

 DEVON YOUNG FARMERS
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2025



**DEVON YFC'S FIRST
EVER SPEED SHEAR**



AGRI TRIP TO GERMANY



**PUBLIC SPEAKING
RESULTS**

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

What a year it has been - I am so proud to have been Chair for such talented and dedicated members of Devon Young Farmers.



And just like that I am writing my last Newsletter report. It's been great to get out to so many AGM's to see you all and hear about your fantastic years. Well done to all past officers for your achievements this year and good luck to all those who have stepped into their new roles.

We've managed to fit in lots in the last couple of months. We had a great day at the Gooseford and Southwest Handling Open Day at Gooseford Dairy and we held a very successful after party thanks to the Courtier family. It was also great to attend South Dartmoor's field day in September where I was asked to judge some classes. Thank you to South Dartmoor for asking me, it was a great day.

The following weekend it was time for Devon YFC's first ever Speed Shear. This was something I really wanted to do in my year so I'm incredibly happy we achieved it. A lot of work had gone into this event and a massive thank you to all those who gave up their time, their equipment and their knowledge to bring this event together. A huge thank you must go to Chris Berry and family for letting us use his fantastic barn and sheep. The evening was fantastic and full of people of all ages who enjoyed watching the fierce competition. The event raised vital funds for the federation and I hope this event lives on for future years.

I really enjoyed attending Newton Abbot's Dinner and Dance in September and North Devon's Dinner and Dance in October. Both fantastic evenings that were thoroughly enjoyed.

We had Farmwise in October, a fantastic day where we got the chance to educate the next generation on the world of food and farming. We had stations about flour making, the soil cycle, and other informative and fun activities. This day is such a brilliant event to be part of and I'm sure lots of children left full of information and inspiration.

We held our travel interviews with thanks to our incoming Travel Chair Lois. It was a great day and well done to all those who interviewed, everyone deserved a space but I hope the lucky members enjoy their trips next year.

The Harvest Festival was once again held at Exeter Cathedral. The pillars decorated by our



groups looked incredible - well done to Haldon for coming first. The evening was lovely and it was great to see so many people attend such a brilliant service.

We ended the month with our highly anticipated Devon vs Cornwall Rugby match. It was a fantastic evening full of high spirits and support for our boys out on the pitch. I am so proud that we came away winners beating Cornwall this year. It was a tough match but our boys really dug deep to bring home the win.

The County AGM is on 4th December at the White Hart in Modbury where we will be saying goodbye to a great year and welcoming in the new county team. Thank you to everyone that has supported Devon YFC over the past year and given up all your time to make things happen. Thank you

to the office staff for all your hard work this year and to our Board of Management for all you have done. It's been a busy and challenging year at times but I appreciate all the work that goes into making everything happen.

Thank you to my team for this year, you have all worked hard putting on so much for our members - thank you for all your time and hard work. Good luck to next year's team, I know you have lots of ideas and enthusiasm for the coming year and I look forward to seeing what you get up to.

Thank you all for a great year, I look forward to watching on for years to come proudly supporting Devon YFC.

K. Lovegrove

Kayleigh Lovegrove
County Chairman



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COMPETITIONS

Hannah Rich

September saw members head up to Malvern Show for the National Cookery and Floristry finals. In the cookery we were represented by Chulmleigh and Cheriton & Tedburn YFC, who made some delicious celebratory meals.

In the floristry we were represented by Evie Rice in the juniors, Macie Bennett and Bea Martin in the intermediates and Katie Davie in the seniors. A huge congratulations to all the members for competing at a national final - an amazing achievement.

Speaking competitions are back underway and October was kickstarted with the debating competition where the standard was incredibly high. A big thank you to our judges Shelley Ford, Sarah Berry and Sadie Darke.

Senior Debating Results

1st: South Dartmoor
2nd: East Devon
3rd: North Devon

Best Chair: James Caunter
Best Male: Luke Stevens
Best Female: Lily Field

The county team picked to represent Devon at this year's South West Area for Debating are James Caunter, Lily Field, Luke Stevens, Ollie Patch and Jamie Rogers. With reserves Beth Ansdell and Ben Slawson.

Next up was Junior Reading and it was great to see many new faces taking part. A big thank you to our judges Rosie Bennett and Alice Endicott.

Junior Reading Results

1st: East Devon Green
2nd: North Devon
3rd: South Dartmoor

Best Chair: George
Best Reader: Darcy



Good luck to George, Darcy and Phoebe who will go on to represent Devon at this year's South West Area!

Next up we have the Intermediate Braintrust competition – you will see the results in the next newsletter!

And that wraps up my year as Competitions Chairman, and what a privilege it has been! I've thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many members getting involved in competitions - right up to national level.

The programme of competitions in Devon is fantastic, showcasing the incredible talent of the members. A huge thank you to all the judges, trainers, county team, office staff, and everyone else who has supported throughout the year.

Finally, best of luck to Katie Davie, who takes on the role next - she's been a fantastic support this year, and I know you'll all be in very safe hands!

TRAVEL

Harry Sprague



What a year the travel 2025 programme has had! Three different countries visited and 85 members involved from across the county is an achievement we can all be very proud of.

Of course we kick started the year all the way back in January with our sold out Devon YFC Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez with 60 members hitting the slopes. And what a fantastic trip it was with 2026's edition already shaping up to be a blast.

Of course we cannot forget about this year's scholarships. With the juniors heading off to Scotland and the seniors to Spain. The juniors got to experience some of the highlights that Scotland has to offer, visiting the Highlands, a whisky factory and Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The seniors, however experienced a very different climate with temperatures reaching up to 40°C, Spain certainly reached new heights for Devon YFC.

Devon YFC Travel is certainly in safe hands next year as I hand the reins over to Lois. She has already been busy behind the scenes getting the travel 2026 programme in place. Interviews for next year's scholarships took place last month and the teams have been selected and will be finding out their destinations in the near future. So please continue to support next year's teams with their fundraising targets so they too can enjoy some cracking trips.

85

Devon members travelled in 2025

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has supported travel this last year, it has truly been an incredible year. And thank you to all the outgoing officers, I think it's safe to say we've had a cracking year together.

So, continue to sign up to the travel opportunities Devon or National has to offer and meet new people throughout the county and around the world. You'll certainly make memories that'll last a lifetime. Safe travels all!

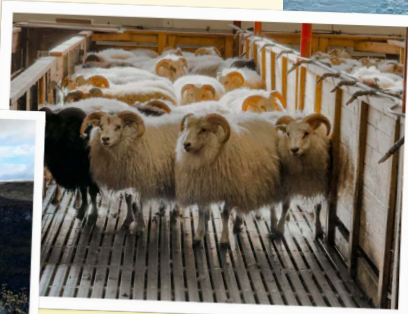
Ellie travels to Iceland with NFYFC!

On Friday 3rd October, 16 Young Farmers from across England and Wales met at Heathrow to travel to Iceland for 8 days. Once we landed in Iceland we met our tour guide for the week - Erik.

We had a jam-packed week, which included lots of farm visits learning about their different systems. We visited dairy farms of varying sizes and systems, a tomato farm, sheep farms with woollen mills, a farm to plate restaurant/farm hotel and an agricultural university, as well as all the main

tourist sites in the area, often sampling some Icelandic food in the process. We also learnt about the history of Iceland and the volcanic activity. It was interesting to see the farming way of life in Iceland, with its similarities and differences to our own. The scenery was breathtaking - it was defiantly a once in a lifetime trip.

I would urge anyone who is considering to take part in the NFYFC Travel programme to apply. It could quite possibly be one of the best things you do, and you'll probably make friends for life.





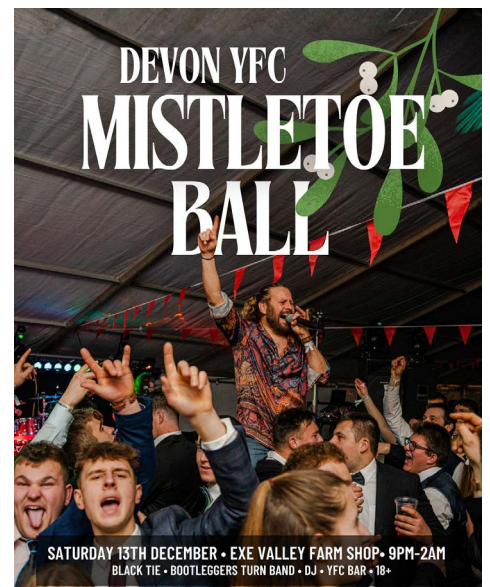
SPORTS & SOCIAL

Phoebe Parker

Friday 31st October saw the boys return to the pitch with Cornwall YFC for the Tamar Cup match at Launceston Rugby Club. Devon came home victorious, winning an excellent match 27-21 and taking home the cup! We're so proud of our boys – all the hard work and training truly paid off. Well done to Toby Baldry for winning man of the match.

Looking ahead, our next event is the Clip and Climb social on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at the Quay Climbing Centre in Exeter. This is open to all members aged 10-28 and promises to be a great evening of fun and activity.

Christmas Ball tickets are also on sale now! The Mistletoe Ball will be held on Saturday 13th December 2025 at Exe Valley Farm Shop with live music from the Bootleggers Band – it's set to be a fantastic night to celebrate the festive season. Get your tickets now before they sell out!



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"It was a pleasure to organise this year's Agri trip. It was great to meet all of our host farmers and learn about German agriculture"



Chloe Arscott

**DFYFC Agri Trip
Germany**

DAY 1

On Friday 31st October we flew from Heathrow into Hamburg, minus a couple suitcases, to start our trip. Our first farm visit was an hour's drive out to the village of Echem to visit Landwirtschaftliches Bildungszentrum Echem, which is an Agricultural education centre that supports students with practical farming. We had a tour of their beef and dairy facilities where they milk 150 cows, through a De Laval robot and a parlour so that students can learn about different systems. We also talked about calf rearing and the problems they have with wolves in the local area. That evening we drove down to Hannover and caught up on some much needed sleep!



DAY 2

Our day started with a trip to the bakery before heading 40 minutes to the town of Neustadt to visit Johannes, who worked on his family potato, poultry and pig farm, they also have a farm shop selling potatoes and eggs direct to customers. The farm is currently growing around 80ha of potatoes, in a 4 year rotation. They also have

2500 free range layers and finish 1500 pigs per year, however we had to keep our distance due to swine and avian flu.

We then stopped off at Steinhuder Meer for a sausage wurst before visiting the Klingemann family for a tour of their dairy farm, where they are milking a herd of 250 high yielding cows, averaging 14,000L. The farm has a fully robotic Lely set up with a Lely Vector, which they installed 7 years ago with automatic feeders, slurry scrapers and 4 A3 and A5 milking robots which they first introduced to the farm 15 years ago. All their slurry was also collected in an on-farm biodigester which also powered the farm, reducing robotic running costs, and provides an additional income for the farm. A massive thank you to Lely Centre Holsworthy for helping us to organise this tour and for their sponsorship of the trip.





DAY 3

We had an earlier start on this day and hit the road first thing to begin our journey south. Our first stop of the day was to visit Käsehof Landolfhausen, courtesy of Jan and Tina, for a tour of their sheep and goat dairy. Compared to our visit the day before, the set up here was more traditional. They are milking 65 goats and 40 sheep and they process all 50,000L of milk to cheese on farm. The farm is certified organic and produces all their milk from forage. Whilst the sheep are lambed every year, the older goats are only lambed every other year as there is no market for goat meat. The farm also welcomes 2,500 school children each year to teach them where their food comes from. Before leaving we got to try some of their goat cheese!

We then travelled to Actionpark Hirschhagen for an afternoon of laser quest, before a long drive down to Mannheim, where we checked into our hotel and went out for steaks and burgers.

DAY 4

It was our final morning in Germany, but the day we had all been excited for as we were visiting the John Deere Factory! We were welcomed with drinks in the exhibition hall, before we had a presentation on the history of John Deere and the factory in Mannheim. It was then time to put on some high vis for a tour of the factory. The Mannheim factory produces all the 6 M and R series globally. Approximately 10 million tractors are produced in the factory, with a



tractor rolling off the production line every 3 and a half minutes. We got to walk through the entire process from where the transmission is built, parts are produced and watch the final assembly of the tractors. After our tour we were treated to a 3 course lunch of traditional German food, before we were all gifted a limited edition cap to take home. A huge thank you to Smallridge Bros for sponsoring the trip and organising such an incredible day out for us!

It was a pleasure to organise this year's Agri trip, and I hope everyone that came along enjoyed it as much as I did! Thank you to all of our host farmers, it was great to meet them all and learn about German agriculture and how it differs to our systems over here. A special thank you to Ross, Ollie and Katie for also driving on this trip, it was fun racing down the autobahn, but the trip couldn't have happened without you.

As we head into winter we are starting our annual Agri Business Programme. We have a range of sessions organised to support members, please keep an eye out for the sign up links!





CLUB OF THE MONTH

YARCOMBE YFC

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Yarcombe YFC have once again had an incredibly busy year. From tug of war and showing livestock, to their club pantomime and famous water party, there have been countless opportunities for their members this year.

One of the highlights of their year was their club exchange with Cheshire YFC. This summer they welcomed over 20 Cheshire Young Farmers down to Yarcombe and then a few weeks later they travelled up to Cheshire for a weekend of farm tours.

Eleanor Gibson, Yarcombe YFC Club Secretary, says: "This year's club exchange was the

perfect opportunity to bring our members together, in particular for those that are interested in agriculture and are looking to widen their network.

"When we hosted Cheshire down here in Devon, the Burrough family gave us a tour of their beef unit and anaerobic digester and we also had a tour of Newley Farm's dairy unit courtesy of Will Venn. We had a delicious lunch at Rumwell Farm Shop, Richard Parris gave us a tour of Parris tractors and finally Kevin and Richard Dare showed us around their robots and beef cattle."

Three weeks later, a group of over 20 Yarcombe members travelled up to Cheshire for the return leg of the trip. Over the weekend they had multiple farm tours including a look around a dairy, beef and chicken unit. They also attended Cheshire YFC's Summer Ball. Eleanor adds: "It

really was a brilliant experience for our members to not only host Cheshire young farmers down here in Devon, but also to have the opportunity to travel up north and learn from different farms further afield.

"A massive thank you to everyone that provided tours whilst they were visiting, as well as Izzy Pearse for coordinating the exchange. There is so much value for clubs wanting to carry out an exchange – we all learnt a lot and got to know new people in the process."



CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



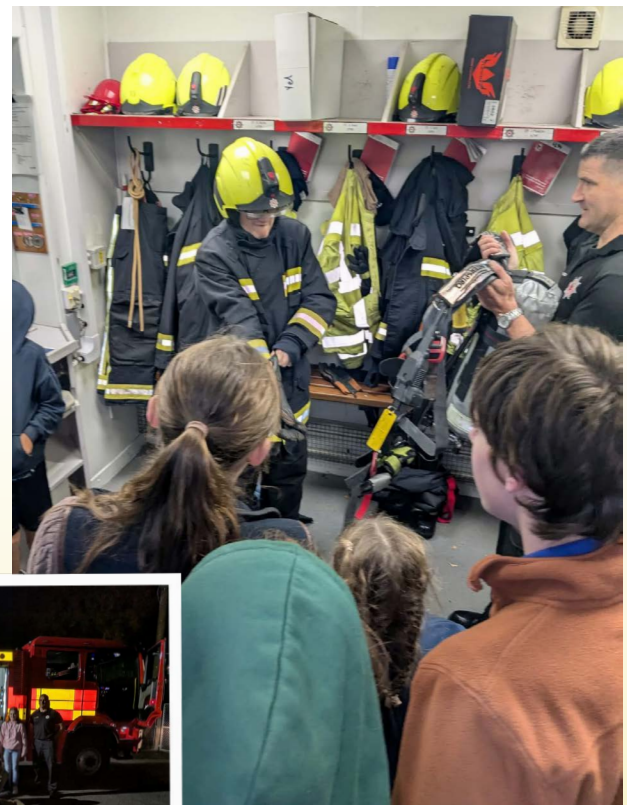
ROBOROUGH YFC

Roborough Young Farmers have had a busy month. The members started the month attending Yelverton Fire Station where they were shown around the fire engine. The young farmers were told the importance of what3words to help the fire service locate an incident especially in rural farm locations. They were also challenged to put on the fire fighting clothing and equipment within the allotted 4 minutes.

This month was lamb stock judging. We conducted our practice sessions with Ivybridge young farmers which enabled both novice members and more experienced members to gain valuable experience. This collaboration helped our member Chloe to achieve first place at the Group Lamb Judging.

Roborough Young Farmers ended the month with a donation presentation to Devon Air Ambulance. The members had had a successful fund-raising year which enabled the club to donate £150.

Kelly Spence



CHULMLEIGH YFC

Chulmleigh have had a memorable start to the year! From getting involved in pumpkin carving, carnival float decorating, new members games evening, fundraising, competitions and much more! Members Luke and Katie then took part in MACE Debating, representing North Devon at County round. They did fantastically, placing 3rd with Luke also collecting Best Male Speaker, and advancing to the SWA round in March!

On Friday 17th of October we held our 80th year anniversary ball where over 100 people attended! We celebrated and shared everything we achieved throughout the last YFC year. A big thank you to the Country Ways for helping us put on a great event!

On the 29th we held our first fundraiser of the year, a Halloween Bingo in Chulmleigh. There were Halloween themed prizes thanks to the local businesses who supported our resident bingo caller, Witch Katherine Cole!

On Saturday 8th of November we attended our first carnival of the year (Hatherleigh Carnival) with our float theme 'Back British Farming/80 Years of Chulmleigh YFC' We can't wait to see you all along the route! Chulmleigh YFC have had a busy but amazing start to the new YFC year and look forward to everything else to come!

Immy Dart



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have had a busy November planned! Last month we took part in decorating the pillar in Exeter Cathedral ready for the Devon YFC Harvest Festival. We were lucky enough to have lots of generous donations from are local community who provided us with lots of fruit, veg and flowers to decorate with! We did this with Winkleigh YFC and then members had a fun meeting shopping in Exeter which they all enjoyed.

Some members took on a Halloween bike ride challenge of cycling form Torrington to Barnstaple along the Tarka trail - we managed to raise £380 for the club. We would like to thank everyone who donated to us.

Coming up in November we are getting the float cleaned up and ready for the last two winter

carnivals at Hatherleigh and Holsworthy, members are all looking forward to this. We also have a fun meeting planned for a tour around Farmer Tom's ice cream factory!

Our fundraiser planned for this month is a local car wash on 23rd November where we hope to get lots of muddy cars! See you there!

Georgia Daniel



LEWDOWN YFC

October was packed with fun, creativity, and community spirit for Lewdown Young Farmers! As the leaves turned and the nights drew in, our club kept the energy high with a series of fantastic events that brought members - new and old - together.

We kicked off the month with a warm welcome to our newest recruits at the New Members Evening. It was brilliant to see fresh faces joining the club, eager to get stuck in. Games, snacks, and a few icebreakers helped everyone settle in and start building friendships that will last all year.

Next up was float painting for the carnival - a true test of teamwork and imagination! Armed with brushes, paint, and plenty of enthusiasm, our members transformed the float into a vibrant masterpiece inspired by Madagascar. The carnival itself was a blast, with Lewdown YFC proudly parading our creation through



town, waving to the crowds and soaking up the festive atmosphere.

We wrapped up the month with our Pumpkin Carving Night. It was a great way to celebrate the season and share a few laughs (and pumpkin guts!) along the way. October showed just how much spirit and talent Lewdown Young Farmers has to offer. Whether you're wielding a paintbrush or a carving knife, there's always something to get involved in. Here's to more adventures in November!

Millie Dennis

BLACKMOOR GATE

Blackmoor Gate YFC have had a busy month starting off with our 90th anniversary dinner which was great to see all the generations off BMG YFC all together. Following that we held our AGM where we welcomed our new committee. With Halloween soon approaching, we then held our new members pumpkin carving evening which was a great success, and some brilliant pumpkins were carved.

We are now looking forward to our quiz of the year on Friday 14th November, which we will be

raising money for Devon

Air Ambulance and our club. We are also planning our club Christmas dinner! We can't wait for an exciting year, with lots of fundraisers, club socials and more to follow.

Delphi Harrison



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TALKWORKS

IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

TALKWORKS tips for managing seasonal affective disorder (SAD)

As the days grow shorter and darker, many of us can feel a dip in mood or motivation every now and again. If these feelings persist, it could be a sign of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). This is a form of depression linked to changes in weather, which can particularly impact people in winter. Some of the symptoms of SAD include low mood, lack of motivation, problems with sleep and difficulty concentrating.

Tips for managing SAD:

- Get outside during daylight hours
- Stay active and make plans with others
- Talk about how you are feeling

If you're looking for some extra support, you can talk to TALKWORKS – a free and confidential NHS talking therapies service, open to adults, age 18+, living in Devon (outside Plymouth). Self-refer by visiting the TALKWORKS website (www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk) or by calling 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.**





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 23rd:** Woolsery YFC car wash
26th: Clip and Climb
29th: Lewdown YFC November Disco

DECEMBER

- 3rd:** Agri Business Programme Session 1
4th: County AGM
9th: Lewdown YFC Christmas Poultry Bingo
12th: Bampton YFC Christmas Bingo
12th: Woolsery YFC Christmas Quiz
16th: Bampton YFC Christmas Meal
16th: Bow YFC Christmas Bingo
16th: Withleigh YFC Christmas Bingo
27th: Withleigh YFC Christmas Remedies

JANUARY

- 3rd-10th:** Ski Trip
14th: Agri Business Programme Session 2
17th: Commercial Dance and Choir finals
21st: Agri Business Programme Session 3
22nd: Members Meeting



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