



**DEVON YOUNG FARMERS**

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



**PUBLIC SPEAKING:  
JUST A MINUTE**

**CREALY CHALLENGE  
RESULTS**

**SOUTH WEST AREA  
WEEKEND 2026**

[www.devonyfc.co.uk](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk)

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**NFU Mutual**

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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

***I was extremely proud to see our members achieve so much at this year's South West Area competitions weekend.***



**This past month has been full of activity, energy and connection, as members, clubs and committees have continued to come together for competitions, events and fantastic fundraising.**

The South West Area Competitions Weekend in Weymouth was a standout highlight of March and was clearly enjoyed by Devon YFC members who attended, both socially and competitively, alongside clubs from across the South West. Hundreds of our members took part in a wide range of competitions, including sandcastle building, public speaking, choir and dance.

Devon were hugely successful across all areas of competition, and I was extremely proud, as County Chair, to collect the award for the highest number of points scored overall across the weekend on Sunday.

While many travelled to Weymouth by bus, car or train, Woolser YFC took a truly inspiring alternative route. Club members cycled 116 miles from Woolser to Weymouth in aid of Children's Hospice South West. Leaving Woolser on Thursday 5th March and staying overnight near Exeter before arriving in Weymouth on Friday, the team raised over £2,700 for the charity - an outstanding and hugely commendable effort.

It has also been great to see so many clubs hosting their own

events throughout the month. One highlight was Bampton YFC's Easter Quiz on 27th March, which I was lucky enough to attend. It was extremely well organised, great fun for everyone involved, and a brilliant way to kick off the Easter spirit.

Looking ahead, there is lots to be excited about in our upcoming programme. Our Show and Sale is just around the corner, and I can't wait to see what members bring to Exeter Market on Wednesday 15th April, a day that celebrates stockmanship, preparation and showcasing talent in rearing and showing livestock.

I am also incredibly excited to launch the Devon YFC County Challenge this June. Members will be taking on the challenge of walking across the county, starting in Westward Ho! on Friday 12th June and finishing in Paignton on Saturday 13th June. This ambitious challenge will raise funds for two very worthy causes: the Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation and Devon Young Farmers. The County Team would love to hear from any members who would like to get involved in what promises to be a memorable and rewarding adventure.

*A. Retallick*

**Anneliese Retallick  
County Chairman**



**Devon win the overall points trophy at SWA!**



**Woolser YFC Charity Cycle to Weymouth!**





# COMPETITIONS

## Katie Davie

**T**he beginning of March, saw members represent our county fantastically at the SWA weekend.

Congratulations to all involved, and best of luck to all those who have qualified to Nationals!

### Saturday Results

**Junior Reading** - 1st for our East Devon/North Devon mixed team, with George being awarded both Best Chairman and Best Speaker!

**Junior Public Speaking** - 1st for our East Devon team with Izzy winning Best Chairman and Grace receiving Best Vote of Thanks!

**Brainstrust** - 3rd for our East Devon team, with some difficult discussion topics!

**Situations Vacant** - 4th place for Olivia Eden.

**Commercial Dance** - 2nd, a very close runner up spot for East Devon!

**Show Choir** - Top three! The Devon group choirs put on a fantastic show, with the results being 1st Haldon, 2nd Exe Valley and 3rd South Dartmoor!

### Sunday Results

**Junior Member of the Year** - 1st, congratulations Sophie from Exe Valley

**Senior Member of the Year** - 2nd, well done Alex Rodd from Exe Valley

**Entertainments** - 2nd, Totnes took to the stage, coming a fantastic second, also winning Best Moment. Lily also won best supporting performer!





**A clean sweep for our three Devon Show Choirs!**

Later on in March, we also held a 'Just A Minute' competition, for a little bit of fun! Well done to all teams, it was a highly entertaining evening.

**Intermediate Just a Minute**

- 1st:** East Devon A
- 2nd:** East Devon B
- 3rd:** Exe Valley
- Highest Scorer:** Charlie Hurford

Looking ahead, the speaking competitions quieten down, and focus shifts to Devon County Show, and Outdoor Activities Day in May.

It's great to see entry forms coming in for the show, please ensure club cubicle themes are confirmed with Fran before commencing them! Any questions or queries on the schedule, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

**Senior Just a Minute**

- 1st:** East Devon
- 2nd:** North Devon
- 3rd:** Exe Valley
- Highest Scorer:** Ollie Patch



**Devon County Show Entry Deadline!**

Don't forget that the entry deadline for this year's Devon County Show is Monday 20th April! Enter online on the Devon County Show website or via our social media channels.





## SPORTS & SOCIAL

### Alex Rodd



Hello everyone! March has been a funny month with the weather changing from torrential rain to lovely sunny days, but with the fields finally starting to dry up and smiles on everyone's faces we're heading towards a summer full of sport and social activities!

A highlight from the past month was the SWA weekend in Weymouth and I think I can safely say everyone had a lot of fun in the glorious sunshine, taking part in all sorts of competitions ranging from speaking to the ever popular sandcastle building! A huge well done to everyone who represented Devon over the weekend.

In the evenings we partied to the IOU's on Friday and Sam Sax on Saturday, supported by our very own Baz on the decks. The British Icon outfits did not disappoint either!

To wrap up March it was time to host the ever popular Crealy Challenge. This competition involves working with your teams in a timed race through the soft play area of Crealy Adventure Park! With well over 60 teams taking part from all over the county, I can truly say it was as successful as ever!

### Crealy Challenge Results

- 1st:** Witheridge
- 2nd:** Okehampton
- 3rd:** Yarcombe and Axminster

Looking ahead we have the Pub Sports on Friday 10th April and the Devon County Show Tag Rugby qualifiers are on 9th May.

Finally, the best news is kept for last, please keep your eyes peeled and date reserved for Devon YFC's Past and Present Ball on Saturday 11th

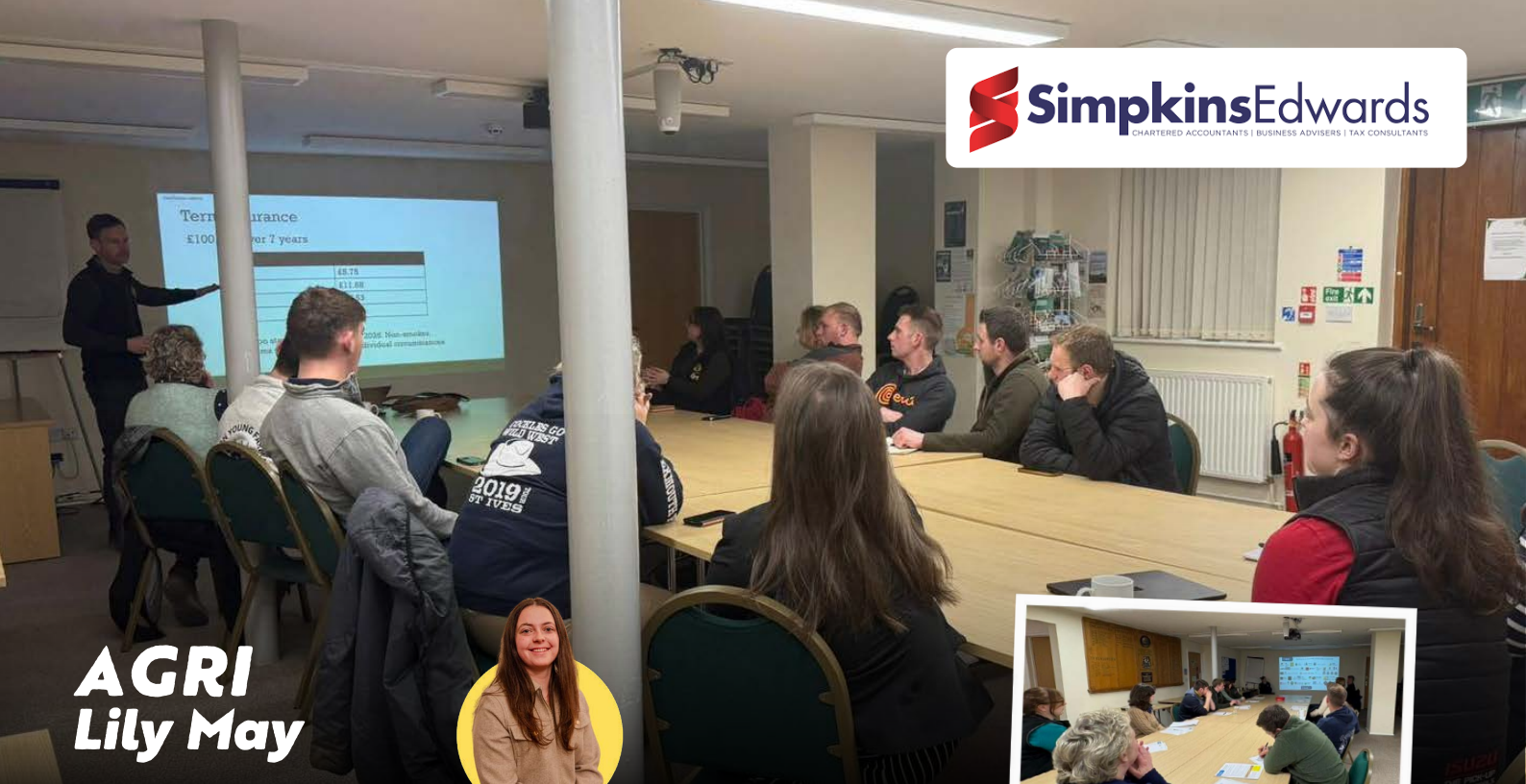
July! Dancing away to 'The Shrine' band! This event is for current members and previous members so rally up your friends! Tickets will be released soon.



## PROVIDING QUALITY FARM FEEDS AND EXPERT ADVICE

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## AGRI Lily May



Hey everyone, I hope you're enjoying the lovely spring weather!

Back in March we had our 6th and final Agri Business Programme session with Simpkins Edwards. Sally Carr kindly joined us to talk about the pros & cons of different business structures and the process of changing and evolving them.

A massive thank you must go to Simpkins Edwards for sponsoring this years programme, their support is much appreciated. Thank you to all the other businesses and sponsors who joined us to run their sessions, they have all been extremely helpful and informative!

Coming up, our Show and Sale is the biggest event in the agri calendar. We've got even more entries than

last year and the market will be full of trade stands, quality stock and passionate young farmers!

I hope to see you at Exeter Livestock Centre on Wednesday 15th April, showing starts at 9am with the sale at 1pm - you don't want to miss it!



## HEYWOOD BARS

mobile event bars



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.

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Colin 07792 227838 [Info@heywoodbars.co.uk](mailto:Info@heywoodbars.co.uk)

# NFU MUTUAL: LEAD SPONSOR OF THE SOUTH WEST FARMER AWARDS 2026

Now in its 10th year, the South West Farmer Awards celebrate the hard work of the farming community in the southwest.

At NFU Mutual, farming remains at the heart of what we do, which is why we are proud to sponsor these awards that recognise local farmers, suppliers, breeders, and all others involved in the industry.

**To find out more, or if you know a farmer whose dedication and hard work should be recognised, scan the QR code. Nominations close July 31.**



The Overall South West Farmer of the Year, the Courtier Family pictured with Charlie Yorke, Farming Development Manager from NFU Mutual.



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# CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



Woolsery YFC fun has recently consisted of us holding a Bunny's and Hunnies party on the 3rd and also a Carvery and Bingo night on the 27th March at the Crealock, raising money for the club.

Some members also attended the Tarka day out at Exeter Chiefs - fun was had by all and the weather was most pleasant!

On 28th March we held the Tarka round of pool skittles and darts at the Woolsery Social Club. Winners from each round will then go on to represent Tarka at the county round in April.

After completing our Woolsery to Weymouth bike ride we can now confirm we raised a massive £3231.53! We are so incredibly proud of all our members who took part in this challenge, as it really has paid off with how much money we have given the Children's Hospice. Thank you to all that cheered us on along the way - it makes a massive difference. We look forward to making more money for incredible charities in the near future.

**Georgia Daniel**



children's hospice SOUTH WEST

**Thank you**  
for helping to raise a smile

Woolsery Young Farmers  
**£ 3,231.53**  
From your  
Cycle from Woolsery to Weymouth

On behalf of all the babies, children, young people and families we care for, thank you for supporting Children's Hospice South West and helping to make the most of their and precious lives across the South West.

Little Bridge House  
Bedford Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 1 2JZ  
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Chariton Farm  
Chaston Drive, Wotton, North Somerset BS48 1PE  
01273 866 809

Little Harbour &  
Portland Road, Portland, Dorset, Dorset DT26 4JZ  
01305 871 829

across the South West



# CLUB OF THE MONTH

## BOW YFC

Supported by  
SOUTH WEST  
**Farmer**

**Bow Young Farmers is a thriving club that has enjoyed a busy few months with a mixture of fundraising events and plenty of social activities for their members to enjoy.**

One of the club's recent highlights was an informative road safety evening held at Crediton Fire Station. Members attended a road safety talk and RTC (road traffic collision) demonstration, which provided a powerful insight into the consequences of serious road accidents.

**James Dunn, Bow YFC Club Chairman, says:** "We wanted to hold the road safety evening after the idea was discussed at the Devon YFC Officer's Training Weekend last year. The demonstration and road safety talk were really eye-opening and gave members a chance to see the reality of road traffic collisions and the impact they can have.

"The feedback from members was extremely positive. It was a really valuable experience and we would definitely recommend the session to other clubs."

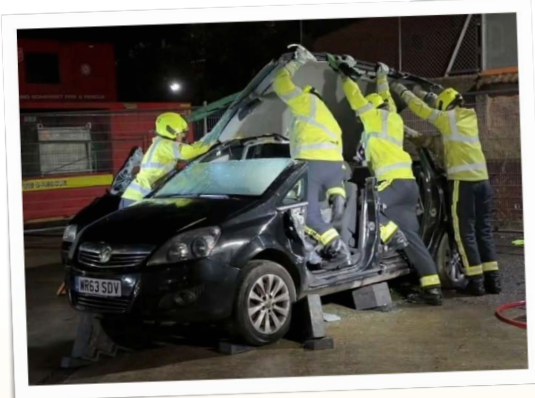
Another recent highlight for Bow YFC was their annual Dinner and Dance, which proved to be a fantastic evening for past and present members.

**Martha Brook, Bow YFC Club Secretary, says:** "Our 81st Dinner and Dance was a great success. We ran a charity auction during the evening in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer and were delighted to raise an incredible £1,555 for such an important cause.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations from local businesses. Thank you to everyone who donated, bid and supported the auction."

As well as their fundraising efforts, Bow YFC members have been enjoying a variety of club socials and taking part in county competitions, including county hockey.

Looking ahead, the club has plenty more activities planned, including an Easter Bingo, a dung sale and plans to organise more farm tours for members to visit. They are also preparing for the comeback of their club's famous party 'Bow's Big Bash', which promises to be another highlight in the club calendar.



Premier Entertainment from Dusk til Dawn.

## 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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Contact us now for exclusive Young Farmer rates. Extra 10% discount with the code 'DevonYFC10'

Check us out!



## TALKWORKS

IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

### Top tips from TALKWORKS to adjust to the clocks changing

Now that the clocks have gone forward, many people are feeling the effects of losing an hour's sleep. It's common to feel a bit more tired, out of sync or a little irritable as your body settles into the new routine, and this can make everyday tasks feel that little bit harder.

A few small steps can help:

- Get as much morning daylight as possible to reset your body clock
- Keep to a steady bedtime routine
- Cut back on screens before bed
- Give yourself time to settle into the new rhythm

If the clock change has disrupted your sleep or affected your mood, TALKWORKS can help. Farmers, age 18+ across Devon (excluding Plymouth) can access free wellbeing support from TALKWORKS for stress, low mood, anxiety and sleep difficulties. Self-refer at [www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk](http://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk) or call 0300 555 3344.



Welcome to the Devon YFC jobs board! Here we display job adverts from the farming and rural community across the South West. If you would like to advertise a job vacancy for your business, please contact [organiser@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:organiser@devonyfc.co.uk). **Find out more information, with links to apply at [www.devonyfc.co.uk/jobs](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk/jobs).**

### Job Advert

#### Harpers Feeds: Technical & Quality Systems Coordinator

We are looking for a motivated and detail-oriented Technical & Quality Systems Coordinator to join our Operations team at Harpers Feeds, a leading family-owned manufacturer of high quality animal feed delivering to trade and farm customers throughout the South West.

To apply please email your CV and covering letter to [HR@harpersfeeds.co.uk](mailto:HR@harpersfeeds.co.uk) or apply via Indeed.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL

- 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
- 25th-26th: NFYFC Entertainments Finals
- 26th: NFYFC AGM
- 26th: Cruwys Morchard YFC Fun Ride

## MAY

- 1st: Roborough YFC Easter Bingo
- 5th: Exe Valley YFC Travel Fundraiser Spring Bingo
- 9th: Tag Rugby Qualifiers
- 10th: Travel Car Treasure Hunt
- 19th: Stage entries at Devon County Show
- 21st-23rd: Devon County Show
- 30th: Outdoor Activities Day



**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!

# ARENA

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