

Young Farmers Ambassadors England and Wales Newsletter

July 2019



Hello everyone. Hope all is well.
Well, this year is flying by and, before we know it, we will all be getting together in sunny Wales for the 2019 Reunion.
Over last few months the committee have been in talks about how we could help with the European Rally, which is to be held in England this year. The organisers approached us to see if we could provide them with some financial help as European funding was difficult to confirm due to this thing called Brexit and the uncertainty of it all.
We decided that we could offer something and in return we shall be doing a presentation at the Rally on the benefits of YFA membership, along with other promotional activities. There will be a full report in the next Newsletter.
See you all soon.

Karl

England and Wales YFA Chair, Karl Hockenhill (Seminar 2013, Canada 2014, Rally 2015) tied the knot with Kate Magee on Saturday, the 29th of June, 2019. Many congratulations to you both. We'll all celebrate with you at the Reunion in October



Sharing and Caring our way to the England Rally

I was lucky enough to be asked to be involved with the planning of the 2019 European Rally in England. (I say lucky enough, after attending the 2017 rally in Latvia, having the time of my life and hearing NFYFC would be hosting, I sent a lot of enthusiastic emails making sure I WAS involved). Last year I attended the Rally in Scotland as part of the international prep team learning all the vital planning information and getting stuck into delivering the programme, which was a lot more than I had anticipated. I have to say I learnt a lot that week!!

Recently we hosted the grand prep meeting in England which saw 19 of us from RYEurope staff, the board and members from past, present and future events sharing knowledge and ideas

(and a lot of food!). It was invaluable as this was where the Prep Team for this year's Rally really had their first proper chance to spend a few days thrashing out timetables, session ideas and get the general running of the event off the ground. It also meant we came together as a team and got to know each other.

During that week we also spent some time at our impressive venue. Those of you lucky enough to be joining us in August will hopefully agree we have found the perfect spot for this year's Rally. The Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester really shows off a typically English setting and is well equipped for all our RYEurope needs.

Our biggest challenge so far has got to be funding - due to the current unknown with Brexit in the U.K. we have so far been unable to secure funding from Erasmus+ programme and are seeking sponsorship to allow us to host the Rally and make it an enjoyable week for all delegates. Our team and the RYEurope board have been working hard to explore different funding options. We continue to look for sponsors to help us make it a great event.

The theme for this year's Rally is 'Sharing and Caring in a Democratic and Inclusive European Community'. We will be touching on mental health, the stigmas attached to mental health, how businesses deal with employee wellbeing in their work place, democracy within European countries and using all this to create mental health campaigns for each country to take back to their youth organisations.

The timetable has been completed and responsibilities shared around. Members of the prep team are now getting down to session planning and finalising host families and trips to local businesses. One of the focuses for the prep team now is social media making sure we are building a community to share our progress and so that we can reach as many people during Rally week with what our participants are getting up to. Make sure you follow us @ryeuropeally on Instagram and @ryeuropeally on Facebook.

We are all very excited to welcome our friends from across Europe to England in August!!

Russ Carrington (Seminar 2011, Rally 2012, Chairman RYE 2016-2018).

IFYE 2020 - International Farm Youth Exchangees

62nd European Conference - 8 to 15 August 2020

For the first time this century the IFYE European Conference is coming to England in 2020. Open to all YFA members and their partners this is going to be a week-long festivity. Think YFA reunion weekend but all week!!

Based in the north-west of England at Myerscough College, Preston, Lancashire, the week's activities will be very much focused on Food, Farming and Fun. The week however is not just in Lancashire but in true YFA style we will be travelling to Cumbria, the Lake District, North Yorkshire and the Dales to explore the spectacular and unique landscapes. With a combination of opportunities including fell walking in the Lake District, travelling by coach, boat and train, visiting farms and food producers or exploring local crafts, we are sure that there will be something for everyone.

If you would like to give your talents, time or have contacts in Lancashire then this small but enthusiastic organising group would like to hear from you.

Contact:

Helen Ramsay (helenramsay@btinternet.com)

Christine Cooper (cooperleece@yahoo.com)



Angharad Williams (Ulster 88), chair of the Wales Reunion Committee and Huw Williams (USA 82, Rally 89), Treasurer of England and Wales YFA presenting donation cheques to Dafydd Jones, chair of Wales YFC at the recent Royal Welsh Show.

Members' News

Llongyfarchiadau. Laura Elliot (Rally 14, 16, Ulster 15) (former Wales YFC Chairman) is engaged to Edward Ford (former NFYFC Chairman). Congratulations from your friends in YFA.

We are very sad to announce that Donald Spencer (USA 1950) passed away on the 14th of May, 2019, aged 91. Donald was a regular attendee at recent YFA Reunions, and we all enjoyed hearing about his YFC trip 69 years ago. He was a true gent who will be missed by all of his YFA friends. Our condolences to son Keith (Finland 1976), daughter-in-law Alison (Canada 1980), grandson Andrew (India 2015) and the rest of his family.

John Cromie (USA 1954) sadly passed away on the 3rd of December, 2018. A member of Northern Ireland YFA, John was one of the founding members of YFA, and was present at the first YFA Reunion at the Cora Hotel, London, in 1955. He has only missed a handful of Reunions since then. Our condolences to Fiona (USA 1957) and the family.

David Pittendrigh (Netherlands 1957) passed away on the 11th of April 2019. Together with his wife, Davida (Canada 1960), he has been a regular attendee at recent YFA Reunions. Although he had lived in Suffolk for over 40 years, he never lost his wonderful Scottish accent.



Taken at the 2015 Reunion, a photo of attendees celebrating 50 or more years since their YFC exchanges. Donald Spencer (far left) John Cromie (front) David Pittendrigh (front row, 2nd from right)

We are happy to announce the birth of Eva Elizabeth Rose Williams on the 1st of February, 2019. Mum Vicky (nee Hope) (Rally 2014), and dad Stuart are over the moon.

Many congratulations to Alun Morgan (New Zealand 1970) on being elected as President of Gwent County Federation of YFCs.

An invitation from the Wales YFA Reunion Committee

Croeso!

On behalf of the 2019 Reunion Committee, it gives me great pleasure to warmly invite you to join us at Newport in South East Wales this October.

We've been busy preparing a programme for you to enjoy which will give you a true taste of Wales. Thanks to all our sponsors and trip hosts, we have been able to pack the programme with fascinating trips and great entertainment. I'm sure that we've something for everyone and hope that you'll see Wales at its very best.

Our base will be the Newport Holiday Inn, close to the M4 and accessible to Cardiff and Bristol airports and the main south Wales train line. The hotel has all the facilities that you expect - including a swimming pool!

If you're celebrating an exchange anniversary this year why not make the most of the reunion and meet up in Wales, or if you've never attended a Reunion before, take a chance and open up a new sociable YFA world for yourself! The fact that this will be the 63rd Reunion speaks for itself!

We look forward to welcoming you all to the land of song for a fun filled weekend.

Angharad Williams

63rd Annual

Young Farmers' Ambassadors Reunion

Holiday Inn Newport, Newport, Wales

25th October – 28th October 2019

Trips include:

Royal Mint and an afternoon in Caerphilly (all day Saturday)

The Royal Mint is the world's leading export mint, making coins and medals for approximately 60 countries as well as making and distributing United Kingdom coins and supplying blanks and official medals. There will be a guided tour and the opportunity for you to strike your very own coin. After lunch at the Royal Mint, you will have some free time to explore Caerphilly town or its impressive castle (the second largest castle in Britain after Windsor Castle).

Newport Ship & Transporter Bridge (Saturday morning)

The Newport Medieval Ship is a fifteenth century merchant vessel unearthed in the heart of Newport in 2002. We will be visiting the Newport Ship center to enjoy a tour of the reconstruction work, hear about the ship's life and how life might have been aboard the vessel.

The remarkable Newport Transporter Bridge, opened in 1906 is one of only six operational transporter bridges left worldwide from a total of twenty constructed. The brave can climb the 270 steps and walk over the top of the bridge which offers fantastic views of Newport and the surrounding areas.

Caerleon Roman Village, fortress & baths (Saturday morning)

Caerleon's varied remains from a first century Roman fortress is one of only three in the UK. Enjoy a guided tour of Isca's barracks, amphitheatre and baths with local expert, Bob Trett. The amphitheatre, which has buttressed walls up to ten feet high and is entered via eight symmetrically placed entrances and is one of the best-preserved amphitheatres in northern Europe.

Coombes Farm Trip (Saturday morning)

Coombes Farm is just over 2000 acres, comprising 1100 acres of arable, 400 acres of maize and the rest grazing and cutting grass leys. 600 British Blue cross cattle are bought in as 2-4 week old calves and taken through to finish. There is a large poultry enterprise and a contracting enterprise covering a wide range of services, including harvesting over 4500 acres of silage and maize. It has a 250kw wind turbine and a 50kw roof mounted photovoltaic system. It also has 44 air source heat pumps providing heat for the poultry site via underfloor heating.

Tiny Rebel (Saturday afternoon)

Tiny Rebel is a multi award-winning brewery in Newport. On this trip you will be taken through the whole process from raw ingredients to perfect pint, with a stop in the bar of course! You will have a behind-the-scenes look at the brewing process, a glimpse at the trophy cabinet and a look into their history books as they immerse you in all things Tiny Rebel!

Castell Coch (Saturday afternoon)

Castell Coch (Red Castle) is a fairy-tale castle, built in the late nineteenth century as a rural retreat for the very wealthy 3rd Marquess of Bute. Built on the site of an earlier thirteenth-century castle, the current castle, designed by William Burges, is the product of a vivid Victorian imagination when High Gothic was the order of the day. Visit Castell Coch to view the vibrant architecture or to hunt for the fairies.

Gwent Wetlands (Saturday afternoon)

The Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve was created in 2000, to mitigate the loss of habitat when the Cardiff Barrage scheme was built. During our tour you'll find out about the unique climate that exists there, the effort required to preserve it, and hopefully spotting a variety of birds.

Celtic Manor Resort (Sunday afternoon)

Courtesy of the Celtic Manor Resort, have a go at the Forest Jump adrenaline pumping adventure or experience some of the most famous holes in golf on the Resort's fantastic mini golf course, Adventure Golf.

For a more relaxed experience, enjoy a tour of the Twenty Ten Ryder Cup Course and locker room.

Usk Museum or Walk (Sunday afternoon)

Usk Rural Life Museum is housed in a sixteenth century malt barn and has over 5000 artefacts, exhibits and various displays portraying rural life in Monmouthshire.

Weather permitting, enjoy an easy 3 mile **walking tour of Usk Castle and battle site**. No stiles and only one short climb, through farmland, woodland and along the banks of the River Usk.

In addition to the trips, a full weekend of entertainments has been arranged.

Friday night's fancy dress theme is 'Thank you for the Music', and Saturday's Gala Dinner, followed by dancing to Soul'd Out is one not to be missed!

Cost of the Weekend – price based on 2 sharing a room

	Friday night – Monday Morning	Friday night – Sunday Lunchtime
Adults & Children in own room	£235	£190
Single Supplement	£75	£50
Children (3-12 yr) sharing parents room	£50	£45
Children (13-17 yr) sharing parents	£195	£155
Children 2 & under	FREE	FREE
Saturday night only		
Dinner, B & B & Sunday Lunch	£100	
Single Supplement	£25	
Saturday Dinner Dance Only	£39	

An electronic version of the full brochure and booking form, can be accessed via our Facebook page, 'Young Farmers' Ambassadors UK Reunion', or, if you would like a Word document by e-mail or a paper copy of the full Reunion Invitation and Booking Form, please do not hesitate to contact the secretaries, Andrew Spencer & Angharad Thomas

angzthomas@hotmail.co.uk

DEADLINE – You will need to return the booking form by Friday 6th SEPTEMBER 2019

Electronic YFA Newsletter

We are continuing to receive a good response to our suggestion for members to convert to 'paperless' Newsletters. Thanks again to those who have responded. If you have received a paper copy of this YFA Newsletter, but would be happy to receive an electronic copy in the future, please contact Huw on dfw@aber.ac.uk. You will then continue to receive this Newsletter and help ensure the continuation of the YFC international exchange programmes. Thank you.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Over the last few years, we have lost touch with some YFA members. If you know the whereabouts of any of the following members, please get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Huw dfw@aber.ac.uk. Thank you.

Linda O'Shea (nee Vickers) (Australia '72), **Janet Bell** (nee Hutchinson) (Turkey & Kenya),
Joanna Huck (Zambia '00), **Joseph Clay** (Hungary '88), **Brian Littleton** (Canada '91),
Joan Syrett (Sweden '91), **J Alexander** (Zambia '87), **Anthony Allen** (Nepal '84),
Jim Davies (Australia '74), **Katherine Cole** (nee Wilson) (Rally 91),
P M Cale, A M Sparey, Rhys I R Davies.

Participants on the England and Wales YFC exchange programmes receive this YFA Newsletter for two years after their last trip. If you are not yet a member and would like to join YFA, or know somebody else who would like to join, please contact our Membership secretary, Huw Williams, dfw@aber.ac.uk

If you have anything that you think could feature in the next newsletter please email it to our newsletter editor Kelly Gibbs, kellygibbs22@hotmail.com

England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors Privacy Statement

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You can be removed from our mailing list by informing the Membership Secretary:
Huw Williams dfw@aber.ac.uk