



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



**PERFORMING ARTS
COMPETITIONS RESULTS**



**COUNTY HOCKEY
FINALS**



**SENIOR & JUNIOR
MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

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NFU Mutual

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our members continue to throw themselves into every opportunity - it's been fantastic to see so much talent, enthusiasm and community spirit.



It has been another action-packed few months across Devon YFC, and I have loved every minute of it!

We kicked things off with our Choir and Dance Finals, where every single entry qualified to represent Devon at the South West Area round in March. The standard was incredibly high, and I'm so proud of the dedication shown by all involved.

Our AGRI Business Programme has also been in full swing, brilliantly organised by our AGRI Chairman, Lily-May. Members have taken part in sessions covering topics such as inheritance tax and agricultural grants. It has been wonderful to see both members and non-members supporting these events and engaging in opportunities to build knowledge and confidence.

We also held Entertainments and Member of the Year Finals in Barnstaple. A huge congratulations to Totnes YFC, who won the Entertainments. I'd also like to extend a massive congratulations to our Senior Member of the Year, Alex Rodd, and our Junior Member of the Year, Sophie Webber. Wishing them both the very best of luck moving forward.

February has been an incredible month for fundraising across Devon YFC, with clubs and groups pouring energy into events that truly showcase the heart of our organisation.

Chulmleigh YFC kicked off the month with their Big Breakfast, which I was fortunate enough to attend. Over 100 breakfasts were served in aid of Devon Air Ambulance and The BeWild Community Project.

Bow YFC celebrated their 81st Anniversary Dinner & Dance, combining celebrations with a charity auction. Thanks to support from local businesses and guests, they raised an impressive £1,555 for Young Lives vs Cancer - a fantastic example of YFC values in action.

Chittlehampton YFC held a tractor run, raising £1,110 for Kidney Research and Bristol Children's Hospital. 45 tractors rolled through North Devon in honour of a 12-year-old member celebrating his first year since receiving a kidney transplant. This was a perfect reflection of the positive impact YFC has on its members

Looking forward, we have both the Show & Sale and the Devon County Show fast approaching. Please make sure you get your entries in. Let's make sure Devon YFC is represented loud and proud across all areas.

Thank you to every member, leader, supporter and volunteer who helps keep Devon YFC thriving. Your energy and commitment are what make this organisation so special.

A. Retallick

**Anneliese Retallick
County Chairman**



Chulmleigh YFC Big Breakfast



Bow YFC Dinner & Dance



Chittlehampton YFC Tractor Run



COUNTY STAFF TEAM

Carilyn Govier & Linda Bulpin

Wow what a busy month at Devon YFC!

It was brilliant to be able to get out to some of the many and varied County events that happened in February from Choir and Dance to Entertainments and County Sports. Firstly, we were struck by the amazing talent on show at these events from the stunning singing to hilarious comedy sketches and fantastic dancing, right through to the backstage crews, technical support and amazing producers and directors. It was lovely to see such positive and supportive team spirit from and between each club or group who participated. We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who performed and contributed in any way to these competitions both at County, but also group level. Such a lot of hard work goes in to organising these events, but there is so much benefit to be had from getting involved. Linda and I would also like to thank you for your

support and patience as we navigate the organisation of all these events for the first time and appreciate all the help and support we've had from you with this.

We've hardly had chance to catch our breath from all these County competitions when the South West Area Competitions Weekend is upon us. By the time you are reading this, over 400 Devon Members will be making their way from all across Devon to Weymouth to join in the fun at this annual event. I am attending the weekend to help organise and coordinate the competitions running across the weekend and very much look forward to seeing some of you there and cheering on our representatives as they compete for Devon in various Speaking competitions, Entertains, Member of the Year and many more. Lots of luck to everyone involved and wishing all attendees a wonderful weekend.

Looking forward to the upcoming weeks, the next DFYFC event will be The Crealy Challenge on Wednesday 18th March. The jotform link to sign up has been sent to all members, so do sign up for a fun filled evening. We are busy planning and preparing for the annual Show and Sale on 15th April and Devon County Show 22nd-24th May and plans are also afoot for the Outdoor Activities Day on 30th May.

As ever, don't hesitate to get in contact with us here in the office if you need help with anything or want to share any feedback to help us as we learn our roles to make sure we are supporting you and your clubs in the best possible way.



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COMPETITIONS

Katie Davie



February has been another fantastic month for competitions, with members taking to the stage and stepping into the spotlight!

At the start of the month we held the Show Choir and Commercial Dance competition, judged by Carey Camel and Shannon Wayborne. Thank you to the Waie Inn for hosting, and good luck to all four teams who qualified!

Show Choir Results

- 1st:** Exe Valley
- 2nd:** Haldon
- 3rd:** South Dartmoor

Commercial Dance Results

- 1st:** East Devon



Next up, was a Sunday afternoon at Queens Theatre Barnstaple, for the Member of the Year and Performing Arts finals. It was a highly enjoyable afternoon of entertains, and all 6 teams represented their groups fantastically.

Thank you to our three judges Dan Grist, Stephen Fudge and Alison Whale.

Entertainments Results

- 1st:** Totnes
- 2nd:** Newton St Cyres
- 3rd:** North Devon

Congratulations to Newton St Cyres who also picked up the award for 'Highest placing club not reaching a county final in 5 years', and to Totnes for winning 'Best Moment' with 500 miles.

The judges also recognised individual talents within each performance, in the following awards:

- Best Actor:** Luke Stevens
- Best Actress:** Abby Peeke
- Best Under 17:** Izzy Davis

On the same evening, we held the Member of the Year competition. The junior competition is kindly sponsored by the Devon County Agricultural Association, and was judged by John Lee OBE and Kayleigh Lovegrove. The senior competition was judged by Nigel Howe and Karen Wonnacott, which is sponsored by Crediton Milling. Best of luck to Alex and Sophie who will go forward to represent us, and due to the sponsorship, both received a travel scholarship place.

Senior Member of the Year

- 1st:** Alex Rodd (Exe Valley)
- 2nd:** Katie Davie (North Devon)
- 3rd:** Lily May (Haldon)

AGRI Lily May



Hello everyone, the last month has been very busy with the Agri Business Programme sessions covering a whole range of topics delivered by experienced professionals and kind sponsors including:

Torch Vets – Sophia Elworthy gave us a Bluetongue and Schmallenberg update and we also discussed how your vet can help with the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway funding.

RSJ Farm Business Services – Sally Nicholls covered all things grants and environmental schemes, including how to prep and what to expect when the SFI schemes reopened, which they since have!

Pearce Seeds – Simon Clements kindly stepped in for Iain Ley to discuss soil health, seed mixtures, reseeding, sward care and establishment methods.

NFU Mutual – Aaron Dewey, Financial Planning Manager joined

Junior Member of the Year

- 1st:** Sophie (Exe Valley)
- 2nd:** Kadence (East Devon)
- 3rd:** Evie (Haldon)

Thank you to Adam Howe, Michelle Bating, the Queen's Theatre front of house and tech team who helped the day run extremely smoothly! Once again, the standard of competition has been incredibly high, so well done to all the teams, and individuals who got through, and best of luck to those advancing.

If that wasn't enough, February also saw the release of the Devon County

Show schedule! Please get your entries booked in, as I am looking forward to a full tent in May!



us to discuss handing down the farm. He covered the new changes coming in for topics such as maximising allowances, pensions, ISA's and of course inheritance tax. He also advised members and families in attendance about their personal situations.

Simpkins Edwards – Julie Rose spoke about all things Tax related, including all the changes coming in, pensions, employment, IHT, double cab pickups and much more!

The final session is the 11th of March with our main sponsor Simpkins Edwards who will be covering Business Structures and how the right one can minimise tax bills and help future planning for your farm!

Show and Sale entries have been coming in and its set to be a great day as usual! The deadline is just 2 weeks away - Monday 16th March! The open schedule and entry forms are on the Devon YFC website, if you have any questions please get in touch and keep entering!





SPORTS & SOCIAL

Alex Rodd

Welcome back everyone, March is finally here and spring is just around the corner! I think we've finally had a full day without a drop of rain for the first time this year!

A little look back at February which was a very quiet month with sport and social taking a back-seat to all the performing arts competitions. March however has wasted no time getting started and at the start of the month the county sports competitions kicked off at Blundell's School with the over 18's mixed Hockey, with a SWA qualification spot at stake.



TRAVEL

Lois Sing

February has been a slightly busier month for the travel team with our fantastic Pig Racing Fundraiser which we held on the 20th February. It was a truly pig-tastic night, packed full of laughter, cheers, and plenty of competitive spirit. A huge thank you to Ady Byng and his brilliant robotic pigs who kept the crowd thoroughly entertained from start to finish.

Hockey Results

- 1st:** East Devon
- 2nd:** South Dartmoor
- 3rd:** Exe Valley

A big thank you for everyone that came along and took part! Exe Valley also moved forward to the SWA round for juniors dodgeball and South Dartmoor went forward in rounders.

Ahead of us on the 6th - 8th we have one of the biggest social events of the year with the seniors SWA weekend - over 500 Devon members are off to the seaside town of Weymouth to socialise and compete against the rest of the South West!



Coming up on Wednesday 18th of March we have the ever popular Crealy Challenge - so get your teams of 4 together for a fun evening! Also on Friday 20th March is Whimble and Broadclyst's Crealy Ball - so make sure you've got your tickets all booked to dance the night away!

Finally to wrap up the report, pub sports competitions are well underway and I hope people are having fun getting ready for the county finals at the Waie inn on Friday 10th of April!!



We're delighted to announce that the evening was a great success, raising an incredible £853.96.

We would like to thank our fantastic race sponsors for their generous support: Burrough Haulage, Define Kitchens & Bathrooms, Steve Brook Haulage, Sing Contracting, Devon Wood Fuels, Barton Sawmill, R B

Gough & Sons and Rattery Sawmill South West LTD. Your support helped make the night such a success - thank you!

As our fundraising efforts continue, the Travel Team will be announcing more exciting fundraisers across Devon - so keep your eyes peeled! Let's keep the momentum going!



Job Vacancies at Simpkins Edwards

Agricultural Accounts Manager

Do you love working with businesses where no two days (or seasons) are the same?

We're looking for an experienced Agricultural Accounts Manager to join our specialist rural team in Exeter (hybrid).

You'll take the lead on a diverse agricultural portfolio, becoming a trusted adviser to farming and rural clients while shaping their long-term financial success.

Supported by an award-winning practice, deep sector expertise and a clear progression path, this is a role for someone who wants autonomy, influence and the chance to grow their reputation as a go-to agricultural specialist.

ACCA or ACA qualified only please.

Accounts Assistant

We're looking for an enthusiastic Accounts Assistant to join our supportive agricultural Exeter team (hybrid). Ideally AAT Level 4 qualified (or close to qualifying), you'll gain hands on experience across accounts preparation, bookkeeping and client support, working with a varied client base and modern software including Xero, Sage and QuickBooks.

With structured learning, clear progression and the support of an Employer of the Year 2025 firm, this is a fantastic opportunity to strengthen your technical skills, learn from experienced professionals and take the next step in practice with confidence.

Both job descriptions can be found in full on the Simpkins Edwards website. Please express interest to: jobs@simpkinsedwards.co.uk

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CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



Chittle YFC Tractor Run Raises £1,100 for Life-Saving Charities. Chittlehampton Young Farmers Club held a fantastic tractor run on Sunday 22nd February, bringing the local community together to celebrate a very special milestone – James’ one-year kidney transplant anniversary.

A superb turnout of 45 tractors took part in the event, creating an impressive convoy through the local lanes in support of two incredible charities. Thanks to the generosity of participants, supporters and the wider community including Mason Kings who provided a dyno tester which was used by 17 tractors on their return, the event raised an amazing £1,100, which will be shared between Kidney Research UK and Bristol Children’s Hospital.

The tractor run was organised not only as a celebration of James’ successful transplant journey, but also as a way to give back to the organisations that make life-saving treatment and care possible.



Kidney Research UK is the UK’s leading charity dedicated to funding research into kidney disease. Their work focuses on improving early diagnosis, developing better treatments, and ultimately finding a cure. Kidney disease affects millions of people across the UK, and research plays a vital role in improving survival rates and quality of life for patients like James.

Bristol Children’s Hospital provides specialist care to babies, children and young people from across the South West and beyond. The hospital delivers expert treatment across a wide range of services, including renal care and transplant support. Donations help fund life-saving equipment, family support services, and improvements to patient facilities, ensuring children receive the very best care during challenging times.

The atmosphere on the day was one of celebration, gratitude and community spirit. The sight of 45 tractors travelling together in support of such meaningful causes was a powerful reminder of how rural communities rally together for one of their own.

Chittle YFC would like to thank everyone who took part, donated, and supported the event.

Raising £1,100 is a fantastic achievement and a fitting way to mark James’ one-year transplant anniversary.

Emily Jones

CHULMLEIGH YFC

From a social at Exeter Chief's, to an evening at Let's Go in Barnstable, members have had an enjoyable start to the new year.

Members spent the morning of Sunday the 8th of February cooking up bacon, sausage and eggs for friends, families and the local community, raising money for our two chosen charities - The Benita Project and Devon Air Ambulance. We served up just under 100 big breakfasts! A big thank you to all those who supported, we raised an amazing £649.50!

Immy Dart



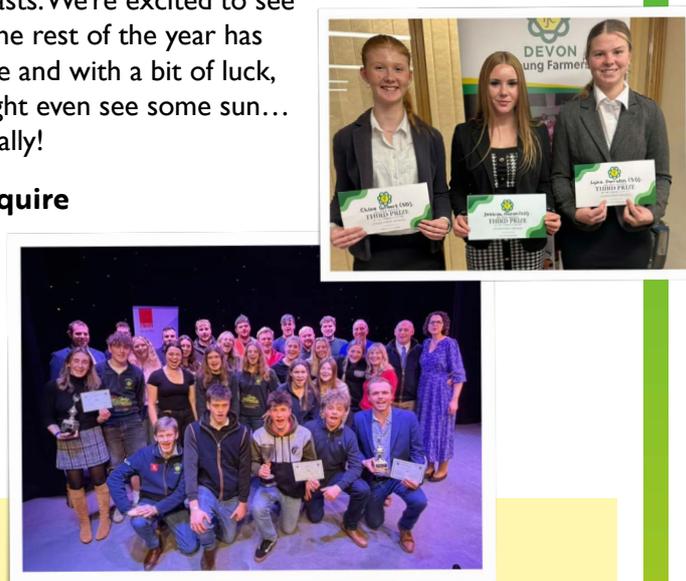
SOUTH DARTMOOR YFC

It has been a busy and exciting start to the new year for South Dartmoor YFC. We kicked things off with Junior Public Speaking, hosting a successful group round followed by several members proudly representing us at the county round.

Our momentum continued with the highly anticipated Entertainments Competition and Member of the Year competition, held at the Palace Theatre in Paignton. Audiences were treated to five outstanding performances that truly delivered a "wow" factor. Alongside the stage acts, we were delighted to see ten Junior Member of the Year presentations and three Senior Member of the Year presentations. Congratulations to Totnes YFC, who progressed to the county round, secured first place, and will now represent Devon at SWA.

In addition to competitions, we've remained busy with our pub sports fixtures, and all clubs are now well underway with their own fundraising events, including lambing bingo, dung runs, and big breakfasts. We're excited to see what the rest of the year has in store and with a bit of luck, we might even see some sun... eventually!

Tori Squire



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have a busy march coming up! One of which members cycling from Woolsery to Weymouth for this year's SWA. On Thursday 5th March members take on the challenge to ride a bike to Weymouth. We are leaving Woolsery at 8am and are taking on the back roads to raise money for South West Children's Hospice. Please find our event on Facebook and donate using the link. We have been kindly donated bikes from the Bike Shed in Barnstable.

In February we had a fun meeting of watching a local panto group in our area.

March 27th we have planned an Easter Bingo with a carvery, as well as a pool, skittles and darts practice before the Tarka round takes place on the 28th March.

Georgia Daniel





CLUB OF THE MONTH Supported by DARTMOUTH YFC SOUTH WEST Farmer

Dartmouth Young Farmers is one of Devon YFC's junior clubs, with all their members under the age of 18. From stock judging and performing arts, to hosting quiz nights and lambing bingos, this young club has already had an action-packed start to the YFC year.

Their Club Chairman is Macie Lewis and at 13 years old, she is Devon YFC's youngest Club Chairman. She was recently awarded the trophy for the most outstanding under 21 member in the South Dartmoor Group.

Macie says: "We've had a great start to the year and it is great to see our club continue to grow. At our recent New Member's Evening we had 41 members attend and the officer team

are looking to create a varied programme for all our members to enjoy this year.

"To help promote our new member's evening, we designed a scarecrow display with a YFC theme. This was part of a national young farmers competition and was a lot of fun to put together!

"We've also been busy holding events for the local community, including a Big Breakfast which raised £884 to support Devon YFC. We also hosted a quiz night, dinner and dance, and also attended a local harvest festival where we donated boxes of food for those in need."

The club are well-known for their involvement in YFC competitions and not being afraid to give anything a go. They've recently had members compete in beef and lamb stock judging, as well as junior reading at a county level, with lots more competitions on the horizon.

Macie adds: "We are currently busy rehearsing for the YFC entertainments competition. 26 of our members are involved in this year's production called 'Toy Box Got Talent' which features singing, dancing, acting and lots of interesting costumes!

"Whether it's coming together to put on an entertainments performance, or hosting a charity quiz night, it's always so great to see the whole club get stuck in and help each other out. We're excited to see where YFC can take us this year."



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How TALKWORKS can help farmers experiencing prolonged grief

For many in the farming community, grief can be tough to manage alongside the demands of the land, livestock, and family life. TALKWORKS can help farmers across Devon (age 18+) who are experiencing prolonged grief. This applies to those who have been grieving for more than six months and are feeling 'stuck' in their grief.

The service is free, confidential, and available online, over the phone and in person - making it easier for those living in rural areas to access support.

If you would like to access the service, you don't need to go through your GP – you can self-refer to TALKWORKS through the following:

- Self-refer on the TALKWORKS website (www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk)
- Call 0300 555 3344
- Email dpt.talkworks@nhs.net

Friends of Devon YFC Draw

Congratulations to the winners of our latest supporters draw, announced at our recent Entertainments Finals. Congratulations to Fern Drome, Tracey Heywood and Gordon Case!



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.**



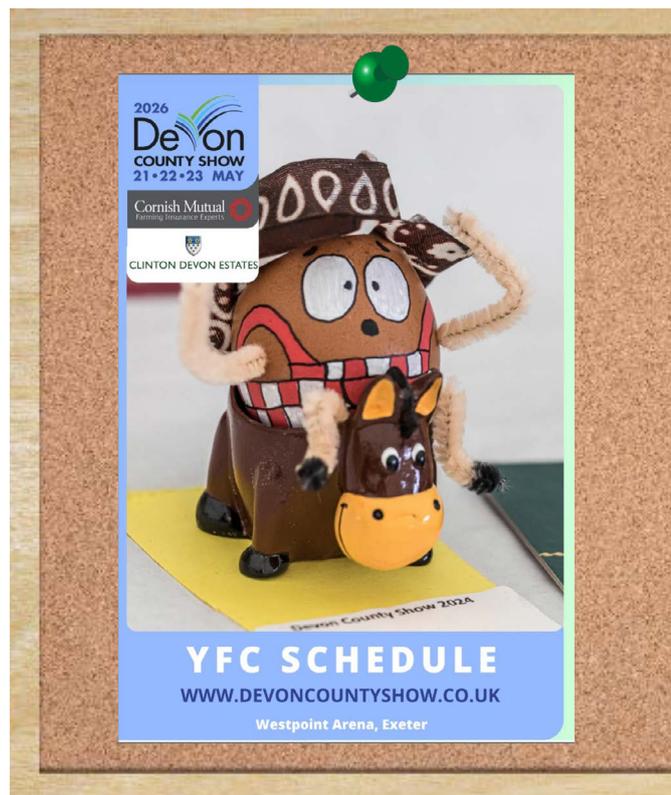


MARCH

- 5th-6th:** Woolser YFC Cycle to Weymouth
- 6th-8th:** South West Area Weekend
- 11th:** Agri Business Programme Session
- 12th:** General Council
- 13th:** Haldon YFC Pie & Pint Quiz
- 14th:** Cruwys Morchard YFC Bingo
- 18th:** Crealy Challenge
- 20th:** Whimble & Broadclyst YFC Crealy Ball
- 21st:** Lewdown YFC Traffic Light Disco
- 23rd:** Lewdown YFC Easter Bingo
- 27th:** Woolser YFC Easter Bingo

APRIL

- 2nd:** Withleigh YFC Easter Remedies
- 3rd:** Woolser YFC Bunny's and Hunnies Party
- 10th:** County Pub Sports Finals
- 11th:** Lewdown YFC Dinner & Dance
- 15th:** County Show & Sale
- 17th:** Chulmleigh YFC's Chocolate Quiz
- 18th:** Chulmleigh YFC Coffee Morning
- 23rd:** Member's Meeting
- 24th:** Exe Valley YFC Pig Racing
- 25th:** Chittlehampton YFC Big Breakfast
- 25th:** South Dartmoor YFC Three Legged Pub Crawl
- 26th:** Cruwys Morchard YFC Fun Ride



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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