

R·A·B·I news



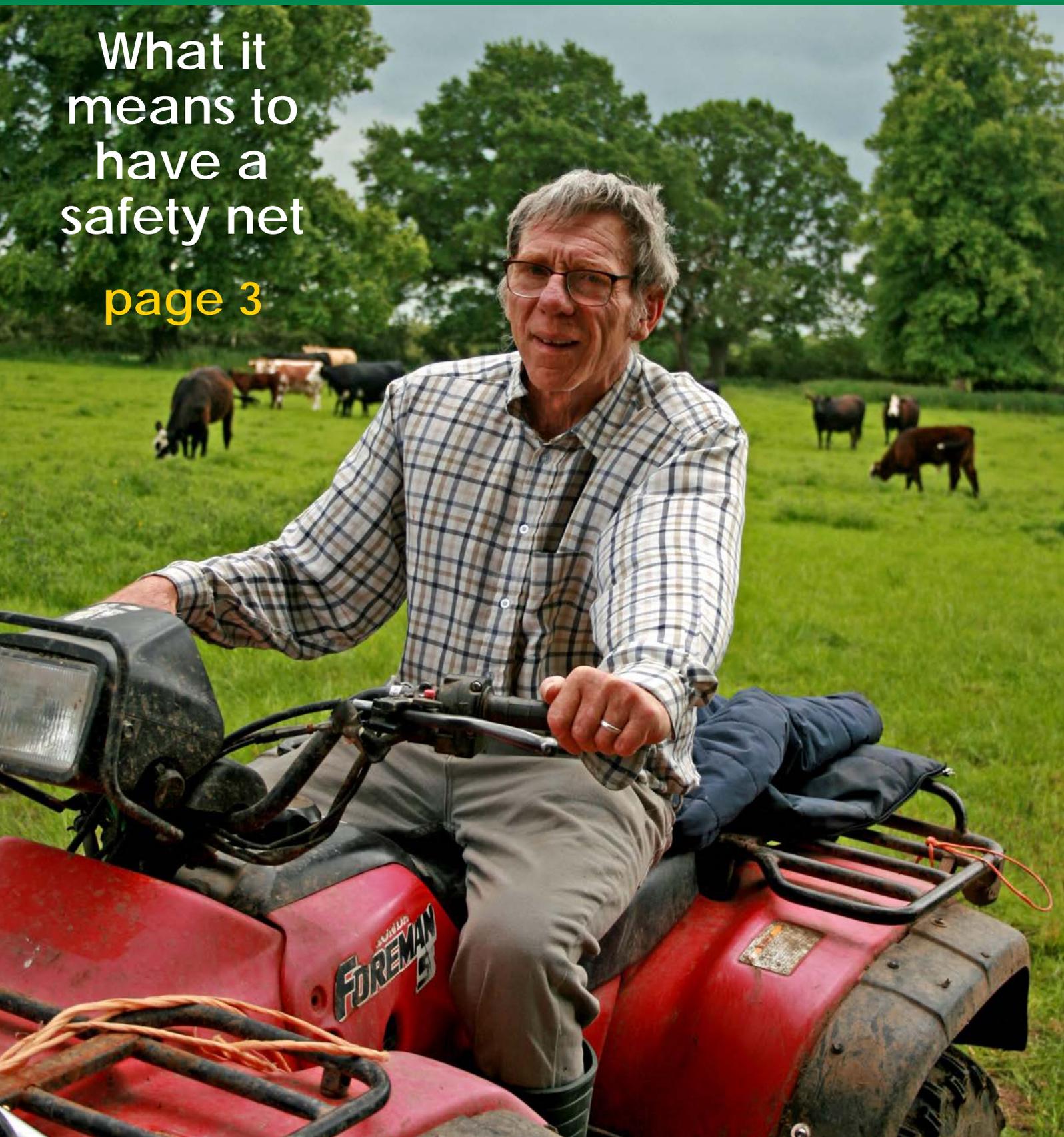
SUMMER 2019

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

Supporting farming families www.rabi.org.uk Freephone Helpline 0808 281 9490

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means to
have a
safety net

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Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

We are a welfare charity that provides financial, practical and emotional support to farming people of all ages. We always work in confidence, with compassion and discretion.

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President: His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester

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COVER IMAGE: Frank Badger, see opposite page for full story.
Photo: Nick Bond



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From the chairman

These are exciting times for R.A.B.I. We are currently in the process of reviewing what we do and looking at our internal structures so we can offer bigger and bolder forms of support to the farming community. It's a major undertaking, which will define our strategy in the years to come. We're doing this because we want to widen the net and reach many more people, but also because we want to greatly extend our services. Just as farmers cannot afford to stand still in ever-changing times neither can we. Last year, as a charity, we gave out £2.2m to some 1,248 individuals / families. By May 20, this year we'd already given out £1m and calls were also up 30% on last year. Year on year, we are being contacted by more working people and the reasons are varied and sometimes multiple, including such things as: Single Farm Payment delays, mental health issues, injuries, illness, disability issues, family relationship problems and animal disease. There is as much need for R.A.B.I.'s help now, probably more, than at any time in the charity's history and who knows what Brexit will bring to our industry?

In May, R.A.B.I held its AGM and annual conference in Oxfordshire and it was a wonderful occasion, tinged with some sadness too – because we said 'farewell' to two hardworking and extremely talented trustees in Jeremy Lewis and James Orme. I'm not sure people fully realise how much time our voluntary trustees commit to the cause. In James and Jeremy, R.A.B.I was fortunate to benefit from some considerable acumen, determination and professionalism. For the past eight years both men have been instrumental in driving the charity forward and they can be rightly proud of everything they have achieved. In John Elliot and Jean Woolliscroft we are lucky to have found two excellent replacements, but I would like to raise my hat to James and Jeremy for the first-class service they have given. Gentlemen, your wisdom in the boardroom and your friendship will be greatly missed by many, including me.

Finally, within the pages of this newsletter you will find details of our deserving annual award winners. Our dedicated volunteers, committee members and fundraisers are vital to the general wellbeing of the charity and it's also fantastic to have an increasing number of corporate supporters getting behind our work. Discovering the lengths people go to in order to support R.A.B.I is humbling and I wish we could present prizes to each and every one of you.



Malcolm Thomas MBE, R.A.B.I chairman



Frank Badger, at home on his farm, with R.A.B.I welfare officer Caroline Harrison.
Photo: Nick Bond

The life of Warwickshire farmer Frank Badger was turned upside down following a stroke and the death of his wife. Here, Frank, who also spoke at R.A.B.I's annual conference, shares his personal story.

By Frank Badger

I have been a farmer all of my life. I have mainly farmed sheep but have also worked with pigs and cattle. I was first referred to R.A.B.I last year. I had been caring for my wife for many years as she suffered from dementia. I did this whilst continuing to farm. Sadly, my wife recently passed away. I had mentioned to one of her carers that I did not know what I would do when I went in for the hip replacement operation that I had been advised that I needed. I had been putting this off as I did not know what would happen with my wife. Caroline, from R.A.B.I contacted me and we arranged to meet at the farm. She took all of my

details and we discussed the farm. We also talked about what was worrying me. Caroline contacted Social Services and got the ball rolling to arrange a care package for my wife while I was in hospital. We also talked about the cost of a shepherd to keep the farm going. In addition, she asked me about my wife's income and advised me that she should be entitled to a benefit because of her care needs. Caroline requested the form and came back another day to complete it with me. My wife was then awarded this. This is something that I would never have known about. R.A.B.I gave me a grant to pay for a shepherd and this, together with Caroline's discussions with Social Services, meant that I could book in for my long awaited pre-operation appointment. This was a huge relief to me. However, I did not make this appointment. I was still working on the farm when I suffered a major stroke. I was in hospital for around four months. I was told that

I may not walk again and my wife had to be taken into residential care. While I was in hospital Caroline visited me to complete some more forms. It meant a lot to me to know that R.A.B.I's support was still there at such a terrible time. My family kept the farm going and later in the year I was given a further grant to allow the shepherd to continue working. R.A.B.I also arranged for a farm secretary from the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAGSA) to visit me as my paperwork was, unsurprisingly, not up to date. When I came home from hospital Caroline visited me to complete some Personal Independence Payment forms. These forms are long at the best of times, but I was unable to write or to see the print because of my stroke. I find the system to be an absolute minefield and so I was very happy to have Caroline's help. She also came back another day for the Personal Independence Payment medical assessment that I

had been worried about. This was a great reassurance to me as I had a lot to deal with at this time as I kept getting very ill from infections. On the same day as the medical assessment the farm secretary, Charlotte, visited so it was all systems go. I cannot tell you how relieved I was about this as we had an inspection for the SFP the following week and I would have been fined a lot if that secretary had not been provided. She was lovely and did some great work. Caroline still visits me and it means such a lot to stay in touch with R.A.B.I as their support is so important. I have so much respect for all of the people who work hard to raise money for R.A.B.I. I cannot thank you enough and cannot tell you what it has meant to me to have a safety net. I don't know what my future in farming will be, but I would love to keep going at some level. Time will tell but the support that I have been given helps me to stay positive.

We want to develop services and strengthen partnerships



Working with our colleagues in the farming sector, we are developing new support packages to complement our existing programmes.

There are no 'standard' problems, so we will continue to tailor support to the needs of the individual, providing confidential, proactive and meaningful solutions that can be accessed quickly and effectively.

By Alicia Chivers, CEO

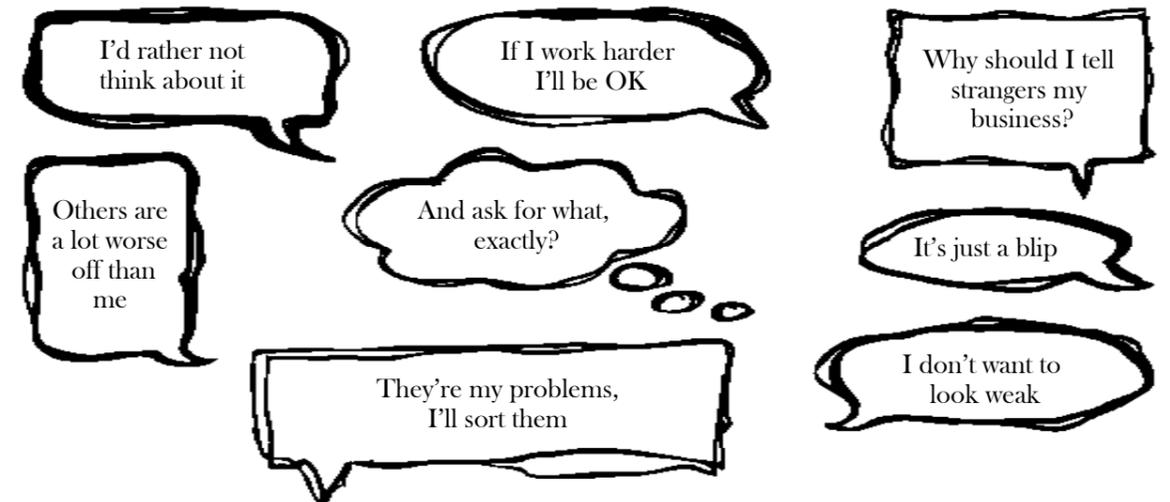
Having the opportunity to meet so many of our fantastic supporters at my first annual conference and AGM in May was an absolute privilege and my thanks to all those who joined us for the day. Without the dedication of every one of our supporters we couldn't provide assistance and care to people in the farming community. Every pound raised helps us to make a difference, every pound really does count. Guest speaker Stuart Roberts, NFU vice-president, noted that R.A.B.I. lies at the core of the farming community and plays a key role providing support during changing and difficult times. R.A.B.I. has been supporting people from the farming community for 159 years, which makes us almost as old as the humble tractor. We at the charity must ensure we don't

become complacent. In common with all those who work in farming, we must constantly assess and evolve, to ensure we continue to provide the guidance, practical care and financial support that people deserve, both now and in the future. Dealing with life's challenges can be tough, particularly as they often appear out of nowhere and from many different directions. We want to help equip people with the tools to cope more easily with these challenges and, more importantly, wherever possible, stop them from causing problems in the first place. So how are we going to do this? Working with our colleagues in the farming sector, we are developing new support packages to complement our existing programmes. There are no 'standard' problems, so we will continue to tailor support to the needs of the individual, providing confidential, proactive and meaningful solutions that can be accessed quickly and effectively.

impact upon good mental health by providing support towards domestic bills; paying for relief farmworkers; organising free business appraisals and arranging debt advice. However we recognise that more must be done and that's why we're determined to develop our services further and continue to build stronger collaborative relationships with organisations and communities. Together, so much more can be achieved. Working more effectively with our partners, we will find ways to ensure that we can offer all of the support someone needs for as long as it is required. As a community we in farming are raised to be self-reliant. However, none of us have all the answers. At R.A.B.I. we know we must do more to give people the confidence to know that 'it's OK not to be OK'. We all need a helping hand sometimes. Asking for assistance means you're brave enough to admit you don't have all the answers and that's a sign of real strength.

It will be a challenge for R.A.B.I. over the coming years to provide support that is flexible, accessible and easy to understand. We must also try to change the misconception that looking to R.A.B.I. for assistance is in any way unusual or indicative of a failure to cope. Our entire purpose is to help provide people in the farming community with the support they need to build resilience to manage the challenges that we know they face. Take something like mental health for example. R.A.B.I. can already help to remove some of the factors that negatively

I'm sure you can think of lots of reasons why you shouldn't give us a call



But if you're stuck, here are a few good reasons why you should



Get the ball rolling, call us today on 0808 281 9490

Significant contributions in the north

Welfare officers John Basnett and Jackie Clegg have both been recognised for giving 20 years' service to R.A.B.I. John covers Derbyshire and most of Yorkshire, while Jackie operates in Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Cumbria. Both joined the charity in 1999 when the roles of regional welfare officers were first created. John explained: "They took on seven of us in one go. The charity didn't have any welfare officers other than in East Anglia before that, so most of the work was previously done through head office." In his previous life, John was a uniformed police sergeant. On joining R.A.B.I he was given a list of around 100 individuals / families to visit but



LONG SERVERS: John Basnett and Jackie Clegg.

recalls having to spend three weeks in the office answering phone calls when the Foot & Mouth crisis occurred. Jackie was a social worker before joining R.A.B.I and her working knowledge of the benefits system quickly became invaluable. She said: "My job has

changed beyond recognition. When we first started we didn't have things like mobile phones or satnav. We had a phone card that we could use in phone boxes, which were a rare commodity in the north. "Everything was faxed through to us."

John added: "The problems that farmers are now facing haven't really changed, but the benefits system certainly has." Jackie agreed, saying: "The benefits system is a lot more complicated and most people don't understand it. We've also seen an increase in the amount of debt people are facing, too." Over the past 20 years, John and Jackie have made significant contributions to R.A.B.I's work in the North of England. John said: "The highlight for me has been meeting so many lovely, down-to-earth people. I've made a lot of friendships." Jackie added: "We've been fortunate and blessed to meet so many hardworking and friendly folk."



Giving, supporting and signposting. What can R.A.B.I do? Here are some examples of letters and emails sent to us, asking for help. These letters illustrate the diverse nature of both the enquiries and the personal circumstances of those making them. Names have been omitted to maintain confidentiality

Regional Welfare Officers

Find out what we can do for you today by calling 0808 281 9490

TOM ARMSTRONG
NORTH
Northumberland, Durham, Scotland



CATHY DENSLOW
SOUTH
South Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight



JOHN BASNETT
NORTH EAST
North, South & West Yorkshire, Derbyshire



LINDSEY CHURCHILL
SOUTH CENTRAL
Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire



JACKIE CLEGG
NORTH WEST
Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Merseyside



SALLY HUBBARD
EAST
Suffolk, Norfolk



LOUISE WILKINSON
LINCOLNSHIRE +
Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire



CHLOE RIGLER
SOUTH WEST
Cornwall, Devon



CAROLINE HARRISON
HEART OF ENGLAND
Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, West Midlands



JENNY TYLER
EAST CENTRAL
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire



MEL JONES
NORTH WALES & SHROPSHIRE
Anglesey, Conwy, Caernarfon, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Merionethshire, Shropshire, North Powys



DEANA CURTIS
SOUTH EAST
Berkshire, West and East Sussex, Kent, Essex, Surrey, London



ELONWY WILLIAMS
SOUTH WEST WALES
Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire



All enquiries to our welfare department will be handled in confidence

CLAIRE CRICHARD
SOUTH EAST WALES & BORDERS
Brecon & Radnor, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, North Gloucestershire, Herefordshire



Dear R.A.B.I...

Money to get back on track

"Everything was going well until we had to spend an extra £1,000 on bedding for the cattle as it was far too wet to put them out. They should have been out a month ago but now I have an electric bill, heating oil and mortgage to pay for and not enough funds. Is there any chance of some help? We should be back on track in a couple of months."

As well as offering guidance, a £1,000 cheque was sent.

Windows needed replacing

"Dear R.A.B.I, our organisation has been approached to see if we can assist a vulnerable resident with quotes to replace windows at his property. We hope you might be able to help with funding."

A one-off grant of £3,800 for replacement windows was agreed.

Stresses of bills

"Dear R.A.B.I, I don't know if you can help but here goes. I am in farming and my dad passed away a year ago. Most of the farm is in the process of being sold.

My wife, who is self-employed, has just come out of hospital. She's had an operation and will be off work for at least eight weeks. We would have been a bit more prepared but her op was brought forward. We have three children and I am asking for a little help in order to relieve the stresses of paying bills and help with our debts until the land sales have gone through."

A visit by the local welfare officer was arranged and a grant for £2,000 quickly issued.

Top-up fees for former Land Army girl

"We are writing on behalf of a former Land Army girl who has been self-funding her care in our home for the past six years. At present, her next of kin, who are pensioners themselves, are not in a position to pay the necessary third party top-up fees to maintain her placement at the residential home. Is this something that the R.A.B.I would be able to offer assistance with?"

Following a visit, R.A.B.I agreed to pay regular, ongoing top-up fees to the home.

Stairlift put in and fridge-freezer bought

"One of our occupational therapists is working with an ex-farmworker. She and her husband claim they are supported by R.A.B.I and that you are able to provide support with adaptations, in this case a stairlift to go in to the property. This would enable the best of care for Mrs N and ensure a speedy and safe install."

A 'disabled facilities' grant was obtained for Mrs N to pay for the stairlift and R.A.B.I also bought the couple a much-needed new fridge freezer.

AREN'T THEY ALL LOADED? DON'T THEY ALL DRIVE 4X4s? WHY DO FARMERS NEED MY HELP?



Don't believe the myths

The questions above are something we hear a lot. Our response is 'it's just not true'. It's an urban myth that all farmers are wealthy as many UK farms no longer make a living from farming alone.



Farmers are human

Which means they get ill, have accidents, go through family problems... all the things that affect you and me. The help we give to working people enables them to keep farming and producing food.



Not everyone has land or property

Imagine you're a tenant farmer or a farmworker. You've given your best years to a job you love, but what have you got to show for it when you stop working? For some people, retiring or falling ill means losing their home too.



Bolts out of the blue happen

In most jobs, planning is key. But how can you prepare for storms that literally come out of the blue, flood your farm and destroy your crops? Or sudden market fluctuations? Or your herd being fine one day, then wiped out by TB the next?



We all need to eat!

Some things you can do without, but food isn't one of them. We all need lots of it. It's easy to forget the link between the farmers we see sat on tractors and everything in our supermarkets, or on our plates. In 2016 British food producers supplied 52% of all the food consumed in the UK. It's in all of our interests to look after them.

You can't always tell if someone needs help just by appearances. Sometimes, even people who drive 4x4s have serious mental health or financial problems.



Cornish Health Hub getting into shape

Various organisations came together in March to kick-start the drive for a Farming Health Hub in Cornwall. The hub will see private, public and charitable groups join forces to provide advice, support and guidance to farmers at different locations, including livestock markets and informal 'pop-up' venues. The original idea for the hub came from Jon James, who wanted Cornish groups to work more closely to provide help relating to physical, mental and business health.

R.A.B.I is involved in the set-up along with the NFU, Prince's Countryside Fund, Cornwall Young Farmers, Exeter University, Cornwall Public Health team, NHS Kernow, the Cornwall Development Company and local GP's, auctioneers, banks, insurance companies and churches. Details of the new Farming Health Hub were outlined to representatives from more than 50 organisations from across the South West at a launch event at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge.

Martin Howlett, a mixed livestock farmer and chairman of R.A.B.I's Cornwall committee, said: "Life within the vast majority of family farms revolves around the day-to-day routine of tending stock, seasonal periods of calving and lambing, plus the harvesting of crops – all physical, demanding work. Financial impacts of markets, weather and disease threats each add to the challenges of cash flow within the farm business. Having access to a Farming Health Hub here in Cornwall is most welcome and ultimately a lifeline for agriculture."

Chris Riddle, pictured, former R.A.B.I chairman and secretary of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association (which organises the annual Royal Cornwall Show) added: "Initiatives such as this are a very welcome resource.

"Many people work in isolated situations where the pressures of modern farming and business life can, at times, be rather overwhelming." The hub will offer general physical health checks, such as eye and hearing tests, diabetes, cholesterol and dental health checks and mental health support, including advice

on managing stress, anxiety, depression and loneliness. Farmers will also be offered support in developing their businesses, including financial and legal health checks and guidance on education, training and applying for grant funding.



R.A.B.I's AGM / annual conference was held in Oxfordshire on May 15, bringing together volunteers, committee members, corporate supporters, staff and trustees from all over England and Wales. The AGM resulted in two key changes to R.A.B.I's Council of Trustees, with Jeremy Lewis and James Orme both stepping down. John Elliot and Jean Woolliscroft were elected to replace them.

Oxfordshire-based John Elliot is a qualified chartered accountant with vast experience of running farming estates. He worked for Thornton Baker (now Grant Thornton) in the early 1970s before moving to Touche Ross in South Africa. Returning to the UK, he opted to pursue a farming career rather than an accounting one, joining the family business. He has subsequently managed a number of estates in Suffolk, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire as well as two arable farms and a hill farm in the Scottish Borders. John becomes R.A.B.I's treasurer.

Jean Woolliscroft hails from Leicestershire and grew up on farms in Warwickshire and on the Welsh / Shropshire border. Her husband is also steeped in farming. Jean brings to R.A.B.I a diverse set of skills, having been national training coordinator for Ben's nursing and care centres. Ben is an independent charity in the automotive industry. Jean is also an experienced therapy manager and senior physiotherapist, which means she has impeccable credentials to serve R.A.B.I through her knowledge of the health, farming and charitable sectors.

Whilst John and Jean bring a wealth of talent to the Council of Trustees, the AGM also provided a time for people to reflect on the sterling service given by outgoing trustees Jeremy Lewis and James Orme. Jeremy first became a trustee in 2010 and was honorary treasurer, as well as sitting on the Executive and Manson House committees. Paying tribute, Malcolm Thomas

said: "As treasurer, Jeremy has been in charge of our finances and has maintained a calm, measured approach in all financial affairs. He is also a really nice guy. "If I ever wanted sage advice, I'd go to Jeremy. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude." James Orme also became a trustee in 2010, the 150th anniversary year, and was elected chairman of the Beaufort House committee in 2013. He also sat on the Grants committee and was elected R.A.B.I's deputy chairman in 2016.

Fellow trustee John Hoskin said: "Providing vital legal knowledge, an objective manner and an eye for detail, James has given immense support and made a huge contribution to the organisation, which all those involved in R.A.B.I's work appreciate greatly." Following James's departure, Jo Turnbull becomes joint deputy chair, alongside Joshua Hosier. Malcolm Thomas continues as chairman.

Two changes to Council of Trustees



ABOVE: The newly-elected Council of Trustees. Missing from the photo is Chris D'Olley. Photos: kevinmilnercountryside.co.uk



James Orme and Jeremy Lewis with R.A.B.I Head of Operations & Communications Kris Band.



Jean Woolliscroft.



John Elliot.

Dennis Brown Shield presented to 'hike and bike' NFU Cymru team

NFU Cymru was awarded the Dennis Brown Shield at R.A.B.I.'s annual awards ceremony in Oxford. These annual awards recognise the skill and dedication of supporters, fundraisers and committees. The Dennis Brown Shield is presented to the organisation that 'makes the greatest contribution by raising the most money and / or awareness'. In September 2018, a core NFU Cymru team of 29 people raised almost £23,000 by completing an arduous two-day 'hike and bike' challenge across Wales that included climbs of Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen-y-Fan. The Oxfordshire committee collected the Beaufort Shield, in recognition of their fundraising efforts in 2018. The biennial dinner at Christ Church College was a huge success and brought in over £21,500, whilst thousands of pounds were also raised by selling steak sandwiches at the Truck Festival on the Binning's family farm.

Cornish pals Edward Buckland, John Perry and Martin Dyer were awarded the Sam Taylor Cup, for organising the Cornwall 3 Way; a three-day vintage tractor run taking in B roads, unnamed roads, tracks and ferries. They raised £12,000 for R.A.B.I and the Children's Hospice South West. Fundraisers from Hampshire scooped the R.A.B.I Cup, awarded to the charity's most 'progressive county committee'. Hampshire triumphed because of the way it reaches across the generations, encompassing volunteers from YFCs and farming clubs. The committee also set up new initiatives such as



R.A.B.I chairman Malcolm Thomas with NFU Cymru's John Mercer, Sarah Thomas and Kevin Owen.

'One Foot in the Furrow' in the New Forest. The East Riding of Yorkshire YFC deservedly won the R.A.B.I YFC Cup, given to the YFC which gives the most support. East Riding's young farmers helped organise the 'Not So Young Farmers Rally', an event which replicated a typical YFC rally, but targeted people of all ages. The Hunter Farm Cup went to the Cumbria committee for organising a series of Christmas carol services which, since their inception in 2014, have generated over £20,000.

Involving local businesses, schools, choirs and bands, these services have also built a true sense of community. This year's winners of the Bryn Davies Bowl – awarded to 'the individual, organisation, company or club which makes the greatest contribution to R.A.B.I in Wales – was the Merionethshire committee. In 2018, this hardworking band of volunteers celebrated their 30th anniversary and held a memorable anniversary concert; securing financial support from 32 businesses and community councils.

Ten regional awards were also awarded to individuals and committees who, in the opinion of the judging panel deserved special recognition. Regional winners of these awards were:

- North West: NFU North West
- North East: David & Lorna Maughan, County Durham
- Wales: Gwilym Jenkins, Ceredigion
- North Wales: Heidi Williams, Anglesey
- West Midlands: Steve Morris, Worcestershire
- East Midlands: The Leicestershire committee
- East: Christine Bish, Cambridgeshire
- South Central: Richard Gore, Berkshire
- South West: Alice Kennard, Forde Abbey, Dorset
- South East: Terry Davy, West Sussex

BELOW: West Midlands winner Steve Morris, who marked his 70th birthday by running 70 miles. In the background is Joshua Hosier.



See pages 12-13 for more photographs of award winners



Farming is a community like no other

Stuart Roberts, NFU vice-president, was guest speaker at the charity's conference

"I'm a simple Hertfordshire farmer but what R.A.B.I does on the ground highlights something almost unique. Farming is not like any other sector. What we are part of a community, not competing, but looking out for each other. R.A.B.I is a bedrock of that. "I met a gentleman in his mid-50s who had suffered a farming accident and was paralysed. His biggest challenge was washing, one of the simplest things in life. He told me how R.A.B.I had funded the installation of a shower for him. Genuinely, it had an impact on me. "Where R.A.B.I shines is in times of change, be that circumstances, health or life stage. "Where we see change, we see more demand in our sector for R.A.B.I. "Brexit will bring significant changes for our sector. The way we engage with the rest of society must also change. Climate change can't be ignored. There are lots of big butch blokes in farming; we give each other big handshakes and say 'how are you?' "The answer is usually 'fine'. Can I remind people there's a question mark at the end of that sentence. It's really important we start addressing issues in mental health in a more strategic way. "There are big opportunities for our sector. We work in an industry which everyone connects to at least three times a day. Farmers are constantly being knocked from every angle, yet the public is fascinated by our industry. We've got a story to tell, we've just got to get better at telling that story. We produce food to the highest welfare standards as well as some of the most stunning landscapes on this planet. "But the industry will be different and is changing and R.A.B.I has an important role to play. "We are a community, we look out for each other. R.A.B.I has played that role for 159 years and I hope that continues for many decades to come."



ABOVE: Stuart Roberts with R.A.B.I chairman Malcolm Thomas. TOP: Guests enjoy the sunshine outside the marquee.



ABOVE LEFT: Nina Clancy, Ewan Pate and Mags Granger from RSABI. ABOVE RIGHT: R.A.B.I Heads of Homes Carole Smith (Manson House) and Karolina Bialecka-Sokol (Beaufort House) with Head of Finance Colin Cooper. LEFT: Malcolm Thomas with event organisers Christine Clarke, Kris Band and Suzy Deeley.

Saying thank you to fundraisers and volunteers



ABOVE: The award winners. LEFT: East Riding YFC members Charlotte Foreman, Lucinda Maltas and James Buckton, with R.A.B.I regional manager Sally Conner (second from right). BELOW: Alice Kennard, with husband Julian and Dorset chairman Hugh Archer. Photos: kevinmilnercountryside.co.uk



LEFT: Merionethshire's Mair Rees, Annie Parry and Mair Jones. BELOW: Oxfordshire committee representatives Stephen Bitmead and Nicola Boaden. RIGHT: NFU North West's Diane Swift and David Hall.



LEFT: Leicestershire committee members Veronica Cross, Pat Bailey and Sally Lane. RIGHT: Cornish tractor run organisers John Perry, Martin Dyer and Edward Buckland, with R.A.B.I's Pam Wills.



Regional News

R.A.B.I has county committees across England and Wales, who work at a local level to raise awareness of the charity as well as funds. Committees are the lifeblood of R.A.B.I and we very much value the time and effort that people put into supporting us.

Bessie gets a taste for the high life



UP WHERE THE AIR IS CLEAR: At the top of Snowdon. RIGHT: A cow's eye view of the Bethesda zipwire.

Many thought it was an April Fools prank, but the Cows on Tour group was deadly serious when it sent fibre glass cow 'Bessie' down Velocity – the fastest zipwire in Europe. The aim of the Zip World Challenge on April 1 was to raise awareness of Cows on Tour, who went in to schools across Wales during May to raise awareness of food and farming whilst also raising money for R.A.B.I and the DPJ Foundation. Strapped into a harness pre-tested for safety by the Zip World team at Penrhyn Quarry in Bethesda, speeds of 125mph were promised. However, cows aren't really designed for speed and the old girl

came down much more sedately, her weight proving too much of a drag on the wire as the descent ended a few metres from the landing zone. She was hauled in to safety by Zip World staff. The following month a group of 74 carried Bessie to the top of Snowdon, Wales' highest mountain. It took them more than three hours, with people taking it in turns to carry the model cow, along with life-size models of a pig, sheep and lamb and giant leeks and potatoes! Cows on Tour is led by a group of farmers who are passionate about food and farming and who, for the past five years, have been taking

the farmyard into the school yard to share their farming stories. "Educating the next generation and promoting Welsh agriculture is of huge importance to us" said Steve Hughson, CEO of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS), who support the group. After a busy week on the road, the tour culminated at the Royal Welsh Smallholding and Countryside Festival at the showground in Llanellwedd. Emily Davies, a member of the tour team, said: "Through this initiative we were not only able to tell the farming story, but also reach communities."

Tested on cocktails

- Quizmaster Emma Youngs had people scratching their heads at the Norfolk quiz and supper at East Tuddenham Village Hall. Round three was a favourite for many, however, as competitors were given a 'red cocktail' and asked to name the seven ingredients. The night raised £2,605 and Team Savills triumphed in the quiz.
- R.A.B.I chairman Malcolm Thomas presented long service certificates and badges to volunteers from the Merionethshire committee at a Sunday lunch in Harlech. Six volunteers were recognised for supporting the charity for 30 years. Others received recognition for service of 10, 15 and 20 years.

Cattle market presentation

Kent chairman Charles Tassell accepted a cheque for £4,835 from Anthony Williamson, chairman of the Sevenoaks & District Farmers and Butchers Social Club. The donation was part of the proceeds from the winding up of the Sevenoaks Cattle Market, which closed 20 years ago. The original market was run by the Sevenoaks & District Fatstock Show Association. Mr Tassell received the cheque at a presentation lunch. The Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance was presented with £15,000 and two other organisations – the Hospice in the Weald and Eleanor, a Kent based children's charity – both received £4,835.



Team Kingham leads the way in Bedfordshire

The Sporting Targets Centre was the venue for the Bedfordshire Clay Shoot, which brought in around £1,000. A bright, crisp day attracted 10 teams and the scoring was close with Team Kingham (pictured) triumphing. The individual prize winner was Mark Thompson, with Ivor Fothergill scooping the junior prize and finishing third overall. The event was supported by Farmers & Mercantile and JF Agricultural Engineering.



Farm shoot

Berkshire committee chairman Richard Gore held a clay shoot at his farm which raised £2,646. Seventeen teams took part in windy conditions. Participants and committee members are pictured left to right: Chris Rhodes, Richard Gore, Sandi Ackrill, Sophie Osgood and Ian Wilson.

Plumpton jumps for joy

Brandon Castle, trained by Neil King and ridden by Bryony Frost, won the feature race at Plumpton's competitive seven-race card on February 27. More than £50k in prize money was on offer at the R.A.B.I race day. Brandon Castle went off a warm favourite for the Class Three R.A.B.I Joan Collison Memorial Hurdle and duly triumphed by nine lengths. This race was again sponsored by Betty Chantler in memory of her late sister. It was Betty's idea, three years ago, to arrange this annual race day in aid of R.A.B.I. In contrast to last year, the weather was glorious as over 270 guests packed into the Marquee restaurant at the East Sussex course to enjoy a two-course meal whilst watching the racing. Professional jockey David Crosse provided some racing insight, combined with Irish wit, and led diners across the racecourse to see the final fence close up. Amongst those present was comedian



ABOVE: Betty Chantler, David Crosse and racehorse trainer Pat Murphy. BELOW: In the winner's enclosure with connections of Brandon Castle. SD Photos



Micky Flanagan. The day generated over £7,500 for R.A.B.I, with an auction bringing in £2,430 and a

table draw adding £1,255. Students from Plumpton Agricultural College manned the exit gates with collection buckets. Main sponsors on the day were Trevor and Ray Jenkins of Homeleigh Timber & Building Supplies.

Cereals 2019

- Show organisers Comexposium have again named R.A.B.I as show charity for both Cereals and Fruit Focus. Cereals takes place on June 12 and 13 at Boothby Graffoe in Lincolnshire, whilst Fruit Focus is on July 17 at the NIAB Centre in Kent. During Cereals, Farmers & Mercantile is supporting R.A.B.I by holding a breakfast and Club Hectare is hosting a hog & beef barbecue party. Thanks to all!
- More than £800 was raised for R.A.B.I and the DPJ Foundation at a fashion show at The Welsh Collection in Narberth, Pembrokeshire.
- On Easter Sunday the Warwickshire committee hosted an afternoon tea at Wren Hall in Wroxall. The event made £485.
- Wiveliscombe YFC presented a cheque for £419 to regional manager Pam Wills at a club meeting.

£960 from NAAC prize draw

Regional manager Becky Davies spoke at the National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC) dinner in Warwick where a prize draw raised £960 for R.A.B.I. Pictured is Duncan Russell, CEO of the NAAC.



Old Bell Hotel's first beef dinner



The Old Bell Hotel in Malmesbury was the venue for a beef dinner which attracted 50 guests and raised £655. Regional manager Laura Ractliffe spoke about the charity's work. Pictured are: Claire Speed and Tina Morris (Wiltshire committee), with Phil Shergold (second from left) and Gloucestershire committee chairman Andrew Cozens (right).

Farmer of the year award



Scottish farmer David Finlay won the Farmer of the Year prize at the Ceva Animal Welfare Awards at the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre. R.A.B.I supported this award, a new category for 2019. Ceva's animal welfare awards recognise farmers who achieve high standards of animal welfare. David is pictured second from left with head of the judging panel Chris Laurence, R.A.B.I corporate development manager Suzy Deeley and awards host Matt Baker.

Eight colleagues from Trelleborg Wheel Systems completed the Wild Mud Run and raised £1,030. The run was held in the grounds of Osmaston Manor in Derbyshire. It challenged participants with 36 gruelling obstacles, such as leaping over a pile of smouldering logs and climbing out of muddy ditches. Jon Hewitt, Trelleborg's marketing manager for UK and Ireland, said: "Wading through waist high mud was tricky to say the least, but many parts were good fun. It also proved to be a good team building exercise for us." The runners were: Thomas Darby, Harvey Entwistle, Bruce Lauder, Katie Caple, Kat Hyde, Caitlin Haylett, Andrea Manenti and Jon Hewitt.



In the thick of it

Marksmen surpass targets

Twenty teams of four competed in the annual clay shoot at the Kent Shooting School in Tonbridge. White clays were set off from each stand during the morning and the first team to hit them received a gun slip (donated by Rob Brightman) and a bottle of Biddenden sparkling wine. Overall winners on the day were James Attwood and Michelle Nudds (individual) and EH Nicholls (team). The event raised £3,801.

- A total of £910 was collected for R.A.B.I and the Air Ambulance in lieu of gifts at John Hughes' 70th birthday. John enjoyed a Sunday lunch in Yockleton with family and friends.

- An Easter bingo night at Haverfordwest Cricket Club brought in over £500.

- The East Whitton Male Voice Choir sang at Masham Town Hall with the concert / supper bringing in £720. The Longster family from Masham was instrumental in organising the event.

- Over £400 was raised through a beetle drive at Warnford Village Hall in Hampshire.

Beef Week campaigner is guest speaker



Ladies in Beef co-founder Jilly Greed was guest speaker at a beef dinner at the Lygon Arms in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. Pictured left to right are: Laura Ractliffe (R.A.B.I regional manager), John Tingey (the only male member of Ladies in Beef), Jilly Greed and Tanya Robbins (member of Ladies in Beef and R.A.B.I's Gloucestershire committee).

Somerset farmer ready for epic 3,000-mile Canadian road trip

The fifth consecutive annual Great British Beef Week dinner at Frogmary Green Farm in Somerset raised £5,500. The 'Beef Week' campaign is driven by the organisation Ladies in Beef and R.A.B.I is the charity partner. The aim of the campaign is to encourage people to celebrate the quality and versatility of British beef, particularly Red Tractor farm-assured beef. Guest speaker at Frogmary Green Farm was Welsh farmer, TV presenter and R.A.B.I supporter Kate Beavan. On June 21, Nick Bragg, who owns Frogmary Green Farm with wife Claire, sets off on a mammoth challenge to cross Canada on his trusty bicycle. He plans to cycle 3,000 miles in just 30 days from Montréal to the Vancouver waterfront.

Nick (pictured) said: "After my Trio of Triathlons in 2017, I was overwhelmed by the support I received from everyone and the funds raised went



to R.A.B.I to help agricultural families in need. Completing the triathlons was a real personal achievement. "I enjoyed the physical challenge and understood that having an interest outside of farming helped with my mental health and wellbeing. It didn't take me long to decide that I needed another challenge and one that would hopefully raise a lot of money for R.A.B.I.

Mobile hog roasting

- Cotted Village Hall hosted the Hertfordshire Great British beef lunch, which attracted over 100 diners and raised £1,775. Local butcher Julian Clark cooked the beef in his converted mobile hog roaster and Hertfordshire committee members organised a wide selection of salads.

- A Great British Beef Week dinner at the Railway Inn in Ellerby, Yorkshire, was attended by 75 people and raised around £700.

- Dorset's beef dinner at Kingston Maurward College raised around £1,500.

- Yorkshire caterers Field & Forage held a 'beer and burger' night as part of Great British Beef Week and raised £100.



"The support that the charity provides to farming families and individuals is invaluable and it gives me great pleasure to support this very worthwhile cause." Nick will travel across six Canadian provinces by bike, passing through the mountainous terrain of The Rockies. He has already secured over £18,400 in sponsorship and amassed more than 5,500 training miles, covering a distance six times the length of the UK. To support Nick's Canadian challenge go to www.frogmarygreenfarm.co.uk/nick-bragg-charity-cycle

Rowing from Ireland to Wales



LOYAL SUPPORTERS: Members of the Downes family, John, Tim, Louise and Tinker the cat. **INSET:** Tim's Celtic Challenge.

Tim Downes and his family are staunch supporters of R.A.B.I in Shropshire. In May, Tim undertook the world's longest rowing race, The Celtic Challenge, to raise money for R.A.B.I. Teams rowed from County Wicklow in Ireland to Aberystwyth on the

Welsh coast, around 90 nautical miles. Tim said: "Those who have sailed across on the ferry will appreciate it can be a choppy crossing. We were fortunate it was five knot winds and reasonably calm, but the odd rowing stroke still struck air rather than

water. We had a team of 12, with five in the boat at any given time – including the crucial cox, trying to steer a bearing during the night and taking tidal flows into consideration." Tim's team came third out of 16 in a time of 17hrs 2mins.



Stafford NFU held a centenary dinner at the County Showground and the event made £1,000 for R.A.B.I.

Generous support at Staffs Showground

The Staffordshire committee, pictured right, worked tirelessly to organise a dinner at the County Showground, which raised the superb total of £9,197.46. More than 260 people sat down for a three course dinner, with Mike Williams leading an auction of promises and Barclays providing match-funding of £3,000. Raffles were organised by Staffordshire Young Farmers and guest speaker on the night was auctioneer Alastair Sneddon.



Dawlish Warren ball

- More than £2,000 was raised at the 14th annual Spring Ball organised by the Devon committee. Since its inception this event has generated over £23,000. The Langstone Cliff Hotel in Dawlish Warren was again the venue and some 100+ guests attended. John Smith led the auction, which offered some interesting lots including a five course dinner at the Cottage Hotel in Kingsbridge. The auction amassed £755, with a silent raffle adding £662.

- Over 100 people took part in the Dorset committee's quiz night, which was held at Gorwell Farm – courtesy of the Pengelly family. Homemade soup and local cheeses were served by committee members during the interval and the evening brought in more than £700.

- A fashion show, with a two-course lunch, was put on at Hotel Mariners in Haverfordwest. Boutique 1625 presented the fashions and more than £1,750 was raised.

- The annual R.A.B.I./NFU whist drive at Northchapel Village Hall in West Sussex brought in £300.

- Clwb Gwawr Y Gwenoiaid donated £500 raised via carol singing at Christmas.



The H&H Group in Cumbria generated £8,000 from a range of interesting fundraisers over the past year. The money was split evenly between R.A.B.I and the British Heart Foundation.

The fundraising initiatives involved over 100 members of staff from across the group's seven businesses. These included a Hadrian's Wall hike, Dechox for March and the H&H Farmhouse Bake Off. Richard Rankin, CEO of H&H Group, said: "The two charities were specifically chosen as they each have a personal connection with team members from across the business." H&H staff are pictured with representatives from both R.A.B.I and the British Heart Foundation.

Unique route through Burghley



Close to 150 tractors took part in the inaugural Wothorpe tractor drive, raising £5,000 for R.A.B.I and the Evergreen Care Trust. The 20-mile run took participants through the Burghley Estate and the RAF Wittering grounds – land not usually open to the public. The Burghley Estate

is home to the 16th century Burghley House, while the Wittering grounds are an active RAF site. Event organiser Colin Holwell said: "It went very well and there were a lot of people en route showing their support. The route was fantastic." Photos: Farming Photography



Reaping rewards



Jack Garwood, chairman of Essex YFC, presented a cheque for £172.65 to regional manager Lucy Bellefontaine. The money was raised at a harvest festival.



Regional manager Kate Jones accepted a cheque for £415 from Rea Valley YFC. The money was raised at a quiz night earlier this year.

Creating time for breakfast means going beyond the lunchtime rush



It was more like a farmhouse brunch / lunch than a breakfast at the Jersey Pavilion in Stoneleigh, with over 120 guests sitting down to eat between 10am and 12.30pm. This was a joint initiative between R.A.B.I and the Addington Fund which brought in over £2,000. Barclays provided match funding and seven members of staff from the bank's agricultural team attended to cook, serve and wash-up. Becketts Farm Shop donated produce, including sausages, bacon and eggs, while outside caterers Homemade Heaven also assisted.

Taking stock at the Pot

- Fifty guests sat down for breakfast at the Stock Pot café at Ashford Market. The breakfast raised £568.50.
- Cartmel Shepherd Solicitors hosted a breakfast at Rosehill in Carlisle which generated £1,000. Ladies from the Cumbria committee cooked and served breakfasts for 50 people with Clydesdale Bank supporting the event.

- The Tartan Tearooms in Skelmersdale was the venue for the North West's breakfast event, organised by David Hall and his team. Thirty-five people sat down to eat and the morning raised £250.

- Chris Griffin helped promote the first big breakfast on the Isle of Wight. Representatives from the Countryside Land Agency (CLA), Vectis Oil and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) gave talks, along with Paul Griffin, who spoke about his family's experiences of running a small family farm. The breakfast raised £233.

- Thirk Auction Mart's North Yorkshire breakfast attracted support from Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors and raised £900. More than 75 people attended.

Attracting early birds into the New Forest

The Burley Inn, in the heart of the New Forest, held its first breakfast event which brought in over £800. Diners were well looked after by Steve Croll and his New Forest Pub Company team.



Malmesbury couple open up farm doors



Jeremy and Melanie Newman hosted a breakfast at Winkworth Farm in Lea, Malmesbury. Andy and Sue Waring took charge of the catering, whilst Barclays match-funded the prize draw. In total, £2,393.36 was raised. Pictured left to right are: Clive Gee (Barclays agricultural manager), Laura Ractliffe (R.A.B.I regional manager), Joshua Hosier (R.A.B.I trustee), Brian O'Connor (Barclays) and Stephen Noble (R.A.B.I head of fundraising & development).

Only men allowed, in the kitchen at least



The men from the Ceredigion committee cooked and served Sunday lunch at Aberaeron Rugby Club on April 14. The idea of tasking the men to take charge of an entire fundraising event came from Chris Hunt, who sadly passed away in November 2016.

Her husband Stephen is honorary president of R.A.B.I's Ceredigion committee. The post-lunch entertainment was provided by the Carmarthen Ukuleles group and £1,418 was raised on the day.

Pie and pudding night

- More than 50 people attended a pie and pudding night, organised by the Buckinghamshire committee, at The Bell in Winslow. The Bell was a gold standard winner at the British Pie Awards.
- Welsh regional manager Linda Jones gave a talk to the Rotary Club in Tywyn and members presented her with a cheque for £100.
- Jason Brockett was the pool shoot winner at the Leicestershire committee's annual clay shoot at Bawdon Lodge Farm near Loughborough. The farm is home to committee member Pat Bailey.

Changing lives, one step at a time

Rob Maltby ran the Manchester Marathon in aid of R.A.B.I and raised £1,755. Abigail Baker and Andy Dodd also went the extra mile to raise funds for R.A.B.I by completing the London Marathon. Abigail finished in 4hrs 34mins to generate over £1,000, whilst Andy raced for Lyme Disease Action as well as R.A.B.I to bring in over £900. He finished in 5hrs 01min. Andy, a farm consultant, said: "Running the London Marathon has always been an ambition of mine and 2019 was obviously my year as I was incredibly lucky to secure a ballot place, one of approximately 15,000 out of well over 400,000 who applied. The day itself was everything I'd hoped it would be, fantastic atmosphere, crowds every step of the way and with my name on the front of my shirt, it was like most of London knew me!"



Abigail Baker.



Andy Dodd, centre, with pals.

Frog team turning over a new leaf

A group of racing frogs came out of retirement for a jumping night of fun at the Eastington Community Centre. The Gloucestershire committee organised the frog racing evening in conjunction with the Gloucestershire Federation of Young Farmers. The Cotswold Frog Racing team is no longer active but they agreed to offer their services free of charge. There were six sponsored races and sausage and mash was served up to more than 100 people, thanks to the support of Tyndale Vets and the Pound Farm Shop who provided the produce. The night raised £2,037.

Mid-Cheshire farmers top the £9k mark



A cheque for £552.50 was presented to regional manager Georgina Lamb by the Mid-Cheshire Farmers Club at their AGM at Statham Lodge in Lymm. The money was raised via a raffle. Over the years the club has donated more than £9,000 to R.A.B.I. Pictured with Georgina are club members Richard Langley, Ian Newton, John Okell and Tony Gerrard.

Brandesburton YFC in East Yorkshire presented a cheque for £280 to North East regional manager Sally Conner. The money was raised at a ploughing match raffle.



Ploughing match raffle

Cloughs come up with right answers



The Cloughs, Andy, Debbie and Matthew, teamed up with Laurie Jones to triumph at the annual Shropshire quiz. The event brought in £1,000.

One man's junk...

There was a new location for the Rendells spring collective sale with the Devon committee hosting it at Newton Abbot Racecourse. The team once again rallied local farmers to have a spring clear out and sell off tools and implements that might be considered junk by some but precious to others. The day brought in over £900.

A beetle drive at St Arvans Hall near Chepstow raised £421. The event was organised by the Monmouthshire committee.

A bake sale by the Agri Society at Nottingham University raised £150.

Bedale book chapter is closing but Rotary keeps story going

It started as a one-off fundraiser for the children of Chernobyl in 1996. However, after raising over £50,000 for a number of charities over 23 years, organiser Denny Gibson is passing responsibility for future Bedale Book Fairs to the Rotary Club of Northallerton Mowbray. From 1997 until 2010, Denny and her team held three annual book fairs in Bedale per year, in February, May and October. In 2011 it reduced to two events per year – and the focus of the fundraising became farming charity R.A.B.I. Denny explained: "Around this time I became a fundraiser for R.A.B.I and most of my faithful helpers were friends who



Denny Gibson, centre, with fellow organisers.

were also involved in the charity's work or with farming generally. We felt R.A.B.I should benefit. My

late husband had been a dairy farmer and helped with the book fairs from the start, up until his death from

leukaemia in 2005." Denny says ageing volunteers plus her own arthritis has forced the decision to let the Rotary Club run future fairs for their own good causes. She added: "These fairs have only been possible because of the wonderful efforts of our dedicated organisers." The final book sale for R.A.B.I took place in April and raised more than £1,400.

Community effort

A spring lunch organised by the Suffolk committee brought in £2,800. Over 110 people attended the lunch at the Stradbroke Community Centre, with food sourced locally and desserts made and served by committee members.

Jo and Dai Evans, from Rhyd Lewis, donated £250 from a house clearance sale following their retirement from farming.

Downland, a UK network of independently-owned agricultural retailers, supported R.A.B.I at a Cornwall Countryside Supplies open day in April. The collection brought in £713. R.A.B.I is Downland's charity of the year.

An antiques and collectors evening at the Hanson Centre in Etwell raised more than £2,000 thanks to match-funding from Barclays. The event was organised by the Derbyshire committee, spearheaded by Sue Hall.

A 'Call My Bluff' style wine evening was organised by the North Yorkshire Committee and hosted by Lloyd Land Rover of Ripon. The format included tasting six different wines and deciding which member of the panel was providing the true facts.

Cor Bois Y Felin, a male voice choir from Bancyfelin, presented regional manager Linda Jones with a cheque for £725.38. They raised the money by singing in and around their Carmarthen village.

Regional manager Kate Jones collected a donation of £500 from Peter Ward, representing the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture.

Robert Salmon, chairman of the Wyvern Historical & Detecting Society in Wiltshire, presented South Central regional manager Laura Ractliffe with a cheque for £450.

Welsh society share spoils of success



The Aeron Valley Vintage Society donated £1,000 following their successful vintage show.



Well served by the group secretaries

Held in Minsterley near Shrewsbury, the annual Shropshire NFU lunch brought in £7,549. It was a wonderful occasion with good food and lots of auction and raffle prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. Local singer Joanna Cooke also performed. The support shown by NFU group secretaries was impressive and they were well backed up R.A.B.I's Shropshire committee members (pictured) and YFC members from Rea Valley and Alberbury who helped serve food and clear up.



Fish suppers to fuel the brain

Nineteen teams put their general knowledge to the test at a quiz night in Bourne, Lincolnshire. Barclays match-funded the event and Martin Newton from the bank was quizmaster. Entrants ate fish suppers while they answered questions. The night generated £3,500 and the winning team, Doughty's Warriors, is pictured with regional manager Lucy Bellefontaine, left.

Diary Dates

June

- 1 Royal Bath & West Show, Shepton Mallet
- 1 Garden party, Henley-in-Arden
- 2 Cambridgeshire Show
- 2 Marche Manor fundraiser, Shrewsbury
- 5 Floral demo, Northop Memorial Hall, Mold
- 7 Sentry clay shoot, Chatters
- 6-8 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge
- 8-9 OFS, Park Farm, Thorney
- 9 OFS, Bisterne Farm, Ringwood
- 9 OFS, Bedfordia Farms, Bedford
- 9 OFS, Felcourt Farm, East Grinstead
- 9 OFS, Great Tre-rhef Farm, Abergavenny
- 9 Staffordshire YFC tea
- 9 OFS, Tortworth Estate, Wotton-under-Edge
- 10 Hampshire cream tea, Petersfield
- 11 Droitwich Spa marina tour
- 12-13 Cereals, Boothby Graffoe, Lincolnshire
- 13 Tour of Arlington Waterworks, East Sussex
- 14-16 Three Counties Show, Malvern
- 15 Cumberland Show, East Park, Carlisle
- 16 Bucks Cream Tea, Creslow Manor
- 17 Norfolk Cocktail Party, Norfolk Showground
- 18 Garden tour, Haseley Court, Oxfordshire
- 18 South West NSA Sheep Show, Umberleigh
- 18-19 Cheshire Show, Knutsford
- 19 Brockton Gun Club shoot, Much Wenlock
- 20 Carmarthenshire whist drive, Cwrt Henri
- 21 Llangyndeyrn concert, Carmarthenshire
- 22 East Sussex concert, Fletching
- 22 Clay shoot, Hatchpen, Royston
- 22 Leicestershire Summer Party
- 22 Mad Hatters Tea Party, Denshaw
- 22 Cumbria fundraiser, Red Admiral, Gosforth
- 23 OFS, Lychpole Farm, Worthing
- 23 Strawberry tea, Cwmgwilym, Garthbrenny
- 23 OFS, Moor & Marshalls Farm, Petworth
- 26 Gloucestershire farm walk, Tortworth Estate
- 26-27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norfolk Showground
- 29 Brymore School open day, Bridgwater
- 29 Star Struck Cinema, Plumpton College
- 30 Petworth & District ploughing event
- 30 Royal Isle of Wight County Show, Cowes
- 30 Clay shoot, Risby
- 30 Clay shoot, Forest Lodge Farm, Stock

July

- 1 Nottinghamshire farm walk, Newark
- 4 Strawberries & Fizz, Halifax

July (continued)

- 4 Broyle Park Farm cream tea, East Sussex
- 6 Hanbury Show, Worcestershire
- 7 Prosecco & strawberries, Pembrokeshire
- 10 Afternoon tea, Ramsdean, Petersfield
- 13 Liskeard Show
- 13 Hog roast, Cwm Country Club
- 14 Monmouthshire garden party
- 15 Stithians Show, Truro
- 17 Fruit Focus, East Malling, Kent
- 22-25 Royal Welsh Show, Llanelwedd
- 25 Launceston Show
- 25 Forde Abbey Summer Fair, Chard
- 27 Mid Devon show, Tiverton
- 28 Stumblehole Garden Party, Surrey
- 28 Totnes Show
- 30-31 New Forest Show, Brockenhurst
- 31 Yealmpton Show
- 31 Nantwich Show

August

- 1 New Forest Show, Brockenhurst, Hampshire
- 1 Honiton Show
- 1-2 Thame Sheep Fair, Oxfordshire
- 2-4 Welsh Sheepdog Trials, Carmarthenshire
- 3 Brecon Show, Watton
- 3 Skittles evening, Deer Park Farm, Cornwall
- 7 North Devon Show, Umberleigh
- 7-8 Old Fashioned Harvesting, Lavant
- 8 Okehampton Show
- 10 Chepstow Show
- 10-11 South Hams Vintage Rally, South Brent
- 10 Ellingham Show, Hampshire
- 13-14 Pembrokeshire County Show,
- 14 Picnic and deer safari, Burley, Hampshire
- 14 Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show
- 15 Chagford Show
- 16 Dunster Show
- 17 Coffee morning, Cardigan Guildhall
- 17 Minsterley Show
- 17-18 Yesterday's Farming, Haselbury Plucknett
- 18 Duck race, Glanwern, Felin-fach
- 21 Merionethshire County Show
- 22 Melpash Show, Bridport
- 22 Holsworthy Show
- 28 Joules seconds sale, Bedfordshire
- 29 Bucks Show, Weedon Park

OFS indicate Open Farm Sunday event

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New president of Suffolk Show

Trustee Stephen Miles is the new president of the Suffolk Show, having taken over the reins from Baroness Hazel Byford. The two-day Suffolk Show is organised by the Suffolk Agricultural Association and is a celebration of the

county's food, farming and agricultural heritage. Stephen organised a Suffolk Agricultural Association president's cocktail party in aid of R.A.B.I at the showground's Trinity Rooms in April. Around 175 people

attended and both Stephen and fellow trustee Joshua Hosier spoke about R.A.B.I's work. The event raised the fantastic sum of £5,680. Stephen is pictured second from right with supporters in Suffolk.

