



County Chair's Chatter.....

Hi all, it's been a while since the last newsletter but I hope everyone is enjoying lockdown and Covid-19 as much as I am.....

Unfortunately, we have not been able to have the normal social events and competitions that I know everyone enjoys, but I would like to thank everyone that is participating in any of the Virtual County Challenges that have been set each week. I am especially looking forward to the pumpkin growing competition when its finished.

It is also great to see clubs doing their own competitions and having online meetings and quizzes, if there are any clubs that would like any help with these please dont hesitate to get in touch.

We are hoping to put together a virtual rally soon, it would be great if everyone was to get involved, as the cups that are normally given out at the Country Fayre will be allocated to the classes, so it is a good chance to win a cup! I know there will be lots of people busy working especially with summer and harvest around the corner but it will still be good to see entries from everyone.

With the Country getting back to normal, hopefully YFC can get back to normal sooner rather than later. Roll on the 4th of July I say!

I hope everyone is enjoying the sun and remember to keep washing your hands, and stay safe.

Henry Graham (Berks Chairman)

County President's Proposal.....

As the date is yet unknown when we will be allowed to start meetings again, I urge you all to keep in touch with your fellow members, also your advisory members and members of the other clubs. You know better than me what methods to use, phone, twitter, facetime even post.

After the County AGM I decided to visit each club at least twice during the year, well I got to see some of you at club meetings and more at the competitions which made me very proud of you all. The standard you all maintain is amazing.

Use your spare time to suggest new competitions for the future, exciting programmes for meetings.

Start thinking about club AGMs and who the officers might be, I know it's several months away but let's hit the new season running.

You may be able to discuss recruitment methods and any articles for the newsletter would be welcome.

But most important, KEEP SAFE.

Andrew Kimber (Berks President)

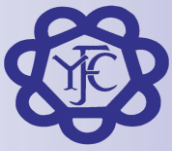
News From National



Age Categories have been changed so please read carefully the rules – Competitions Age Groups in most cases have gone up by 1 year and the Membership Age for 2020/2021 is 27 and under on the 1st September, 2020 (this will allow those nearing the end of their YFC Competing year to have an additional year) – **to note that those who are in their 27th year must join as a Senior member and not an Associate Member as they will not be insured.**



Representation of Teams and Individuals for 2020/21 – a decision has been made that the number of teams/individuals a County/Area can send to an NFYFC Final will be based on the membership figure as at the **31st August 2019 and not 31st August 2020** (it is felt that Counties have not had the opportunity to recruit members during this difficult time in 2020 and it would be a fairer way to run the Competitions Programme for the coming year).



County Chronicle....

- ❖ Due to the unknown around Covid-19, Windsor & Maidenhead Advisory have made the decision that a rally should not go ahead this year, as they feel the County is spread over a large area of potential cross contamination/infection and with current predictions of another spike in October, which is when the time the event would potentially take place.

Save the Diary Dates

- 31st October 2020 County Ball - Regency Park Hotel, Thatcham, For tickets contact Hannah 07501 460051 or Henry 07789 775255
- 21th May 2021 - The Wurzels, Details to follow nearer the time.

County Competitions Communique...

As you all know due to Covid-19 we are unable to meet, which means we haven't run any competitions.

However, we have been setting County Virtual Weekly Challenges on Wednesdays, and will be awarding our Challenge Cup at AGM to the club with the most points. Sadly, these haven't proved very popular so far, so we need you all to get stuck in and earn some points for your club!

Country Spotters, this time of year we are usually approaching the annual Country Spotters Competition; plans are being made to possibly run the competition in September, depending on restrictions it may be run virtually – I will keep you all updated!

So, you are all aware the Efficiency Competition is still being run and judged. It is going to be judged virtually on what you've done online and how you've kept in contact with members. Unfortunately, Eunice Wilson (Windsor & Maidenhead) is unable to continue her role as an Efficiency Judge, meaning we currently only have one judge, Wendy Webber, please remember to keep Wendy informed on your programme plans.

Remember to keep in contact with each other virtually, and keep safe!

I hope we can get some competitions run before the end of the year.

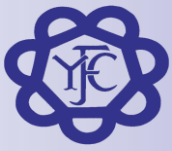
Hannah Walters (Berks YFC Comps Chairman)

County Virtual Challenges...

You can still enter 'The County Virtual Challenges' and gain points for your club!

For a reminder of the challenges & more details see the website or the Berkshire Young Farmers Facebook page.

Club Communication



Bradfield's Broadcast....

During what is a very strange time for us all we have managed to keep in touch with regular challenges and our first lockdown quiz! Our members have also taken part in some of the challenges set by National such as the Bake Off and Snapshot challenges.

With the help of committee members, we have set weekly challenges including cookery, photography and exercise. We started with Seb and George challenging us to get out and about to capture photos of nature, this proved to be a very popular challenge with lots of entries. All the photos can be found on either our Facebook or Instagram page.



The following week Becky and Hannah set us the challenge of exercising the 78-mile distance between the 4 clubs in Berkshire, this could be done in any form of exercise (walking, horse riding, cycling etc). Unfortunately, that week it rained most of the time meaning less members took part, however we still completed the challenge with a few miles to spare!

Alice and Summer then challenged us to make or bake something Red, White and Blue for VE Day Anniversary celebrations.

We are all very enthusiastic in channelling our inner Alan Titchmarsh in growing our pumpkins, we look forward to the big weigh in later on in the year to see who's the most green fingered out of all of us!

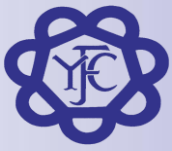


A few weeks ago we had our first virtual quiz on Zoom, the questions were made up by all committee members and split into 5 rounds; General Knowledge, Sport, Film & TV, Agriculture and Lyrics. Lots of members attended and it was a great opportunity to catch up with each other since our last 'real' meeting in March. We all enjoyed the quiz and are looking forward to our next one.

We're busy making plans for our first meeting back whenever that may be!

Stay safe!

Hannah Walters (Bradfield YFC Chairman)



Newbury's News....

Well, what a few months. Little did I think when I put together the last newsletter that we would still be in this pandemic, with, at times, little hope of coming out of it any time soon!

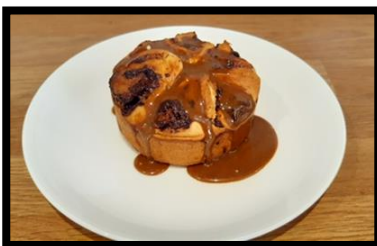
Obviously, all of our meetings and competitions have stopped so it has been quite difficult to keep the YFC momentum going. That being said, Suzi from the County office has done a great job sending out all of the county challenges. For those of you on Facebook you might have seen them. I haven't heard too much which of our members have taken part in, but the pumpkin growing seemed to be popular. Bit of a mixed bag, from no seeds germinating, to one (eventually!) and others in full growth and being moved to their final 'pumpkin patch'. It will be fun to see the results and Henry Graham is looking for them to be donated for the County Ball later in the year for decorations. As well as all the county challenges, National YFC have also been putting out some interesting challenges too.

As there was little Newbury YFC news to share with you I thought I would ask a couple of members to tell us what they have been up to, and this is what they said;

"Nothing too much, staying in doing lots of school work!" *Grace Collins* Edit: she's actually been a real star, helping cooking dinners and baking. She's even taken up painting and has done loads of fabulous acrylics on canvass. Who knew she had this talent!

During lockdown *Erica Crockford* has been doing lots of lovely baking as well as painting her ponies' cart. There has been lots of window shopping for a new riding horse and a new dog for when prices return to normal! She can't wait until we can all meet up again for laughs and silly jokes.

"In the early weeks of lockdown, we were still lambing so helped my dad (I have attached a photo of me and teenage mutant ninja lamb). Home-schooling has been different but I have spent a lot of time looking after my cacti, two of which have flowered, taking care of the bonsai I have grown from seed, Trevor the tomato plant and sowing seeds for more bonsai succulents and of course pumpkins. At the beginning of lockdown I wrote a letter and mum dropped it to the local care home I became pen pals with Maisie an 85 year old lady and we shared letters about our interests." *Flo Waite*



"Over lockdown, I have been busy baking and cooking for my family. It helps me destress and the end results are always nice! Most recently, I have made coffee mocha swirls and a traditional Japanese sweet, Dorayaki, made of two pancakes and weet azuki bean paste." *Miako Burton*



The Pike household is always mad busy and lockdown is no exception. If anyone knows Carli, there are always a lot of cakes being baked! Especially more now as she is

supplying a local farm shop 'The Hampshire Deli' at Wolverton Park. Shame it isn't a little closer for me as I would be first in the queue every Saturday (check out her pictures on Facebook - the Portuguese tarts look delish), not to mention all the stunning birthday cakes she is commissioned to do on a regular basis!

Extra excitement for them recently, and a change from ponies and horses, was a very special delivery of some ex commercial layers and some chicks.

They seem to have settled in well and are keeping everyone amused.

Pictures for cuteness!



Well, folks, that's it from Newbury for now.

We wish all our members and families, friends and supporters all the very best.

Stay safe and well. *Emma Collins (Newbury YFC Club Leader)*

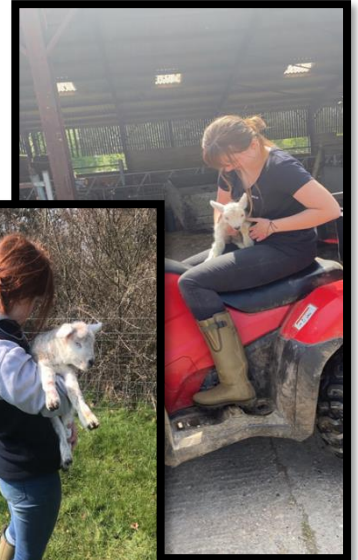
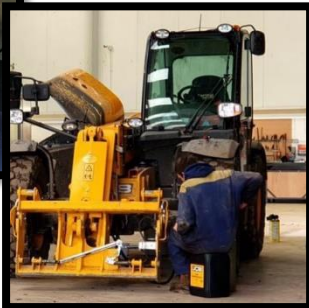
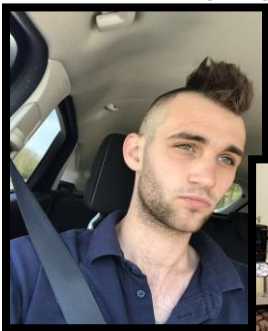


Shefford's Summary...

Although we haven't been able to meet, I'm glad to tell you that our members have still been active and keeping entertained throughout this lockdown period so I asked the members to share their Lockdown Stories;

For my sister Annabel and I we were fortunate enough that lambing was just around the corner when the lockdown was announced so we were very busy on the farm. The early mornings and late nights made for a few grumpy days, however it's all worth it now that we've seen the lambs' progress. We started at the beginning of April and finished at the end of May - how we do still have a few hangers on! Our days would consist of lambing ewes, feeding pet lambs and just general checking on all the fields making sure that everything was going smoothly - which isn't always the case! However, we were lucky enough to have a good lambing and the weather was especially kind to us!

Our Vice Chairman, Olly has been busy working for 'Oakes Bro's', mending machinery and being of great service to the agriculture industry! I think after being originally furloughed he was extremely glad to be going back to work. He's been busy going from farm to farm helping and working really hard over this period and to my knowledge Olly is our only member sporting a lockdown haircut masterpiece!



Finally, one of our senior members, Henry Graham, has been busy on his family farm with calving his pedigree Simmental cows, among lots of other things. As you can imagine it's a full-on job, so he's been kept busy on the farm!



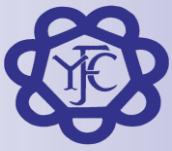
I'm really pleased, as Chairman, to tell you that as a club we have launched a series of challenges for our members to take part in over the forthcoming weeks. We have introduced a points system in which the member with the most points, when we return, will receive a prize and certificate. So far, we have announced our first challenge which is the '**Shefford Bake Off**' in which our bakers are required to bake something and it must be decorated with an agricultural/ farming theme. The winner will receive a box of 6 cupcakes - kindly donated by Sarah Bunn of 'Sarah's Bakes'. We felt this was a really good way of getting members involved with Young Farmers despite us not being able to meet.

We will have more challenges over the next few weeks for members to take part in and points will add up for a prize at the end! We are also planning a Zoom quiz for members to take part in, which again will be another great way for our members to engage and get them ready for when we can come back!

In the meantime, we hope everyone is staying safe and coping well. I, on behalf of Shefford, would also just like to say a big thank you to all the key workers, NHS staff and farm workers for everything you're doing in keeping things running. We really appreciate all that you're doing!

Hope to see you very soon.

Katie Goodman (Shefford YFC Chairman)



Berks YFC Chit Chat

June 2020

Windsor & Maidenhead's Words...

W&M YFC have been missing each other during this lockdown. However, we have been keeping in contact via social media and the seniors have had a video quiz.

I would say lockdown has been good in some ways though. As it seems our juniors have been having some good work experience. From working on the farm, to hairdressing, to honing their baking skills and even a touch of pest control.



Tristan rowed up, then Dom wrapped the bales.



The Matthews setting up a home barbers.



The Underwood's ridding of the pests.



Emily practicing for the next cupcake off.

Most of our seniors have been busy with work whether it's farming, caring or tech work.



Others have been having good quality time with family and pets.

Also, we've had Dan Murray keeping us entertained with picture math's problems and Charlotte Costard made a voom quiz which all of the seniors joined and we are all much looking forward to another one. Not only has Charlotte done that but she has also put together an awareness video for milk wastage. This can be viewed on our Instagram page.

Ellie Smith, Windsor & Maidenhead Club Leader

