



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



DEVON YFC SKI TRIP TIGNES - 2026

CLUB UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTY

JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING RESULTS

www.devonyfc.co.uk

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NFU Mutual
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

January kick-started with 60 of our members hitting the slopes of Tignes for a week of fresh powder and even fresher face-plants!



As we welcome in January, I want to start by wishing a Happy New Year to all our members, clubs, parents, supporters, and volunteers across the county. I hope the festive break has helped us to step into 2026 feeling refreshed, motivated, and ready for another brilliant year with Devon YFC.

January kick-started with 60 of our members hitting the slopes of Tignes for a week of fresh powder and even fresher face-plants! From first-timers bravely tackling the nursery runs to seasoned skiers carving their way down the mountains, everyone threw themselves into the spirit of adventure. It was a week of brilliant company, questionable balance, and memories that will keep us laughing long after feeling returns to our legs.

As part of my year as County Chairman, I am hoping to visit every single clubs across the county and January saw events such as Clawton YFC's blind drop and Chittlehampton YFC's skittles night. Our blind drop adventure was pure Young Farmers chaos from start to finish. After being dropped in the middle of nowhere with absolutely no idea where we were, we set off confidently in completely the wrong direction and immediately got lost. Within minutes we were climbing hedges, falling into, and whisper-shouting at each other to hide every time a car appeared on the horizon — because nothing stings like

a five-minute time fault. We might not have been the fastest group, or the cleanest, or the most navigationally gifted... but we absolutely had the most laughs. A big shout out to Sam Merchant - despite our complete lack of directional awareness in Tarka, he got us back to the hall!

Towards the end of the month, Exeter Chiefs subsidised tickets for all YFC members on their Sunday 18th January match against Cardiff. Sandy Park saw Devon YFC members take over the stands. It was a brilliant match and a day full of atmosphere.

With our county entertain competition just around the corner, over the past few months, clubs have been busy rehearsing in readiness for our county competition happening in the Queens Theatre in Barnstaple on Sunday 15th February. I look forward to seeing lots of you when visiting all of the upcoming groups rounds ahead of the county final. Tickets for the county competition will be up for sale very shortly so keep your eyes peeled!

As ever, there is lots coming up within the YFC programme. Our choir and commercial dance competition is taking place on the 7th February 2026, I cannot wait to see what members have been working on. Following entertain, SWA competitions weekend is just around the corner. For those with tickets,

don't forget to get yourself booked onto a SWA behavioural meeting ahead of the weekend to confirm your space.

Let's carry this energy into the months ahead - because with YFC, the best stories are still waiting to be written.

A. Retallick

Anneliese Retallick
County Chairman



Clawton YFC Blind Drop



Farmer's Day supporting Exeter Chiefs at Sandy Park



COUNTY ORGANISER

Carilyn Govier

I wanted to start by saying a huge hello and belated happy new year from me as I start this journey as DFYFC County Organiser. I took up the post at the beginning of January after accepting the job at the end of October following a very thorough and challenging interview at the Rural Hub where I met a large group of wonderful members, officers and supporters of YFC. On the day, I was struck by the passion they all had for all things YFC and the obvious desire to promote the huge benefits of being a Devon Young Farmer. I can't wait to get out and meet you all and find out what's working well, what we need to develop and how your 'all new' office team can support with this.

I am working 30 hours flexibly during the week and I'm being supported by the County Officer team, Board of Management members and past employees, so do get in contact

if you need anything and we will help if we can and find out if not! The future is looking bright and we are working hard to catch up with outstanding membership requests, DBS checks and safeguarding training, so do expect to hear from us soon on these issues.

So a little bit about me...I am Carilyn Govier, mum to 3 children between 8-15 years, partner in our 100 cow dairy farm and milk vending business Mount Boon Milk Co and past member of Devon YFC having been a member of Cheriton and Tedburn YFC from 1999-2006. I loved my time in YFC and particularly enjoyed participating in the performing arts competitions. In fact, this is where my love of panto started and it's still featuring in my life now as I have just completed a 9 show run as Aladdin in Dunsford Amateur Dramatics latest production. I know many of you will

be practising hard in preparation for the upcoming entertainments competitions and I can't wait to see those who get through to the county round at Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple on 15th February.

We are busy in the office assisting the county officer team to organise lots of amazing upcoming competitions and events, so do keep your eyes out for more details in the coming weeks. I look forward to seeing you soon!



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COMPETITIONS

Katie Davie

Now Christmas is out of the way, members will be busy rehearsing for a number of upcoming competitions!

In January we had our first two competitions of the year. Firstly, our Situations Vacant competition kindly judged by Rosie Bennett and Jonathan Bell. Good luck to Olivia who will be representing Devon at South West Area.

Situations Vacant Results

1st: Olivia Eden

2nd: Katie Davie

3rd: Ellen Layzell

On the same day we also held our Junior Public Speaking Finals. What an afternoon we had at the YFC Centre yesterday, with 5 exceptional junior speaking teams competing! Thank you to our judges Jordan Winter and Lynette Parkhouse - the standard was incredibly high and all 15 junior speakers represented their groups brilliantly. Good luck to Izzy, Jasmine and Grace from East Devon who will be representing Devon at this year's South West Area.

Junior Public Speaking Results

1st: East Devon Pink

2nd: East Devon Green

3rd: South Dartmoor B

Best Chair: Izzy

Best Speaker: Jasmine

Best Proposer: Grace

We have lots coming up over the next month, which I am really looking forward to, including the Choir and Dance finals on the 7th of February at the Waie Inn. We also have the Member of the Year and Entertainments finals on the 15th of February at Queens Theatre, Barnstaple (tickets will be released soon!)



In the meantime, good luck to all those competing in their qualifying group rounds of performing arts. I highly encourage everyone to go along and support your members - you may learn a few of them have hidden talents! The group rounds are to be held as follows, but check out their respective socials for more details:

Entertainments Group Rounds

East Devon: 30th/31st January

Exe Valley: 1st February

Haldon: 1st February

South Dartmoor: 7th February

Tarka: 31st January

The Devon County Show schedule will also be circulating soon, so keep an eye out for that one!

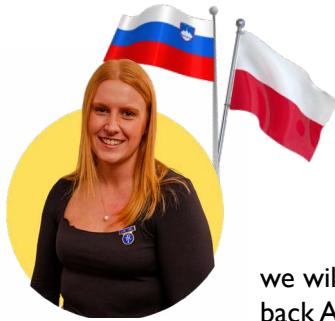
TRAVEL

Lois Sing

Happy New Year to everyone! January has marked the beginning of another exciting travel year, with Devon YFC members heading off to Tignes for a fantastic ski trip.

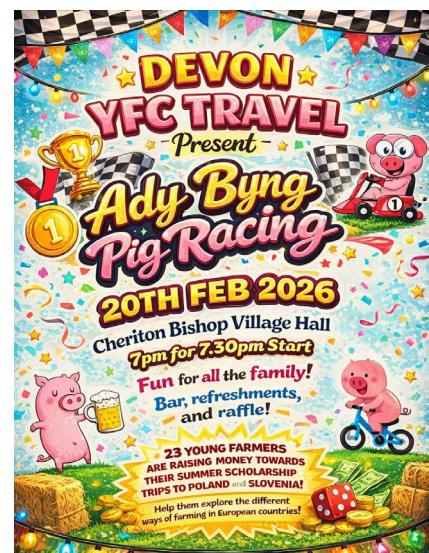
Behind the scenes, travel preparations have continued at pace. Our fundraising began in December with a hugely successful Christmas hamper draw, raising valuable funds towards our travel scholarships.

We now look ahead to our next fundraiser on 20th February, when



we will be welcoming back Ady Byng's famous pig racing for a fun-filled family evening. We hope to see many of you there!

Over the coming months, we are excited to see what events our members organise across the county. Thank you to everyone for your continued support, helping make these opportunities possible. More exciting travel updates coming soon!



AGRI

Lily May



Happy New Year everyone, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas!

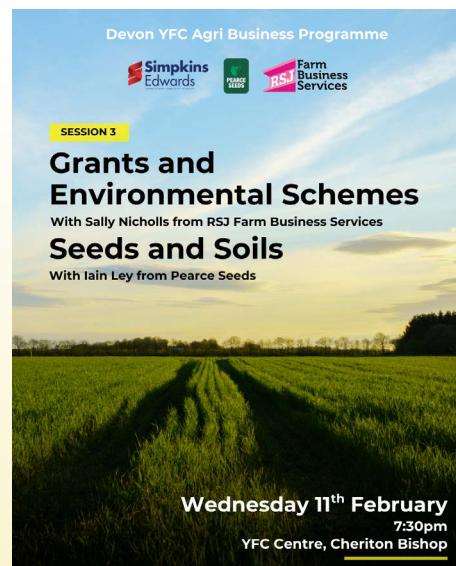
Our next Agri Business Programme session supported by Simpkin Edwards is on 11th of February and we will be joined by 2 of our own – firstly our Treasurer Sally Nicholls from RSJ Farm Business Services covering Grants and Environmental Schemes, followed by Iain Ley from Pearce Seeds who will be talking all things Soil and Seeds in connection to the SFI schemes!

The following week on the 18th of February, NFU Mutual Finance Planning Manager Aaron Dewey and NFU Mutual Financial Adviser Jason Bleazard are kindly doing a session on Handing Down the Farm. They will be exploring the future of your farm and family legacy including inheritance tax, provision for non-farming children and more!

Remember these sessions are open to everyone – not just members and food is included!

In other news, Show and Sale catalogue will be live very soon! Keep an eye on our socials for the catalogue and entry forms or ask in the office at Exeter Livestock Centre where it will be held on Wednesday the 15th of April.

The quantity and quality of stock continues to improve year on year, so order the feed and start halter training to show off your stock and win some prizes!





SPORTS & SOCIAL

Alex Rodd



Sports and Social had a nice break through December but started with a bang on the 3rd January when 60+ Devon Young Farmers hopped on planes and jetted off to the slopes of Tignes & Val d'Isere in France for a jam-packed week of skiing!

On Saturday we touched down in airports scattered all over France, Italy and Switzerland. With one destination locked in Google maps, we all converged onto Tignes Ski Resort with varying degrees of luck on route. Once there, some decided to hit the hay and prepared to maximise their first day on the slopes, whilst others felt they needed to embrace themselves fully in the French culture sampling the local selection of Vin and the odd Aperol Spritz!

When Sunday rolled around everyone collected their skis and lift passes and hit the slopes. Whether they were a complete beginner

having lessons and fighting their way down the greens, to the seasoned pros tackling the red and black runs head on!

For the first 4 days, I have to say we were blessed with decent amounts of snow compared to the shortage some European resorts were having, but also bitter cold temperatures ranging from -10 to -15, meaning people were wrapped up warm and only distinguishable by the variety of bright ski suits!

Nevertheless, we did not let this affect us and on that night we discovered the fan favourite Apres of choice for the week, the legendary Cocoricos and their choice of house wines! It is here where everyone partied the evening away with a mixture of live bands and DJs providing a great social for all!

The rest of the week ran rather smoothly with everyone exploring



the large Tignes and Val d'Isere ski areas had to offer. For the final two days of the trip we were also blessed with an abundance of fresh snow making for entertaining falls and wipeouts all over the piste and although visibility may of decreased, the temperature warmed up to a much more liveable 1-2 degrees. Everyone enjoyed exploring the thick powder on and off the piste and it seemed there was multiple snowmen appearing from the large puffs of snow when people inevitably crashed. But with only one person being airlifted to hospital across the whole week I would class it as a roaring success! Thank you to everyone that came and made the week so great and memorable!



On Sunday the 18th January members from all over Devon were rallying to Exeter Chiefs for their annual farmer's day and with discounted tickets in tow it was great to see so many people out and cheering them on. We also enjoyed a dance to the Twurzels afterwards to celebrate a great victory!

Also, across the county we have groups starting to kick off their pub sports competitions in preparation for the Devon finals coming up in the next couple months and Tarka's winter challenge competitions are in full flow as well!

Looking ahead to February it is rather quiet with all the entertainments competitions in action, but on the 3rd March the Devon sports competitions will be kicking off with dodgeball and mixed hockey with SWA qualification at stake!



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

CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



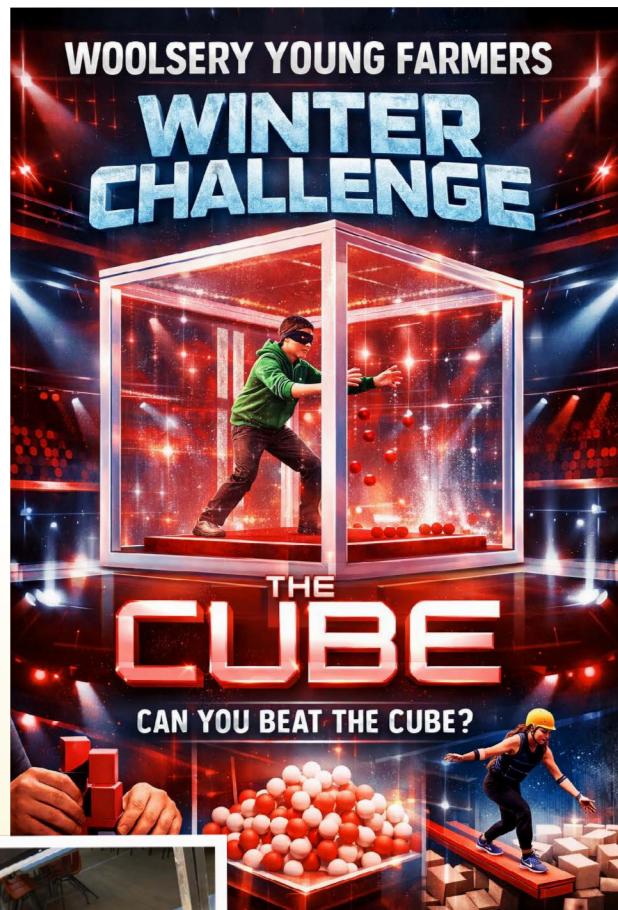
WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery had a jam-packed December! Raising over 3k for the Devon Air Ambulance on our tractors run that brought smiles to all the families and people watching.

We kick-started January with our annual new year's breakfast raising money for the club! We also went out in the afternoon for our Christmas tree collection where we collected a total of 76 Christmas trees and raised £550 for the Clovelly RNLI. All members were pleased with this outcome and can't wait to go down to their station to give them the money!

Winter challenges are in full swing so we have members taking part in these within the Tarka Group. We have our own on the 30th January where we will be hosting The Cube!

Georgia Daniel



NEWTON ST CYRES YFC

Newton St Cyres have had a very busy festive season, we started the Christmas celebrations off with members and advisory coming together for wreath making. Following on from this, three of our members preformed at the FCN Christmas carol service in YFC county choir and we also had our annual Christmas meal at The Three Little Pigs.

To top off our festive celebrations, we held our Christmas Bingo at our local village hall which was very well supported making £360 towards Young Lives VS Cancer and club funds. We then started off the new year with our annual Christmas tree collection.

Looking forward, we have a driving range social on the 23rd of January and we are also very busy practicing for our entertainments performance for the group round on the 1st February. With a full calendar ahead of us, we are excited to see what it brings.

Milly Grigg



HONITON YFC

Before Christmas we had an evening of wreath making with the wonderful Sally teaching 30 members how to make the best wreath and who knew Matthew Derryman could produce the best one?!

On 11th December we had our Christmas Bingo where we raised money for our chosen charities RABI and FORCE Cancer. We had over 100 people come through the door of Offwell Village Hall to compete to win a turkey dinner from Voyseys of Colyton! We managed to raise a terrific amount of £1,117.85! Thank you to all who came and helped out!

For a few weeks on the bounce most of our members went to support local Christmas Balls, a small bus load went up to Somerset Ball and a coach load to Devon's Mistletoe Ball, as well as a coach load to Marshwood's Freshwater Ball. All organised by our one and only Sam Olive, a great 3 weeks of socials leading up to Christmas! In between we managed to sneak in a Club Christmas Meal at The Sidmouth Arms, a lovely night where

a few of us got together just before the festive period! We then had a quiet few weeks before nearly 20 of our members went away on the Devon ski trip in the New Year.

Lucy Moore



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

Future Media provide DJs and Entertainment, and we work with you to make your event is a success. Trusted by Young Farmers across the county, we want to ensure your events and nights are ones to remember!

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TALKWORKS

IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Top tips for beating the winter blues from TALKWORKS

There are lots of small steps you can take to help beat the winter blues if you are struggling at this time of year:

- 1. Keep a routine:** Writing a to-do list is a great way to set goals for what you want to achieve in a day
- 2. Make the most of the daylight:** Getting out of the house and embracing the outdoors (even on a rainy day) can help to boost your mood
- 3. Look after your physical health:** Being physically active has a number of different benefits including reducing risk of illness, improving sleep and increased energy levels.
- 4. Eat well:** By eating food that fuels you and that your body loves, you'll feel good both on the inside and the outside.
- 5. Talk about how you are feeling:** If you are finding things hard, it's important to reach out for help. Speaking to family or friends if you are struggling can make a difference, or you can talk to TALKWORKS.

TALKWORKS is an NHS talking therapies service offering free confidential support to adults over the age of 18. Whether you're struggling with sleep, feeling stressed and overwhelmed, or experiencing a low mood, please don't suffer in silence. Self-refer at www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk or call 0300 555 3344.



Friends of
DEVON YFC



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.





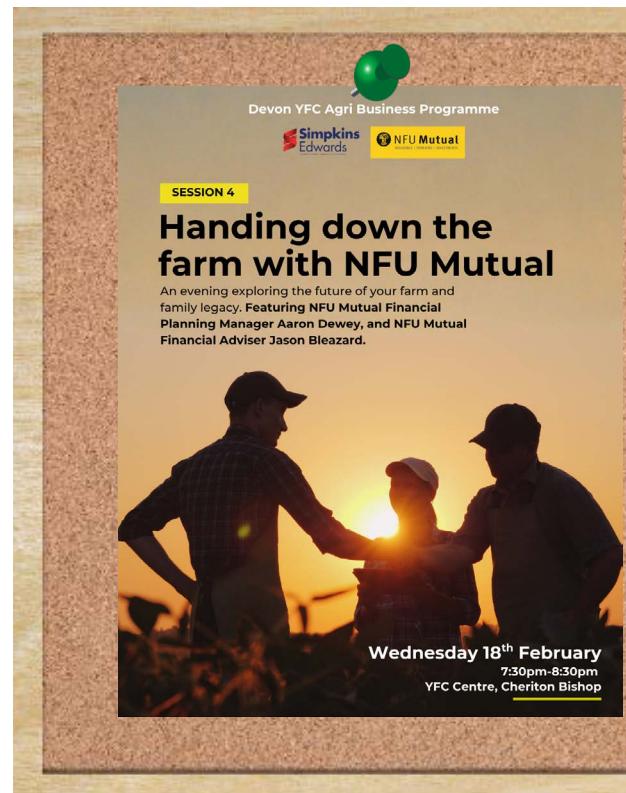
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

29th: Member's Meeting
30th-31st: East Devon YFC Entertainments Finals
30th: Woolser YFC The Cube Winter Challenge
31st: Tarka Entertainments Final

FEBRUARY

1st: Haldon YFC Entertainments Final
1st: Exe Valley YFC Entertainments Final
7th: County Commercial Dance and Choir Finals
7th: South Dartmoor Entertainments Final
8th: Chulmleigh YFC Big Breakfast
11th: Agri Business Programme Session 3
15th: County Entertainments and Member of the Year Finals
18th: Agri Business Programme Session 4
20th: Devon YFC Travel Pig Racing
21st: Bow YFC Dinner and Dance
22nd: NFYFC Council Meeting
24th: SWA Info Evening at the Waie Inn and Awliscombe
25th: SWA Info Evening at Rattery and Filleigh
25th: Agri Business Programme Session 5
26th: SWA Info Evening at Bradford and Calverleigh



 **DEVON YFC**
TRAINING



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