



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



**CREALY CHALLENGE
2025**



**NEWTON ST CYRES
CHARITY TRACTOR RUN**



**SOUTH WEST AREA
RESULTS**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

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

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Well done to Team Devon at SWA and good luck to everyone moving forward to nationals.



Spring is here and what beautiful weather we are having. I hope you are all able to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. This last month has been full of our amazing members competing and showing how strong Devon is. On the first of the month we held our Ballroom and Cheerleading competition and I could tell how many hours of practice and hard work went into all of the performances. Well done to every single member that took part, you were all amazing.

It wasn't long after until it was the South West Area Weekend where our members dominated the competitions. The Saturday showcased the best of our public speakers, as well as the dancing finals. On Sunday our Junior and Senior members of the year competed and our pantomimes took to the stage too! It was great to see Devon so well represented with two strong panto performances. Well done to everyone for all of their efforts and good luck to everyone moving forward to nationals. I am looking forward to seeing you do Devon very proud.

Towards the end of the month I was able to go along to Newton Abbot's Charity Big Breakfast. It was a great morning visiting the club and the breakfast was delicious. Well done to all the Newton Abbot members who worked hard to make it a great event.

Looking into the month ahead, we have our pub sports final. The National AGM will soon be upon us, as well as the National Pantomime competition. Good luck to Haldon Group in the final, I know you will be amazing. We also have the Show and Sale which I am very much looking forward to, I hope to see lots of you there. We then have Call My Bluff, our April Members meeting and at the end of the month our Rugby 7's qualifier.

I hope everyone has a nice Easter - go steady on the chocolate eggs!

K. Lovegrove

**Kayleigh Lovegrove
County Chairman**





COUNTY ORGANISER Fern Lindsay

Spring is in the air and there is a Spring in Devon YFC's step as we fast approach our upcoming Show and Sale at Matford, Exeter on Wednesday 16th April which is set to be yet another spectacular event. Beforehand though we can look forward to seeing members at the annual Pub Sports tournament at the Waie Inn on Friday 11th April. Then back for another year is the Open Call My Bluff round too at the YFC centre on Wednesday 23rd April, and lots of clubs have entered into their Group rounds too which has been great to see.

March saw the successful SWA Activities Weekend take place in Weston-super-Mare and members should be proud of the positive impression they left on the local community and businesses. So much so, the Mayor said he would happily welcome YFC back. What an accolade for YFC members of the South West Area counties! Well done to everyone who helped organise and run the event too.

Mental Health Training with RABI

Would you like to learn more about mental health and how we can support our young people? RABI are offering a Level 2 one day course or a Level 3 two day course open to anyone who is interested. Either course is absolutely free. Please contact the County Office or fern@devonyfc.co.uk to sign up.

YFC for Everyone

The Additional Needs Support Guide has been created to help all counties and clubs support members with additional needs. The guide includes a template Support Plan, which should be completed for all members who need adjustments to ensure they can get the most out of their YFC experience. Please remind clubs about this essential guide that they can use in clubs. You can find the guide and more help on the 'Club Resources' page of our website.



Ready Made Club Night: Beat Bullying Workshop

This is perfect for your club to host during a meeting. It will help everyone understand the impact of bullying and the importance of supporting each other.

What you'll learn:

- Recognise different types of bullying
- Understand the effects and impacts
- Embrace the importance of teamwork and unity within YFC



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SPORTS & SOCIAL

Phoebe Parker



March started with a bang at the South West Area Weekend in Weston-super-Mare, where everyone who attended surely had a fantastic time!

On Wednesday, 19th March, we hosted our annual Crealy Challenge, which saw an incredible 54 teams and over 220 participants competing.

Crealy Challenge Results

- 1st:** Honiton B
- 2nd:** Kingsbridge A
- 3rd:** Witheridge
- 4th:** Kingsbridge I
- 5th:** Newton St Cyres

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events coming up:

County Pub Sports
Finals: Friday, 11th April at the Waie Inn, for pool, darts and skittles.

Junior Tug of War Training Day:
Sunday, 27th April at Offwell Village Hall, Honiton. Registration opens at 10am. This is a fantastic opportunity for juniors who have never tried Tug of War before to get involved and experience the sport. I look forward to seeing you all soon!



JUNIOR TUG OF WAR TRAINING DAY

ALL PULLERS OF ALL ABILITIES UNDER 18 WELCOME & YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME AS A TEAM.

26TH APRIL 2025
10AM START

OFFWELL VILLAGE HALL
EX14 9SB

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.

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.

Colin 07792 227838 Info@heywoodbars.co.uk



AGRI

Chloe Arcscott

March has been a dry and sunny month for farmers as we have seen spring roll around and the Agri Programme for the year take shape.

Farm Business Competition

This month we have seen the return of the Farm Business Competition, it's been great to have this competition back in the programme after an almost 10-year break!

On 27th March, we kicked off the competition with a mock farm viewing at Lower Chitterley Farm, Bickleigh, where we were kindly hosted by farmers Michael and Charlotte. Before we looked around the farm, Dan Meek talked members through the process of tendering for a farm and introduced the farm. Michael and Charlotte also gave

members an insight into the tendering process and how they found it. Throughout the afternoon we walked the farm and members got a chance to ask questions about the farm and the tendering process, as well as scoping out the farm to start forming their own business plans.

A special thank you must go to Dan Meek for arranging the viewing and to Michael and Charlotte for hosting us and being so supportive.

Upcoming events

Behind the scenes I have also been organising a Dairy tour at North Tawton and a tour of British Wool in South Molton. And I can't forget to mention the upcoming Devon YFC Show and Sale which is fast



approaching! I hope all is going well with halter training and I look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Agri Debate

Upcoming in May, we also have the Agri Debate at Devon County Show on the Friday. This year's debate will explore: "There is no incentive for young people to get into agriculture". Given the turbulent year that we have faced, it will be interesting to explore people's views on the incentive for young farmers to carry on farming. If you would like to get involved and share your opinion on the debate topic, we will have a box at the Show and Sale for you to write down your thoughts.



most recent one at Keepers Cottage. Keep an eye out for them again at the final Training League at Offwell Village hall on Sunday 6th April.

Thank you to all who've supported all the events that have been going on and make sure to keep your eyes peeled for plenty more that are coming up!



TRAVEL

Harry Sprague

What a busy month our

scholarship groups have had!

The scholarship group has hit the ground running with their fundraising efforts with numerous events happening up and down the county.

You may have seen the team at our county finals of cheerleading and ballroom dancing at QE School running a bar and selling cakes. Thank you to all who supported this.

North Devon had a very successful skittles evening which was very well supported with 14 teams raising over £830 for the scholarship! Tarka and Haldon groups also had a very successful quiz night with 9 teams in attendance and raising just under £500. Also, Exe Valley held a very successful Spring Bingo last week, with plenty of prizes up for grabs.

East Devon have also been busy BBQing at FWA Tug of War Training League events holding a BBQ at the



COMPETITIONS

Hannah Rich

The South West Area weekend kicked off March with plenty of competitions, keeping us busy! It was fantastic to see Devon so well represented across all competitions and performing incredibly well. The level of talent in Devon is outstanding, and it was great to see it in action over the weekend. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and best of luck to those competing in the national finals in July!

SWA Results

Junior Reading

1st: Culm Valley
Best Reader - Lois
Best Chairman - Anna

Junior Public Speaking

1st: Culm Valley
Best Speaker: Izzy
Best Chairman: Jasmine

Sandcastle Building - 1st

Brainstrust - 3rd

Intermediate Situations Vacant

4th: Molly Clist

Senior Situations Vacant

3rd: Olivia Eden

Ballroom Dancing

1st: East Devon
2nd: Exe Valley

Cheerleading

1st: Tarka
2nd: East Devon

Junior Member of the Year

3rd: Lauren Slawson

Senior Member of the Year

2nd: Sophie Pratt

Pantomime

1st: Haldon
3rd: Withleigh
Best Under 17: Emily Bateman (Withleigh)



The After Dinner Speaking finals at SWA were postponed, so results for this to follow.

Preparations are well underway for Devon County Show and it's great to see the entries coming in. The schedule is very varied, offering something for everyone, so do take a look and keep those entries coming in! Alongside many other activities taking place in the YFC marquee over the show days, we are very excited to be welcoming Kaleb Cooper on Friday afternoon to do a Q&A with the public!

Coming up in April we also have the Open Call My Bluff competition at the county office. I'm looking forward to seeing members competing there!

Dates for your diary!



Wednesday 23rd April

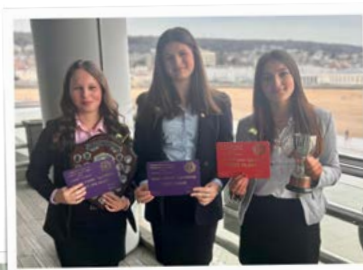
Call My Bluff Finals

YFC Centre

15th - 17th May

Devon County Show

Westpoint

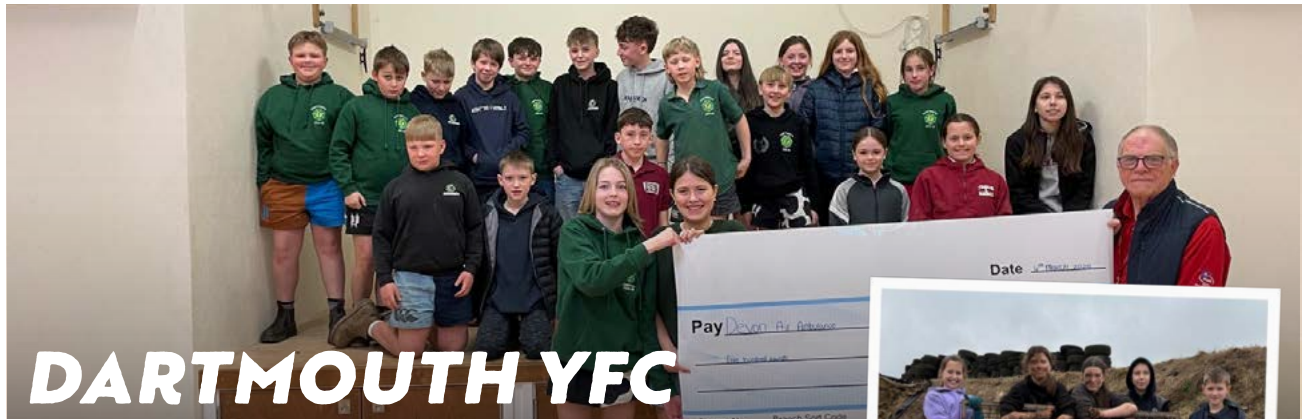


"The level of talent in Devon is outstanding and it was great to see it in action over the SWA weekend"



CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



DARTMOUTH YFC

What a fantastic first half to the year we've had! From competitions and fundraisers, to Agrifest and stock judging, it is safe to say we've kept ourselves busy!

We started the year strong with our Beer and Brains Quiz Night raising over £1000 for our club funds! Then it was straight into the pantomime competition and our club did amazing, being the youngest and smallest club there, finishing in 4th.

We also entered a cheerleading, which placed 2nd, then went onto county round placing 3rd, going through to represent Devon at SWA.

We've also had lots of fun hosting a skittles evening with Totnes YFC, learnt lots from our farm walk at David and Jeff Merrin's and had lots of fun at

adrenaline trampolining park.

At our last club meeting we had the privilege to present one of our £500 charity cheques to Devon Air Ambulance and a presentation from one of the team. We also donated £500 to Yellow Wellies. Coming up we have our Easter Bingo which is always a great turn out and great fun!

Lily Rowdon & Macie Lewis



WOOLSERY YFC

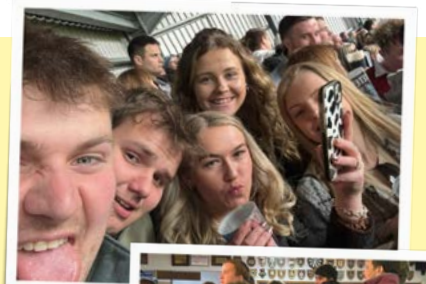
Woolsery YFC have had an active couple of weeks - we started March with 32 members attending SWA who all had a brilliant weekend.

We then organised a tour around Parkham Farms Cheese Factory kindly hosted by our own member Jack Willis. All members that attended enjoyed learning about how the cheese is made and how much hard work all the staff go through to produce the best cheese they can.

Some members then took part in the Tarka pool, skittles and darts evening at Holsworthy Football Club. All members played well representing our club.

Tarka also hosted a social day out at Exeter Chiefs, all clubs within Tarka came to help support Exeter who won against Newcastle. Coming up for Woolsery in April is a family fun Easter Bingo night! We have got all the Easter eggs ready and can't wait to host this event and see who the lucky winners are.

Georgia Daniel





CLUB OF THE MONTH Supported by SOUTH WEST Farmer

NEWTON ST CYRES YFC

Newton St Cyres YFC have 37 members and an incredibly busy club programme. Since Christmas they have organised a Christmas tree collection, bingo, lots of socials and they have also had several members take part in the Haldon group pantomime which has reached the national pantomime finals.

However, a highlight of their year so far is their Charity Tractor Run in memory of Steve Yeandle. On Sunday 2nd February, a total of 122 tractors lined the route from Upton Pyne to Cheriton Fitzpaine, in memory of a local farming legend.

Harry Grigg, Newton St Cyres YFC Club Chairman, says: "At the start of the year we decided as a club that we wanted to do something in memory of Steve, and a tractor run seemed the most fitting tribute.

"It was months of hard work putting it all together and we were in close contact with the Chanin and Yeandle family throughout the organisation process.

"Hundreds of people lined the route in support and we also raised a whopping £10,000 for the British Heart Foundation and Pancreatic Cancer UK. We were amazed at people's generosity and incredibly proud that we were able to raise so much for these worthwhile charities.

"It was incredible to see the club come together on the day to execute this tribute to a local legend."

Harry Grigg

"I'd like to thank all our Newton St Cyres YFC members and supporters for all of their hard work, in particular to Angie Prouse and Gracie Rice who did a lot of work behind the scenes, as well as to the Browne family for hosting us."

Newton St Cyres YFC have no plans to slow down, with lots more being organised for the spring and summer.

They have recently taken advantage of the Young Farmers 'Ready-Made Club Nights' where a Devon YFC trainer comes in and delivers a training session for the club. Recently, County Chairman Kayleigh Lovegrove delivered a session all about the wide ranging benefits of YFC, so they are feeling motivated to provide lots more opportunities for their members.



TALKWORKS Tips for April

What can I do to get a better night's sleep?

The team at TALKWORKS have shared a number of small changes that you can make to your daily life and routine which can help you to improve sleep. These include:

1. **Create a bedtime routine.** Stop scrolling on your phone before bed and opt for reading or listening to calming music instead.
2. **Make sure you're in a quiet and relaxing environment.** If you are disturbed by noise or bright light, it can be hard to get to sleep, so it could be worth trialling wearing a sleeping mask or earplugs if either of these impact you
3. **Exercising to help reduce stress and improve your wellbeing.** Exercise has a number of physical health benefits, but it can also help to clear your mind and improve your emotional health.
4. **Eating a healthy and balanced diet.** A poor diet can lead to weight gain and health difficulties which can in turn impact our sleep.
5. **Exploring mindfulness and meditation techniques.** Trying a relaxation method like mindfulness can be beneficial to sleep as it can help to calm both your body and mind.

If you would like to access support from TALKWORKS to help improve your sleep please visit the TALKWORKS website (www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk) or call the team on 0300 555 3344.



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Welcome to the Devon YFC jobs board! Here we display job adverts from the farming and rural community across the South West. If you would like to advertise a job vacancy for your business, please contact organiser@devonyfc.co.uk. **Find out more information, with links to apply at www.devonyfc.co.uk/jobs.**

Job Advert

SG Brimacombe & Son: Calf Rearer

We are looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic calf rearer to join our team on a progressive 1000-cow dairy farm.
Role Includes:

- Feeding and caring for calves to ensure optimal health and growth
- Monitoring and treating any health issues
- Maintaining clean and hygienic housing conditions
- Assisting with general youngstock management
- Working as part of a young team

Experience in calf rearing preferred but training available.

Location: Hill Barton, Yeoford

Competitive pay based on experience.

Workload and shifts are flexible and can be negotiated to suit the right candidate.

Interested? Contact us at paulbrimacombe70@gmail.com or Claire Brimacombe 07794108343.

Closing date: 30th April 2025



Rural Hub Conference Rooms

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Find out more at www.devonruralhub.co.uk





DEVON YFC TRAINING



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

Easter Bonnet Cake Decorating Saturday 19th April

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH
1 session course £30.00. Run by 'Bizzie Baking'

Lantra 13-15 year old Tractor Driving Tuesday 22nd April

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
1 day course £160.00. Funding from DCBT available.

Over 12 Mixed Self Defence Friday 23rd May

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH
1 session course – £14.50

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th June

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
2 day course £336.00. Funding from DCBT available.



We have access to a wide range of other training providers and can offer the following courses:

- First Aid
- Food Hygiene
- Tractor Driving
- Telehandler
- Spraying
- Safe use of medicines
- Chainsaw
- Handheld Strimming
- ATV
- Pest Management
- Shotgun Loaders course
- Farm Administration
- Self Defence
- and more!

Funding may be available on request. Take a look at our website for our current courses or contact us to arrange a bespoke course today.

“

The course was excellent and the instructor very professional.

I have learnt new skills and techniques and I'm now able to safely use a forklift.

Definitely recommend.

★★★★★

”



www.devonyfc.co.uk/yfc-training 01647 24120 training@devonyfc.co.uk



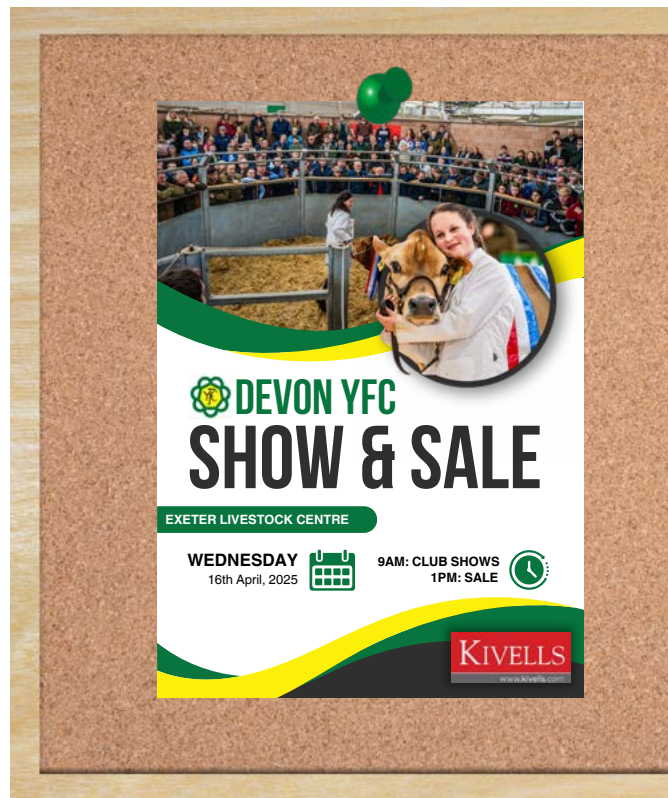
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 11th: Woolsery YFC Easter Bingo
- 11th: County Pub Sports
- 12th: Dartmouth YFC Easter Bingo
- 13th: Chulmleigh YFC Big Breakfast & Car Treasure Hunt
- 14th: Chagford YFC Charity Bingo
- 14th: Lewdown YFC Charity Easter Bingo
- 15th: Withleigh YFC Easter Bingo
- 16th: Devon YFC Show & Sale
- 17th: Withleigh YFC Remedies
- 23rd: County Open Call my Bluff
- 24th: Members Meeting
- 26th: Junior TOW Training Day
- 26th: South Dartmoor Group Three Legged Race
- 27th: Rugby 7's Qualifiers

MAY

- 2nd: Exe Valley YFC's Wine & Wisdom
- 4th: Stock Judging Training
- 15th: Rugby 7's Finals
- 15th-17th: Devon County Show
- 24th: Meshaw YFC 80th Anniversary



DEVON YFC
SHOW & SALE

EXETER LIVESTOCK CENTRE

WEDNESDAY
16th April, 2025

9AM: CLUB SHOWS
1PM: SALE

KIVELLS



 **DEVON YFC**
TRAINING



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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