



# DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



**DEVON YFC  
SKI TRIP 2025**



**TENPIN BOWLING  
COUNTY FINALS**



**JUNIOR PUBLIC  
SPEAKING RESULTS**

[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)





# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## Good luck to everyone competing in this month's county pantomime finals!



It's been a great month getting around seeing various group rounds of pantomime. I thoroughly enjoyed going to East Devon, Tarka and South Dartmoor's rounds and well done to all clubs who made it through to the county round. I look forward to seeing all 6 group pantomimes at the county final. We also have such great representation of groups in both Junior and Senior Member of the Year - good luck to you all for the county round.

I was also very impressed with our junior members in the junior public speaking finals –

there was an incredibly high standard. What great junior members the federation has! I hope to see lots of you at the county pantomime finals later this month!

*K. Lovegrove*

**Kayleigh Lovegrove**  
County Chairman



**HEYWOOD BARS**  
mobile event bars



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.

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Colin 07792 227838 [Info@heywoodbars.co.uk](mailto:Info@heywoodbars.co.uk)





# COUNTY ORGANISER FERN LINDSAY



**Pantomime season is truly upon us...oh yes it is!** What a joy it has been to see productions happening across the county and I will never not be amazed by the commitment and hard work of members, leaders, parents and supporters alike who all come together to create amazing pieces of theatre from scratch! I am looking forward to seeing groups at the County finals at The Exmouth Pavilions, and also the Ballroom Dancing and Cheerleading entries at QE School, CREDITON on 1st March. Break a leg!

## South West Area

South West Area Activities Weekend is in Weston-super-Mare this year

and preparations are well underway for the event. It's imperative that attendees follow the YFC Code of Conduct at all times and be mindful to not bring the YFC reputation into disrepute. To help secure the event's future, I urge all members attending to abide by expectations, respect the local community, look out for each other and reach out for support if you need it. Devon YFC are holding mandatory behaviour meetings this month for ticket holders - details below.

## Safer Driving Campaign

The county office has recently been approached by several people, including a local driving instructor, a YFC Officer and a Police Officer,

who would like to help Devon YFC create a new safer driving campaign in the coming months. If you or someone you know would like to share ideas or be a part of a campaign about raising awareness of dangerous driving and how it can be prevented, then please get in touch with me on [fern@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:fern@devonyfc.co.uk) as soon as possible.

### South West Area Behaviour Meetings @ 7:30pm

#### 25th February:

East Devon: Awliscombe Parish Hall, Awliscombe, Honiton EX14 3PJ

Haldon: The Waie Inn  
Zeal Monochorum, Crediton,  
EX17 6DF

#### 26th February

South Dartmoor: Rattery Village Hall  
Rattery, South Brent, TQ10 9LD

North Devon: Filleigh Village Hall  
Filleigh, Barnstaple, EX32 0RS

#### 27th February

Tarka: Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall, Bradford, Holsworthy, EX22 7AB

Exe Valley: Calverleigh Village Hall,  
Calverleigh Court, Calverleigh,  
Tiverton, EX16 8BB



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.



## Friends of Devon YFC

Contact the office for more information

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





# SPORTS & SOCIAL PHOEBE PARKER



**O**n Wednesday 29th January, 16 teams from across Devon competed at Tenpin in Exeter to claim the title of Devon Bowling Champion. Each team played two games, aiming for the highest combined score. It was a fantastic evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all!

## Bowling Results

- 1st:** Totnes
- 2nd:** Whimble & Broadclyst
- 3rd:** Honiton
  
- Highest Scoring Boy:**  
Ollie Martin
- Highest Scoring Girl:**  
Zara Maynard

With SWA fast approaching, all attendees must attend one of the

mandatory South West Area behavioural meetings. Please ensure you arrive promptly, as all meetings will start at 7:30 pm.

This year's SWA theme nights are Wacky Shirts on the Friday night and your favourite movie character on the Saturday night. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Weston-super-Mare!





# COMPETITIONS HANNAH RICH



The 2025 competitions were kickstarted with Junior Public Speaking on Sunday 26th January. It was fantastic to see 6 teams entered and it was a real display of young farmers talent, with this being some members first speaking competition. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyable, with speeches that kept us entertained from start to finish. Thank you to our judges Michelle Batting and Dave Sampson for giving up their time. Congratulations to all who took part and good luck to Jasmine, Izzy and Annabelle who will go on to represent Devon at SWA.

## Junior Public Speaking Results

- 1st:** East Devon Pink
- 2nd:** East Devon Green
- 3rd:** South Dartmoor

- Best Chairman:** Jasmine and Kadence
- Best Speaker:** Izzy
- Best Proposer:** Annabelle

Fast approaching is the Pantomime and Junior and Senior Member of the Year competition. We look forward to welcoming you all to Exmouth Pavilion for what promises to be a very entertaining weekend. The performance schedule has now been shared, and ticket details will be available soon - so keep an eye out and secure yours!

There is now only a month to go until the ballroom dancing and cheerleading competition at Queen Elizabeth school in Crediton and I



know many of you are busy getting your routines together. I look forward to seeing the talent on the dance floor!



# AGRI CHLOE ARSCOTT

Although it's been a busy start to 2025 with YFC competitions, it has been a slightly quieter month for Agri seeing us wrap up the Agri Business Programme for this year. Our final session of the programme was from the Environment Agency, delivered by John Cossens. The session covered the use of fertilisers and organic manures, managing your soil and farming within the law. The session

finished off with a quiz, with Matthew Derryman taking home the winning prize.

I would also like to remind everyone that your clubs should have received the entry forms for the County Show and Sale, held at Exeter Livestock Centre on 16th April. Once again, we have open classes available for members who would like to get involved if their club doesn't have their own classes.



Behind the scenes, discussions are being held with businesses and farms about farm tours and visits for later this year. We will have a couple of events coming up in the calendar with Masons Kings, so keep a look out for those dates. I have also started looking into an Agri weekend away and an overseas trip too!





## TRAVEL HARRY SPRAGUE

**W**hat a way to kick start 2025! Of course January brought us the long awaited annual Devon YFC ski trip, and this year the glorious slopes of Alpe d'Huez in the French Alps welcomed us in.

Having sold out a few months previous, 60 members hit the slopes. The group was composed with a wide range of abilities; from those who are on their first ever skiing holiday and learning how to ski for the first time, to some who it's their

second time refining their skills, to the most confident of skiers who were hitting red and black slopes with confidence, with even a small few conquering Alpe d'Huez's "Le Tunnel", a slope that cuts through the middle of the mountain and comes out onto a 70% slope.

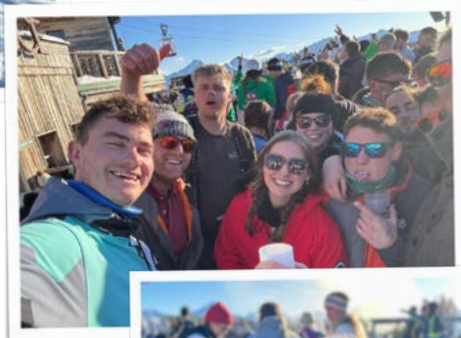
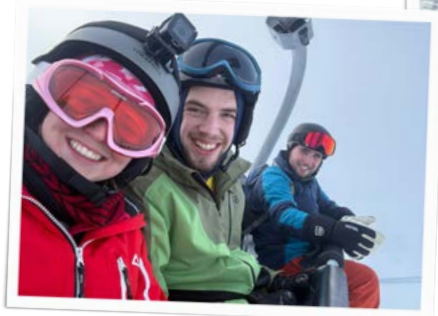
However, no matter the ability of skier, a fantastic week was had by all. From skiing to Après, La Folie Douce didn't know what hit them when Devon YFC came to town.

I hope you've all made memories that'll last a lifetime, and those of you who hadn't skied before in just a few short days, you're now set with a skill for life!

So lastly, thank you all for your support and I can't wait to hit the slopes again with you sometime soon and I am already counting down the days to Devon YFC Ski 2026.







*"I hope you've all made memories that'll last a lifetime, and for those of you who haven't skied before, you're now set with a skill for life!"*



Watch our highlights video!





# CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county

## WOOLSERY YFC

After a busy December and start to January, Woolserly YFC have had a quieter couple of weeks. We took an evening with our members to go to Portmore Driving range for a fun meeting, which was well attended by many members, some having better shots than others!

We look forward to supporting other clubs in the Tarka Group pantomime competition, hopefully they will put on a good show! With SWA fast approaching we are busy preparing our trip, with hotels and shirts. After then we will be back to planning fundraisers and activities, potentially

hoping to run an Easter Bingo. We also look forward to planning a fun meeting collaboration with a club from a different group in the near future, as Kayleigh challenged us during the County AGM.

Georgia Daniel



## YARCOMBE YFC

Yarcombe have had a busy month this January, our first meeting of the year was combined with a whist drive practice to make sure we were ready for our whist drive which happened on the 10th January. This had 60 people playing and managed to raise £275 for Devon Air Ambulance!

On top of that, members have been busy rehearsing for our 'Snow White' panto, this paid off as they managed to come second in the East Devon round. We are also holding a panto rerun on Sunday 9th February at Axminster Guildhall.

Eleanor Gibson





# SPOTTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Don't forget to tag @devonyfc in your club and group posts, as well as use the hashtag #ProudtobeDevonYFC.

## NEWTON ST CYRES

Here's just a few pictures captured by Jay Harris Photography from our Charity Tractor Run in memory of Steve Yeandle. Thank you to everyone who came to remember Steve and helped to raise money for British Heart Foundation and Pancreatic Cancer UK, we had over 120 tractors! We would also like to thank everyone who came out to watch - thank you for your patience and generosity.



## TAVISTOCK

What an incredible achievement for Tavistock YFC at the South Dartmoor Group round! We came 2nd out of 5, just one point away from first place - so close!

A huge congratulations to Lily Kitson and Lauren Abel for being nominated for Best Actress, and to Jordan for his Best Actor nomination. A special shout-out to Jordan and Lauren for being nominated and winning Best Moment with their fantastic rap scene!

We also want to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped on the day and in the lead-up, showing your support. Your encouragement and dedication mean so much to us! A special thank you to our Club President and Director, Liz Moir, for her incredible guidance - we couldn't have done it without you!







# SPOTTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

## BAMPTON YFC

A huge well done to everyone for doing such an amazing job yesterday at Tiverton High School for the Exe Valley Round of Pantomime. We came third overall and Luke Mills won best actor. We also won 'best moment' for Toto landing in the basket! A great performance of teamwork and dedication. Hours were spent making props and having fun together is what it's all about.

A big thank you to Isaac Reed and Charlie Down for writing the script one evening at the pub! And for our Leader Hayley Blake for your time, keeping us in line and all your help along the way with everything.



## LEWDOWN YFC

Last night we had a very entertaining evening at the group round of Panto, Cheerleading and Member of the Year. A massive congratulations to our joint cheerleading team with Clawton YFC who came first and Fergal who won Junior Member of the year! Good luck to all for the county round in a few weeks time.



## KINGSBRIDGE YFC

Our brilliant members once again showed off their acting, singing and dancing skills at the group panto competition with 'Buttons'. Finishing up in third place at the South Dartmoor finals.

It's such a fantastic, fun and brave event to take part in, we couldn't be prouder of everyone involved. Thank you so much to SJ, Kate, Kelly and Nicki, as well as all the other parents who made this all possible.

Also, a massive shout out to Katie Wreyford for winning Junior Member of the Year at group round. An amazing and very well deserved achievement! Wishing her all the luck at the next round.







# CLUB OF THE MONTH

## TOTNES YFC

Supported by  
SOUTH WEST  
**Farmer**

In the first few months of the YFC year, Totnes have held local events including a fireworks night which attracted over 400 attendees, as well as a Christmas Quiz. They have also held multiple activities for their members including ice skating, as well as sweeping the board in group lamb and beef stock judging competitions.

In the build up to Christmas, the club were also involved in donating vegetables to their local food banks. The idea came from one of the club's advisory members who was happy for the club to harvest surplus vegetables from their farm.

Jamie Rogers, Totnes YFC's Club Chairman, says: "A huge thank you to the Smith family for allowing us to pick their veg and donate it to our local foodbanks. It was a big club effort, being taught how to pick the veg correctly and then delivering the produce itself."

The club were working with 'Food in Community' on this project, who deliver boxes to charities and community groups in and around Totnes.

Jamie adds: "It was eye opening speaking to the volunteers of 'Food in Community' who are so committed to supporting disadvantaged communities in our local area. I am meeting up with them again soon to see how young farmers can support them throughout the year.

"Increasing Totnes YFC's community engagement was a big priority for myself and our Secretary Eryn Harding this year. We want to show the local community how young farmers can support them and we've had a brilliant response so far."

The club are working on how they can continue to support local food banks in the future and they are also planning more events to raise money for their two chosen charities of the year – Pete's Dragons, which supports those impacted by suicide, and the Farming Community Network.

**"We want to show the local community how young farmers can support them"**

**Jamie Rogers**





# NFU MUTUAL: LEAD SPONSOR OF THE SOUTH WEST FARMER AWARDS 2025

Now in its ninth year, the South West Farmer Awards celebrate the hard work of the farming community in the southwest. Supported by industry experts, these awards recognise local farmers, suppliers, breeders, and all others involved in the industry. They aim to honour the excellence, innovation, and dedication that defines South West farming.

NFU Mutual is proud to be the lead sponsor of the South West Farmer Awards 2025. Roz Hills, South West Regional Manager of NFU Mutual, shared: “NFU Mutual is passionate about supporting rural communities and, with over 110 years of farming insurance expertise, we are part of the fabric of rural life and remain committed to serving the needs of our members across the South West. From farm insurance, risk management advice, and machinery inspection, we will protect what matters most to you.

Farming remains at the heart of what we do, that’s why we are honoured to be sponsoring these awards for the third year, continuing to champion the South West farming community.”



## Award categories include:

- Lifetime Achievement
- Apprentice of the Year
- Family-Run Farm of the Year
- Beef Farmer of the Year
- Dairy Farmer of the Year
- Sheep Farmer of the Year
- Young Farmer of the Year
- Sustainability Champion of the Year
- The Diversification Award
- The Woodland Hero Award
- New for 2025: Farming Ambassador

## New for 2025: Farming Ambassador

This award is for those people who are passionate about the farming industry and who dedicate their time to the farming community. It could be someone that works on a farm, alongside a farm, or even someone who works in an organisation that supports the agricultural industry. This person can contribute significantly on a national scale, or it could be someone who works hard in their local community to shout about food and farming. This person may play a key role in educating others about the food and farming industry. But most importantly, they will care deeply about agriculture and will do their utmost to help others who come under the farming umbrella.

To find out more, or if you know a farmer whose dedication and hard work should be recognised, scan the QR code.



Nominations close July 31.



**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS



## Want to give Butter and Junket Making at this year's Devon County Show a go?

Sue Burrow from the Waie Inn has offered to teach clubs how it's done with a training session and is happy to travel too! This could be a great activity for your club and you can get some all-important points at Devon County Show.

If you're interested, contact Sue directly on [info@waieinn.co.uk](mailto:info@waieinn.co.uk) to book in a session. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to learn some traditional skills.



## £250 raised for the Farming Community Network!

A big thank you to Hannah Frost, who donated all the money raised from this year's Christmas Ball photo sales to FCN.

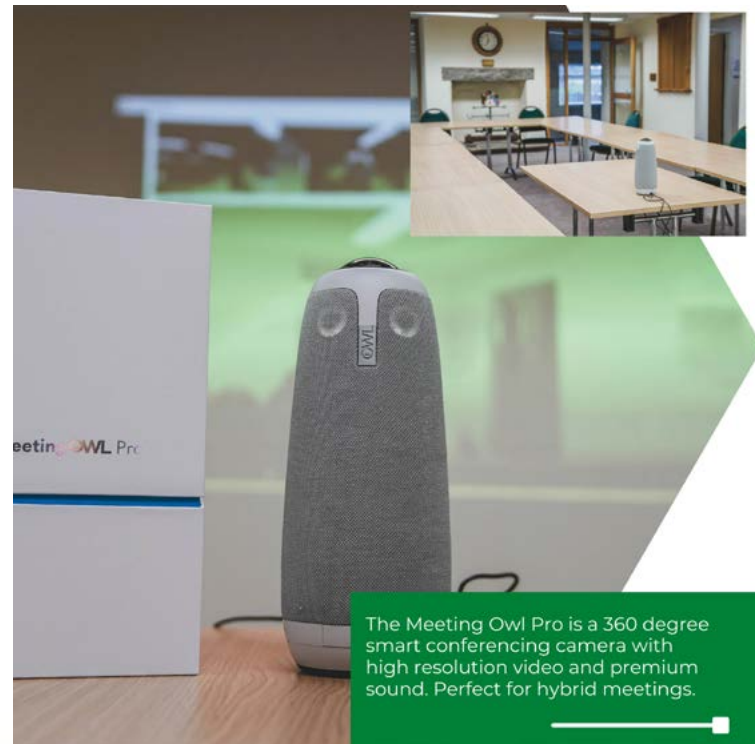


## Rural Hub Conference Rooms

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Find out more at [www.devonruralhub.co.uk](http://www.devonruralhub.co.uk)



The Meeting Owl Pro is a 360 degree smart conferencing camera with high resolution video and premium sound. Perfect for hybrid meetings.



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[cmc@creditonmilling.co.uk](mailto:cmc@creditonmilling.co.uk)







# DEVON YOUNG FARMERS

## Mental Health Support

Young Farmers are known to be incredibly supportive, but sometimes you or a friend might feel you would like some extra support and a chance to chat with someone outside of YFC. Taking care of our young peoples' mental health is so important to us and we are here to help. We hope this page will direct you to the right place. From rural charities, to mental health support services, it's important that we all know where to go if we need help.

### What do we mean by mental health?

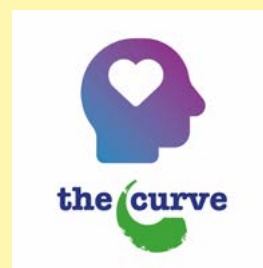
There is a lot of chat about "mental health" in the press and media, especially after the past few years, but what do we really know about it and how does it apply to us? The fact is that we all have 'mental health' just like we have 'physical health' and it can vary from day to day. Issues can appear as a result of experiences in both our personal and working lives - or they can just happen. **Read more in 'The little book of minding your head' courtesy of the Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation.**



### Did you know?

We have current and past YFC members who are trained to deliver the NFYFC 'Rural+ Wellbeing' course. This is a 'ready made club night' which is designed to raise awareness of mental health issues within rural areas. The training focuses on understanding stress and anxiety, managing personal mental wellbeing, how to talk about mental health and where to seek support.

We can organise for a trainer to deliver the course for you - contact [training@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:training@devonyfc.co.uk) to get your club booked in. It could be the most important club night of your year.



## TALKWORKS Tips for February

Work-related stress can have a big impact on both your physical and mental wellbeing. It can leave us feeling overwhelmed, exhausted and can then impact our sleep when we try to switch off at night. Here are some tips from the team at TALKWORKS to help you manage stress at work:

- Write a list of the tasks you are working on and prioritise which are most important
- Break down large tasks into more manageable chunks
- Take regular breaks and get fresh air on your lunch break
- Exercise outside of work and maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Speak to your manager or a colleague you can trust if you are struggling

If you would like to access free, confidential support for work-related stress, you can talk to TALKWORKS by calling 0300 555 3344 or visit [www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk](http://www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk)



## The Farming Community Network

**03000 111 999** Available daily 7am-11pm  
[www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk) | [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)

FCN provides practical and pastoral support to farmers and their families through difficult times. Their national helpline provides free, confidential support to anyone who seeks help and their website contains some valuable resources to improve farming resilience.



## RABI - Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

**0800 188 4444** Available 24/7  
[www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk) | [help@rabi.org.uk](mailto:help@rabi.org.uk)

RABI offers practical, financial, and emotional support to farming people. Among the many professional services offered, RABI provide counselling support, mental health training and an online mental wellbeing service.







# DEVON YFC TRAINING



Find out more and sign up to each course here!

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](mailto:training@devonyfc.co.uk) if you are looking for a particular course.**

## Training Opportunity

### Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler – 2 day

Thursday 13th & 14th February

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ

2 days - £330.00. Funding from DCBT available. Open to all.

### Emergency First Aid at Work

Wednesday 19th February & Tuesday 25th February

Devon YFC Centre, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

2 evening sessions – £65.00 Funding from DCBT available. Open to all.

### Lantra 13-15 year old Tractor Driving – 1 day

Thursday 20th February

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ

1 day course £155.00. Funding from DCBT available.

### Mental Health Emotional Resilience

Thursday 27th February

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

Free of charge due to funding provided by Pete's Dragons. 1 session. Open to all.

### Farm Administration Course – 6 sessions

Monday 3rd March – Monday 7th April

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

6 sessions £150.00. Open to all courtesy of JT Rural Office Services.

### Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler – 1 day

Friday 7th March

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ

1 Day – £210.00. Funding from DCBT available. Open to all.

### Lantra Level 2 Award in Rodent Management

Friday 21st March

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

1 day course £148.00. 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](mailto:training@devonyfc.co.uk) to enquire.**





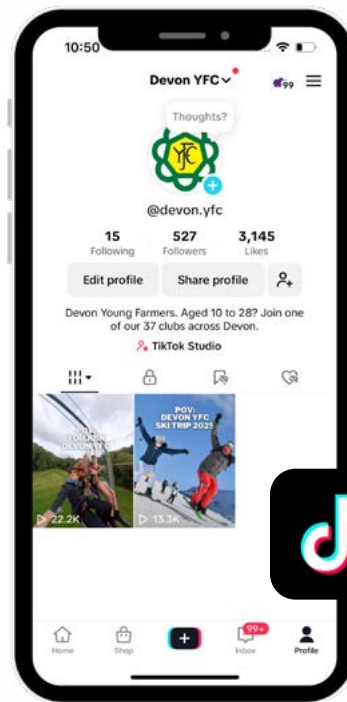
# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FEBRUARY

- 7th: Honiton YFC Valentines Disco
- 9th: Yarcombe YFC Panto re-run
- 10th: Chagford YFC Valentines Bingo
- 11th: Culm Valley YFC Panto re-run
- 12th: Chulmleigh YFC Valentines Bingo
- 14th: Buckland Brewer YFC Valentines Party
- 15th: Okehampton YFC Cider & Pasty Quiz
- 15th/16th: County Pantomime Finals
- 22nd: Bow YFC Dinner & Dance
- 25th-27th: SWA Behaviour Meetings

## MARCH

- 1st: Ballroom Dancing & Cheerleading Finals
- 1st: Buckland Brewer lambing bingo starts
- 7th-9th: SWA Weekend
- 13th: General Council
- 14th: Devon YFC Travel Wine & Wisdom
- 19th: Crealy Challenge
- 22nd: Whimble & Broadclyst YFC Crealy Ball
- 23rd: Braunton YFC Tractor Run
- 27th: Farm Business Competition Farm Walk



Follow our new  
Devon YFC  
TikTok account!



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



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