



1945-2017



# Berkshire Federation Of Young Farmers Clubs Newsletter

## *Dates for your Diary*

### November

25<sup>th</sup> South East Area AGM and DEFRA led discussion (see page 8)

26<sup>th</sup> Jessie Matthews and Quiz Competitions

### December

5<sup>th</sup> County Executive Committee meeting – Liberty House 7.45pm

## November's Natter

### County Chair Update

What a busy few months Berkshire Young Farmers seem to have had after returning for the new YFC year. We had a stand at the Royal County of Berkshire Show to tell members of the public all about Young Farmers and members competed in stock-judging on the Sunday. It was great to have clubs there promoting Berkshire. Three clubs have also had their AGM's and it was nice to see cups presented to members and hear all about the year they have had. Members also got involved with the NFYFC week where National want to raise membership by 10%. Berkshire had a bowling evening and then Georgie, Lydia and myself covered 83 miles visiting all clubs at their meetings on the Wednesday of that week.

We have also had our County AGM and I am delighted to be your County Chairman for another year. We are however lacking in more senior members helping out in the county and taking on positions so if you want to get involved please let me know!

We are entering a busy time in terms of competitions so please speak to your club leaders to get involved with these. I look forward to seeing lots of you at future county meetings and want to take this opportunity to wish all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Katherine Bunn-County Chairman*

Berkshire YFC Office, Liberty House, Enterprise Centre,  
New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berks, RG19 6HW  
Office Tel: 01635 500872 Mobile: 07917 714640  
email: [berksyfc@btopenworld.com](mailto:berksyfc@btopenworld.com)

# County Competitions

To all members.

South East Area Spring Competitions weekend is happening on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February at Sparsholt College, Hampshire.

We are already holding the Member of the Year and Public Speaking County competitions on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and the winners will be asked to compete at Spring Comps, but we have many more competitions and opportunities taking place at Spring Comps. So if you are interested in any of the following competitions, want to know more, want to get involved/ compete PLEASE PLEASE let your Club Officers and me know as soon as possible.

|                                       |               |                |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Junior Dodgeball                      | 10 - 16 years |                |
| Mixed Ultimate Frizbee                | 16 - 26 years |                |
| Mixed 7 aside Hockey                  | 16 - 26 years |                |
| Jump Rope                             | 26 & under    |                |
| YFC Live (craft/ talent demo)         | 26 & under    |                |
| Disco Dancing                         | 26 & under    |                |
| Public Reading<br>14/01/18            | 14 & under    | County Comp on |
| Public Speaking; Junior<br>14/01/18   | 16 & under    | County Comp on |
| on 14/01/18                           | Just a minute | 21 & under     |
|                                       |               | County Comp    |
| 14/01/18                              | Debating      | 26 & under     |
|                                       |               | County Comp on |
| Member of the Year<br>14/01/18        | 18 & over     | County Comp on |
| Junior Member of the Year<br>14/01/18 | 17 & under    | County Comp on |
| Situation Vacant                      | 16 - 21 years |                |

Don't forget there's loads of information and the rules for these competitions on the NFYFC website.

If there is enough interest I will try to put together County Teams, if there is more than enough interest I will endeavour to put on County competitions to decide who should represent Berkshire YFC! Come on guys lets get Berkshire well represented.

I look forward to hearing from you and your Clubs

Gordon

Gordon Fletcher  
Comps

07939 504145

[gletcher@optimah.com](mailto:gletcher@optimah.com)



# Club Updates

## Club Contacts

**Newbury:** [newburyyfc@aol.com](mailto:newburyyfc@aol.com)

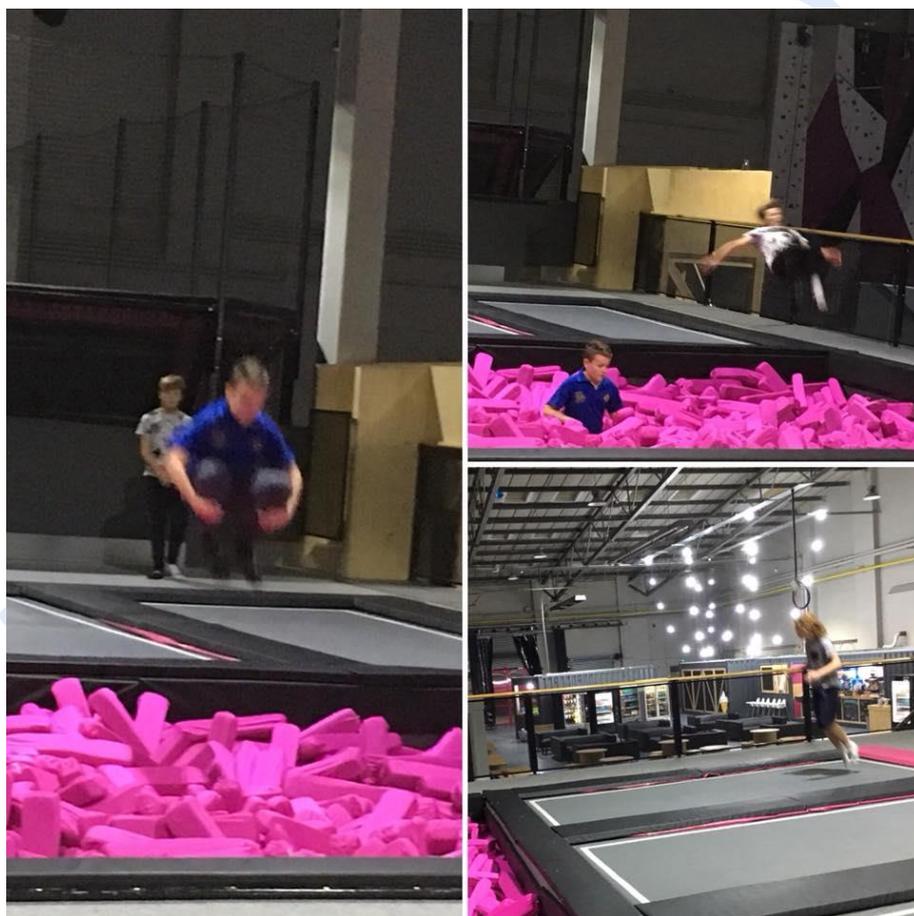
**Bradfield:** [sonia.walters2@btinternet.com](mailto:sonia.walters2@btinternet.com)

**Shefford:** [sheffordyfc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheffordyfc@hotmail.co.uk)

**Windsor&Maidenhead:** [wmyoungfarmers@outlook.com](mailto:wmyoungfarmers@outlook.com)

## Shefford

Great Shefford Young Farmers: Our club has had just one meeting since our club AGM and that was a fun filled night at Freedog, the trampolining centre in Swindon. A small group of around twenty of us all gathered ready to bounce, and bounce we did! We had a great time, especially as we had the hall to ourselves that night. All of the staff were really nice and conversational and a brilliant time was had by all, although the parents may have been a little jealous of the kids on this occasion!



Shown are Harry Ackrill, Archie Boswell-Pendleton and Ben Prout, photos courtesy of Sandi Ackrill.

If anyone is interested in joining our club please email [sheffordyfc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheffordyfc@hotmail.co.uk)

*Ben Prout- Press Secretary*



### Bradfield

We marked the end of the summer with our Club Camp. We were lucky enough to be able to take advantage of the facilities that are right on our doorstep provided by Rushall Farm. We had a very enjoyable couple of “Feral Days” involving activities ranging from night walks (not for the faint hearted), bike rides, games, building camp fires, toasting marshmallows, cooking and (of course) washing up – surprisingly both of these skills were new to some!

The highlight of the adventure was a full day of water sports with a help from our friends at The Outdoor Academy. An early start for the bleary-eyed campers, who had spent most of the night chatting rather than sleeping for Phase 1 – Open Canoeing between the Woolhampton and Aldermaston Locks. Nothing too difficult you may think; however, our paddling was interrupted by games en-route such as standing up and changing places with other people in the same canoe, singing silly rhymes, races and there was of course the usual splashing from some of the very enthusiastic members, in truth, it was the camp leader who instigated it all!

A short rest as we enjoyed our packed lunches then on to an afternoon of paddle boarding and kayaking and if you hadn’t already got a soaking during the morning there was no escaping one in the afternoon! Most campers endured a soggy and rather chilly journey back to base.

Overall a fantastic time was had, fears had been overcome, personal achievements made, friendships solidified and best of all memories created.

Our thanks to all that made it happen and we look forward to Camp 2018.



### National Competitions

Our congratulations to our very own Sarah Collings who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the National Floral Art Finals held at the Malvern Autumn Show. This is her amazing arrangement.



September began with a stock judging refresher in preparation to the Royal County of Berkshire Show, congratulations to our members who were successful in the beef and sheep competitions and for those got involved with the games in the Countryside Arena.

The show weekend was swiftly followed by NYFC week, a county bowling evening was enjoyed and we had a great time at the Vine and Craven Hunt Kennels as our own regular meeting that week.

We had to brave the elements at our next couple of meetings; a night of sporting extravaganza on the Bradfield Village sports court (webbed feet would have come in handy) and Den building in the woods at Rushall was also extremely wet, dark and somewhat challenging. However, a combination of teamwork and determination (to get finished and go home!) resulted in everyone building some type of shelter by the end of the evening.

October was dominated by our club AGM, a roundup of the year, awards and the election of our new committee. We were privileged to have our Club President, Richard Benyon MP, in attendance who made presentations to our members for their achievements. The traditional harvest supper provided a very sociable end to a very successful evening.



Since then we have had a talk given by one of our own members on living with diabetes, we made sausages at the County meeting in half term, attended the Harvest Festival service, hosted a Ready Steady Cook evening, kindly/bravely Judged by our Field Officer, Georgie Perry.

We have a full diary from now until the Christmas break and are looking forward to many events including trampolining, Parliament week, the County AGM and Quiz and not forgetting, of course, our now annual trip to the Pantomime ..... Oh Yes We Will!!

*Sonia Walters- Club Leader*

## Newbury

Since returning to meetings in September we have been mostly out and about for meetings. Most importantly we have had our AGM and although we sadly said 'Goodbye' to some older members who have contributed in many ways we have welcomed a new enthusiastic committee. Our Chairman is Ethan Keable, Vice Chair is Maddie Day and our Secretary is now a shared role between Sophie Lawrence and Miako Burton. Good Luck everyone.



As many of you may have seen we went to Wilton Windmill for an informative evening full of history and facts. We were given a full tour of every floor and what goes on there along with seeing all the old pictures and machines. Finally we were shown how to climb the sails and then we tried to start the Windmill turning but sadly there wasn't enough wind. They sold traditional stone ground flour that lots of us took home to try.

One club evening was spent bouncing around a Jump Factory in Basingstoke. There were not many other people jumping so we had plenty of space to really try those more difficult tricks! The session lasted an hour and was great fun.

'Come Dine with Me' was the title of our most recent meeting. We were given a short talk and cooking demonstration by Julia Moore on how to make and cook yummy omelettes and breakfast pancakes. We were shown how to make a delicious chocolate sauce that you can use hot or cold, even better than Nutella! There were lots of fillings and toppings and we soon we ran out of time as we tried to make 'just one more!' Thank you Julia.



Our next meetings are all about Christmas. Merry Christmas to all Young Farmers

*Emma Collins- Joint Club Leader*

## Windsor and Maidenhead

This Autumn we have had a tremendous start to our second year as a Young Farmers Club. At our first meeting we welcomed new members with an enjoyable climbing wall activity, and successively at our second meeting we hosted members for a clay pigeon shoot, which was wonderful fun for all members whether they were beginners or experienced shooters!



Since then we have had many successful meetings such as sheep handling and baking, and we are looking forward to hosting more exciting meetings in the upcoming weeks and months. This year we are becoming more involved with Young Farmer's nationally, and as a district club of Berkshire Young Farmers, we were honoured to host the Berkshire Young Farmers' Harvest Festival service this October in Windsor.



However Young Farmers is not just about having fun; we aim to support any members who possess any agricultural ambitions, and last week our members met our local MP, Adam Afryie with NFU delegates to discuss farming and politics, exhibiting the broadness of our club ethos. If you are interested in joining our club, if you would just like more information please email me at [alice.rayner@outlook.com](mailto:alice.rayner@outlook.com) or like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wmyoungfarmers](https://www.facebook.com/wmyoungfarmers).

*Alice Rayner - Club Chairman*

# County News

## New County Team

Following on from the county AGM on Sunday we now have a 'new' County Officer team. We said goodbye to our President Lydia Bendall who has been a great support to the County for the last two years, Thank You Lydia. Lydia still hopes to support the county as much as possible following a break in New Zealand! Voted in as your new President is Sharon Stanley. Sharon is a past member of Bradfield Young Farmers where she excelled in Public Speaking. Sharon is looking forward to meeting you all at various events throughout the year.

The rest of the team is listed below:

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| County Chairman-              | Katherine Bunn              |
| Competitions Chairman -       | Gordon Fletcher             |
| Council Member-               | <i>Vacant Position</i>      |
| Deputy Council Member-        | <i>Vacant Position</i>      |
| SEA Representatives-          | Katherine Bunn              |
| Efficiency Judges-            | Jane Elliman & Linda Bowden |
| Health & Safety Officer-      | Alan Lawrence               |
| Child Protection Officer-     | Georgie Perry               |
| National AGM Booking Officer- | Hannah Walters              |
| Social Rep-                   | Sarah Bunn                  |



# County Harvest Festival



A lovely evening was had by those who attended the County Harvest Festival service held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. We were welcomed by Windsor and Maidenhead Young Farmers to Holy Trinity and Garrison Church in Windsor. The members presented hampers which were donated to the local food bank. Thank you to Windsor and Maidenhead for hosting the annual service.

## County Camp



# March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2018

We are again heading south to Avon Tyrrell in the New Forest. We have some great activities planned including; mountain biking, an adventure course, tree climbing, bush craft, high ropes and a campfire. For more information and the forms you need to book your place please contact you Club Leaders/Chairman.

Places allocated on a first come first served basis- Don't Miss Out!

# National News



All information from NFYFC can be found on their website <http://nfyfc.org.uk/>

## FACE Newsletter

The next FACE newsletter is due soon and you are welcome to submit relevant material. This offer is to help YFCs make the most of FACE membership by: keeping you up to date with what FACE is working on centrally and in the regions, sharing your own good news stories and examples of best practice and signposting towards useful resources or solutions to common questions.

[http://nfyfc.org.uk/Onceweekly\\_news?articleid=11605&single=1](http://nfyfc.org.uk/Onceweekly_news?articleid=11605&single=1)

## National Stock Judging Final

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) celebrated its 20th year of hosting its national stockjudging final at Staffordshire County Showground during the English Winter Fair at the weekend (18-19 November).

[http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national\\_news?articleid=11606&single=1](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national_news?articleid=11606&single=1)

## Event Promotes Benefits of Conservation Agriculture

Long-term investment in conservation agriculture will benefit associated industries and the wider public, concluded leading experts, young farmers and conservationists at a Future Wildlife, Future Farming event at The Game and Wildlife Trust's Allerton Project in November.

[http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national\\_news?articleid=11598&single=1](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national_news?articleid=11598&single=1)

## National Plan for Farm Safety Scheme

A new farm safety scheme, launched by the Devon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (FYFC), is on course for a national roll-out.

[http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national\\_news?articleid=11589&single=1](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/NFYFCnews/national_news?articleid=11589&single=1)

