



England and  
Wales



# YOUNG FARMERS AMBASSADORS

AUTUMN 2011  
NEWSLETTER



Cymru a  
Lloegr



# A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

I cannot believe how time flies - everyone is into harvesting at the moment with tractors flying past the window up and down the road before the rain is due.

Since the last Newsletter, Donna Tavernor from Staffordshire presented (on behalf of England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors) a cheque for £4,000 at the National AGM in Blackpool to retiring National President Lionel Hill, in support the NFYFC Discovery Programme.

Just before the NFYFC AGM, the first Discovery Programme exchangee of the year arrived - Robin Tait from Tasmania, I know quite a few people met her along the way, and she thoroughly enjoyed her stay here and also in Scotland and Ireland.

The administration of the Discovery Programme has now gone back to NFYFC Headquarters at Stoneleigh. It is now being run by Emily Johnson, who has been doing a fantastic job in making sure we have enough hosts for all the exchangees on the programme. It is made so much easier by the help which is received from the County Offices and past exchangees who look after the current exchangees during their stay.

This year NFYFC have had exchangees arrive from Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, and Austria, which in turn creates a need for around 45 weeks hosting in a short space of time. I had the opportunity to collect some of the exchangees from Birmingham Airport, which was an experience in itself. Unfortunately, as ever, two exchangees lost their bags. However, they did appear later, thank goodness. Claire Swinburn and Bob Dronfield (Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Personal Development Steering Group) also helped in collecting exchangees which was very much appreciated. Most exchangees arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, to coincide with NFYFC Council weekend, where on the Friday night they all went ten pin bowling and for a meal. On Saturday, Helen Keenlyside from Warwickshire kindly organised a trip around Warwick Castle. In the evening the exchangees had a chance to meet Council members from all over England and Wales and then, on Sunday, they travelled to their first host families. This was the start of an adventure which for some exchanges will last until September.

Most outgoing exchangees are on their trips as we speak, with those visiting Ireland and Scotland having already returned, having had a fantastic time so I am told. Hopefully, in the next newsletter we will be able to receive some interesting reports.

The Discovery Programme for 2012 is now being put together which will be in the same format as previous years. However, there will be more exciting opportunities to travel through YFC - these are being arranged at the moment and will be publicised shortly.



Donna Tavernor presenting Lionel Hill, outgoing President of NFYFC, with a cheque for £4000 as YFA's annual contribution towards the Discovery Programme

If you know of anyone who would like the opportunity to travel, the list of trips will be distributed to YFC members through the NFYFC members' magazine, Ten26. YFA have produced a set of guidelines (available on the NFYFC Website Discovery Pages) which will help potential members to apply and describe what is involved in the application process and being on Exchange. All entries forms have to be in by the middle of November and Selection Day is to be held on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011 at the NFU Headquarters in Stratford.

Just a reminder that the YFA Reunion, this year hosted by Wales, will be on the weekend of Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> to Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 at St David's Park Hotel, Ewloe, Flintshire, North Wales. Plans are also in place for the England Reunion to be held in 2013, details of which will follow shortly.

Thank you to all the Committee Members for their help and support and all the past members that have hosted exchangees - I can assure you it is very much appreciated.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and if anyone needs any help to promote Discovery with their Counties, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Margaret Bennett  
England & Wales YFA Chairman  
[ashbrooklanefarm@btinternet.com](mailto:ashbrooklanefarm@btinternet.com)  
Mobile 07966 381047

## **ROYAL VISIT TO STAFFORDSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS**



Staffordshire Young Farmers had the great honour of welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to their office on the County Showground, Stafford as part of a rural day in Staffordshire. The Princess Royal spent over an hour with the members of each of the clubs who had put together demonstrations from flower arranging, stockjudging and hedgelaying to name but a few.

**Two YFA members spoke about their experiences of travelling on the Discovery Programme - Donna**

**Tavernor (Kenya 09, Seminar 10) and Katie Winfield (Scotland 09, Uganda 11).**

The Princess was really interested and asking lots of questions. Other YFA members who were introduced to HRH were Alex MacKellar (Canada 05, Seminar 06), Stephen Hill (Rally 09), Will Gallimore (Scotland 11) and Margaret Bennett (Canada 1982). Also present on the day were Richard (Hungary, USA) and Isobelle (Russia, China) Robinson, (nee Calcott).

HRH then went on to visit Amerton Farm and Craft Centre, which is run by Eunice Finney (Rally 1977, Canada 1978) and husband Bill.

Eunice and Bryce MacKellar (Ulster 04, Scotland 05) were also introduced to HRH at the Rural Hub office on the Staffordshire County Showground so it was an exciting day for all involved.

# IFYE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2011

Where are you going for your holidays this year?

This is a question I am used to being asked during the past couple of years but when my response was Finland I had some mixed reaction from 'how strange' and 'that's different' to 'it'll be a bit cool up there'!! In fact temperatures were never below 25° C with blue skies and sunshine all week. Who needs the Med. for good weather ? Although we are officially the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) and hold our AGM and other meetings during the week, we are really one big happy family enjoying a reunion, where we all share a common purpose: a love of the countryside, travel and meeting new people.

Our 53<sup>rd</sup> European Conference was held in the wilderness of central Finland in traditional log cabins in the forest by a beautiful lake and beach where it never got dark, see [www.metsakartano.com](http://www.metsakartano.com). The lake was warm enough to swim any time of day or night and at the end of the beach, a log cabin housed saunas that were warm throughout our stay.

We were treated to wonderful fresh, locally produced food 3 times a day and trips that included the winter Olympics site, huskies, industry and agriculture as well as opportunities for walks, fishing and yoga. There was plenty of chance to get to know everyone and make new friends during the team games of the summer Olympics, swamp soccer (for those brave enough!) and a beach bbq/party, not to mention the socialising in the bar with nightly entertainment.



If you have recently returned from a trip with the Discovery Programme, why not join the Young Farmers Ambassadors and come to a UK Reunion or an IFYE Conference. As a

Baby IFYE you are entitled to a reduction of 160 CHF (equivalent to approximately £128) for your first conference which applies for 3 years following your trip. Our 2012 IFYE event is near Gothenburg in Sweden 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July see [www.ifye.nusweifye@live.se](mailto:www.ifye.nusweifye@live.se) for details, or e-mail me [maryroberts@talktalk.net](mailto:maryroberts@talktalk.net). As your Contact Member for England & Wales, I can let you have all the information you need.

If this doesn't tempt you then you can always join us after the Royal Welsh Show in Monmouthshire in 2013. So go on, take the plunge, you won't regret it and will definitely want to come again. See you there !

*Mary Roberts, IFYE Contact Member, Holland 1977*

# Welcome to Wales

55th European  
International Farm Youth Exchange  
Alumni Association Conference



HABERDASHERS' MONMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

July 25th - August 1st, 2013

# NEWYDDION – NEWS

On Sunday morning the 13th of March 2011, seven members and past members of the YFC plummeted 12,000ft to raise money for the charity Mind Cymru. Who were these fools I hear you asking?

Well, the ring leader was Enfys Evans, Llanddeiniol YFC (European Rally 2007,09) and she persuaded her sister Anwen, Ffion Evans and Alwen Jones, past members of Llanddeiniol YFC, Sara Downes (European Rally 2008), Aled Johnson (European Rally 2007) and Kay Morgan, Gwent (Chair

of Wales YFC Activities and International Committee), to join her. Enfys had decided to undertake the challenge to raise money for the charity she had chosen to support as Wales YFC Chairman this year.

It was a perfect day for foolishness of this kind with the sun shining brightly and not a cloud in the sky. Falling 6000 feet in 45 seconds in free fall is a bit of an adrenalin rush to say the least! One or two of the crew have said, 'good experience but never again' and others are a little bit more open minded about giving it another go at some point! Over £3500 was raised for the charity Mind Cymru and the foolish gang would like to thank everybody for their support!



Back row: Aled, Anwen, Alwen, Kay  
Front Row: Enfys, Ffion, Sara

Mark & Nicola Walker (nee Mycock, Finland 1986 & Sri Lanka 1994) along with children Ella, George & Lucy, have moved all the way to the other side of their farm !!! The house has taken a long time to plan/build but is finally finished and visitors are always welcome.

Their new address is: Broadmeadow Farm, Alport, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1LH. Tel 01629 636874, email [markwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:markwalker@btinternet.com)

**Congratulations to Kay Spencer, nee Gynn (USA 1969), who has received an MBE for services to the agricultural community in Monmouthshire after organising the Monmouthshire show for 16 years and chairing the association of show and agricultural organisations for two years.**



Congratulations to Bryce and Kate MacKellar (nee Woodcock) on the recent arrival of a baby boy, Ewan William James MacKellar.

Croeso i Eurig Ifan. Congratulations to Rhydian (Seminar) and Elen, nee Evans, (Austria and Switzerland) on the birth of Eurig Ifan, brother to Gwenllian and Morgan. Llongyfarchiadau.



Congratulations to Buddug Lloyd (European Rally 2009) on her recent marriage to Gary Davies. They are currently enjoying their honeymoon, travelling around South America. Pob dymuniad da i chi.

Llongyfarchiadau i Gwennan Davies. Congratulations to Gwennan Davies (Scotland and Rally) on being elected Board Member for the UK and Ireland of Rural Youth Europe at the European Rally in Slovenia in August 2011.



**Helen Keenlyside being presented with the YFA Trophy for 2010 by Donna Tavernor. Helen travelled to Kenya in 2010, and won the YFA trophy for creating a Powerpoint Presentation to promote her trip and the Discovery Programme**

## Milly Wastie ~European Rally, Switzerland 2008 and Sweden 2010 NFYFC Agriculture and Rural Affairs chairman and NFYFC vice chairman



Thanks to all the skills, qualifications and personal development achievements I have gained through being involved in the YFC movement (public speaking, leadership development training, chairing meetings and community fundraising) I became a regional officer for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution in 2008.

The R.A.B.I is the national farming charity for England and Wales and provides practical and financial assistance to farmers, farm workers and their families who suffer a need, hardship or are in distress. Currently the R.A.B.I supports over 1,500 beneficiaries on a long term basis as well as many many more working farmers with one off grants.

Although a national charity, R.A.B.I support our industries people on a local level ensuring that financial and practical assistance goes to those who need it the most. When illness strikes or an accident happens R.A.B.I can help to provide mobility equipment or a grant for a relief worker to continue working the farm whilst the individual recovers. And when there are no other options,

R.A.B.I can help those to retire with dignity or provide a grant to help achieve qualifications and diversify their farm income.

In 2010, R.A.B.I celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and NFYFC pledged their support by encouraging each YFC club to raise £150 towards the charity. This provided me with a fantastic opportunity to talk to various YFC clubs on the work of R.A.B.I, gather support and funds to help aid in what the charity is trying to achieve and indirectly increasing my profile within the YFC networks.

I am very proud to be able to raise money for such a worthy cause that supports our industries workers. I hope that other counties across Europe have a similar organisation that they can turn to if they fall on hard times.

For more information on the work of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution please visit [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk)

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### Electronic YFA Newsletter.

We have received a good response to our suggestion for members to convert to 'paperless' Newsletters. Thanks to those who have responded.

The intention is to eventually place more pictures on the website, and to 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 to receive an electronic copy, please contact me, Huw, on [dfw@aber.ac.uk](mailto: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](http://www.ifye.co.uk). Many Thanks. Diolch.



## EXCHANGE REPORT MOLLIE BUCK, USA 1959

Whether you were a YFC Exchangee recently or many years ago I highly recommend you try to attend a YFA Reunion and meet up with folks who have had similar experiences and hopefully with those who shared yours, and enjoy a wonderful weekend into the bargain.

In 1959 I was one of the very lucky ones selected to go to USA on the International Farm Youth Exchange programme along with Pat Hughes and Gwilym Williams from Wales, and Bryan Fell from the then county of Westmoreland. Sadly we lost touch with Pat, but Gwilym and Bryan have become like brothers to me and when we meet, we share our memories of the 4 months of the summer of 1959 which changed our lives. We still marvel at the great opportunity we were given in those far off days of 52 years ago, and particularly recall all the help we were given by dear Barbara Tylden.

We were all from small family farms, and for my part had travelled very little apart from trips to London to take part in NFYFC events. Apart from wealthy folk or businessmen, very few people visited the USA in those days and even fewer travelled by air, or went on cruises. It was even before cheap holidays to Spain and the like.

Our crossing of the Atlantic was by sea so imagine our delight to be able to sail from Southampton to New York on the Cunard Line Mauretania with the return journey on the old Queen Elizabeth.

I am sure recent exchangees have had similar life changing experiences as we had but for us the world was SUCH a different place in 1959. I remember we were not allowed to take more than £50 out of



**Bryan Fell, Mollie Buck (nee Garrill) and Gwilym Williams celebrating 50 years since their Exchange Visit to the USA**

the country at that time and there were no credit cards. Phone calls to and from the US were very expensive, and there were certainly no mobile phones or e mail etc - Gwilym asked his mother what he should do if he was taken ill. She replied that by the time she received his letter he would either be dead or better !!!!!!!

As well as seeing wonderful sights, the care and interest we received from our many host families in 2 different States was unforgettable and formed lifelong friendships. At home I worked on my family 80 acre mixed farm on the

edge of the Lincolnshire fens so I could hardly believe that I wasn't dreaming to find my first host family to be on a 14,000 acre cattle ranch in the Colorado Rocky Mountains!

They had 2 boys, Wayne 15, and Kermit 13. Wayne went on to be a Vet and Kermit an Accountant. In later years Wayne got into politics and was elected from Colorado first to the House of Representatives, and then for 2 terms to the Senate in Washington DC. In Jan 2003 my husband Ted and I were so proud to be with Wayne's family to witness his swearing in ceremony in the Senate in Washington DC.

Another thing I remember, illustrating how times have changed, was when we got back to the UK Bryan and I went to a YFA Reunion in N. Ireland. We flew from Manchester Airport which at that time consisted of 2 or 3 large hangers and an airstrip!!

Happy memories, Mollie Buck (nee Garrill).

**John James** (Russia 1971), has been very busy lately. In fact, he has been busy for many years, which is why he has recently been awarded with his local paper's Community Farming Champion Award. He was also runner up in the NFU Cymru Wales Rural Community Champion Awards. Llongyfarchiadau gwresog John.

John has supported everything that is good in his community. He is President elect of Carmarthenshire Federation of YFCs; he is a community councillor, has been secretary of the local male voice choir for 20 years, a Cothi Bridge Show steward for 45 years, a comprehensive and primary school governor, secretary of the local eisteddfod and chairman of Felingwm Community Centre. He also finds time to farm and retail Organic Beef and Lamb from Tyllwyd, Felingwm.

As well as all this, he recently met up again with Kym Trethewey who returned to Carmarthen to visit the James' family where he stayed as an exchangee 45 years ago.

Kym farms 7,000 sheep on Kangaroo Island, South Australia and has exchanged letters with John every Christmas since, sharing all the agricultural and political news from both countries



Nine Estonians aged 16-26 visited Devon recently and were hosted by Devon Young Farmers. They took part in a range of trips and activities including visiting the Mid-Devon show, a dairy farm and attending a Young Farmers barn dance. Sixteen Devon Young Farmers organised and took part in the activities and the Estonians were hosted by members who come from Tavistock, Plymouth, South Molten and Christow. The other members who took part came from Black Dog, Okehampton, Exeter, Cullompton and Kingsbridge. The programme was almost entirely funded by Youth in Action British Council Money as well as fund-raising and donations from Ivybridge YFC, Witheridge YFC, Kingsbridge YFC and East Devon YFC group.

Jennifer Rowland, **Secretary of Ivybridge Young Farmers and Exchangee to Kenya, 2011**

## RURAL YOUTH SPRING SEMINAR 2011

'Spicing up their potential' recently in Strasbourg were 40 Young Farmers from all over Europe, including this crew from the British Isles.

Much was learnt about maximizing Personal Development and coaching skills, but there was also enough time to do some sightseeing and learning about different cultures .



Sitting: Sean Doorley (Ireland) and Russell Carrington (England).  
L to R standing: Kate Lyons (England), Yvonne Daly (Ireland), Lucy Stonebridge (Wales), Rachel Mathias (Wales) and Ruth Blackburn (Northern Ireland).

# 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 previous Newsletters.

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), (Austria in 1976). Last known to be living in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

Anthony Allen, (Nepal 1984). Last known to be living in Florida.

Clive Parrot, (Canada 1982). Last known to be living in Swindon.

Graham Carter, (Zambia 1995). Last known to be living in Blunham, Bedfordshire.

Julia Robson (nee Hudspeth), (USA 1991). Last known to be living in Alnwick, Northumberland.

Sarah Rogers, (Australia, Rally). Last known to be living in Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Joan Syrett, (Sweden 1991). Last known to be living in Barford, Norfolk.

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).

XX

Thanks to all of you who have contributed articles, news and photos to the Autumn 2011 YFA Newsletter. Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi gyd.

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



# YFA Reunion 2011



28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 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. Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, a Welsh Statesman and Politician will be our guest speaker.

On Sunday night we will be entertained by Cor y Moelwyn Male Voice Choir.

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.

**THREE NIGHTS FULL BOARD FOR ONLY £199**

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