

Young Farmers Ambassadors

Scottish Region

Newsletter

May 2017

Grand Raffle – First prize £100, tickets are now available from the Secretary

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Going to the Royal Highland Show?

YFA Scotland invite all present and past
YFA Members to a **Drinks Reception**



Downstairs at the YF Centre
Friday 23 June at 6.30 pm –
see you there 😊



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Chairman's Blog – Andrew Baird



Hope everyone has been enjoying the good weather, but I know the farmers are looking forward to when the rain comes, which I never thought I would hear! At the AGM in Feb, I was re-elected as your Chairman for another year. We held it at a new venue this year, Perth Racecourse, to coincide with the SAYFC National Competitions weekend. It was thought that we might attract a bigger turnout, especially from existing young farmers, but unfortunately that didn't happen. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to those who gave their presentations. It looks like we have a good committee this year with some good experience behind them.

The main event of the YFA calendar is our annual drinks reception at the YF centre on Friday 23rd June. As always, it will be a great evening catching up with past exchangees and meeting the incoming exchangees. We will be selling raffle tickets throughout the night so if you haven't already bought some, make sure to buy some on the night. But before that, we will be looking after the incoming exchangees on the away day, Wednesday 14th June.

It's great to see lots of Scots going over to Switzerland in July for the European IFYE conference, it will be my first one, and I am so much looking forward to it. **Andrew**

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Young Farmers Ambassadors Scottish Region was held on Saturday 25 February, 2017 at Perth Race Course. It was a disappointing turnout, however, the business as follows was completed. The Office Bearers and Committee elected are:

Chairman: Andrew Baird

Vice Chairman: Neil Brims

Secretary: Mary Turner

Treasurer: Neil Brims

Newsletter Editor: Katie Punler

Contact Member for IFYE: Paul Fraser

Representatives to YFA National Executive:

Elaine Meikle and Andrew Baird

Committee: Meg Findlay, Elaine Meikle, David Paterson, Caroline Robertson, Alison Ross, David Stevenson and Richard Wilson

Auditor: to be confirmed

After the formalities were over, the following gave us an insight into their exchange trips:

From 2015: Murray Stephen – New Zealand; Katie Punler – Kansas; Louisa Thomson – Norway and Neil Ritchie -Ireland

From 2016: Zoe Wilson – New Zealand; Hannah Adam – Montana; Lucy McClymont – Kansas and Eilidh McCulloch and Michael Rattray – European Rally in Northern Ireland Not in attendance, but Elaine and Mary gave presentations on behalf of Inez Brown – Finland 2014; Sarah Ferguson – Canada 2016 and Zoe Clarke – Ulster 2016

Thanks to all for their interesting and informative presentations and making us wish we could do it all again! We look forward to seeing presentations from those who could not make it, next year!



OUTGOING EXCHANGEES 2017

The Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs held interviews in February 2017. This year's lucky members selected to represent Scotland are as follows:

Lucy McClymont (Lower Nithsdale)	New Zealand
Heather Murray (Lower Nithsdale)	Canada
Emma Harper (Lower Nithsdale)	Colorado
Gayle Allan (Avondale)	Montana
Julie Clark (Mauchline)	Finland
Rebecca Lumsden (Strathbogie)	Finland

Beth Dandie (Forfar)	Switzerland
Mhairi Dalgliesh (Thornhill)	Ireland
Meghan Bremner (Halkirk)	European Rally in Latvia
Katie Burns (Kilmaurs)	European Rally
Andrew McGregor (Carluke)	European Rally
Gail Woodburn (Mauchline)	European Rally
Jane Donald (Biggar)	Ulster
Hazel Murray (Lower Nithsdale)	Ulster
Gemma Duguid (Strathbogie)	Wales
Beth Massie (Udny)	Wales

You will note there are 4 members from Lower Nithsdale going on trips this summer – what a great achievement from one club. We look forward to hearing about all the trips in the coming months.



Katie's trip to Kansas.

Firstly, I'd like to say I am excited to be part of the YFA newsletter and I'd like to thank Mary for all her help in putting it together. I was fortunate enough to do a 3-month exchange to Kansas in 2015.

I have always been a keen traveller and was delighted when I discovered the SAYFC's international travel programme. I set off for America on the 16th of June 2015 and attended the IFYE 50th anniversary orientation in Atlanta, Georgia where I met all the inbound and outbound exchangees. During my four days in Atlanta, I attended workshops, presentations, and tours to CNN, Coca-Cola HQ, theatres and a medieval dinner show. The orientation was a great opportunity to meet lots of new people and make some unforgettable memories.



After the orientation, I arrived in Wichita airport, Kansas and

was met by my first host family; the LeBlancs. Dan, Jen, Jessie (16), Sammie (14) and Libby (10), lived on a farm in Eastern Kansas near Kansas City. The girls were involved in 4-H and had many 4-H projects such as bucket calves and handicraft projects. During my stay with the LeBlancs we went to baseball games, went fishing, blueberry picking, swimming, ceramic and painting classes, mustang car shows and went to an outdoor cinema. The LeBlancs hosted a party for the July 4th celebrations which was an excellent night filled with fireworks and American food.



My second host family were the Barb family; Bill, Tammy and Molly (15). The Barbs lived in a small town called Ulysses in the South-West of Kansas.



I arrived just in time for the Grant County Fair. The fair was an intensive week long county show which involved agricultural shows and competitions, parades, stalls, dog shows, fashion shows, cooking demonstrations and my favourite; the rodeos. During the fair I got to try out all sorts of food such as deep fried Oreos, deep fried cake batter, potato twizzlers, different kinds of 'pop' and loads of Mexican food. I'm not sure if the food was the best or the worst part of my exchange, but I definitely made an effort to try as much of it as I could! Once the fair was over, we were able to do other things such as going to Lady Antebellum and Luke Bryan concerts. One of the biggest highlights of my trip was getting to fly a crop plane over Ulysses. It was an amazing experience and I got to see how flat South-West Kansas really is!



My third host family were the Krehbiels who live on a farm in the North of Kansas, near the Amish village of Yoder. Sue, Kevin Sarah (19) and Katie (16) enjoyed an old-fashioned way of life, and we often travelled by horse and cart.



The Krehbiels had pigs, goats, horses and cattle and we were kept busy with chores every morning and night which was sometimes challenging with the temperatures and humidity! During my time with the Krehbiels we visited Strataga salt mines, the world's largest storage elevator, bison wildlife tour and K-State University. We went to a dairy show in Selina where I met some fellow IFYEs I had met at the orientation.

I had an amazing experience in Kansas, staying with the most wonderful and accommodating families. I met some lovely people on my trip and made memories I will never forget. I would like to thank SAYFC, international trust and YFA for making my exchange possible. I now look forward to this year's IFYE conference in Switzerland, seeing fellow IFYEs and meeting lots of new people.

Katie Punler

Sarah's Canadian Trip



This time last year I was just at the start of my 3-month exchange trip to Canada. I didn't know what to expect but I can honestly say it has been the best thing I have ever done

On arrival at Toronto Airport I met with some family that live in the outskirts of Toronto before meeting the head of the Exchange Programme for Ontario's Junior Farmers. Within the first 24 hours of being in Canada, I met the other delegates from all over the World.

The exchange programme was very intense but very enjoyable, fun filled with loads of farm tours as well as junior farmer activities and tourist attractions. Each week we moved to a different county in Southern Ontario, which meant a new host family every Sunday. Hearing this at the start of the trip was very intimidating but every family made me feel at home.

Now for some of the highlights

We were lucky to get to Niagara on a quiet day so we got to go on a walk down by the rapids, a boat ride on the Horn Blower and a walk behind the falls. This place is stunning and the photos don't give it justice.



Every week, we would be taken to 3 or 4 farms and it was amazing to see all the different types of farming. One day we would be on an old-fashioned tie stall farm with 20 cows and the next day we were on a state of the art dairy with 2,000 cows. Canada still have the quota system which means the average family dairy farm would have roughly a herd of 20-40.



One of the most thrilling things I did was white water rafting. This was amazing and something I never thought I would do.



Even though our exchange was mostly trips to dairy and beef farms we were luckily enough to experience other kinds of tours as well. Like beehives, where we got kitted out in all the gear. We also visited a lot of wineries and breweries throughout the Provence.



I have made lifelong friends along the way, and thanks must go to many people for making this possible – particular thanks to SAYFC, the International Trust and YFA

Sarah Ferguson

Peru Adventures with Alison Spencer & Co.

Three weeks in Peru, and not a marmalade sandwich in sight! Like many, Peru first came to my attention by reading the stories of Paddington Bear – yes everyone knows where he came from and what he packed in his suitcase!

It is now, of course, far more well known for The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu which lay forgotten about for hundreds of years but having spent three unforgettable weeks touring with Mary Turner and Mary Roberts two fellow YFA Members, I was so, so wrong in thinking that was all Peru had to offer!



Yes, Machu Picchu is magnificent, a marvel of engineering that has withstood earthquakes, foreign invasion and howling weather, but there are so many other places that are equally fascinating such as –

*The surreal Uros Islands on Lake Titicaca built entirely of reeds which need constant renovation to ensure they don't sink



*The Sacred Valley with the quaint village of Ollantaytambo with its narrow cobbled streets that have been inhabited since the 13th Century



*Moray and Maras with their amphitheatre concentric terraces carved into huge earthen bowls so the Incas could create micro climates in which to grow different crops.



*The beautiful city of Arequipa guarded by three dramatic volcanoes

*Cuzco with its ancient cobbled stone streets



*The Colca Canyon – the world’s second deepest canyon – yes twice as deep as The Grand Canyon with its fantastical changes in scenery and of course soaring Condors



*Nazca Lines with over 300 geometric figures and animals etched out on the ground. We know how they were made, but not who or why they were made.

*Islas Ballestas – with its extraordinary ecosystem of birds, sea mammals and fish, which was fought over by Spain and Chile for its guano – bird poo!



So, can you spend three weeks in Peru and see all these sights on a budget? **ABSOLUTELY!**

All you need is

1. A superb, highly experienced traveller – we travelled with Turner Tours – one of Scotland’s best!
2. A Tablet with access to Booking.com and a copy of The Lonely Planet
3. Pre-booked tickets to Machu Picchu – numbers visiting each day are limited.
4. A smattering of Spanish and or access to google translate.

5. A backpack or small suitcase with assorted clothing as you will experience all types of weather and don't forget the walking boots.
6. A good supply of toilet paper- it's like gold dust!
7. Earplugs – There seem to be no rules on the road, apart from tooting your horn seems to give you right of way, so the streets can be very noisy.
8. A good pair of lungs – yes, some people suffer from altitude sickness as at times you are higher than 4000 metres above sea level.
9. An ability to not be squeamish – guinea pig is a local delicacy in some areas and is cooked complete with head and feet!
10. To choose your bus journeys carefully as many of the bus drivers drive at alarming speeds especially around cliff edges and overtake on blind corners, but what breath-taking scenery!

The total cost for each of us on our trip including all flights and entrance costs was just over £1,500 with accommodation only costing £200! As ladies of a certain age we were not slumming it – all rooms were on-suite with breakfast and fresh towels each day.

So why not go on your own adventure in search of Paddington Bears relatives, you will certainly not regret it. To think our love of travel started with a Young Farmers Exchange- the world really is our oyster, get out and do it!

[UK YFA Reunion to be held at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, Somerset from 27 – 30 October 2017 – invitations will come from the English Reunion team in mid-July – so look out for that.](#)

[UK YFA Reunion next year at the Altens Hotel, Aberdeen from 26 – 29 October, 2018 –The reunion team have already started to put together the programme for the weekend - put it in your diary!](#)



Future IFYE Conferences

2017 – Switzerland from 15 – 22 July, and what a great response from Scotland with 21 participants -look out for a full report in the next newsletter, together with Facebook updates during the week.

2018 – Northern Ireland at Greenmount College from 21 – 28 July - this will be the 60th Anniversary Conference, so it is sure to be a week **NOT TO BE MISSED**

2018 – 11th World IFYE Conference, from 8 – 16 September – a cruise from Vancouver, BC to Anchorage, Alaska – online registration will be available from June 2017 at <http://ifyeusa.org/news-conferences/conferences/2018-world-ifye-conference.html>

2019 – Norway

2020 – England



to Diane and Grant Woodburn (European Rally 2006) a daughter Eva; Stuart and Clare Dickson (Aitken – European Rally 2010) a son Struan; Scott Walker (Canada 1999) married Channeille Jackson

DON'T FORGET – YFA MEMBERSHIP FEE

The vast majority of members have set up a Standing Order, which really helps to keep YFA in business. We do provide generous donations to the outgoing Exchangees, and without the support of our members, we would not be in a position to continue the level of donation. Fund raising events have become harder to organise, so more and more we do depend on membership payments. So if you are new to YFA or have forgotten to pay your membership, please join and get involved – like most things in life the more you put in, the more you get back out. The SUBSCRIPTION is only £10! You can pay by Standing Order, online or cheque – get in touch with Neil or Mary – contact details on Page 1



And finally, a note from the Editor - many thanks for all the contributions to the newsletter. We are always looking for news and articles that we think may be of interest to our members. Your feedback and support is also appreciated; if you enjoy the newsletters let us know and if you don't let us know how we can improve them! So.... get in touch 😊

We are extremely grateful to Aldi for their generous sponsorship towards the Drinks Reception, as well as crisps and chocolate provided by Mackie's of Scotland



COME AND JOIN US



An open invitation is given to present and past members of YFA to join us at our **Drinks Reception at the Royal Highland Show on Friday 23 June, from 6.30 pm**. A special mention is given to the undernoted people who are celebrating special years since their exchange trip. We really hope that as many as possible can join us, it will be a great opportunity to renew old friendships. It will also give you a chance to meet the Incoming delegates from all over the world. **The event will be held downstairs at the Young Farmers Centre and although it is an open invitation, to assist us with the Drinks order, it would be helpful if we can get as many responses back as possible.**

Anniversary of Exchange Trip: Roll of Honour

1957 Julia Brown (Carruthers), Margaret Sharp (Sparks), David Pittendrigh, Jessie Hunter (Steel), Meg Allan (Warnock), (60 yrs) Jean Campbell (Black), Jean Miller (Horsburgh)

1967 Maxwell Hyslop, Moira Jolly (Allison), Margaret Wardlaw (Templeton), Robert Stobo, John McLaren, Willie Lang, (50 yrs) Jean Marshall (Hodge), Jim Dalgleish, Anne Leggat (Logan) Ann Henderson (Collie), William Henderson

1977 Sandra MacIver, Alison Aitken (Budge), Alan Duncan, Mary Turner, Audrey Coates (Fenton), Margaret Crawford, (40 yrs) Margaret Eunson (Copland), David Irvine, Alan James, Fiona Pollock (Whiteford), Keith Stewart, Sandy Tulloch,Meg Findlay (Pratt), Margo Stewart (Park), Archie MacArthur

1992 Fiona Walker (Bruce), Sandra Stevenson (Weir), Alison Collins, Julie Nairn (Adam), Findlay Erskine, George Pate (25 yrs) Robert Steven, Roberta Dunbar, Fiona Ewen (Wight), Susan McFarlane (Woods), George Irving, Hugh Jack, ClaireEdgar (Girvan), Isabel Herdman (Waldie) Wilson Rea, Jane Young (Leiper) Isabel Miller (McHarg), Susan Brown(Rutherford), Kathryn Wells (Gordon)

2007 Gary McConnell, Laura Fleming, Fiona Kerr (Stewart) Linda Sloan, Mairi Dick, Alison Ramage (Taylor), Fiona (10 yrs) Wilson, John Ritchie, Raymond Crerar, Katie Barr, Morag Nicholl (Alexander)

2012.....Maimie Sloan, Kirstie Black, Lesley McLaren, Jennifer Stott, Andrew Glendinning, Stuart Jamieson, Hazel Ritchie, (5 yrs)....Lizzie McJannet, Fiona Struthers, Christine Struthers, Lizzi Mackie, Andrew Baird