



Young Farmers Ambassadors



ENGLAND AND WALES SUMMER 2007

A few words from your Chairman

Hi! Once again it is time for the newsletter to go to print and therefore time for me to start writing!! I'm sure that usually at this time of the year we would be looking back at a long, hot summer and all the barbeques, fêtes and outings that we have enjoyed, but alas, twas not to be!! But worry not, this is all the more reason to look forward to an Indian summer and a great reunion in Bridgend!

The YFA meeting scheduled for June has had to be postponed until September, so if you have any points to raise, you have until the 29th! On a more serious note, the weather has certainly played havoc with everyones plans this summer, and I hope that any members directly affected by all the flooding / FMD are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

The new YFC year is about to start so that will bring o new wave of opportunity for potential travellers to apply for the Discovery programme, and I'm sure that as YFA members we will be able to advise and assist in making this another successful year. And hopefully any assistance would be repaid with YFA membership!!

In the last newsletter, I asked for any suggestions as to what you the members wanted out of the YFA, but I'm not sure whether to take the complete lack of response as complete happiness or total indifference!!!! However, if any areas have managed to organise any get-togethers, please let me know so that I can give it a mention in our report at the AGM.

Can I also extend our congratulations to our past chairman Kay on finally making an honest man out of Dafydd! I'm sure we all wish them the best for their future.

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EUROPEAN RALLY 2007

With floodwaters in England rising only three of the English team (Louise Frost, Katherine Sealy and myself, Jacomina Wakeford) were able to attend the European Rally at Haus Düsse, an agricultural college near Bad Sassendorf. Our week kicked off with an 'extended scenic' tour of agriculture and the countryside en route from the airport, when we passed through the same village for the second time we discovered our German chauffeurs were not local and didn't quite know the way to the Rally site (they hoped we wouldn't detect this if they didn't stop and turn around)!

Following our safe arrival at Düsse it was straight into meeting the other teams. 21 teams from 19 countries were at the Rally and throughout the exercises we were mixed up, rarely working with those from our own country. Activities through the week focussed on team building exercises and developing communication skills within our theme "Future under construction - Youth at work in Europe"; with English being the second (third or fourth) language for most of the delegates I was very impressed by the high standards of discussion being attained.

We all visited Münster followed by a BBQ kindly provided by the Farmers Association, complete with film crew and 'Six Pack' the male vocalists who were to serenade us throughout the week, their rendition of the theme to the cartoon 'Gummy Bears' provided the inspiration for the song 'Rally Bears'. Louise and Katherine stayed with host families and visited a Class (parts) factory whilst I spent two days in Berlin attending the Rural Youth Europe General Assembly and touring the Reichsteig (Parliament), meeting representatives from German political parties and seeing the sites including the Brandenburg Gate and remaining section of the Berlin Wall.

We returned to Haus Düsse for the closing ceremony, and final dinner which was held in neighbouring Bad Sassendorf. The TV crew who had trailed us for much of the week was present and conducted live interviews for Germany's National TV prior to the



dinner. As this was the 50th Rally we were joined by former RYEurope Chairmen to celebrate in true YFC style, waited on by the local Landjugend (YF) Club who quickly joined us on the dancefloor. We spent the final day sight-seeing in Cologne before flying home to catch up on much needed sleep, with plans already made to visit our new friends.

Jacomina Wakeford

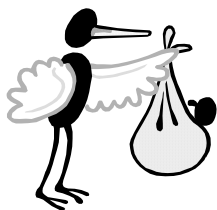
L-R, Jacomina Wakeford (E - Leader), Aled Johnson (W), Enfys Evans (W), Gwenan Davies (W), Ros Bushell (W), Owen Jones (W - Leader), Katherine Sealy (E), Louise Frost (E)

NEWYDDION NEWS

Sue Crawley (Australia 1969) has recently retired as Nottinghamshire YFC County Organiser after 30+ years.

She had a retirement hog roast which was a lovely afternoon and was well attended by past and present members. Notts YFC will miss her and wish her well in her retirement, as does everyone in YFA.

Llongyfarchiadau – Congratulations to Heledd Dafydd (USA 1999) on her recent engagement to Gwyndaf Rees.



Congratulations to **Siwan Shaw (Nee Jones) (Alma Baker)** who has recently given birth to Jock Dafydd. Llongyfarchiadau. As Siwan now lives in New Zealand with husband Greg, we can expect a Welsh Accent from incoming exchangees in a few years.

Congratulations also to **Glenys Jones (nee Davies) (European Rally)** and **Dafydd (USA)** on the recent birth of Nela, a sister for Lluwen. Newyddion gwych.



Editor's Note : We seem to be getting lots of babies born in Wales these days, but I can't remember the last notification of an English birth. So come on you English, either get your happy news to me, or start making babies !!!!!

Congratulations to **Martyn Quayle** who has just been elected as President of European IFYE. You may remember that we brought you the news in the last Newsletter that Martyn had been elected to the House of Keys, the elected branch of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, and that he was then appointed as Minister for Home Affairs.

Martyn's election to the Presidency of European IFYE marks a notable triple for members of England and Wales YFA. **Delme Harries** is currently in his second year as Chair of Rural Youth Europe, and **Kate Cross** is presently Chair of Council of NFYFC.

'Feel good in Norway' (the theme of the 2007 IFYE Conference)

Yes we did! Leaving a very wet Wales we joined 170 members from 18 countries at Melsom College on the coast of SE Norway. The sun shone for the whole week but then as they say in Norway 'there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing'!

Our first day was spent in the forest adjoining the college participating in team games including tug o' war, dry skiing, making a cardboard cat and pole balancing with cups of water!! In the evening we celebrated St Olav's day with an international buffet where we all sampled the delights of larva bread, cockles, local cheeses and Welsh cakes. Pork pies, trifle and liquorice allsorts were also on offer from England.

On Monday, we all took a cruise to the archipelago - the end of the world - and enjoyed some beautiful coastline in fantastic weather. 'We are sailing' and renditions from 'Titanic' were amongst the songs on the return journey which continued late into the night.

Throughout the week we were able to choose from a variety of trips including a 4H farm; the Borre National park Viking museum and burial mounds; the house of Munch - home of the famous Norwegian artist and many other activities with coastal walks.

At the General Assembly meeting Martin Quayle, IOM, was elected as President - we offer him our congratulations and best wishes. Visits took place to host families in the afternoon where we sampled true Norwegian hospitality and they joined us at a bbq back at the college with even more games of toss the wellie and climbing through a string cobweb!

The week ended with trips to Tonsburg, Norway's oldest town, steeped in history and Sandeford to see the whaling museum. The farewell dinner carried on until sunrise, finishing with bbq sausages for breakfast.

If you've never attended an IFYE Conference before, why not try one in 2008; a very special year. It's the 50th European gathering in Switzerland 19-26th July and the 9th World Conference in Adelaide, South Australia 4-11th October.

Visit the IFYE website for up to date information.

You won't be disappointed.

Mary Roberts (Holland 1977)



Llongyfarchiadau gwresog i Dafydd a Kay.

Many congratulations to **Dafydd Lewis** (Rally, USA and past chair of Wales YFC) and **Kay Harries** (Rally, Seminar, Youth Camp Leader and Past Chair of England and Wales YFA) on their recent marriage.

The picture shows members of Cwmann and Llysyfran YFCs giving Dafydd and Kay the traditional YFC 'Guard of Honour'.

Bob lwc yn eich cartef newydd. Best wishes in your new home.

YFC 75th Anniversary Tractor Challenge

Dan Halliday (Rally 2004) and **Bryce Mackellar** (Ulster 2004, Rally 2005), both National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs vice-chairmen left the Basildon Tractor Plant, Essex in a (kindly loaned) New Holland T7040 Tractor on Wednesday 27th June to undertake their planned 75th Year Anniversary Tractor Challenge.

They travelled a total of 1,562 miles in 4 days whilst visiting the most Eastern, Northern, Western (Wales) and Southern points of England and Wales. Lowestoft, Bewick Upon Tweed, St. David's and Lizard's Point were the four points touched before the pair headed back to NAC the Royal Showground

in time for the Royal Show on Sunday 1st July, and a main ring parade!

The tractor was fuelled on B100 biofuel, kindly donated by Petrochem Carless Limited and the lads were fuelled by Pot Noodles, Red Bull and Pro-Plus!

The aim was to up the profile of YFC and raise money for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. The pair featured live on Chris Evan's BBC Radio 2 Drive Time Show, also Radio 1's Vernon Kay's Saturday morning Show as well as Radio Essex, Radio Devon, BBC Midlands today and a mention on Welsh TV. News clips have also been posted by YFC members in their local papers all over England and Wales – the lads achieved what they set out to do!

So far the total raised is around the £3,000 mark. To donate to this great cause and to support the lads please contact NFYFC.



Ed : Fantastic achievement lads. There's a pint each for you waiting at the YFA Reunion.

Dear E & W YFA,

A quick hello from Dunedin, New Zealand. We cannot believe that it has been two and a half years since we bid the UK goodbye. Our feet have not touched the floor since but we have made huge inroads with the redeveloping of our 1880's house and section. Richard has been Bob the Builder under my brothers' instruction and has made a brilliant job of restoring Milton House to its former glory. The end is in sight with the structural stuff and I am looking forward to doing the girlie bits soon.

We have attended recently the 75th Anniversary of the Otago Southland Young Farmers Clubs. YFC world wide must have started about 1932, Country Girls and Young Farmers amalgamated in early 1970s and there was a wonderful weekend of chat laughter and nonsense by the 300 attendees.

In our time here we have had several YFA visitors, Clive and Gill Parker (Gill cooked Xmas dinner a la camping style!!), Jane and Tony Hiles (Pidgeon), Richard and Wendy, Mathew Watts, and many UK friends, which has been fabulous.

Richard is due back in England to visit his family and will no doubt be concerned about the Foot and Mouth scare once again. We do hope the outbreak is controlled swiftly.

We are planning to be in Adelaide next year and look forward to seeing some familiar faces.

Regards Ali and Richard Siphthorp

A reminder to you returning 2007 Travellers.

You have a chance to win the YFA Trophy, and to receive vouchers to the value of £50 off the 2008 YFA Reunion.

Simply complete your A1 Board or Powerpoint™ Presentation of your recent trip and ensure it gets to Stoneleigh in time for the competition during National Competitions Day.

Remember, you have to create an A1 board or Powerpoint™ Presentation anyway, so why not get it out of the way early AND be in with a chance of being a winner as well!!

There are some great IFYE Conferences to look forward to.

The 50th European gathering is to be held in **Switzerland** from the 19th to the 26th of July, 2008. So if you're not intending to go to the Royal Welsh, there is no better place to be than at an IFYE European Conference.

In October 2008, why not arrange a trip to Adelaide, **Australia** for the World Conference, based in the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel from the 4th to the 11th of October. More information is available at www.ifyeoz2008.com. There is now an online Registration Form available.

Then in 2009, our good friends on the **Isle of Man** are welcoming us all to the European IFYE Conference. The provisional dates are the 4th to the 11th of July, 2009. More details to follow.

YFA AT THE ROYAL WELSH SHOW 2007

YFA had a notable presence at the 2007 Royal Welsh Show. Despite the atrocious weather, and pretty bad parking difficulties early in the week, the 202,000 people who attended managed to keep their spirits up and made it a show to remember for two YFA members.

One of the greatest honours in Welsh agriculture was given to Edward Perkins (USA 1967) when he was elected President of the Show Society for 2007. The 2007 show was a hectic week for Edward and his wife, Eireen (Holland), but Edward was very pleased that he was able to join fellow YFA members at a reception hosted by the Wales Reunion committee.

Pictured here is Edward and Rhiannon Dafydd (chair of the Wales Reunion Committee) cutting a cake, which was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rural Youth Europe.

Unfortunately, due to the European Rally clashing with the Show, Delme Harries (Chair of Rural Youth Europe) was unable to attend the Reception, but he sent a message. This was read out by Eryl Williams (YFA member, and current President of Wales Young Farmers)



In his message, Delme said 'It is an honour for me to be the current European Chairman and more of an honour to be the first Welsh man to hold this post, and I would like tothank all involved at all levels of YFC, be it my club, Llysyfran, through to Wales YFC and YFA for their support.

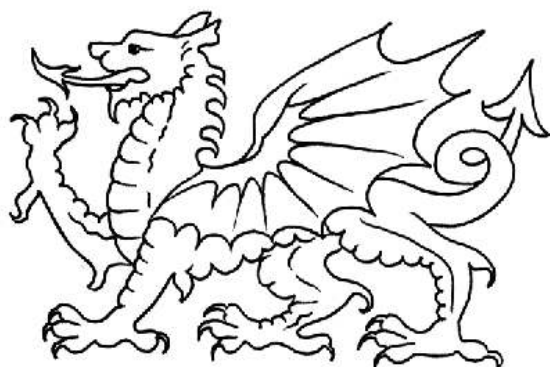
Thank you to the Wales YFA Reunion Committee for marking this 50th year (of Rural Youth Europe).... and I wish you all the best for the plans for the forthcoming YFA Reunion in Bridgend.'

It was also a notable show for Tim Pritchard (Australia 1982). He won the Supreme Champion Sheep for the second year in a row – and with a different ewe this time !
Congratulations Tim

A warm Welsh welcome awaits you at the 51st YFA Reunion

Croeso i Gymru. Welcome to Wales for the 2007 YFA Reunion and get prepared to find some Welsh treasure!

The fun and hunting starts on Friday 26th October 2007 and shall last all the way to Monday morning 29th October 2007, based at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, South Wales.



The hotel is easily accessible for all: only 5 minutes from Bridgend Mainline Railway Station, 10 minutes from the M4 Motorway, and 30 minutes from Cardiff International Airport.

On Saturday you can choose your destiny, from a visit to one of Europe's largest

theatre stages at the The Millennium Centre, see Wales' new Assembly building - the Senedd, or venture to great heights at the High Ropes experience.

Alternatively, there is the environmental farm visit or a unique medieval village scheduled for the morning, before the vineyard tour and wine tasting in the afternoon! A food festival, pottery visit and a heritage park are also amongst your choices.



Of course in addition to this, we will have plenty of games and treasure hunts, all themed 'Pirates and Smugglers', and a Formal Dinner.

So don't forget your Pirate or Smuggler outfit, and your gym kit and swimming costume to make the most of the weekend in Bridgend!

We look forward to see you there! For further details contact Angharad on 01974 202439 or dfw@aber.ac.uk, or browse through the enclosed Reunion Invitation Brochure.

Rhiannon Dafydd (Chair of the 2007 YFA Reunion)