sector by qualified lecturers.

We are hosting a number of information evenings for potential apprentices and employers to meet the team and find out more. The evenings are all 7-8pm and will be held:

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Devon YFC Centre, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan**

Skern Lodge, Appledore, Devon, EX39 1NG

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan**

Halwill & Moreleigh Village Hall, TQ9 7JQ

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan**

St Erth, Church Hall, Hayle, TR27 6JQ

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Lifton Community Centre, Devon, PL16 0LA

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Probus Village Hall, Truro, TR2 4TS



If you would like to know more information, please attend one of the events above or contact us:

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www.skerntrainingandskills.co.uk



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# CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



## HONITON YFC

What a month December has been for Honiton YFC, from socials to fundraising events, to carnivals and all things Christmas!

We started the month off holding our club meeting where a representative from Bristol Children's Hospital came and we presented a cheque of £6,000 for our efforts throughout 2024, as well as attending Marshwood Ball with over 30 members and splashing our way through Honiton Christmas carnival.

Later in the month we held our Christmas Bingo at Throgmorton Village Hall, raising over £800 for our chosen charity of the year. A massive thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

Slightly closer to Christmas we held our annual Christmas meal at the Sidmouth Arms in Upottery. We had great food and it was a very enjoyable evening. We also had the Devon Christmas Ball which was a fantastic night - thank you Devon!



Throughout December the club has been very busy with panto practices alongside everything else, with it all coming together we cannot wait to share what we have in store for the 2025 Pantomime competition.

Upcoming we have our Christmas tree collection on the 4th and 5th Jan and our Valentines disco on the 7th Feb! We hope to see lots of you there.

### Izzy Skinner





# LEWDOWN YFC

It's been a busy few months for Lewdown with carnivals, pumpkin carving, adventure golf and many dinner and dances including our group Dinner & Dance where we came 2nd in most points in speaking. We held our party at the end of November with around 200 people in attendance, raising lots of money for club funds.

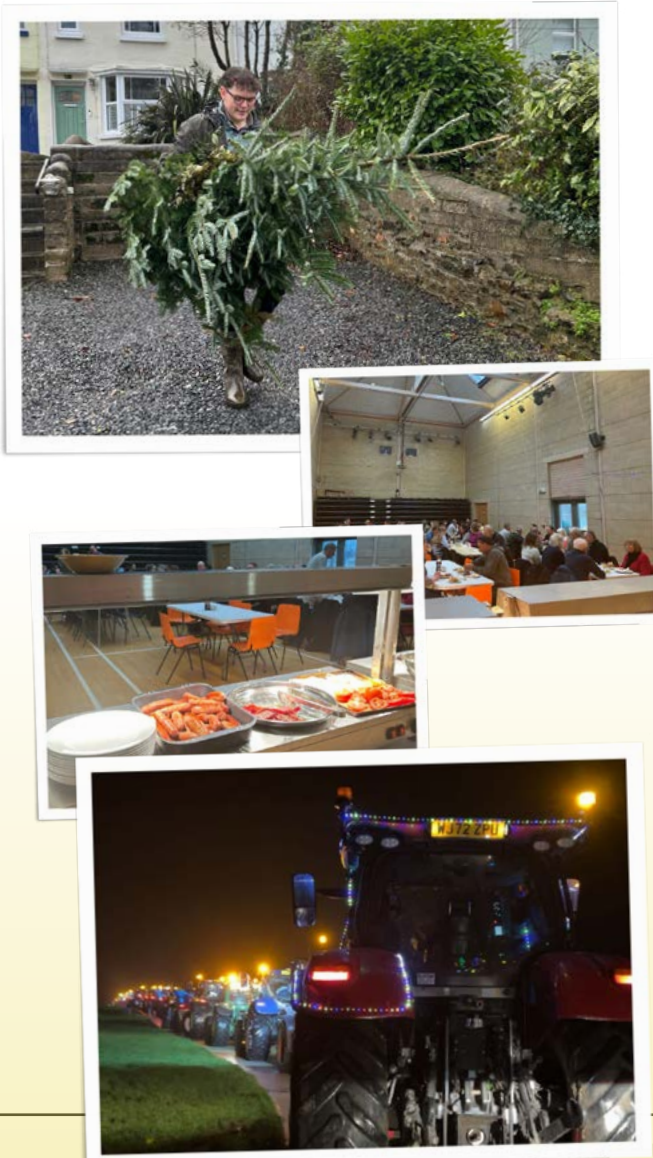
More recently we held our annual Christmas poultry bingo on the 10th December which was another great success with around 130 people in attendance, raising nearly £1650 for our 3 chosen charities. We also had our Christmas meal on Saturday 14th with around 20 members attending, thanks to the Clovelly Inn for hosting!

On Sunday 22nd December we held our annual tractor run with just under 50 tractors travelling around Lewdown, Bratton Clovelly & Roadford Lake. A huge thank you to Eddy Vigers for leading

the route again and to all the stewards for helping out! We raised just under £600 for our charities.

January looks to be a busy month with our Christmas tree collection underway collecting around 70 trees in aid of our 3 charities. We have various tours and fun activities planned along with more charity events. A busy few months ahead!

**Becky Dennis**



# WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery young farmers ended the 2024 year raising money for the Devon Air Ambulance at our tractor run that took place on the 15th December. We had 71 tractors attend and raised £1568.75. We then raised £2000 which will be going towards the Farming Community Network, this was raised through our auction. We want to say a massive thank you to all of the businesses that donated prizes to us.

After a busy December we kicked-started the new year with our annual new year's big breakfast. We had a great turnout and members got to show off their cooking and hosting skills. After the breakfast, 12 members went out around the area to collect Christmas trees within the community, we collected 42 trees from members of the public and have chipped all the trees and this will be used as mulch to plant new trees.

We now turn to preparing for our Tarka Christmas challenge on the 17th January - we are creating 'The Cube'. Members are busy making mini games ready for the other clubs to compete against each other. All members are looking forward to hosting this and seeing what club can beat the cube!

**Georgia Daniel**



# FRIENDS OF DEVON YFC

Last year we rebranded our supporters draw as 'Friends of Devon YFC'. Throughout the year we have three cash prize draws. One of which was announced at our County AGM. The results were:

**£100 – Richard Camp**  
**£100 – Colin Tucker**  
**£100 – Martin Daniel**

Sign up to Friends of Devon YFC for just £20 per year and receive a variety of benefits including entry into our cash draws, invitations to DFYFC events and news updates.



Sign up  
here!



A brand-new supporters club for Devon Young Farmers friends, followers and past members. Support the running of our federation whilst also receiving 'Friends of Devon YFC' benefits:

- Entry into three cash prize draws throughout the year!
- Stay up-to-date with Devon YFC news by receiving our monthly digital Devon YFC newsletter and quarterly exclusive 'Friends of Devon YFC' news.
- Invitation to the County AGM and our annual Chairman's Reception at the Devon County Show.
- Early bird tickets to Devon YFC's Performing Arts show in February.
- Invitation to special commemorative events.



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”







# CLUB OF THE MONTH

## CLAWTON YFC

Supported by **SOUTH WEST Farmer**

This month's Devon YFC 'Club of the Month' is a club that have started the new YFC year with a bang and have big aspirations for the year ahead – Clawton YFC from the Tarka Group.

Clawton Young Farmers ended 2024 on a high, with their outgoing Chairman James Hawking being recognised at a club, group and county level. James won the 'Member's Member' award at both club and group level, and then went on to win the John Speer 'Best Young Farmer' Award at the County AGM.

This year the club is led by Chairman Jack Greenaway and Secretary Izzie May. They've already had a busy start to their year holding a Harvest

Festival Church Service and taking part in four different local carnivals with their Scooby-Doo float! Most recently they held a festive tractor run in the local area.

Izzie May, Clawton YFC's Club Secretary, says: "This year's tractor run was a great success with over 40 tractors taking part and getting into the Christmas spirit. This was a great way to get the community together and raise money for the Farming Community Network."

At this time of year, many clubs are also preparing for this year's performing arts competitions. This year's theatre competition is pantomime and young farmers up and down the county are learning lines and rehearsing ready for this year's competition.

Clawton are no exception and are currently preparing for both the pantomime and cheerleading competitions. Izzie adds: "The performing arts are a great way to push our members outside their comfort zone, as well as develop our younger members and give them an opportunity to get stuck in."

**"We're looking forward to a busy 2025 and this year fundraising is going to be a big focus for us."**

**Izzie May**

"It takes a lot of effort to put a club pantomime together and we are grateful for the support from our leaders and advisory. We're hoping to get our performance ready for the Tarka group finals in February.

"The club also has history with the cheerleading competition, with it reaching the national finals in 2022. Alongside Lewdown YFC, we hope to put together a routine that we're all proud of."





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JANUARY

- 10th:** Yarcombe YFC Whist Drive
- 11th-12th:** Okehampton YFC Christmas Tree Collection
- 11th-17th:** Devon YFC Ski Trip
- 17th:** Woolsery YFC Christmas Challenge - The Cube
- 18th:** Tavistock YFC Dinner & Dance
- 22nd:** AGRI Business Programme Session
- 23rd:** Members Meeting
- 24th:** Chulmleigh YFC Blind Drop
- 24th:** Tarka & Haldon YFC Travel Scholarship Quiz
- 24th/25th:** East Devon YFC Panto Finals
- 26th:** Junior Public Speaking Finals
- 29th:** County Bowling

## FEBRUARY

- 1st:** Tarka Group Pantomime Finals
- 2nd:** South Dartmoor Group Pantomime Finals
- 7th:** Honiton YFC Valentines Disco
- 10th:** Chagford YFC Valentines Bingo
- 12th:** Chulmleigh YFC Valentines Bingo
- 15th/16th:** County Pantomime Finals
- 22nd:** Bow YFC Dinner & Dance



East Devon Group of Young Farmers' Clubs

# PANTOMIME & JMOY & SMOY COMPETITIONS

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January  
Doors open 7pm, curtains up 7:30pm  
Exmouth Pavilion, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 2AZ  
£10 General Admission £5 Cast  
Tickets available to purchase in advance through club secretaries



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NHS Trust

### HOW TO START A CONVERSATION AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

- GIVE THEM SPACE TO TALK**  
One of the best things you can do in a sensitive conversation is to listen.
- ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS**  
Encourage the person to share how they are feeling by asking open-ended questions, such as: "Can you tell me more about how you are feeling?"
- GIVE THEM YOUR FULL ATTENTION**  
It's important to show the person that they have your full attention and to not let anything get in the way. Eye contact is key.
- ASK THEM HOW YOU CAN HELP**  
Rather than offering advice, ask the person what you can do to support them.
- SHOW EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING**  
Make sure you reassure the person who is speaking about their difficulties that you are there to listen and support them.

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