® DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025





SOUTH WEST AREA JUNIOR WEEKEND



SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP TO SPAIN



TUG OF WAR **WORLD GAMES**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

The Devon Rural Hub, Amory Building, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6JH Tel: 01647 24120 Email: admin@devonyfc.co.uk









FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A massive well done to all officers for all of your hard work over the last year - our clubs could not run without all your time and effort.



s our clubs are starting to get ready for the new membership year, our members are still as busy as ever. Our travel scholarships this summer looked incredible. I hope you all had an amazing time with lots of memories and friendships made.

I was able to attend Kingsbridge's Speed Shear last month. What a great event with a fantastic turn out. Well done Kingsbridge for putting on such a brilliant event. I also attended the North Devon Show which was a great showcase of the North Devon member's talents. Well done to Alverdiscott for running a successful event, I loved watching members tractor pulling in the main ring and looking at all the amazing work in the tent. Chagford Show was also a great day. I absolutely loved watching your duck race at the show, such great fun for all. Great job selling all your ducks and I hope you managed to catch all the runaways.

Last month we also had the SWA Junior Camp. A firm favourite for the junior members. We took 115 juniors to Little Canada on the Isle of White, 72 of which were Devon members. What a great weekend for the juniors and leaders alike. It was jam-packed with water activities, climbing, laser tag, a disco and so much more. My fellow leaders and I had the best time seeing our juniors enjoy the weekend - we would definitely recommend our juniors to come next year.

And just like that we are back round to AGM season. I hope to see lots of you over the next couple of months but for any clubs and groups I cannot attend I'd like to say a massive well done to all officers for all your hard work over the last year, our clubs could not run without all your time and effort. For anyone stepping into a role this coming membership year - good luck - you will do amazingly.

In September I am super excited for Devon YFC's first ever Speed Shear. Lots of shearing, entertainment, food, a bar and a kids area. A fantastic evening for all the family - so don't miss it. I hope to see lots of you there!

K. Lovegrove

Kayleigh Lovegrove County Chairman









ugust started with our Junior Scholarship group heading to Scotland for a week's adventure taking in the sights of Edinburgh as well as enjoying some outdoor activities in rural Perthshire. The members really enjoyed themselves and were grateful to their leaders Robin Bennett and Anneliese Retallick for looking after them! The Seniors then flew down to Spain for an extremely hot week immersing themselves in local culture and culinary delights. More about the trips in Harry's report coming up.

Lots of our junior members enjoyed a weekend at Little Canada on the Isle of Wight for the South West Area junior camp and they were supported by lots of Devon YFC leaders too.

Got an idea for a junior, senior or joint activity? With such a diverse age range in YFC it is important that

County provide experiences that everyone can enjoy during their time as a member. We would like to hear from members about what they would like to see on the activities programme. Make sure to suggest your ideas to your Club and Group Officers so they can share them at General Council and Members' meetings. Remember, YFC is run by the members for the members.

September means the start of AGM season. County Office sent out pre-AGM information last month for clubs to consider, such as upcoming levy charges and links to officer and leader registration forms. These are online this year as opposed to a paper form. Don't hesitate to call or message the office if you have any questions about AGMs. Good luck to all the new incoming officers and well done to the outgoing officers, you have worked extremely hard to provide a fun year for your members.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you once again to all of the Devon YFC community for making me feel extremely welcome during my time here and I will be sure to miss you. A particular thanks goes to my colleagues Denise and Scarlett for all their support and hard work too. As Devon's largest rural youth organisation, Devon YFC is truly a lifeline for our young people and it has been a privilege to work for such a unique charity. I look forward to seeing it grow and develop in years to come.

Here are just a few of my YFC memories from my camera roll...





nstey Young Farmers' very own Jack Routley and Dan Nicholls have brought home gold for Team GB in the Men's 640kg Tug of War at the World Games in China. An incredible achievement on the world stage and a moment of real pride for Devon YFC! We also had several members compete at the World Championships in Nottingham bringing home gold medals – what an incredible achievement.

We are very excited to be hosting the After Party for the Gooseford Dairy and Southwest Handling Open Day. Also, Devon YFC will once again be taking on Cornwall YFC for the Tamar Cup on Friday 31st October at Launceston Rugby Club. Training is currently underway – keep your eyes peeled on our social media to see information about how to book your supporter tickets – they will go fast!



AGRI Chloe Arscott

Behind the scenes, work has been going on to finalise this year's Devon YFC Agri Trip - which is heading off to Germany this autumn! We will be starting off our trip in Hamburg, where we will be spending our first couple of days in Northern Germany on a variety of farm tours, and staying in Hannover, before travelling south on day three of the

trip towards Mannheim. Our final day will be a trip highlight, where we will be visiting the John Deere Factory in Mannheim, which has been kindly supported by Smallridge Bros Ltd.

A big thank you to both Smallridge Bros Ltd and Lely Centre Holsworthy for sponsoring this



year's trip. We only had a limited amount of spaces, and after resolving some issues with the Jotform, the trip sold out in under half an hour!

As we're approaching autumn, we also have the return of our Agri Business Programme! I'm also hoping to squeeze in another farm tour over the next couple of months.



COMPETITIONS Hannah Rich

Things have been a little quieter on the competitions front over summer, but we're ready to get going again this autumn. Speaking competitions will soon be underway, and the national cookery finals and floral arrangement competitions are taking place at Malvern Show in September.

More speaking competitions will follow into October and November, so now's the time to start getting your teams together and booking in those training sessions. All competition rules can be found on the Devon Young Farmers website.

Upcoming competition dates:

30th October



National Cookery Finals
27th September
National Floral Art Finals
28th September
MACE Debating
2nd October
Junior Reading



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

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So there we go, another year and another two successful scholarships completed. After 10 months of organising, planning and fundraising, both juniors and seniors enjoyed successful trips to Scotland and Spain.

The first ones to make tracks were the juniors who flew up to Glasgow at the end of July. They enjoyed a week in and around the Scottish Highlands taking in the sights of Loch Tay where they enjoyed a day of canoeing and archery. They also enjoyed a tour of Aberfeldy Distillery learning about Scotland's favourite tipple - whiskey. This was followed by a day at Perth Show and then the world famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival. For a more detailed explanation of the week, I'll let one of our scholars Maicey explain what went down. It was a week seemingly

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enjoyed by all, and I would like to especially thank Robin and Liese for looking after the group and bringing everyone home in one piece.

Moving onto the seniors, they were lucky enough to visit Spain. This is a new experience for Devon YFC as a whole, as it's the first time the federation has sent a scholarship to the Iberian peninsula. The group flew out to Madrid where they got to spend a day in the city taking in all the sights before linking up with the local rural youth organisation, EPA! The group spent the week visiting different farms and learning about Spanish culture, and taking in the heat with temperatures reaching over 40°C. Instead of me butchering what went down on the trip, senior leader Olivia has taken the time to

write a little report
about what they all got
up to. I would like to send a very
special thank you to Matias Rubio
from EPA who organised the whole
trip's itinerary, which was certainly
enjoyed by all who went.

Lastly, moving out of summer and into winter, as I'm sure you've probably heard, next year's ski trip to Tignes has sold out in record time. Massive credit to Alex for putting it all together for what looks like will be an absolutely cracking trip.

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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.

"Our trip was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, where new friendships were made and lifelong memories were formed."

Maicey Bennett



Junior Scholarship Scotland

10 Devon members jumped on a plane and headed up to Scotland for a jam-packed week of adventure and fun.

We started the week by heading to the Glasgow Science Museum, where we were highly entertained by the different science experiments we could participate in. The next day we drove to Loch Tay, where we shot bullseyes in the archery field and paddled in canoes down the water. On the third day, we headed to Aberfeldy Distillery, where we tasted Scotland's finest whiskey and learnt about how it had been made, whilst being given a tour of the factory.

Day four we had a red deer safari and meet and greet – it was super cool being able to be up close to them all! Day five we headed to Perth Agricultural Show, where we met some Scottish young farmers and heard all about their club activities!



We also went and played laser tag, as well as went to a trampoline park! On the last couple of days we explored Edinburgh (where we got hypnotised at the fringe festival) and

Glasgow (where we saw the new Spider-Man film being filmed!)

We had so much fun adventuring round Scotland, and were constantly wowed by the incredible views and surrounding sights. It is safe to say our trip was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, where new friendships were made and lifelong memories were formed.





Olivia Retallick



Senior Scholarship Spain

On Sunday 10th of August, 15 members from all parts of Devon, started their journey to Spain for a packed week of farm tours, learning about local culture and 40+ degree temperatures. We flew from London Heathrow into Madrid on Monday morning before spending the afternoon exploring the city.

On Tuesday, we met with Matias for the first time. Matias and the EPA Association had a full week planned with a variety of farm tours and cultural visits. Once we had collected our hire vehicle we headed to our first visit of the week, Quhesalia Cheese Museum. Here we learnt about the history of sheep farming and cheese making in this particular area. We were kindly joined at the Cheese Museum by Lorenzo who is a local farmer and supplier of

the sheep milk for the cheese. This linked into our next visit which was to Lorenzo's sheep dairy farm.

We then went for a drive through their vineyards growing both black and white grapes and the fields upon fields of pistachio trees. We also drove past a nature reserve where African birds land when migrating into Northern Europe. We then travelled to Campo de Criptana to visit the historic windmills. These are part of the most famous tale from the Spanish novel "The Ingenious Gentlemen Don Quixote of La Mancha".

On day three we travelled to Manzanares el Real to visit Javi who uses his herd of goats as a fire prevention tool to help the dry

Spanish valleys from wild fires. We walked with the goats and observed them grazing the ground. We learnt about the sheep highways and the

journeys the goats make throughout the highways (with the longest journey taking 7 days).

On day four we landed at our first farm at 9:30am, a cow dairy farm. Here we saw 250 milking cows that were split between 2 DeLaval robots and a 10 a side milking parlour. This was the closest to an English dairy farm that we visited throughout our trip and it was interesting to see the variety of farming techniques across the regions. Our next stop was Queseria Cheese Factory. We met Carlos who is the 3rd generation of his family business. They moved to the modern factory in 2020, of which we were allowed to go inside and look at the methods of the cheese making.

Following this, we went back into Carrión de Los Condes to visit Carlos' shop where they sell the cheese they produce. We then moved onto our 4th location of the day. Here we met a 4th generation sheep dairy farmer, farming 1600 sheep (with around 1500 of them



to lamb in March alone). They yield around 400L of milk per day in a 24 a side (2011 built) parlour.

Following this visit, we headed back to the town to enjoy a mouth watering lunch at La Corte. Prior to our final farm tour, we had a short break to relax. Our 5th and final destination was the sheep dairy farm of Nerea. Nerea works with schools and groups to educate about rural life. She also strongly promotes females in farming in an attempt to break the stereotype of 'the farmer'. She also uses social media to help promote this. The day ended up back in the town with snacks and drinks down by the river.

Day five started with a drive to the local village to experience a cow run through the village of Torquemada. This was so different to anything that would be allowed in the UK - the streets were fitted with high wooden fences and the cows ran up and down within these fences. Following this, we travelled into the mountains of Selaya where we met Marina. She provided us with tasty

food and a beautiful view before showing us around her father's dairy farm. Here they have around 120-150 cows of which they milk with a Lely robot and feed with a Lely automatic feeder. We then headed down into the village of Selaya. We spent the afternoon around the village area, with some of us heading off to the farming games. The evening was spent with fireworks, live music and good vibes. We wore our YFC travel polos and created our own Peña (group) for the night.

We soon found that this week in Spain was a week of festivals all over the country. Day six started by visiting the village of Roque de Riomiera where they were celebrating with music and dances in the village square. We were invited to take part in the dances with the locals. This was a picturesque village with vibrant colours and lots of life and sat below some stunning mountainous views.

From here, we travelled up into the

mountains further to La Lleldiria La Fermenteria de los Valles Pasiegos. We were introduced to a couple that have started a restaurant of which their goals are to be as sustainable as possible. They set up the project 8 years ago, they now make cheese and work with fermentation to make products last longer due to the remote location. We enjoyed a beautiful meal here which was all produced either by them or producers very local to the restaurant. We were shown where they make their cheese before we headed back to Selaya for another night of festivities.

Our final day was a day of travel. We made our journey from Selaya back to Madrid where we caught our flight back home!





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CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



ugust has been a busy month for Cheriton and Tedburn YFC! At the start of the month we held a paintballing social joined by members from Witheridge YFC, we then went to Quoit at Cross for a club vineyard tour, as well as a farm walk to the Cheriton's Dairy Farm near Sandford. A big thank you to the Cheriton Family for their kind hospitality! We are also going mackerel fishing in Exmouth at the end of the month. It has been great to be able to offer these opportunities for members to continue to get together, socialise and have fun in what is typically a busy month outside of YFC.

This month we also had 17 members enter into our Haldon Group Rally at Okehampton Show. We managed to collect the trophy for the club with the most overall points - something we

haven't won for the past 8 years! Well done to all the members that entered, which for many were their first time entering.

Alongside all of this, at our last club meeting on 19th August we presented a cheque to our chosen charity, Choices Pregnancy Centre. Choices is a small charity based in Exeter that have recently supported a past member of the club, making it the perfect charity for us to fundraise for this year. Over the year we raised £2,500 through our bingos, a quiz, big breakfast, carol singing and a dung sale. It was a wonderful feeling to present this cheque to the charity and to hear how incredibly grateful and touched they were by the support, knowing it would make a real difference to those they help.

September brings the start of the new YFC year with plans to hopefully have time to squeeze in a beach social before our club AGM. We are very fortunate that we have our officers all lined up,

> and I have no doubt that Cheriton and Tedburn YFC will have another

brilliant year ahead. Best of Luck to Ellen, Lydia and the team!

Katie Grist



CHAGFORD YFC

The Chagford Show returned this August, and with it came two of the finest duck salesmen the West Country has to offer — Owen Davey and Arthur Shilston-Jones. Armed with enthusiasm, wit and an impressive supply of plastic ducks, these two set up shop to sell entries for the world-famous (well... village-famous) annual duck race — a tradition where hundreds of little ducks make a valiant (and often slightly chaotic) journey down the river.

Thanks to their tireless efforts – and possibly some persuasive sales techniques - Owen and Arthur managed to sell 400 ducks over the course of the day, raising an impressive £300 for the Alzheimer's Society. This fantastic tradition is proudly upheld by Chagford YFC, and Owen and Arthur have continued to carry it forward with great success over the past few years. A huge well done to both!

Tizzy Cuming



EXE VALLEY YFC

Exe Valley YFC have been kept very busy with our annual group rally held at Mid Devon Show. We had a fantastic turnout of almost 600 entries - all staged to an incredibly high standard. The tent was awarded the silver award for most attractive trade stand by Show President Richard Taylor and was a great advert for all things YFC.

The day also included our 'It's a Knockout' style competition in the main ring, this is always a fiercely contested one between the clubs and provided great entertainment for those spectating. New for this year was our remedies after show party, which was incredibly successful, I'd like to thank all



those who attended on behalf of Exe Valley Group. We were pleased to assist in the showground clear up the following day with 30 members turning out to litter pick and begin tidying the site, a great weekend for all involved and we look forward to the 2026 show.

Sophie Pratt





NFU MUTUAL CODE FOR COUNTRYSIDE ROADS

Rural roads are vital to our countryside, but they also carry unique risks and see a disproportionate number of accidents.

NFU Mutual started Rural Road Safety (RRS) Campaigning in 2021 as a reaction to the statistics showing the disproportionate number of lives lost on countryside roads each year. The aim was to raise awareness of the unique hazards of rural roads among all road users to help reduce avoidable casualties.

Since then, we've continued to champion the importance of road safety to help make rural roads a safer place to be for anyone who lives in, works in, or visits the countryside. For years, we've been dedicated to improving rural road safety by raising awareness of the hazards these roads present. Recently, we took our campaign to Parliament to highlight the dangers of rural roads and advocate for making safety a top priority.

NFU Mutual Rural Road Survey:

A survey conducted in November by NFU Mutual found that 13% of people had been in a collision on a rural road, rising to almost one in five (19%) for those that live in the countryside. Surprisingly, one in ten people living in urban areas had been involved in a collision on a rural road.

More than one fifth of respondents (21%) admitted to being uncomfortable travelling on rural roads,

with a third of people without a car saying they're uncomfortable on countryside roads.

More than half of respondents said one of their biggest concerns when it comes to rural road safety was blind corners (56%) and narrow roads (51%), while road quality (48%), driver impatience (45%) and people breaking the speed limit (42%) were also high on the list. Around a third (32%) were worried about navigating vulnerable road users and a quarter (24%) were concerned about dealing with agricultural traffic.

NFU Mutual Launches Code for Countryside Roads:

To help guide and advise everyone on how to use rural roads safely, NFU Mutual has partnered with the four UK farming unions, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the Farm Safety Foundation, the British Horse Society and Older Drivers Forum to create a Code for Countryside Roads that is available for everyone to use.

With fatal accidents on rural roads 70% higher than on urban ones*, this code offers practical guidance based on expert advice and public feedback to promote safer and more respectful road use.

You can access, download and print the Code for Countryside Roads at www.nfumutual.co.uk/ruralroads

*Road fatality data taken from NFU Mutual analysis of Department for Transport (DfT) road collision and safety statistics, 'Reported road casualties, Great Britain', 26/09/202



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have had a busy August completing all summer carnivals. Placing 3rd and Hartland and just missed out on the placing at Bradworthy, but still showed the crowd what fun we have in Woolsery YFC.

We had a fun meeting at the wake park where members had fun on a water obstacle course in the sunshine and met for food after.

We have a couple things planned for September with a car treasure hunt and new members evening. We can't wait to meet new young people who want to be a part of our club to make new friends and gain new experiences.

We are also helping out the local Church in our community with a church day they have planned in September.

Georgia Daniel



NORTH DEVON YFC

hat a month for North Devon Group. North Devon show started off August on the 6th where Alverdiscott hosted group rally this year. The tent looked amazing with entries from members in all clubs. Well done to Chittlehampton who won the overall points trophy and winning our main ring TOW tractor pull too.

A huge congratulations to Dan Nicholls and Jack Routley from Anstey representing Great Britain over in China at the TOW World games and for winning gold! A massive achievement for the lads who have had an incredible TOW season so far with Worlds just around the corner in Nottingham in September with their men's and mixed team.

At the end of the month we held our Barbie and Ken beach party which was a huge success and a fab night was enjoyed by all. Our wake park social on bank holiday Monday was also well attended and good fun with amazing weather! Here's to see what a busy September

brings.

Lois Sing





CLUB OF THE MONTH Supported by Fairmer KINGSBRIDGE YFC

Kingsbridge YFC are known to be an extremely active club in the south of Devon, getting involved in all aspects of the diverse YFC programme. But this year's committee decided to take on the organising of a new club event – a charity speed shear.

Raising money for the British Heart Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK, the aim was to bring the farming community together for a charity speed shear event, providing quality entertainment and showcasing the skills of sheep shearers from across Devon.

Toby Baldry, Kingsbridge YFC Club Chairman, says: "This year we

wanted to do something a bit different in the club and organise a community event that brought all ages together. It was amazing to see everyone get behind it, with over 400 people in attendance on the night.

"We had 50 shearers compete in junior, intermediate and senior classes, and we had some fun classes too. There was an amazing atmosphere all night and I'm very proud to say that we raised just shy of £8,000 for charity."

"A massive thank you to Jim and Harriet Winzer for hosting the event, the Ring Feeder for the brilliant

> food and to all our sponsors for making this event possible."

As well as a successful speed shear event, their members have been getting involved with lots of different socials over

the summer, with two of their members also travelling to Spain on the Devon Young Farmers travel scholarship.

Toby adds: "Our club AGM is just around the corner where we'll soon start a new YFC year. The speed shear is definitely one of our highlights of the year and hopefully this is an event that will continue for years to come."









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 Rough Terrain Telehandler Friday 3rd October

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

Food Safety & Hygiene Level 2 Online Course

Duration: 2 hours. 100% online. £24.00 per person.

TALKWORKS

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Self-refer to TALKWORKS without needing to see a GP by filling out the online self-referral form on the TALKWORKS website (www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk) or by calling the team on 0300 555 3344.





The supporters club for Devon Young Farmers friends, followers and past members. Support the running of our federation whilst also receiving these 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
- Invitation to the County AGM and our annual Chairman's Reception at the Devon County Show.
- Invitation to special commemorative events.

All funds raised through Friends of Devon YFC will support our ongoing programme of activities for all members aged 10 – 28.

Become a Friend of Devon YFC today and you can make a difference to over 1,500 young people across Devon.





SEPTEMBER

20th: County Charity Speed Shear **26th:** Exe Valley YFC Dinner & Dance **27th:** Newton Abbot YFC Dinner & Dance

27th: NFYFC Cookery Finals **28th:** NFYFC Floral Art Finals

OCTOBER

2nd: Senior MACE Debating

7th: Farmwise

10th: North Devon Dinner & Dance

11th: Travel interviews

17th: Dartmouth YFC Dinner & Dance

23rd: Members Meeting

24th: Withleigh YFC Halloween Remedies

25th: Pillar Decorating **26th:** Harvest Festival **30th:** Junior Reading

31st: Tamar Cup Rugby Match









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