

DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER JULY 2025



**BRITISH WOOL
AGRI TOUR**



**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
DAY RESULTS**



**NATIONAL
COMPETITIONS FINALS**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I was very proud to receive the overall points trophy for SWA competitions 2025. Well done to all our incredibly talented members.



It's been great this last month hosting lots of events out in the beautiful weather. The first weekend of June saw our county sports where it was great to see lots of our members take to the court and pitch with our ladies netball and men's football. Following shortly on was our Outdoor Activities Day at Exe Valley Farm Shop where our members tried their hand at a variety of competitions from ATV handling to Auctioneering and many more. It was a great day which wrapped up with the TOW competition.

We then had our clay shooting day where our members showed off their skills. It was such a great day in beautiful weather. The next day we held our splashdown social where our members took on the water slides of Paignton. A great time was had by all.

Later in the month I was able to attend the NSA Sheep Southwest day which was another beautiful day. It was great to go around and speak to various business and charities and promote Devon YFC.

Lastly we headed to Hartpury College for SWA Competitions day. It was a busy day full of stock judging, sport and TOW. It was an extremely hot day but a great show from our members. Alongside other wins we took home the SWA overall points trophy. Well done to all our members that deserved this win, I'm very proud.

K. Lovegrove

Kayleigh Lovegrove
County Chairman



COUNTY ORGANISER

Fern Lindsay



At the start of yet another busy month, teams competed at the County tournament of Ladies Netball and Men's Football at QE School, Crediton. Then members enjoyed a fantastic day at our Outdoor Activities Day by kind permission of the May family at Exe Valley Farm Shop. Thank you to all our sponsors for their support too. Good luck to the teams competing at the Area and NFYFC rounds later this summer.

Members also enjoyed an afternoon at sunny Splashdown Quay West, and we have had a couple of interesting AGRI tours at Arla Creamery and British Wool. Some of the team attended the NSA event at South Molton to promote YFC and our Training offering.

Earlier last month, we launched our Safe Driving campaign and clubs are invited to participate by creating

a short video for social media to raise awareness of safer driving choices. Clubs can send in videos to scarlett@devonyfc.co.uk by 14th July.

Save the date...



After Party at Gooseford

Saturday 13th September from 8pm. Come along earlier in the day to check out the Gooseford and South West Handling Open Day. See Facebook for more information.

Charity Speed Shear

Saturday 20th September, 5pm.
Higher Thornton Farm, Kenn, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7XH.



Friends of Devon YFC scheme

Support the future of Devon YFC by becoming a Friend of Devon YFC for only £25 a year.



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.
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COMPETITIONS

Hannah Rich

In June, we held our Outdoor Activities Day at Exe Valley Farm Shop, by kind permission of the May family. The day was a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many members getting stuck into a variety of competitions – from auctioneering to fence erecting! A huge thank you to all our sponsors, judges and the May family for making the day possible. Congratulations to East Devon for winning the trophy for the group with the most points.

Fence Erecting

- 1st:** Culm Valley
- 2nd:** Newton St Cyres
- 3rd:** Witleigh

Auctioneering

- 1st:** Ben Slawson
- 2nd:** Ben May
- 3rd:** Harry Sprague

Valuation

- 1st:** Ben Slawson
- 2nd:** Ben May

Pallet Recycling

- 1st:** Winkleigh
- 2nd:** County Team

Tractor Handling

- 1st:** James Pearce
- 2nd:** Ed Pearce
- 3rd:** Owen Kennedy

ATV Handling

- 1st:** James Pearce
- 2nd:** Ed Pearce
- 3rd:** Owen Kennedy



The following weekend saw the Clay Pigeon Shooting competition take place at Holbrook Farm. It was brilliant to see lots of members competing, especially on such a warm day! A big thank you to John from Holbrook Farm for all the effort that went into making it such an enjoyable event.

Senior Shooting

- 1st:** Ethan Pearce
- 2nd:** Myles Jones & Harry Grigg
- 3rd:** Owen Kennedy

Junior Shooting

- 1st:** Hayden Vooght
- 2nd:** Thomas Britton
- 3rd:** Jack Boundry

Nationals weekend has just wrapped up – and what a weekend it was for Devon! It was fantastic to see so many members competing, and everyone performed brilliantly against some seriously tough competition. I was one very proud Competitions Chairman!

National Final Results

- 1st:** After Dinner Speaking
- 1st:** Junior Public Speaking
- 2nd:** East Devon Cheerleading
- 3rd:** Junior Reading
- 3rd:** Auctioneering (Ben Slawson)

Congratulaitons to Lauren and Jasmine from our Junior Speaking team who were awarded Best Proposer and Best Chairman.



A huge congratulations also goes to our ballroom dancing teams from Exe Valley and East Devon, Tarka's cheerleading squad, clay pigeon shooters, netball players and Honiton's football team – all of whom did exceptionally well competing at the National Finals.



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SPORTS & SOCIAL

Phoebe Parker



June has been an action-packed month for Devon YFC, with plenty of sporting success and social fun across the county!

We kicked off the month with our Men's Football and Ladies' Netball National Qualifiers on Saturday 8th June. Congratulations to all who took part - the results were as follows:

Netball

1st: Anstey
2nd: Kingsbridge
3rd: Culm Valley

Football

1st: Honiton
2nd: Withleigh
3rd: Bow & Witheridge

Honiton's men's football team then went on to win the SWA round at Hartpury on Sunday 29th June, while Anstey ladies' team placed 2nd - both teams went on to compete at the National finals where they both narrowly missed a spot in the semi-finals.



Our annual Outdoor Activities Day was kindly hosted by the May family at Exe Valley Farm Shop on Saturday 14th June, thank you for your generous hospitality, it was a great turnout, and the results were:

Junior Tag Rugby

1st: Withleigh
2nd: Cheriton & Tedburn
3rd: Dartmouth

Junior Rounders

1st: Withleigh
2nd: Dartmouth

Junior Tug of War

1st: Honiton
2nd: Whimble & Broadclyst
3rd: Haldon

Ladies Tug of War

1st: Honiton
2nd: Yarcombe
3rd: Haldon

Men's Tug of War

1st: Anstey
2nd: Honiton
3rd: Yarcombe



The top two teams from each TOW division went on to compete at the SWA round, with the following results:

SWA Tug of War Results

Men's

1st: Anstey
3rd: Honiton

Ladies

1st: Honiton
3rd: Yarcombe

Juniors

2nd: Honiton

Finally, we made the most of the sunny weather with our annual summer social at Splashdown Quaywest on Sunday 22nd June. A brilliant day out at the water park was had by all.



Planning a barn dance, awards night, or summer ball?

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Check us out!



TRAVEL Harry Sprague



Apply for
travel 2026!

Another month checked off means that we have now finally entered travel scholarship season!

At the end of this month the juniors will be flying up to Scotland where they will be undertaking a tour of the country. From the culture of Glasgow, to wide open untouched expanses of the highlands, to the glorious lochs, it's shaping up to be a fantastic trip.

And of course, by the time you're reading next month's edition of this newsletter, the seniors will have jetted out to Madrid, where they'll certainly be soaking up the Spanish sun and taking in all the culture.

Continue to look out for our groups fundraising efforts as they'll be raising funds right up to their departure days.

So as my time as Travel Chair is approaching its end, and Lois looks to pick up the reins, it's time to announce that the applications for travel 2026 are now open! If you wish to apply, please ask your Club Chairman or Secretary for the jotform, or check your emails as Denise has sent every member a form so they can sign up. Be quick though, the deadline for applications is the 22nd August. Good luck!



AGRI Chloe Arscott

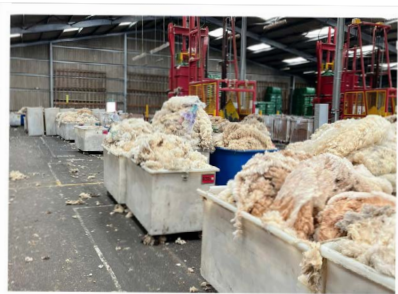
June has been another busy month in the YFC calendar, with members taking part in two fascinating Agri tours since our last newsletter.

Arla Foods Taw Valley Tour

Our first visit was to Arla Foods Taw Valley on 11th June. Members enjoyed a guided tour of the factory, which covered the entire cheese-making process - from milk intake and production, through to packaging. The site, which has been producing cheese for 50 years, processes an impressive 1.12 million litres of milk each day and supplies cheddar cheese for 18 different brands. Arla is also investing in mozzarella production, with the new operation set to begin in April 2027. This development is expected to create new employment and apprenticeship opportunities - if you're interested, visit their careers page by scanning the QR code on page 11!

British Wool Tour

Our second tour took us to the South Molton Wool Board for a behind-the-scenes look at British Wool. The South Molton depot is the main hub for wool grading in the South of England, handling between 60,000 and 80,000kg of wool each week. During the tour, we learnt how fleeces are graded based on quality and the different applications for each grade - from carpets and insulation to high-end tailoring. Thank you to British Wool for taking the time to show us around.



We also have some more exciting tours coming up! On 6th July we have a tour of Lane End Farm, a recently updated robotic grazing dairy unit, by kind permission of the Bennett family. Following this, on 16th July we have a tour of Brinicombe in Crediton, this tour will include a tour of the mineral plant, liquids plant and distribution followed by a talk, quiz and refreshments. Please sign up via the links on our socials!



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CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have made the most of a sunny month, meeting members down at Westward Ho beach and spent the evening playing rugby and swimming in the sea. We finished the evening with a drink and food by the sea.

We are busy sorting out our club entries for rally and can't wait to represent the club at this event. Some members attended Bradworthy's foam party

- everyone had a great evening and we enjoyed supporting one of our local clubs.

The club helped to raise money by running a bar at a local party in Parkham. A good night was had by all and the club enjoyed making the event run smoothly.

Georgia Daniel

LEWDOWN YFC

Lewdown YFC held their charity big breakfast on Saturday 14th June at Lewdown Victory Hall. It was a fantastic success serving over 120 breakfasts and a sold-out cake sale stand, raising over £1,200 for their three chosen charities this year - Devon Air Ambulance, MIND and Chemotivation. These are all very close to members and families alike. Thank you to everyone who attended - it was amazing to see the hall packed with locals enjoying a hearty cooked breakfast. Thanks also goes to Evergreen Farm Shop (Ashwater) for supplying the bacon, sausages and eggs and the Clovelly Inn (Bratton Clovelly) for donating bacon too.



Lewdown YFC have already raised nearly £5,000 for charity so far this year and have one final charity event planned which is a bath push along the granite way on Saturday 13th September. We now look forward to farm tours over the summer months and members will be getting their entries ready for the Tarka Rally at the end of July.

Becky Dennis





CLUB OF THE MONTH Supported by WITHLEIGH YFC SOUTH WEST Farmer

Witleigh Young Farmers have had a busy year so far and have no plans to slow down anytime soon. From agri tours and sports tournaments, to competing at Devon County Show, they are making sure there is something for everyone.

The club are currently busy preparing for this year's Mid Devon Show, which is one of the biggest events in the YFC calendar for Exe Valley Group. It's been a successful show season so far, with Witleigh winning several trophies at this year's Devon County Show, including winning the club collective exhibit for the second year in a row.

Olivia Bateman, Witleigh YFC Club Secretary, says: "We're incredibly proud of our achievements at Devon County Show this year – it really was a big team effort. From flower arranging to cookery, club members worked together to produce another winning club cubicle and it really was a testament to everyone's hard work.

"We haven't just been busy with the show season, recently we also had a tour of the Arla Taw Valley Creamery. This was a great opportunity to learn all about the full process of how milk is turned into cheese. With several dairy farmers within the club, it proved to be a really interesting evening."

network of advisory and past members willing to lend a hand. The club are encouraging more members to have their own club sheep this year, with past members coming in to support and teach the club what is involved.

Olivia adds: "We're really fortunate to have incredibly supportive leaders and advisory in the club. Each year the advisory organise a 'superstars' event which involves a variety of highly competitive and fun activities for all our members!

"We're looking forward to a busy summer ahead, with myself and Club Chairman Greg Olive organising more agri trips and club socials to keep everyone engaged over the summer months."



Witleigh YFC is one of Devon's longest running clubs and they are fortunate to have a large





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

Lantra Tractor Driving 13-15 Years Tuesday 26th August 2025

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
9am-4pm. £170 with funding available for members.

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler Friday 3rd October

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
9am-4pm. £245. Funding available.

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler Monday 1st - Tuesday 2nd September

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
2 day course £366. Funding available.

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HOW TO START A CONVERSATION AROUND MENTAL HEALTH



When we are concerned about a friend or family member, it can be difficult to know how to approach them and start a conversation. We don't want to make them feel uncomfortable, but we also want them to know that we're here to listen. The Team at TALKWORKS have shared some tips for how to reach out to someone you care about to start talking about mental health.

Remember, if you need to talk, you can talk to TALKWORKS. www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

- 11th:** NFYFC Dairy Stockjudging finals
- 16th:** Brinicombe Plant Tour
- 24th:** Members Meeting
- 26th:** Mid Devon Show
- 26th:** Exe Valley YFC Show After Party
- 28th:** Junior Scholarship - Scotland

AUGUST

- 1st:** Meshaw YFC Party
- 2nd:** Kingsbirdge YFC Speed Shear
- 7th:** East Devon YFC Charity Auction @ Honiton Show
- 9th:** Honiton YFC Ball
- 9th:** Newton Abbot YFC Beach Party
- 11th:** Senior Scholarship - Spain
- 15th-18th:** SWA Junior Weekend
- 22nd:** North Devon YFC Party
- 22nd:** Travel applications close
- 29th:** Withleigh YFC Barn Bash

SEPTEMBER

- 6th:** Bampton YFC Big Barn Bash
- 13th:** Gooseford & SW Handling Open Day
- 20th:** County Charity Speed Shear



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