



# Young Farmers Ambassadors



## **ENGLAND AND WALES**

### **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

Spring is here, and we have just started lambing and sowing our spring crops, so it's a busy time of year for us. Let's hope it warms up quite a bit as the grass and winter crops are all looking a bit sad here in West Wales.

I had the pleasure of attending the annual Reunion in Newcastle in the autumn. It was great to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. My thanks go to Elizabeth Stewart and her small team for arranging an excellent weekend. I hope to see some new faces, and of course all of the old faces too, in Aviemore in October.

As you will see later, we have included a Members Questionnaire with this Newsletter. Please take some time to complete it, as it is important for me and the committee to know what you, the members of England and Wales YFA want from the organisation, so we can keep the YFA relevant into the future.

If you have any further comments, please feel free to contact me.

James Cowan  
J.cow@live.co.uk  
07885 576926

# **WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER**

England and Wales YFA would like to congratulate the successful candidates for the 2010 YFC International Exchange Programmes. Pob hwyl ar eich taith / Good luck to you all, you are going to have a great time.

## **2010 Wales International Exchange Programme Participants**

### **Ulster Homestay**

Trystan Jones, Caerwedros, Ceredigion a Ruth Lewis, Llangefni, Ynys Mon

### **Scotland Homestay**

Caryl Haf, Llanddewibrefi, Ceredigion ac Anne Evans, Keyson, Pembrokeshire

### **Finland Homestay**

Sara Edwards, Eglwysrwr, Pembrokeshire a Rhydian Lloyd, Tregaron, Ceredigion

### **USA Homestay**

Eirian Williams, Felinfach, Ceredigion a Mererid Wyn Jones, Felinfach, Ceredigion

### **RYE Spring Seminar (Welsh Team)**

Einir Ryder, Pontsian, Ceredigion a Kate Miles, Neath, Glamorgan

### **RYE Autumn Seminar (Welsh Team)**

Rhys Parry Williams, Penybont, Carmarthenshire a Bethan Griffiths, Dyffryn Cothi, Carmarthenshire

### **RYE European Rally (Welsh Team)**

Gwennan Davies, Llanwenog, Ceredigion (Leader)  
Wayne Shanlin, South Pems, Pembrokeshire; Lowri Jones, Caerwedros, Ceredigion;  
Lucy Stonebridge, Howey, Radnor a Meinir Jones, Llanfynydd, Carmarthenshire

### **Canada (Winter Fair)**

Tracy Evans, Pontsian, Ceredigion ac Eleri James, Talybont, Ceredigion

## **2010 Discovery Programme Participants**

### **Australia Rural Youth Homestay**

Dawn Wainwright, Ashbourne, Derbyshire – YFA SCHOLAR

### **C Alma Baker**

Rowan Jupp, Masham, Yorkshire; Amanda Harris, St Mabyn, Cornwall; Matthew Wood, Crowle, Worcestershire and Stuart Jakeman, Caterbury, Kent

### **Canada Junior Farmers**

Mary Philips, Sennybridge, Brecknock and Helen Jones, Norton & Gaulby, Leicestershire & Rutland

### **Canada 4H**

Katie Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire; May Kite, Stone, Staffordshire and Samantha Trick, Chittlehampton, Devon

## **Norway 4H – IFYE**

Aimee Mahony, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire & Rutland – **YFA Scholar**

## **New Zealand**

Mollie Harrison, Wymondham, Norfolk

## **Switzerland**

Elaine Dymond, Liskeard, Cornwall

## **Austria**

Richard Adams, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

## **Sweden**

Simon Haley, Bilsbarrow, Lancashire

## **Germany Homestay**

Samantha Barnard, Whimple & Broadclyst, Devon and Isobel Mogford, Henley, Oxfordshire

## **Scotland Homestay**

Nicola Chegvidden, St Columb, Cornwall and Charlotte Faulkner, Dorking, Surrey

## **Ulster Homestay**

Rachael Parry, Shropshire and Katie Lyons, Chew Valley, Somerset

## **Nordic 4H Youth Camp Leaders**

Gerald Norman, St Albans, Hertfordshire and Helen Keenlyside, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

## **RYE Spring Seminar (English Team)**

Rachel Jones, Shropshire and Georgina Pearson, Grantham, Lincolnshire

## **RYE Autumn Seminar (English Team)**

Philip Brindley, Ashley, Staffordshire

## **RYE Study Session (English Team)**

Lucy Reed, Honiton, Devon and Donna Tavernor, Staffordshire

## **European Rally (English Team)**

Milly Wastie, Northampton (Leader)

Bob Dronfield, Bakewell, Derbyshire; Harriet Wilson, Eccleshall, Staffordshire;  
Claire Worden, Lostwithiel, Cornwall and Lydia Cox, Langport, Somerset

## **Kenya Team Travel**

Laura Andrews, Usk, Gwent; Emyr Beynon, St Ishmaels, Carmarthenshire; Joy Cornock, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire – **YFA SCHOLAR**; Hannah Fox, Dorrington, Shropshire; Elizabeth Hunt, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire; Carwyn Jones, Ceredigion; Catherine Jones, Gower, Glamorgan; Helen Keenlyside, Kenilworth, Warwickshire; Anna Mayo, Wentwood, Gwent; Christine Parkinson, Slaidburn, Lancashire; Elisabeth Watts, North Herts, Hertfordshire; Harriet Wisson, Bedford, Bedfordshire

## **Uganda Team Travel**

Caroline Dawson, Cilcain, Clwyd; Rachael Goodfellow, Marshwood Vale, Dorset; Felicity Goss, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire; Catrin Jones, Ceredigion; Gareth Laking, Alford, Lincolnshire; Isabel Lougher, Wentwood, Gwent; Susan Mitchell, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire; Helen Morse, Liskeard, Cornwall – **YFA SCHOLAR**; Martin Smale, Launceston, Cornwall; Victoria Ward, Whittington & Oswestry, Shropshire

# NEWYDDION – NEWS

Llongyfarchiadau i Heledd Rees a Gwyndaf ar enedigaeth Meleri, chwaer i Siwan Fflur.

Congratulations to Heledd Rees (nee Dafydd, USA 1999) and Gwyndaf on the birth of Meleri, a sister for Siwan Fflur



Our Chairman, James Cowan is doing his best to monopolize the news in this edition of the YFA Newsletter



As well as celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday recently, James got married to Sarah back in the Autumn.

**Here they are with baby Harri. Congratulations to you both.**

**Llongyfarchiadau.**

James, who is now a full time farmer, runs a 250 acre beef and sheep farm with brother, Alec. The farm was added to the HCC (Meat Promotion Wales) Demonstration farm network in 2009. Demonstration farms play

an important role in the industry by looking for new ways to achieve efficiencies and make improvements to their businesses whilst sharing their findings with other farmers who can then apply these improvements to their own businesses.

Although the new Chairwoman of NFYFC is not a member of YFA, I'm sure that Martin Williams (Finland and Rally) will pass on our congratulations to her. Helen Roberts has become the first-ever person from Montgomery to reach the role of national chair, and is the first from Wales since 1990. Well done Helen.

Stephen James (USA 4H, 1975) has just been elected as Vice President of NFU Cymru – Wales. Congratulations Stephen.

*Llongyfarchiadau i Delme Harries, a etholwyd yn Gadeirydd Bwrdd Rheoli CFFI Cymru yn ddiweddar, ac i Enfys Evans Is-gadeiryddes newydd CFFI Cymru.*

*Congratulations to Delme Harries on his election to the prestigious post of Chairman of the Board of Management of Wales YFC, and to Enfys Evans on her election as Vice-Chair of Wales YFC.*

# MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE 2010

Annwyl Aelod YFA / Dear YFA Member,

Occasionally we undertake the very important task of asking you, our members, what you think of the Young Farmers Ambassadors, and how we can improve our service to you.

This has not been done for a number of years, so now is the time for an update of comments and suggestions. Of course, you are free to comment and make suggestions at any time, but as a committee, we feel that this sort of tick box questionnaire often encourages our members to think about the various aspects of our work and our services to you.

As an added encouragement to take part in the survey, all completed questionnaires (be they complimentary of YFA or otherwise !!), one lucky participant will receive a voucher for £50 off the cost of the 2011 YFA Reunion in Wales.

Our next committee meeting is due to be held in August 2010, so in order for us to be able to report on the findings of the survey to that meeting (and for you to be included in the prize draw), we'd be grateful if you could return the questionnaire to Huw by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2010.

There is a copy of the questionnaire on our web page, which is easily accessible from [www.ifye.co.uk](http://www.ifye.co.uk), which you should be able to fill in and send electronically, or alternatively, please send it back to the address at the end of the questionnaire.

Diolch am eich cymmorth a'ch sylwadau

Thanks in advance for your answers, comments and suggestions.

*James Cowan, March 2010*

**1. What is the most important reason for you being a member of the YFA ?**

(either tick one, or rank the reasons in order of importance (1 for most important).

- a. Receiving the twice yearly Newsletter
- b. Chance to attend the YFA Reunion
- c. Chance to attend European or World IFYE Conferences
- d. Contribute membership fee to the running of the YFC International Exchange Programme
- e. Other (please specify.....)

**2. How often do you attend the YFA Reunion?**

- a. Regularly in the last 5 years
- b. At least once in the past 5 years
- c. Not in the past 5 years, but regularly before then
- d. Once or twice in the past
- e. Never

**3. All of these are currently offered to those attending most YFA Reunions.** In order to help us to plan Reunions more effectively, please order them in order of importance to you OR please state which elements would attract you to attend a YFA Reunion (1 for most important).

- a. 'All in' full board weekend at a reasonable price
- b. Family friendly hotels
- c. Full leisure facilities at the Hotel
- d. Close to transport links
- e. Chance to visit local attractions, some of which are not available to the general public
- f. Chance to socialise with old friends, and to make new ones
- g. Other (please specify.....)

If you have not attended the YFA Reunion for a while, or ever, is there any particular reason ?

**4. Have you ever attended a YFC exchange group reunion other than the YFA Reunion ?**

a. Yes

**5. Some areas in England and Wales hold their own YFA events during the year.**

a. Would you be interested in hearing about these YFA events in the Newsletter?

b. Would you be interested in helping to arrange local YFA events in your area?

**6. Electronic Communication**

Have you received an email from YFA in the last 2 months? If not, we would be happy to put you on our electronic mailing list, which is used to ask for news items to put in the Newsletter, let our members know about YFA events going on around the country, and to generally keep in touch.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please put your Email address here

Your name and country visited (so that we know who's email we have !!)

  

**7. Hosting**

Sometimes incoming exchangees need to be placed with families at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances at their intended hosts.

YFA have an emergency hosting list with names of members willing and able to host an exchangee for a short period at short notice.

Would you be willing and able to host an exchangee at short notice? Please tick here for yes

Remember, if you would like to host incoming exchangees as part of the regular exchange programme, please contact your local YFC county office.

Do you have any other comments about your YFA?

PTO to input your contact details Thanks. Trosodd i gofnodi eich manylion cysylltu. Diolch

Please complete your contact details here if you want to. We will use them to check that our records are up to date, and to put you in the draw for the £50 voucher off the cost of the 2011 YFA Reunion in Wales.

Name	
Maiden name (if applicable)	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email	
Last trip – destination	
Last trip – year	

Please return to :

Huw Williams  
Ael y Bryn  
Llanon  
Ceredigion  
SY23 5HX

Or email to :

[dfw@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dfw@aber.ac.uk)

# 2009 Spring Seminar - Latvia

On 6th June, I flew out to Latvia with Bob Dronfield, a member of Derbyshire YFC, where we represented the England Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (YFC). Back in December we attended an interview in Stratford upon Avon, where we were selected to become Ambassadors of YFC on the Discovery Programme Spring Seminar to be held in Konu, Latvia.

Once we arrived in Latvia we were greeted by a member of the Latvian 4H, an organisation which involves over 2,500 children and youths in Latvia. Alongside this is the Latvian YFC, a non-governmental rural youth organisation which invites members of age 16 plus to join. Between these two organisations they hosted the Spring Seminar.

At the Konu Mill, where the seminar was held, we met all the other participants - 24 members from 13 different European Countries and five senior members from Rural Youth Europe, the parent organisation to all our individual organisations.

During the week we learned many new skills and gained a real view of how other countries ran their rural organisations. The whole Seminar was based around the title '*Rich in Diversity - United in Creative Growth in the Countryside*'. Activities included a trip around the Konu Mill, a fully-working 19<sup>th</sup> Century cotton mill. Activities during the week included many team building activities to develop our personal skills and an Intercultural Buffet where everyone brought a small sample of local produce grown or made in their Country or local area. For example we took with us Bakewell Pudding from Bakewell, Derbyshire, Colmans English Mustard, Melton Mowbray Pork Pie from Leicestershire, locally produced Stilton Cheese, Yorkshire Tea Loaf and Bassetts Licquorice Allsorts along with a Derbyshire Local Ale.



**Bob and Collette at the Intercultural Buffet**

Also on the trip we participated in workshops on key rural youth issues involving the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture and Local Municipalities. We visited local youth enterprises and farms where we gained a real understanding of how they managed their farms and other rural businesses. My favourite of these was Camphill - a project set up to enable mentally handicapped people to farm and produce local produce such as goats cheese.

Further on during the week we participated in creative workshops on rural development. The workshop I was involved in included a visit to a local Blacksmith where we learnt how



# Weston Garfield Exchange with Canada 4-H

*By Marie Stubbs, Chase YFC, Staffordshire*

My trip began on the NFYFC Discovery Selection Day where Canada seemed so far away. Before I knew it I was sat in London Gatwick airport wondering what was waiting for me over the next five weeks.

I landed at Toronto airport, and felt relieved to be met by Marie Winter, and suddenly I wasn't on my own anymore.

During my stay I was hosted by many people across Ontario, and I soon settled in to the Canadian culture and laid back way of living. All my hosts were great, offering to take me to whatever I wanted to see, and also keen to introduce me to 4-H.

Whilst in Ontario I was fortunate to visit a lot of the province, starting off in Vittoria, and then going to Vankleek Hill on the border between Ontario and Quebec, and then visited Alliston, then onto Guelph, followed by Kincardine and finally finished my trip with 5 days in Toronto at the National 4-H conference.

The beginning of my trip made me soon realise how well Halloween is celebrated, along with Thanksgiving. It really was colourful and lovely to see how everybody celebrated throughout the months of October and November.

Days out included crossing over the Ontario / Quebec border to Montreal and I spent a great day seeing the sights and experiencing the famous Schwartz sandwiches! I went to see a hockey game, which was really something again, and very different to how I know hockey from school. I was very lucky and visited Niagara Falls, and got to go on the Maid



of the Mist boat tour. This was amazing, and worth the soaking we got! A few days later I went to Toronto and went up the CN tower, and experienced views that were out of this world. You are able to see for miles, with giant sky scrapers looking like dots.

Whilst in Toronto we took a trip to the BATA shoe museum, which really was my idea of heaven!

An experience, and one I don't think I will forget for a while, was visiting a vets surgery and watching operations. After almost fainting, I knew that it wouldn't be a career I would be rushing to take up when I got home.

With all this, I really didn't think the trip could get any better, but my final week was staying in Toronto at the National 4-H conference. This was a fantastic experience, and one I shall never forget. With guest speakers, and days out, and activities, it was a fun packed week. Very tiring, but every minute was worth it. With people there from different provinces across Canada, I met a lot of new people and made a lot of new friends, some of whom I still keep in touch with now.

Canada is a very beautiful country, and although I only experienced a very small part of it, its vast land area and scenic views all made my trip one never to forget. I would recommend travelling to anybody who ever gets the opportunity, and with organisations as fun and safe as Young farmers, and 4-H, there's no better way to get to see a country and experience its culture than a YFC International Exchange.

## **REPORT ON THE 2009 YFA REUNION, NEWCASTLE**

A select group of YFA members from all over the UK got together from the 23rd to 26th of October 2009 at the Marriot Gosforth Park, Newcastle for the 53rd YFA Reunion. Despite problems finding an affordable hotel with facilities, and Liz Stewart being in severe pain during most of the autumn due to a bad back, eventually everything came together. The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening Northumbrian ceilidh with 'The Bogus Callers'. They were so popular that many dancers (some better than others !!) joined us from the dinner next door. Our sincere thanks go to Liz and her team for a great weekend.



The warmest possible welcome awaits us all at the 2010 YFA Reunion, which is to be held at the Hilton Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore, Scotland from Friday the 29th of October 2010 to Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2010.

The committee, which is lead by Steedsy has managed to get us the full weekend for a total cost of £199! This is a bargain price for full board at a Hilton Hotel with Leisure Facilities. As a further treat, it is likely that the cost for children under 12 will be very cheap! There are excellent transport links, with a regular train service, and a pick up service from Inverness Airport. The Hotel is in the Cairngorms National Park, which is an ideal place to spend a relaxing weekend in October with old and new friends. For more details on the Reunion, phone Steedsy on 07789 441 420 or click the link from the YFA UK website at [www.ifye.co.uk](http://www.ifye.co.uk)

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Thanks to all of those who have contributed articles and news to this Newsletter. If you have any news that you think might be of interest to your fellow YFA members, please contact me, Huw Williams, Ael y Bryn, Llanon, Aberystwyth, SY23 5HX, [dfw@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dfw@aber.ac.uk), 01974 202439