



England and
Wales



YOUNG FARMERS AMBASSADORS

SPRING 2011
NEWSLETTER



England and
Wales



A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of the England and Wales YFA Newsletter. Lets hope Spring is on it way, as I look out of the window the fields are beginning to dry up and the daffodils are about to open so it's looking promising.

This is my first Newsletter as Chairman of England & Wales YFA Committee. I travelled to Canada on the Under 21 International Exchange trip back in 1982 and have always been passionate about the Discovery Programme as it offers so much more than just a holiday to a country - it gives you opportunities, new skills, challenges and the chance to meet new people, who become friends for life.

Having being involved with the England and Wales Committee for several years and a past Secretary, I was elected at the AGM back in October which was held at the 2010 Scottish Reunion. With almost 250 people present, Aviemore 2010 was an excellent weekend with members from Scotland, England, Wales, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and the European Mainland attending. I would encourage everyone to at least attend one of the Reunion weekends as it's a fantastic opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

The Discovery Programme Selection Day was due to be held in December but had to be cancelled due to the snow. It was eventually held on the 8th of January and all places were filled with the exception of 5. If you do have any involvement in YFC at a County or Club level please encourage present members to take part in the Discovery Programme as it is a fantastic opportunity to travel with like minded people and the knowledge and skills learned are great for anyone's personal development.

The Wales International Exchange Programme Briefing and Selection Day was held in November and all the available places were filled, so we look forward to receiving lots of interesting reports in forthcoming Newsletters. Thank you to all the Panel Members, Stewards and the respective organising Committee for all their help and support on the Selection Days.

At the end of May, Kate Nancarrow will be leaving her job as the part time Discovery Officer as she has been offered and accepted the position of YFC County Organiser for Cornwall. The administration of the Discovery Programme will be returning to NFYFC Headquarters in Stoneleigh and will now be administered by NFYFC Staff.

Our record of thanks must go to Kate for all her hard work over the past 5 years with outgoing and incoming exchangees and we all wish her well for the future and especially for her forthcoming wedding to Johnathan Spencer, St Buryan YFC, Cornwall.

In the middle of April we will be expecting the first of our incoming exchangees to arrive and Counties have already being sent the hosting chart. As a YFA member, if it is possible, please offer your services to YFC County staff to help with this as I know from past experience it is quite difficult sometimes to find places for them to stay.

At the NFYFC Annual Convention in Blackpool, England and Wales YFA will be presenting a cheque for £4,000 to support the Discovery Programme and also two cheques to the YFA Scholars who will be travelling in 2011 - Jeffrey Goodwin, Uttoxeter YFC, Staffordshire travelling to Germany and Emma Ead, St Columb YFC, Cornwall travelling on the Canada Under 21 trip.

The YFA Trophy will be presented to the winner of the best Powerpoint competition, 2010, which was Helen Keenlyside, Kenilworth YFC, Warwickshire on her trip to Kenya. Money for the cheques presented at the NFYFC AGM is our main outgoing during the year, and represents money raised by members who pay their subscription.

If you have recently been on a trip and have not yet paid your subscription then please contact Huw Williams, our membership secretary, and he will be happy to take the £10 per year membership. This is a small price to pay for the experience we have all had on the Discovery Programme.

If anyone would like more information on YFA or has any comments I would be only too happy for you to email me at ashbrooklanefarm@btinternet.com. If anyone would be interested in joining the committee please let me know. There are two meetings a year held in Worcestershire and one at the AGM which is held as part of the Reunion.

Enjoy the summer when it comes and a date for your diary is the Welsh Reunion on the weekend of Friday, 28th to Monday, 31st October, 2011 at St David's Park Hotel (4*), Ewloe, Flintshire, North Wales. I hope everyone will support the Reunion Committee.

Margaret Bennett
England & Wales YFA Chairman

After hectic years as General Manager in luxury London hotels, I decided to take a few months break. I appreciated the "little gap" to catch up on life and had an exciting trip to Nepal.

I had a ball charity working in Shri Bagawhati Primary school, Nr Pokhora, ghurka village in the foothills of the Himalayas, Nepal - very humbling but hugely rewarding and fun - every day was full of smiles and sign language with some Nepalese, English and Welsh!

I am now continuing to help the villagers develop their school facilities by fundraising here, I was the first British volunteer to the school and now my nephew is including a few weeks there too in his gap year and will deliver the cash raised personally...



Had a great finale when met up with Husband David and Gemma and Thomas for super family holiday. ... then back for cold and snowy Christmas in the UK.

Now back in action after "temp retirement" enjoying new challenging job as "estate manager" for Belgravia Residents.

JANE RENTON (Australia 1981)

England and Wales YFA would like to congratulate the successful candidates for the 2011 YFC International Exchange Programmes. Pob hwyl ar eich taith / Good luck to you all, you are going to have a great time.

2011 Wales International Exchange Programme Participants

Ulster Homestay

Wayne Shanklin, South Pembs, Pembrokeshire a Lisa Edwards, Eglwyswrrw, Pembrokeshire

Scotland Homestay

Charlotte Caswell, Tiers Cross, Pembrokeshire ac Alex Robinson, LLawhaden, Pembrokeshire

Finland Homestay

Elizabeth Harries, Vale of Towy, Carmarthenshire a Hedydd Davies, Bro'r Dderi, Ceredigion

USA Homestay

Gwennan Davies, Llanwenog, Ceredigion a Gethin Hatcher, Llanwenog, Ceredigion

RYE Spring Seminar (Welsh Team)

Rachel Mathias, Martletwy, Pembrokeshire a Lucy Stonebridge, Howey, Radnor

RYE Autumn Seminar (Welsh Team)

Jonathan Williams, Presteigne, Radnor a Mary Phillips, Sennybridge, Brecknock

RYE European Rally (Welsh Team)

Kate Miles, Neath, Glamorgan (Leader)

Emyr Lloyd, Tregaron, Ceredigion; Arwel Jenkins, Llanwenog, Ceredigion; Bethan Griffiths, Dyffryn Cothi, Carmarthenshire a Enfys Hatcher, Llanwenog, Ceredigion

Canada (Winter Fair)

Richard Wilding, Presteigne, Radnor a Dylan Bowen, Capel Iwan, Carmarthenshire

Elwyn Jones Memorial Scholarship

Deian Thomas, Llanfynydd, Carmarthenshire

2011 Discovery Programme Participants

Australia Rural Youth Homestay

Andrew Stephens, Painswick, Gloucestershire

C Alma Baker

Steven Rees, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire; Frances Herdman, North Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire; Emma Kelcher, Tritlington, Northumberland and Ben Staley, Haltwhistle, Northumberland

Canada JFAO

Anna Taylor, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire and Sion Davies, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire

Norway

Sam Craddock, Chase, Staffordshire

Sweden

Kerry Procter, Grayrigg, Cumbria

Canada 4H

Emma Ead, St Columb, Cornwall – **YFA Scholar**

Austria

Aimee Mahoney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire & Rutland

France

Catrin Jones, Mydroilyn, Ceredigion

Germany Homestay

Jeffrey Goodwin, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire – **YFA Scholar** and Helen Morse, Liskeard, Cornwall

Scotland Homestay

Katie Delaney, Bury, Lancashire and Will Gallimore, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire

Ulster Homestay

Emma Johnson, Eccleshall, Staffordshire and Natalie Davies, Bury, Lancashire

Nordic 4H Youth Camp Leaders

Bob Dronfield, Bakewell, Derbyshire and Helen Keenlyside, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

RYE Spring Seminar (English Team)

Russell Carrington, Hereford, Herefordshire and Katie Lyons, Chew Valley, Somerset

RYE Autumn Seminar (English Team)

Mark Lyons, Chew Valley, Somerset and Rachel Jones, Shawbury, Shropshire

European Rally (English Team)

Claire Worden, Lostwithiel, Cornwall (Leader)

Richard Adams, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; Mark Allard, Wymeswold, Leicestershire; Emma Nicholls, Spalding, Lincolnshire; Hannah Talbot, Cutnall Green, Worcestershire

Kenya Team Travel

Nicola Bishop, Honiton, Devon; Caroline Dyke, Stone, Staffordshire; Arwel Evans, Eglwysrwr, Pembrokeshire; Selena Harries, Alberbury, Shropshire; Rachael Parry, Dorrington, Shropshire; Mark Powell, Llandefalle, Brecknock; Jennifer Rowland, Ivybridge, Devon; Hollie Savage, Rea Valley, Shropshire; Rachael Tucker, Yarcombe, Devon and Hannah Woodall, Ludlow, Shropshire

Uganda Team Travel

Karen Carter, Yarcombe, Devon; Faye Clayton, Cawthorne, Yorkshire; Rachel Gregory, Edcott & Winslow, Buckinghamshire; Charlotte Johnston, Cawthorne, Yorkshire; Ed Lovelock, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire; Ruth Mason, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; Victoria Shepherd, Sodbury Vale, Gloucestershire and Katie Winfield, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire

Richard and Ali Siphthorp are coming to the UK in June this year, and are ‘doing’ the Monmouth and Brecon Canal from the 3rd to the 6th of June. Unfortunately, their canal boat might be a bit small for entertaining, so John and Angela Young are finding a pub near Talybont on Usk, South East Wales for a gathering of anyone nearby to have a meal on Saturday evening, the 5th of June. If anyone would like to join them, please contact Ali (alsiphthorp@xtra.co.nz) or John and Angela Young (neuadd@btinternet.com, phone 01873 840421).



Richard and Ali are also going to the Royal Highland Show on the 22nd and 23rd of June.

They now have a Facebook page for Milton House B&B.

In June 1960, Margaret Swan (nee West), Lincolnshire, Janet Nation (nee Lynham), Somerset, John Norton, Devon, and John Tamplin, Monmouthshire set sail from Liverpool, sponsored by Kellogg Foundation and Cunard for Montreal, Canada as guests of Ontario Junior Young Farmers Itinerary.

Since my original visit in 1960, my family and I have visited Canada about fifteen times. Four of my grandchildren, all present young farmers, have benefited from my experience with their parents. Of the ten families I stayed with, I am still in contact with six, three of whom have visited us, one family with some of their friends.

Fifty years on the four of us UK 1960 delegates still keep in touch. We all, plus our spouses met up 25 years ago and the three of us again last August at my home mid way between the boys !! Margaret found the journey too far being we are all now in our seventies. Meeting up made me find my diary and projector and slides. What a lovely afternoon we had looking at the slides of when we were all together in a gold and asbestos mine and pulp mill in Northern Ontario, Niagara, Ottawa and Toronto. At our age it was a great laugh to relive our travels.

Janet Nation (ex Somerset Young Farmers)

Sadly I must report the death of our dear friend and YFA member, Sandy Scarth, who I had the delight in travelling to Ontario with in April 1964. Yes 1964. He was the dearest of friends, and a wonderful husband, father, and farmer. His wife Lesley and his children and grandchildren will have an enormous gap in their lives
Melville Osborne.

PS I'm in Cornwall, and dear Sandy lived in Orkney!



Eunice (European Rally and Canada), Bill, Amy (Under 18's 4H Camp, Sweden) and Richard Finney at the Queen's Garden Party in July 2010. Eunice had been invited in recognition of her contribution to agriculture in Staffordshire.

L to R Richard, Amy, Eunice, Bill

Scottish Reunion Aviemore 2010

On returning from my Discovery trip to Ontario, Canada I decided to join the YFA. I had a fantastic time on exchange and wanted to give something back and, being too old for Young Farmers, I thought I would try something new and go to a YFA Reunion and see what it was all about!

At 6am on Friday 29th October I met up with Helen Wheeler and travelled to Luton Airport. After a quick beverage we flew up to Inverness and met Elaine and Fiz and set off to the Hilton Hotel at Aviemore. On arrival we received a lovely welcome with banners, flowers and a goodie bag to add to the excitement. We then headed straight to the swimming pool!

Friday night had a "Scottish" theme. After a discussion in a pub a few weeks prior to the event it was decided that I would dress as a thistle (I can't remember why!). There were lots of great costume ideas, and I partied with midges, Billy Connollys and bottles of whisky! The room was decorated with thistle confetti, heather and tartan tablecloths. I was a bit nervous going out as a thistle but I soon met lots of people and spent the evening chatting and dancing. I thought 'it's ok, nobody will recognise me tomorrow'!

After an amazing breakfast on Saturday morning we got on coaches to go on the trips we had chosen. It was



That doesn't look like Whisky !!

hard to choose between the trips as there were some fantastic options, a trip up the mountains? A distillery tour? I chose to go on a farm tour. The farm we visited focused on the environment and showing people around the farm. On this trip I got to know some different people and we learnt from each other as well as from the speaker. We finished the trip with scones and coffee.

The weather was on our side and the scenery was beautiful up in the Cairngorms. In the afternoon we met some prize winning Highland cattle, and finished the trip with



shortbread and a not so wee dram! When we got back on the coach we found ourselves having another wee dram on our way back to the hotel. On arrival we found in our room some Scottish tablet and an invitation to the highland banquet.

One of the highlights of recent Reunions was a full Pipe Band piping in the Haggis

This was a fantastic event - we gathered for a drink and a group photo before the banquet began and I have never seen so many men in kilts! We then took our seats and were served with scotch broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, roast beef, which was piped in and carved in the middle of the room and sticky toffee pudding. As the haggis was piped in and we listened to the ode to the haggis before having another wee dram, we were taken by surprise as a traditional Scottish pipe band entered the room, the atmosphere was amazing and our hands hurt from so much clapping along. After dinner we danced to a ceilidh band which was great fun and a great way to get to know everybody. We then danced on to the disco before retiring to the lounge bar where we found ourselves learning Welsh at 2am.

On Sunday morning we enjoyed another spectacular breakfast before attending a short religious service. This was followed by country meetings and the AGM (with lots of coffee and shortbread) where the new committee was elected. In the afternoon we visited the Highland Wildlife Park. We admired lots of different animals including Mercedes the polar bear and some spectacular views. In the evening there was more dancing with a local group playing. Strip the Willow, the Gay Gordon and Dashing White Sergeant were requested so we could put our new found skills from the previous night into practice with our new friends.

On Monday with lots of strange bruises from the Scottish dancing we packed up, said our goodbyes to all our new and old friends and set off back home for some much needed sleep!

I would like to say a massive thank you to everybody involved in organising a fantastic weekend, there definitely is life after YFC!

Katy Heady Canada 2009



The combined might of the English and Welsh European Rally Teams 2010 with some VVIP

L to R. Enfys Evans, (Chair of Wales YFC), Bob Dronfield (E), Meir Jones (W), Harriet Wilson (E), Lowri Jones (W), Lydia Cox (E), Helen Roberts (2010 chair of Council, NFYFC), Wayne Shanklin (W), Milly Wastie (Leader, E), Gwennan Davies (Leader, W), Claire Worden (E), Lucy Stonebridge (W), Delme Harries (Former chair of Rural Youth Europe, Chair of Wales YFC Board of Management).

*Rural Youth Europe European Rally 2010 Halmstad, Sweden
- by Milly Wastie, England team leader*

Participating in the 2008 European Rally in Switzerland as a delegate was a fantastic opportunity for my personal development and understanding of other European youth organisations and cultures. It was also the first time I had left the UK so a huge achievement in itself for me! So when I found out I was picked to become the 2010 Rally leader for Team England, I was over the moon. Having participated in a rally before was a huge advantage as I could brief our team on everything they needed to bring with them, especially when it came to the international buffet and also what to expect during the week ahead. All of my team were very outgoing so I knew they would get the most out of the Rally as they would get involved and participate in group discussion and activities.

The theme of the rally focussed on rural entrepreneurship and so we visited many diversification projects and small rural businesses. It was so interesting to see how things operate in Sweden and to compare the similarities and differences in how we do things back in the UK.

The Rally provides the opportunity to meet like minded people from across Europe and I'm sure previous participants would agree that you make friends for life as a result. The Rally forms a small community of friendship for a week each year where everyone has a similar interest and explores an interesting and relevant theme.

I always recommend that our members apply because of the experiences you receive and the lasting memories you make. The Rally does make a huge impact on your life and as a result, one of my team members is now the 2011 rally leader for Slovenia and another is a youth leader in Norway this year!



Electronic YFA Newsletter.



We have received a good response to our appeal for members to convert to 'paperless' Newsletters. Thanks to those who responded. The intention is to maybe put more pictures on the Website, and to maybe use one of the many Social Networking Websites to circulate more and faster news. However, for the time being, rest assured that all news and reports will be identical on the paper and the electronic versions

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter, and would be happy just receiving an electronic copy, please contact me, Huw, on

dfw@aber.ac.uk.

In the meantime, please check out our website, kindly run by David Heminsley, at the link from www.ifye.co.uk. Many Thanks. Diolch.

YFA Scholars for 2011



Jeffrey Goodwin, Uttoxeter YFC, Staffordshire, who is travelling to Germany and Emma Ead, St Columb YFC, Cornwall who is travelling on the Canada under 21 trip being presented with their YFA Folders and Mugs by new England and Wales YFA Chair, Margaret Bennett. The two Scholars will be receiving their £100 Scholarship cheques during the 2011 NFYFC AGM in Blackpool.

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The England and Wales YFA Office Holders for 2010/ 11 are as follows:

Chair – Margaret Bennett (Canada U21 1982), Ashbrook Lane Farm, Abbots Bromley, Rugeley, Staffordshire. 01283 840263, ashbrooklanefarm@btinternet.com

Minute Secretary – Amy Cox (nee Matthews) (Rally 2003), Ixhill Farm, Worminghall Road, Oakley, Buckinghamshire, 01235 847194, agricamy@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary – Huw Williams (USA U21 1982, Rally 1989), Ael y Bryn Llanon, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, 01974 202439, dfw@aber.ac.uk

Treasurer – James Cowan (Sweden 1995), Blaencwmpridd, Synod Inn, Llandysul, Ceredigion, 07885 576926, j.cow@live.co.uk

Kenya Group Trip Report, by Joy Cornock, Fishguard YFC, Pembrokeshire

Travelling with the Young Farmers Club has always been an aspiration of mine. My chosen destination was Kenya because I wanted to experience life in a developing



country.

Travelling on the trip were 11 other YFC members. We were 5 from Wales and 7 from England in total.

I stayed in a home with the Mwangi family near the town of Gatura. The home was remarkably similar to an old style cow shed although with no electricity, no running water, a fire to do the cooking and a toilet in a shed down the garden, which was merely a hole in the ground!

The scheduled livelihood activities included a tree planting session and preparation of nursery seedlings and planting vegetables. We helped to fetch the livestock from the pastures as well as lending a hand milking the cows. I was amazed that the cows stood still in the field and didn't need to be tied up. Other livelihood activities included churning milk into butter, fetching water from the Muhare River and picking and weighing tea.

As a sight-seeing visit we went to the Ngere tea factory. We also took part in a few cultural activities including the art of weaving mats and baskets (kiondos) and learning about traditional medicines.

During the tour we visited Karangi Primary School, Karangi Dispensary and Kimande Secondary School where many under-achieving children were studying in the summer holidays.

A few highlights of the trip were the visit to Hell's Gate Safari witnessing lots of Zebras, warthogs, giraffes and hyenas; singing and taking part in the Church service; tasting the Tusker lager whilst experiencing the laid-back atmosphere at the Muchegi Pub and of course to end our trip we visited the world famous 'Carnivores' restaurant.

The trip has been an experience of a lifetime and I urge all Young Farmers members to take the opportunity to travel with the movement. I would like to sincerely thank my sponsors for their generous support and encouragement.

Should any of you want to donate money, clothing or gifts directly to the families in the Aberdare region then please send to this address:

Julia Wanjiru Mwangi, Karangi Kiana Primary School,
P.O. Box 176, Gatura Thika, Kenya



YFA Reunion 2011



28th - 31st October

@ the **St David's Park Hotel (4*)**

Ewloe, Flintshire, North Wales

CROESO I GYMRU

A warm Welsh welcome awaits you for a fun filled weekend!



Enjoy and relax in our, luxury 4* hotel and spa. Get to know the borderlands with a World Heritage Site, castles, and some of the best farms in Wales. A short drive away is Llangollen, the home of the famous International Eisteddfod and the spectacular Pontcysyllte aqueduct and canal.

Only a hop and skip away is Chester - venture with us over the border to walk in the footsteps of Roman soldiers along the famous city walls or enjoy retail therapy on the historic 700 year old rows.

Get your feathers and sequins ready for Friday night's Casino Night and 'Viva Las Wales' fancy dress - you might even meet Elvis himself !!



Then it's gladrags on for the Saturday night banquet and traditional Welsh entertainment and hopefully a very famous face from Welsh Sport as our guest speaker.

There are excellent regular rail links from Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham Airports to Chester Mainline Station and the hotel probably has the easiest access in Wales from the motorway network - only 2.5 hours from the Scottish Border and 60 miles from Stafford.

We are on track to offer 3 nights for only **£199**, with children being charged a bargain rate too good to advertise !!!

Contact: Huw and Angharad Williams (Secretaries)
Phone 01974 202439 e-mail: dfw@aber.ac.uk

FLEECES and CAPS

YFA have available Navy Blue Fleeces, (half or full zip at the front) embroidered with the England and Wales YFA

Logo, and also matching navy blue baseball caps (Pictures available on the website soon)

The cost is £24.65 complete with embroidery and they are available in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.

Matching baseball caps are also available at £6.50 each

If you wish to have your name underneath the logo, this will cost £2 extra - please remember to add this amount when ordering.

If you wish to place an order, please complete the attached form and return it with a cheque made payable to "YFA"

PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TOGETHER WITH A CHEQUE TO

Margaret Bennett

Ashbrook Lane Farm

Abbots Bromley

Rugeley

Staffs

WS15 3DW Tel: 01283 840263, Email: ashbrooklanefarm@btinternet.com

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| <i>Baseball caps at £6.50 each</i> | | | | |

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO "YFA" FOR £.....

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Over the last few years, we have lost touch with some members of England and Wales YFA. They are all paying their subscriptions, but the addresses we have for them are out of date. As they are still contributing their subscriptions to us, we would like keep in touch by sending them this regular Newsletter. Thanks to those of you who got in touch with updated addresses for some of the 'lost' members listed in the last Newsletter.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the people listed below, please get in touch with me, Huw on 01974 202439 or dfw@aber.ac.uk. Thank you

These are the details we have

Margaret Stokes (nee Ellis), who visited Austria in 1976. Last known to be living in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

Anthony Allen, who visited Nepal in 1984. Last known to be living in Florida.

Clive Parrot, who visited Canada in 1982. Last known to be living in Swindon.

Phillip Glassford, who visited Canada in 1959. Last known to be living in Nottinghamshire

Anita Gibson (nee Cartwright), who visited Australia in 1982.

HM (or BH) Revell, who attended the European Rally in 1979.

J Alexander, who visited Zambia in 1987.

Claire Bedell, who visited Kenya in 1998.

S Lane (no further details on file).

Sally Rawlings (no further details on file).

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Thanks to all of you who have contributed articles, news and photos to the Spring 2011 YFA Newsletter.

If you have any news that you think might be of interest to your fellow YFA members, or have any ideas on how to improve your Newsletter, please contact me, Huw Williams, Ael y Bryn, Llanon, Aberystwyth, SY23 5HX, dfw@aber.ac.uk, 01974 202439