

DEVON YOUNG FARMERS **NEWSLETTER** **JULY 2026**



**SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP
TO POLAND**



**RACE ACROSS THE
COUNTY CHALLENGE**



**DEVON YFC PAST &
PRESENT BALL**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

The Devon Rural Hub, Amory Building, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6JH

Tel: 01647 24120 Email: admin@devonyfc.co.uk



NFU Mutual

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The determination, resilience and teamwork shown throughout the challenge truly embodied the spirit of Young Farmers.



What a month it has been! The past few weeks have been some of the busiest of my year as County Chairman, but without doubt they have also been some of the most rewarding.

One of the highlights of the month was undoubtedly our County Chairman's Challenge - Race Across the County, which took place on 12th-13th June.

Inspired by Race Across the World, a team of Devon YFC members set off from Westward Ho! and walked across the county to Paignton, covering an incredible 68 miles non-stop to raise money for Yellow Wellies (Farm Safety Foundation) and Devon YFC.

I could not be prouder of everyone who took part. The determination, resilience and teamwork shown throughout the challenge truly embodied the spirit of Young Farmers. Together, we have raised over £3,500 for two charities that are incredibly important to us. Thank you to everyone who donated, joined us along the route, or provided practical and emotional support throughout the challenge. Your encouragement helped us every step of the way.

On 28th June, Devon was proudly represented at the South West Area Tug of War Competition. Every team performed exceptionally well and represented the county with great pride. A special

congratulations goes to our Men's and Ladies' teams, who have both qualified for the NFYFC Tug of War Finals at Tenbury Show in August.

The beginning of July saw many of our members travelling to Staffordshire for the NFYFC Competitions Finals. Devon members competed across a variety of disciplines, including public speaking, sports, choir and dance. We should all be incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive impression they continue to make nationally.

Another major highlight was our Past and Present Members' Ball on 11th July. It was wonderful to see generations of Devon YFC members coming together to celebrate the organisation that has given so much to so many people over the years. The event received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback and raised valuable funds for the Federation.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, whether by donating auction prizes, sponsoring tables, helping behind the scenes, or attending on the night. Your support made the evening such a success.

As we head into the summer months, I look forward to visiting more club events and seeing the fantastic programmes you have planned. Please keep sharing your successes on social media – it is brilliant to see the wide variety of activities taking place across the county and to celebrate the achievements of our members.

A. Retallick

Anneliese Retallick
County Chairman





COMPETITIONS

Katie Davie

Following a busy May, June was slightly quieter at a county level, but many Devon members were busy preparing for the national finals. A huge well done to all our members who represented us in speaking competitions, dancing, cubicle, choir, stock judging and auctioneering.

National Final Results

1st: Ben Slawson - Auctioneering
3rd: Haldon YFC Show Choir
Best Chairman: George - Junior Reading
1st: Victoria Cordwent, Kim Hawkins and Jane Horton - Dairy Stockjudging team
3rd: Charlotte Horton - Intermediate Dairy Stock Judging Individual



We are busy organising the county speaking competitions for the start of the new YFC year, so keep an eye out for these dates!



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SPORTS & SOCIAL Alex Rodd

July has been a bit of a whirlwind with a flurry of events and competitions. The month started off with the county team taking on the Race Across the County, raising funds for Devon YFC and the Yellow Wellies charities. A sporting activity it certainly was, and I think all members would agree it was a challenge harder than anything they'd taken on before. It showed truly great character from all involved, marching for 27 consecutive hours, and a big thank you to everyone that joined us along the way!

Next up was the county clay pigeon shooting competition, and everyone had a great day out at Holbrook Farm. The results are as follows:

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Seniors

1st: Ethan Pearce
2nd: Jack Boundy
3rd: Oliver Patch

Juniors

1st: Hayden Vooght
2nd: Sam Boundy

Next up we had Outdoor Activities Great work from all shooters, with

the top three in each bracket all going on to represent Devon at the National Finals on the 4th July. They all put on a great show but fell just short of the top three places.

Following on, next in line was the South West Area Tug of War Finals, and all teams travelled up to the Devon/Somerset border for a big day competing under the hot sun!

SWA Tug of War

Senior Mens

1st: Anstey
3rd: Honiton

Senior Ladies

1st: Honiton
2nd: Yarcombe

Massive congratulations to all involved, and good luck to all at Tenbury Show for the National Finals.



On the 5th of July, at Leamington Spa, **East Devon's seniors mixed hockey team took on the national competition and absolutely smashed it, coming away with 1st place**, a competition Devon have not won in the memorable past.



Finally, to end on a massive high note, on Saturday 11th July, **Devon YFC hosted its first ever Past & Present Ball**, bringing members from various generations to Wroford Manor for a great night dancing away to the Shrine Band, eating wonderful food from Keepers Cottage, and enjoying a playful game of Heads and Tails!

A great night was had by all, with the strength of YFC on full display, everyone mixing seamlessly, sharing great conversations, laughs, and many questionable dance moves throughout the night.

A massive thank you to all that attended and for all the kind feedback that has been passed back through! A big shout-out must also go to all the sponsors and volunteers that helped out to allow such a great event to go ahead!





AGRI Lily May

Hi guys, hope the combines are rolling! At the start of July, we had a tour of JT Livestock's calf-rearing facilities. Jack started just six years ago, buying some calves during Covid, and when he came to sell them, he found a big demand for weaned calves. Since then, he has expanded his business rapidly, running two units, buying milk calves and selling around 4,000 calves weaned at 150kg yearly to customers all over England, Wales and Scotland!

Jack talked us through his protocols for new calves coming in, vaccinations, milk powder, feed, equipment, staff and specifications

for buying calves privately and through four markets - but I must say the most impressive part is the 1.2% mortality rate!

Jack also keeps cattle for himself, selling them as stores at 12-15 months old and a whopping 450-600kg! We then finished the evening with a BBQ and drinks. A massive thank you must go to the Tucker family for their hospitality!

Coming up, we are invited to join Rivermead Dairy at their Open Day, by kind permission of the Davis



family, on Saturday 29th August, with a 10:30am start. This is open to everyone - not just members - and we will also be joined by NFU Mutual, so get it in your calendars because this is one you do not want to miss!

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TRAVEL Lois Sing

Earlier this month, our Seniors travelled to Poland for an unforgettable week exploring Polish culture, history and agriculture. A big thank you to Sophie for providing a fantastic report on the week's activities.

Meanwhile, our Juniors have been busy preparing for their upcoming trip to Slovenia at the beginning of August. They are looking forward to a week exploring Slovenian agriculture, with visits to goat, dairy and vineyard farms, as well as experiencing the country's culture. We can't wait to share all about their adventures in next month's update!

Applications are now open for our 2027 Devon YFC Travel Scholarship programme! Next summer we will once again have a senior and junior team travel to another country to meet new people and experience new cultures.

The Junior Scholarship is open to all members aged between 16 and 17 years of age (as of the 1st April 2027). The Senior Scholarship is open to all members aged between 18 and 28 years of age (as of the 1st of April 2027).



We will also require one male and one female Leader for the Junior Scholarship.

Apply and find out more about the process by scanning the QR code!



POLAND 2026 Sophie Pratt

On Monday 15th June, 11 members from across Devon headed to Poland on this year's senior scholarship. We headed out on the first flight of the day and landed in Krakow late morning. After checking into our hostel and stopping for lunch, we visited Wieliczka Salt Mine for a guided tour. The mine is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with underground saline lakes, intricately carved statues and vast open caverns. We met with members of Związek Młodzieży Wiejskiej (ZMW), the Polish Rural Youth Association who took us for dinner at Krakow's mural bar.

Tuesday saw us touring the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. A must-do whilst in Krakow, the tour was a sobering and moving historical experience. Walking through the former Nazi concentration camps was hugely educational and provided a stark reminder of the harsh realities of the Holocaust. Following the



tour, we travelled back into the city and explored some of Krakow's major landmarks including St Florian's Gate, The Barbican and Wawel Royal Castle. We had dinner at the highly recommended moo moo's steak bar before an evening strolling through the picturesque streets of Krakow Old Town.

We took the InterCity train from Krakow to Warsaw on Wednesday morning and our first stop was the alpine coaster in Park Szczyliwicki- a 700-meter track of downhill twists and turns, reaching speeds of over 40km/h. We visited the Neon Museum and University Botanical Gardens, walked along the Vistula River and went 30 floors up at the Palace of Culture and Science to be greeted with stunning 360° views of the city. We had a group dinner in the Old Town before finding an venue to watch England's World Cup opener.

Thursday was the first of three busy days planned for us by the ZMW, we collected two hire cars and headed North-East for our first taste of rural Poland, where we had tours of two farms supplying Piątnica- a huge Polish dairy co-operative with 19th century origins. The first, Zaręba Farm, a large dairy farm and major crop producer with an incredibly progressive setup including an onsite biogas plant, an advanced microgrid and an outdoor energy system that stores power to supply critical equipment like the parlour during grid fluctuations.

The Dąbkowscy farm was our second stop, they farm 100 hectares and have recently installed two Lely A5 robots and increased the milking herd from 80 to 130. We also had a talk about Piątnica and the 1800+ farmers supplying them.

A day at Ziółowy Zakątek (the herbal corner) was on the cards for Friday. A 20 hectare site with over 5000 species of plants and the biggest collection of medicinal and spice plants in all of Europe. Onsite they have cafes,

An unforgettable week exploring Polish agriculture, history and culture

educational facilities, a wedding venue and options for overnight stays. We toured the gardens and twisting forest paths before a workshop making tea sticks. We used dried herbs and flowers from the garden and were taught about the properties of each plant. We were treated to a three course lunch made with many ingredients grown on site. The next workshop was mixing hay with herbs and flowers to increase nutrition and palatability.

The Polish National field day was held on 18th-20th June this year and we visited on the incredibly hot Saturday! We were welcomed again by members of ZMW and took part in a traditional Slavic cheese making workshop kindly organised for us with Piątnica- the dairy co-operative from earlier in the week. The rest of the day was spent exploring the show, there was plenty to see with trade stands, modern machinery, over 1200 crop trial plots and hundreds of livestock, as well as music stages and plenty of food options!

The penultimate day of our trip saw the start of our travel as we headed back to Krakow and checked into our last hostel. We enjoyed some shopping, followed by dinner and a night out with karaoke in every bar we visited- who knew it was so popular in Poland! On Monday morning we checked out of the hostel and had a chilled bakery breakfast before heading back to the airport for our flight home!



CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



What a brilliant, busy month we've had! Sunshine, hard work, and plenty of laughs, as always! We are thrilled to announce that our first ever Tractor Show took place on the 28th of June! It was better than any of us imagined, and we've raised over £3,000, which is amazing! I would like to thank each and every one of our members who was so helpful prior to the event, from making signs to putting posters up, as well as all the local businesses for your extremely kind support. It definitely doesn't go unnoticed, from sponsoring the event - CP Trees, to kindly donating the burgers to sell - Twelve Oaks Meat Co, to the fantastic prizes from Hunts Cider! We thank you!

We had a fantastic turnout of vintage tractors and a huge number of spectators, plus a couple of local trade stands. As a club, we offered refreshments, from cheeseburgers to nice cold cans of drinks, which proved hugely popular between the tractor show judging taking place and the dog show starting! It's definitely a milestone moment for our club, and certainly something to do again in the future!

Between getting ready for our big events, we have been beating the heat with a pool social! With temperatures soaring and the sun beating down, we swapped wellies for swimwear and headed to the pool for a social evening to keep cool! It was the perfect chance to relax, splash around, and enjoy

some lighter moments together after all the hard work on the show. Great fun, great company, and followed by a great BBQ (you can never go wrong)!

UP NEXT: We are now busy planning our last big charity event, our Summer Soirée!

This is taking place on the 8th of August, a fun-filled evening open to all ages, with live music, a photographer, and even an auction of promises! Make sure to get in touch regarding purchasing tickets, and keep an eye on our Facebook page! We look forward to seeing lots of you there! Thanks again to our members for being such a brilliant team!

Charlotte Gale





CLUB OF THE MONTH

CHERITON & TEDBURN YFC

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Cheriton & Tedburn Young Farmers has enjoyed an incredibly busy few months, with members taking part in a packed programme of fundraising events, competitions, educational talks and community activities.

Club Secretary Lydia Gough says: "We have had a really busy few months hosting events, raising money for charity and trying lots of new activities together.

"Earlier this year we had a farm tour of Stuart's finishing unit, our entertainments re-run with Witheridge YFC and our dung sale, which raised £586.38 for our chosen charity, NHS Blood and Transplant. It's great being able to support such an important cause while bringing everyone together."

Community involvement has been a key part of the club's programme. Members hosted a successful Big Breakfast at Tedburn Village Hall, serving 65 breakfasts to the local community, alongside organising an Easter bingo evening with strong support from local people.

Members also attended Exeter Racecourse Family Day, bringing sheep for visitors to meet and helping introduce the public to farming through a variety of activities.

Alongside community events, members have also taken part in educational talks and visits. Representatives from NHS Blood and Transplant visited the club to explain more about the charity's work, while counsellor Emma Stokes spoke to members about mental health within farming and the importance of seeking support when needed.

More recently, members Ellen, Monty and Peter secured first place in the fencing competition at Devon YFC's Outdoor Activities Day.

Club Chairman Ellen Pearce says: "One of the best things about Young Farmers is the huge variety of opportunities available. On

just one day this summer we'll have members volunteering at Dunsford Show, while others travel to Stafford to compete in the National Choir Finals representing Devon."

With fundraising, competitions and community projects packed into their programme, Cheriton & Tedburn YFC continues to provide members with valuable experiences while making a positive impact locally.



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery Young Farmers have had a month filled with getting ready for carnival season. We have been busy painting the float and getting the theme ready to show the public at Hartland Carnival, the first one of the season. Alongside this, we have been preparing things for Tarka Rally on the 1st August.

To raise funds, we have been busy hosting bars for local events.

As a fun meeting, we are planning on attending an adults' night at The Big Sheep, as we are all big children really!

We have our Wuckland Ball coming up in September, with full details to follow soon. We are all helping to plan this as our next event while we spend July and August busy with the float.

Looking forward to sharing our carnival results - wish us luck!

Georgia Daniel



TALKWORKS tips: How to manage anxiety

Feeling worried or stressed from time-to-time is normal, but if anxiety is starting to affect your day-to-day life, here are three tips to help you to feel less anxious:

1. **Focus on your breathing.** Taking a few slow, steady breaths can help calm your mind.
2. **Keep moving.** Physical activity can help reduce stress and anxiety.
3. **Talk to someone.** Talking to someone you trust can help take the weight off your shoulders.

If anxiety is affecting your everyday life, TALKWORKS is here to help. You can access free one-to-one therapy sessions, interactive group courses and online self-help through Devon's NHS Talking Therapies service. Visit our website, call 0300 555 3344 to speak to a member of the team or email dpt.talkworks@nhs.net.



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.





AUGUST

- 1st:** NFYFC Tug of War Finals
- 8th:** Roborough YFC Duck Race
- 8th-15th:** Junior Scholarship - Slovenia
- 16th:** County Mixed Netball Tournament
- 21st:** Chagford After Show Party
- 21st-24th:** SWA Junior Camp
- 23rd:** Tavistock YFC Inter-Club Cricket Tournament
- 29th:** Rivermead Dairy Open Day

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd:** General Council Meeting
- 4th:** Travel Scholarship Applications Close
- 12th:** Gooseford Dairy & SW Handling Open Day
- 18th:** Chulmleigh YFC Dinner & Dance
- 19th:** Woolsery & Buckland Brewer YFC Ball
- 26th:** NFYFC Cookery Finals
- 27th:** NFYFC Floral Art Finals



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