

## From the Chairman...

Hello Devon YFC!

With Autumn well and truly setting in I know many of you have been getting stuck in to speaking Competitions and Ballroom Dancing as well as New Members Evenings and busy Club programmes. I have even taken part in County After Dinner Speaking Final representing North Devon. Despite not being fully prepared and slickly rehearsed it was good fun and we were pleased to come a respectable fourth.

I hope everyone who attended the Harvest Service at Exeter Cathedral enjoyed the evening and those of you who decorated the pillars did a fantastic job! Well done to East Devon on picking up first place. It was shame the evening was blessed with some unwelcome protestors but I am pleased the way in which the situation was handled and we could continue as normal.

Christmas Ball isn't far away and I personally can't wait for another great night. Be sure to get your tickets early as it's sure to be a sell-out event once again. I've heard great review's about the band Adam has chosen so role on the 15th December.

On a more negative note, it is with great sadness that we will be losing Ali as our Events Co-ordinator as she has been offered a full time position with British Wool. Ali has been involved with YFC for many years and has a great passion for everything she does within the organisation, she will be greatly missed. I'm sure I can speak for all the Chairmen from across the years that she has worked at YFC in thanking her for all she has done and wish her every success in her new role, I'm sure she won't be going too far!

So this concludes my year as Devon YFC Chairman and what a year it has been. A jam packed calendar of competitions, events and social events definitely kept me occupied throughout the twelve months. I have loved travelling around the County and getting to know some of you, I hope Alice will have just as much fun as I have in her year of office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Officers for doing such a great job this year; Nick, Ali and Fran for all of their invaluable support and my friends and family for all they have done to allow me this opportunity. It's certainly a year I won't forget!

*Colin Tucker*

Devon County Chairman



## Under the Spotlight

Name: Alice Giles  
 Club: Bow YFC  
 Current YFC Roles: Vice County Chairman  
 Job Role: Sales Administrator at Salcombe Holiday Homes

### Why did you join YFC?

When I was 13 my Brother announced one afternoon that I was coming to a New Members Evening with him, as every current Club member had to bring someone, and I was his someone! At that stage I didn't really know what I was getting myself into.....

### How would you describe yourself in a sentence?

A mildly outspoken person with an inappropriate sense of humour, who's working on both of those traits!

### What is your proudest YFC moment?

I'm lucky enough to have many proud moments, but still for me the first time Bow YFC entered the Entertainments competition a few years ago is my proudest. We didn't win our Group round, but that didn't matter; we still had all members in the Club taking part in something new together. Even our youngest and least confident members were speaking on stage. That for me is what YFC is all about.

### What are your plans for the future of Devon YFC?

This year I would like our focus as a County to be Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness. We are the future of our industry and communities, however we face hurdles continuously, never mind if we also have difficulties in our personal lives. We are about to start the delivery of the Rural Plus course, in partnership with The Farming Community Network and I would love to be able to say this time next year we have delivered to all Clubs. Let this be the start of a new culture and make it normal to talk about openly mental health, so that it becomes easier for those who need it to access support.



### What strangest thing you have done and where?

Many of you will know about my journey in a shed to Mongolia...if you don't then feel free to ask me, I'm just not sure the finer details are publishable!

### Have you got any quirky habits/obsessions?

Obsession is a strong word, but perhaps I could admit an unhealthy relationship with mayonnaise!

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Contact for more information 01363 772212

### Disclaimer

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified. All personnel may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities from time to time, as needed.



## Yarcombe YFC

As usual at the end of our YFC year, we have collated together all the monies raised from various events over the year, to donate to our chosen Charities. Monies were raised doing anything from turkey plucking to a cream tea, to our hugely successful Pool Party. This year we have been fortunate enough to be able to donate £2500 each to the Neuroscience Ward at Bristol Children's Hospital, due to one of our members receiving treatment from the team when she was diagnosed with meningitis as a child and also to the amazing work of Devon Freewheelers, who came and spoke to us about how they are able to help deliver much more than just blood around the County and beyond. The money was greatly appreciated by the two very deserving Charities..



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## Competitions

Hi everyone

Wow I can't believe I'm writing my final newsletter report as Competitions Chairman! It's been a brilliant year and has flown by.

The last couple of weeks have been the last of the Speaking Competitions.

On the 23rd October we had the Junior Public Speaking and Situations Vacant.

All four teams that took part in the Junior Speaking did brilliantly and seeing as a lot of them have never taken part before, they did amazingly!! The results were as follows

**1st East Devon**

**2nd Haldon**

**3rd South Dartmoor**

**Best Speaker: Molly Clist (East Devon)**

The results for the Situations Vacant were as follows

**1st Hattie Pike**

**2nd Rebekkah Hoskin**

**3rd Victoria Boxall-Hunt**

We have held a series of Carcase Stock Judging in Stillmans and Langs throughout the month for experienced members. Thank you to Jill Persey, David Camp, Mervyn Reed and Rachel Scott-Douglas for assisting with the training and of course both of our venues for hosting. Good Luck to all our members who will be competing in the English Winter Fair National Finals. If you are a beginner who is interested in Stock Judging then keep your eyes peeled for sessions that will be held in the Spring.

On the 7th November we had the County Written Quiz at the Waie Inn. We had 25 teams take part and it was good to see so many Clubs from all over the County! Thank you to Richard and Becky Tucker for writing and hosting the quiz.

The results were

**1st Braunton Bullocks**

**2nd 3 Brains & Owen (Clawton)**

**3rd North Molton All Stars.**



Then on the 9th November we had our County round of After Dinner Speaking; it was an enjoyable evening with lots of members entertaining us with their brilliant speeches.

The results were

**1st Tarka**

**2nd Haldon**

**3rd East Devon**

**Best Male: Rob Hill (Tarka)**

**Best Speaker: Hannah Rich (South Dartmoor)**

Well done to Jess Gray, Hannah Rich, Matt Darke, Jack Stuart and Rob Hill who have been picked to go in to the South West Area YFC round, with reserves of Rachel Retter, Bradley Howells and John Malseed.

A massive well done to all the members, Clubs and Groups that have taken part in all the competitions this year; it has been so good to see members of all ages keen to give it a go. I wish the Vice Competitions Chairman all the best for next year!!

*Emma Cole*

Competitions Chairman



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## Sports & Social

Well here we are my last newsletter that has come around quick. Fran will be pleased that she no longer has to chase me every month for a report!!

On the 27th October we had the Pillar Decorating at Exeter Cathedral. East Devon came out on top with the best pair of pillars. The Cathedral looked perfect for the Harvest Festival on the Sunday. Also a thank you to all Groups who removed all produce from there pillars on the Sunday and left the Cathedral tidy, saved me a job.

On the 13th November we had the Ice Skating at Plymouth. Again a sell-out of tickets and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Sunday 18th brings us the Mixed Tag Rugby, Mens Rugby and Ladies Netball at Broadclyst; Mark will have the results for that next month. Also don't forget the Crealy Fun Evening on the 24th, that's always good crack. My last event will be the Mistletoe Ball on the 15th at Matford; Almost everything is finalised so get those tickets booked!

The last bit of waffle from me is to say thanks to all my fellow Officers, Office Staff and everyone that has helped me along the way. Best of luck to Mark for next year and its cheers and gone from me.

*Adam Hove*

Sports and Social Chairman



## Devon YFC Events

### Co-Ordinator

We have a vacancy for the position of Events Co-ordinator.  
Based in Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH.

#### Salary

£18,500 (pro-rata)

#### Hours

Between 16 to 20 hours  
(over 4 days)

#### Role

To administrate and co-ordinate the wide ranging programme of events for the members and partners of the Devon Federation of Young Farmers.

For further details contact Nick Creasy at the YFC Rural Hub 01647 24120 or email [admin@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@devonyfc.co.uk) for an application form.

Closing date for applications  
7th December.

Interviews 17th December .

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## Planning your social events for the coming year

I hope you're all looking forward to the Christmas Ball at Matford Exeter on the 15th December. I'm sure it will be another sell out event, as it has been for the last four years and a great evening. The event takes a lot of planning and a real team effort each year to make sure the whole thing runs safely and smoothly.

With this in mind it's worth getting started early on the plans for your own Club and Group events for the coming year. We have recently updated the risk assessment and event plan (No 26 DFYFC Assessment-social) which can be found and downloaded from the Devon YFC website [www.devonyfc.co.uk/policies](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk/policies). The event plan part of this form, which may be new to some of you; will help you to consider other important areas as the organiser's of an event. You can also find other guidance for running and planning social events in the same place.

Do also ask others in your Club who have run events before; what has gone well and what may need improving on this time? If you would like further guidance and support please do contact me, I will be happy to help you or point you to someone that can.

I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and hope you get time with friends and family.

*Nick Creasy*

[nick@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:nick@devonyfc.co.uk)  Nick Creasy



Thank you to all the members that attended the Officers Training Weekend. We hope that this has set you up for the YFC Year ahead but don't forget to call the Office if you have any questions at any time.

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## 10 Top Tips – Dairy Showing from Nicky Lockyer

### 1. Early Halter Training

It is really important that by the time it gets to the Show, your animal knows what to expect, and leads well on the halter. It makes such a huge difference to the appearance of your animal if it walks well and shows itself off. It's never too early to start, and calves will never ever forget. I would suggest training as soon as you have picked your animal; it's much easier when they are smaller!

Start by just tying the calf up to a gate, and stay with it to keep it calm. It may throw itself around but it will soon learn that it can't get away. Don't expect it to walk straight away, just make friends with it, it will soon be following you around like a dream! Don't forget to practice with the leather halter a few times before show day!

### 2. Practice Judging

It may seem a bit silly, but get someone to act as the judge when you are practicing leading the calf. You want your calf to look its best at all times, so when it is in the ring, make sure you keep its head up high, and walk it slowly. It's easiest to walk backwards when showing your calf so that you can keep an eye on what it looks like as well as on the judge.

When the judge asks you to stop, always make sure the back leg furthest away from you is further back, this makes the calf appear longer. On a milking cow, the back legs should be the opposite way, with the leg closest to the judge over the udder. Get your practice judge to approach the animal to inspect it and feel its skin, this is one part many animals aren't used to therefore jump at in the ring.

### 5. Clipping

Everyone looks better after a hair cut! Try to clip with someone nearby to help you just in case your calf is naughty. On a dairy calf you clip all the hair off. The most important thing to remember when clipping is that you are trying to make the animal look its best, so there are a few little things you can do to use the hair to hide any small faults the animal may have. If you leave the hair on the animals' topline (backbone) then you can clip it to make it look straighter and hide any weak points.

With a calf/bulling heifer, you can leave the hair on the belly, to make it appear deeper in the body. On a milking heifer, try to clip the udder with the tightest blades you can, as this makes its veins stand out and draws attention to the most important part!

### 6. Check your Show Kit

Make sure you check you have everything you need for showing well in advance, because you can't pick everything up at Mole Valley! Leather halters and special sprays need to be ordered from specialist show suppliers, so stock up early!

If you are just getting started and don't want to splash out on new clippers/sprays/halters then you can always ask someone who shows more frequently. Usually they won't mind giving you a helping hand if it encourages you to get your cattle in the show ring!



### 9. Last Minute Prep

There are certain things you can't do until it's nearly show time! Stand your animal up about 10 minutes before your class is going to start so that you can get her ready. Brush any dust off and put the leather halter on. Brush out and back comb her tail and wipe any snot from her nose! She needs to be as clean as possible, make her catch the judges eye as soon as she walks in.

### 10. Enjoy it

By this time you will have put in a lot of hours of work into getting your animal into that ring, make sure you enjoy showing all your hard work off to people!! Smile and try to relax as your animal will sense your nerves! There's no point pretending that showing is easy, but it is so rewarding and the preparation makes a huge difference, so your hard work will be well worth it!



## Bath Time

3.

Your calf will need a few baths before the show, its best to get it used to being washed and the more often you bath it the better its coat will be when you clip it. You can use an animal shampoo (or just fairy liquid) just make sure that all the soap is rinsed out of the animal at the end. It's really important not to get water in the calves' ears, as this can make its ears droopy which doesn't look as good on show day.

Your calf will want a good wash before clipping and an even better wash on the morning of the show. Just remember to do it in plenty of time as they can take a little while to dry.

## The Day Before

7.

Give your animal a good wash the day before the show, and make sure there is plenty of food constantly available. If you are showing a milking animal it's important to think about how much milk you want to show your animal with. She is likely to look better with a little more milk in her udder than normal, so work back from the time you think your class will be, work out how many hours milk she needs, then you have your milking time.

Don't forget to pack lots of food for your animal for as soon as she gets to the show she needs to be full right up!

## Analyse your Animal

4.

Although you will have tried to pick the perfect animal, by now, you may have found a point or two about the animal that could be better. Stand back and look at your animal; let someone else lead it while you take time to think about where it could be improved. You as a handler can try to cover up these faults to a certain extent and it's much easier if you know where your animals' strengths and weaknesses are.

For example, if its locomotion isn't the best, try walking it slower to disguise it. Or, if she arches her back (common when calves are growing) when you stop her, pinch her backbone slightly to make her stand better. If she lacks strength in the front end, make sure she doesn't stand with her front feet too close. If she has lots of loose skin under her chin, hold it up to make her neck appear more feminine.

## Arrive on Time

8.

Showing is hard work; don't make it harder by being in a rush on Show morning! Allow plenty of time to get there in likely heavy traffic. Your animal will probably get quite dirty whilst travelling so you need to wash her as soon as you arrive and allow time for her to dry properly before her class. The earlier you can get there the better as you want her to settle into her new environment before her class.



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Sat 30 March 10am – 12pm

### Duchy College

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Sat 23 Mar 10am – 12pm

### SUBJECT AREAS\* INCLUDE:

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- Apprenticeships
- Arboriculture
- Children, Schools and Families
- Construction Plant Operations
- Countryside and Conservation
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Devon Agricultural and Rural Training Trust assist the funding of education and training in rural and general life skills. This funding is available for people of any age and may be in any useful life skill but will emphasise agricultural, rural and countryside activities. To request an application form or for more information email [devonartt@outlook.com](mailto:devonartt@outlook.com)



### Bicton College January Courses

Prices are excluding the discount of 10% for YFC Members. Some courses will have separate assessment dates – contact the YFC Office for more information

Course	Dates	Price
CS30	7th – 9th / 21st – 23rd	£420
CS31	14th – 17th	£570
Telehandler Operating	8th – 10th	£390
PA1 & PA6	14th – 16th	£440
CS38	21st – 25th	£625
How to use a Chainsaw	14th	£130
Tractor Operating	8th – 11th	£390
PA1 & PA2	14th, 16th & 17th	£470

If you are looking at course dates for Duchy College please do get in touch with [skills@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:skills@devonyfc.co.uk)

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#### When can you do the class?

I can run one on Saturday or Sunday; all we would need is a church/ village hall or similar. I bring everything else.

#### How many people can go and what is the cost?

It would largely depend on the size of the venue but I would say 20 per group would be a good size. The 'Group' fixed fee is £250 per session; additional to this there would be a small fee to cover mileage. Contact the YFC Office for more information.

Please do contact Francene if you have a course in mind let us price it for you and research the options available. Contact details: **01647 24120** or email [skills@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:skills@devonyfc.co.uk)

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# Diary Dates

December	
1	IFYFC Travel Interviews
1	Chagford YFC Dinner and Dance at Edgemoor Hotel, Bovey Tracy 7pm for 7.30pm. Three course meal and disco £25. Contact Ryan 07816 582806
2	Whimble and Broadclyst YFC Bingo at Whimble Village Hall. Eyes Down 7.30pm
3	Lewdown YFC Poultry Bingo at Lewdown Victory Hall. Doors Open 7.30pm / Eye Down 8pm
4	Totnes YFC Christmas Quiz at Morleigh Village Hall, 7.30pm. £5 including a drink and mince pie
4	Witleigh YFC Christmas Bingo at Witleigh Village Hall. Doors Open 7.00pm / Eye Down 7.30pm
5	AGRI Farm Finance Workshop with Carter Jonas at the Amory Building 7.30pm. Book your space with Nicola Palfrey 01823 428594 or nicola.palfrey@carterjonas.co.uk
7	Okehampton Tinsel Ball at Bridestowe Hall 9pm – 1am. £5 Members / £7 Non Members
7	Witheridge YFC Christmas Disco at Black Dog Hall 9pm – 1am
7	County Ballroom Dancing at QE Lower School, Crediton, EX17 3HX
8	Woolsery YFC Christmas Quiz at Woolsery Community Hall, 7.30pm start. Teams of 4 – 6
9	Newton St Cyres Big Breakfast at Sandford Village Hall, 9.30am – 12 noon
13	General Council at the Amory Building, 8pm
13	Okehampton YFC Christmas Jumper at Charter Hall, Okehampton at 7pm
15	Devon YFC Mistletoe Ball at the Matford Centre, Exeter – tickets after 30th November £30. Members 16+ / Non Members 18+. Booking forms available <a href="http://www.devonyfc.co.uk/competition-info">www.devonyfc.co.uk/competition-info</a>
17	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Kivells Auctioneers, Exeter City Council &amp; FCN Market Chaplaincy Team</b></p> <p>Invite you to a Farmer's Christmas Celebration at Exeter Livestock Market Welcome drink &amp; mince pies at 7pm / Christmas Celebration at 7:30pm</p> <p><b>With Tedburn St Mary Choir and The Salvation Army Band</b> Proceeds to The Farming Community Network</p> </div>
18	Bow YFC Christmas Bingo at the Waie Inn. Doors Open 7.30pm / Eyes Down 8pm
27	Whimble and Broadclyst YFC Take Over Unit 1, Exeter 9pm – 2am. Non Members 18+ / Members 16+ (need to be signed in by 21+ and must have parental consent forms). Booking forms available from Tom 07775 514235. Last entry Under 18's 10.30pm / 18 & Overs 11.30pm. Tickets before 8th December £7 / £10 after
28	Witleigh YFC Christmas at Remedies 9.30pm – 2am. Non Members 18+ / Members 16+ (need to be signed in by 21+ and must have parental consent forms). Last entry Under 18's 10.30pm / 18 & Overs midnight. Members £5 / Non Members £7 ROAR
January	
4	Clawton YFC Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Quiz at Tetcott Hall, 7.30pm start. Teams of 4 – 6 £5 per person
5	Winkleigh YFC New Years Disco at Winkleigh Sports Hall 9pm – 1am. Members 16+ £5 / Non Members 18+ £7

The YFC Office will be closed from 1.00pm on Friday 21st December and will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 8.30am. The Office Staff wish all our members and Supporters a very Merry Christmas!

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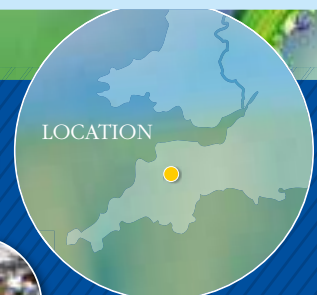
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Please send all newsletter contributions to: [newsletter@devonyfc.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@devonyfc.co.uk)  
**Deadline for the January 2019 newsletter is the 28 November 2018**

If you'd like to advertise within this newsletter, there is a £70 fee per month. More competitive rate for longer term adverts. (Excluding YFC diary dates)