



Young Farmers Ambassadors England and Wales Newsletter February 2019

Chairman's Report

Dear fellow YFA members

Happy New Year, and hope you have all recovered from the festive period.

I would like to start by just giving a little information about myself.

My name is Karl Hockenhull and I'm a member of Staffordshire Young Farmers and I'm due to marry my lovely fiancé, Kate, at the end of June.

I have been lucky enough to travel with Young Farmers three times, to the RYE Autumn Seminar in 2013, Canada JFAO in 2014 and the RYE European Rally in 2015. All of which were amazing but I would never have managed to get them without the help of YFA.

Enough about me now haha,

I would like to say a big thank you to Scotland for another fantastic Reunion with good trips throughout the day also good night time entertainment too - I can't wait to see what Wales have in store for us all this October.

England has a busy 3 years ahead with the European Rally this year, the IFYE conference in 2020 and then finally having the Reunion back in England in 2021.

In December NFYFC held the Selection Day for the 2019 NFYFC Travel trips. Although on the day not all the places were filled, I am pleased to say that they are all now. I hope everyone selected has an amazing time and hope to see them at a YFA Reunion one day.

Apart from that, it's been a quiet few months since Scotland, so it's a good bye from me and the committee for now.

Karl Hockenhull

62nd YFA Reunion 2018 - Scotland

The 62nd Young Farmers Ambassadors UK Reunion was held in Aberdeen from the 26th to the 29th October 2018. We stayed at the Aberdeen Altens hotel, which had a variety of facilities including a Jacuzzi, swimming pool and a steam room.



The first evening saw people dancing the night away to Un1que disco, with a few party games included. One which saw females running to grab a man to sit on their knee. Another with everyone in a circle grabbing the hat off the person in front of them. Sabine from Austria even had a mini hen party. This year fancy dress theme did not disappoint with people turning up with a wide range of 1920's costumes, from flapper dresses to gangster costumes.

Saturday morning saw everyone adventuring off on a wide range of organised trips, including Castleton fruit farm - which is one of Scotland's biggest commercial growers - Peterhead prison and the Gordon Highlanders museum.

I set off on visit to Marshall Trailers, which was founded in 1952 by Charles J Marshall. He started off by building trailers at night and doing his National Service in the day. By 1956 the first part of the present factory building was completed allowing a production line to be set up. He invested heavily in buying steel in bulk and in the latest equipment. We were shown around by Charles (managing director since 1988) and his son David (who is the 3rd generation of Marshals). We got to see every part of the factory from the robotic cutters, welders and the painting room. It was fascinating to see how trailers, muck spreaders and slurry tankers are made. Marshall Trailers are known for being red, but now they can paint the



trailers any colour according to the customer's requirement. On average they produce 46 units per week that are sold worldwide. We visited the yard and saw an array of trailers waiting to go out to various destinations including New Zealand.

It was great to see a family run business and their enthusiasm for the business. They are constantly evolving and investing heavily in the business with many exciting plans ahead.

We were also very lucky to be given a goodie bag, which included a Marshall hat which was very useful for the weekend.

In the afternoon a few people braved the elements and went for a walk around old Aberdeen.



Saturday evening started with a formal dinner and a chance to try a variety of Gins. The hotel went all out with a delicious beef dinner. Colin Slessor the guest speaker (deputy head of livestock, Aberdeen and Northern Marts) gave an amusing talk, which had many people in fits of laughter. All I'm going to say is cardigan for a chicken!! Last Resort band kept us entertained for the evening with a variety of traditional dances.

Sunday morning started off with a religious service followed by the regional YFA meetings. The National Annual General Meeting followed with each

region giving a report. Andrew Spencer from Wales gave a report on this year's IFYE conference in Northern Ireland. Next year IFYE conference is going to be held in Norway. Heini Daniels was elected as secretary of National YFA. Congratulations. The meeting ended with the handover to the Welsh committee which will be hosting the 63rd Annual YFA Reunion in Newport from 25th-28th October 2019 who got us 'in the mood for dancing'.

On Sunday afternoon, some people tried their hand at trampolining, but the majority of people had a go at curling.

In the evening we had a two course meal of pork and lemon tart. We were entertained by some very talented youngsters, including a violinist, signers and an Accordion, followed by a disco which saw many people dancing the final night away to the early hours of Monday.

Monday morning saw people saying their farewells, with some people leaving very early.

I would like to thank the committee for arranging a very memorable and enjoyable weekend. See you all next year in Newport, South Wales.

Nicole Doidge (Austria 2014, Switzerland 2015)



Travel Report – Joan Green

As a volunteer with the National Police Aid Convoys Charity for 11 years, I have visited Zambia for the 7th time. We were checking on projects the charity supports and looking at new areas and projects.

While there, a new three classroom block at Kaseba School in Kafue was named The Joan Green Block and officially opened by me! What an honour!!

Since 2010, the Charity has supported this school with tables, chairs, cupboards, stationery, books, etc. and seen the improvement in conditions for the children and staff and have seen four Head teachers in this time.

Joan Green, (Israel 1970, Finland 1972).



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

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

After a bit of detective work by Sue Hall's daughter Katie Baines (4H USA and European Rally in Anglesey), the group of YFC members who went to Poland in 1970 have all been tracked down and are planning a 50th year reunion next year. Thanks to everyone for 'sharing' the Facebook messages.

Sharing the memories

Are you celebrating an anniversary of your trip this year? If you went on your YFC trip in 2009, it's 10 years since your trip, or if you travelled in 1994, it's your 25th anniversary. Doesn't time fly!

Why not contact your fellow travellers for a reunion and let the YFA Reunion Committee take all of the hassle out of arranging your get together.

The 2019 Wales Reunion Committee is waiting to welcome you and help you celebrate at the Holiday Inn, Newport, South Wales from the 25th to the 28th of October for a great weekend catching up with old friends, and making new ones, whilst enjoying a warm Welsh welcome.

IFYE 2020

62nd International Farm Youth Exchange European Conference

8 to 15 August 2020, Myerscough, Lancashire

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 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) or Christine Cooper (cooperleece@yahoo.com)



The **2019 European IFYE Conference** is to be held from the 12th to the 18th of August 2019, in Hamar, Norway. It's the 61st Conference, and promises to be a great party. Visit the website for booking details www.ifye2018.com.

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 ask them to get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Huw dfw@aber.ac.uk. Thank you.

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), **Rhys I R Davies**, **Brigitte Gauld** (nee Lyons) (Finland),
P M Cale, **A M Sparey**

“What really happens on the RYEurope board...”

I never imagined 16 years ago when I first joined my local Young Farmers Club that I would have the honour to be chairman of Rural Youth Europe. Even now I have to remind myself of all that has been achieved in that time. I have learnt so much, and have had the best time, but it's certainly not been a smooth road...

It all started when I was lucky enough to be awarded a place on the RYEurope Spring Seminar in 2011, called “Spice up your potential”. To this day it remains one of the best weeks of my life and has been instrumental for ‘spicing up’ my personal development. I’ve so enjoyed recreating these kinds of training activities for so many more of you to experience since.

Even though I had some awareness of the role beforehand it was a big step getting used to the position of chairman. There were suddenly lots of things to be responsible for, including a staff team on the other

side of Europe and a board team spread all over the continent! I soon realized that good communication was vital, and that an appreciation for cultural differences also very useful.

With changes to the RYEurope board every year the new team can take some time to settle down, for everyone to get to know each other, and their respective roles and responsibilities. Pretty soon the teams become very productive, usually helped by the handover meetings, normally held in Finland with the staff and retiring board members. I'm really proud of what we achieved with the two teams I led.

The biggest challenge however was definitely a lack of time. An organisation like this opens so many doors to amazing opportunities and you can't help but try and take part in them all. However, behind all the fun stuff there is lots of hard work to be done: projects to achieve, funding to be secured, reporting to be filed, agendas to prepare, finances to manage, campaigns to be promoted, contracts to be agreed, problems to be overcome, host teams to be gathered, events to be managed, partnerships to be built, planes to catch and trains not to be missed!

I've foregone a lot of sleep over the past few years. Because of a busy day job most of my time spent on RYEurope tasks was late into the evenings (and early mornings!) or on weekends. I had to learn to be very efficient with my time, to compartmentalize my day job and RYEurope tasks so that my brain didn't get too confused, and to say no when something was not going to be possible. The best help however was having an awesome team around me that could share the workload and bring lots of ideas for making tasks a success.

Despite the challenges, and also because of the challenges, it was still the best experience to lead this fantastic organization. The highlights are so many, but one that really stands out is celebrating Rural Youth Europe's 60th Anniversary in Latvia in 2017. It was astonishing for all of us there to understand just how much the rural youth network had developed since 1957 and how the culture of international exchange remains so strong. It was a great time of reflection, but also inspiring for the future and a very special occasion to be a part of.

I am taking a lot away from my time with RYEurope but what I value more than anything are the great friendships I've made – many of which will stay with me for life and continue to provide a window into other countries and cultures. The whole of Europe feels like home now with a familiar face and open door never far away.

As I finish my term I'm so happy to see the organization going into safe hands with the new board and committed staff team. They are so very capable and enthusiastic, and I know they are going to continue taking RYEurope forward with boundless success. I wish them lots of luck and good wishes for overcoming the bumps in the road and having a great time.

And lastly, in case you think this will be the last from me... fear not, I shall be looking forward to seeing many of you at the Rally in England next summer!



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



Many congratulations to YFA member Delme Harries on being elected as Chairman of NFYFC's Board of Management.

As well as attending most European Rallies since 1998, Delme is past Chair of Rural Youth Europe, an Honorary Life Vice President of Wales YFC, a Life Vice President of NFYFC and Vice President of Pembrokeshire YFC.

His passion for YFC runs deep – so much so he skipped going to university just so he wouldn't miss out on anything with his club. He is a dedicated YFC supporter and a firm believer in its ability to produce future rural leaders.

Llongyfarchiadau a phob hwyl i ti Delme.

Welsh YFA members are delighted to invite you to join them at the 2019 YFA Reunion for a fun packed weekend. Whilst enjoying a warm Welsh welcome, you'll be entertained by local talents and have plenty to see and do.

Our base will be **The Holiday Inn, Coldra, Newport** with a theme of "Thank You for the Music".

Friday 25th—Monday 28th October

Look out for full details and the booking form in the next YFA Newsletter or contact Angharad and Andy angzthomas@hotmail.co.uk

England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors would like to congratulate the following YFC members selected to travel in 2019.

WALES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2019

Northern Ireland - Elin Childs, Carmarthenshire and Amy Edwards, Pembrokeshire

Scotland - Miran Haf Griffiths, Ceredigion and Hannah Phillips, Pembrokeshire

Finland - Lucy Griffiths, Radnor and Cain Owen, Ynys Mon

Canada - Sian Healey, Brecknock and Bleddyn Davies, Ceredigion

Colorado - Laura Bowyer, Gwent and Cennydd Jones, Ceredigion

Montana - Rhys James, Pembrokeshire

Wyoming - Nerys Lewis, Gwent

USA - Elin Calan Jones, Ceredigion

Elwyn Jones Scholarship - Aled Thomas, Pembrokeshire

RYE Study Session - Eleri George, Pembrokeshire and Jamie Hughes, Montgomery

RYE Autumn Seminar - Niall Evans, Brecknock and Emyllt Ellis Jones, Ceredigion

RYE European Rally - Laura Howell, Glamorgan; Katie Court, Glamorgan; Rhiannon Davies, Ceredigion; George Lewis, Gwent and Caitlyn Harley, Brecknock

Inter Railing - Hannah Powell, Radnor, Alaw Rees, Ceredigion; Angharad Davies, Ceredigion; Elin Williams, Montgomery; Tesni Jones, Montgomery; Elizabeth Preston, Radnor; Caryl Morris, Ceredigion; Tomos Lewis, Ceredigion; William Boulton, Pembrokeshire; Heledd Besent, Ceredigion; Elin Lewis, Montgomery and Angharad Evans, Ceredigion

Sailing Challenge - Huw Jones, Ceredigion; Jessica Balfour, Pembrokeshire; Joshua Davies, Pembrokeshire and Catrin Rees, Ceredigion.

NFYFC Travel 2019

Austria - Elizabeth Chapman, Staffordshire and Robert Faulkner, Warwickshire

Canada JFAO - Steph Watkins, Gloucestershire

Canada 4H - Sioned Davies, Brecknock and Amanda Watson, Norfolk (**YFA Scholar**)

Germany - Charles Kinston, Leicestershire and TBC

Norway - Olivia Slack, Derbyshire

Northern Ireland - Emily Topham, Derbyshire (**YFA Scholar**) and Hannah Mason, Herefordshire

Scotland - Evie Price, Shropshire and Rhiannon Probert, Herefordshire

USA – Montana - Emily Sparkes, Somerset

USA – Colorado - Adam Ringrose, Leicestershire (**YFA Scholar**)

RYE Study Session - Emily Pincombe, Devon and Laura Terry, Yorkshire

RYE Autumn Seminar - James Jackson, Lancashire and Millie Preece, Shropshire

RYE European Rally - Liberty Perry, Herefordshire; Alistair Hughes, Leicestershire; Jessica Surman, Leicestershire; Rachel Goldie, Yorkshire and Jessica Armitage, Leicestershire

C Alma Baker –

April – August 2019 - Cerys Baker, Gwent

July – November 2019 - Patrick Rich, Somerset

October 2019 – February 2020 - Sophie Tamblyn, Cornwall

January – May 2020 - Marged Jones, Ceredigion

Costa Rica - Michael Grigg, Staffordshire; Amy Nicholls, Staffordshire; Bethan Jenkins, Pembrokeshire; Flossie Littlefair - Vernon, Shropshire; Lauren Bowe, Cumbria; Lydia Hopper, Devon; Gemma Mooney, Leicestershire; Veronique Beviere, Oxfordshire; Oliver Mackintosh, East Riding of Yorkshire; Sam Fowell, Staffordshire and Lucy Mitchell Dwelly, Cambridgeshire

Sri Lanka - Hazel Stansfield, Lancashire; Lydia Freeman, Essex; Hannah Martin, Dorset; Lauren Bates, Leicestershire; Rebecca Hawkey, Cornwall; Megan Moore, Leicestershire and Rutland; Maisie Robinson, Warwickshire; Megan Douthwaite, Leicestershire; Bethan Anthony, Herefordshire and Leah Poulter, Leicestershire

All travelers 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
You will then continue to receive this Newsletter and help ensure the continuation of the YFC international exchange programmes. Thank you.

England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors Privacy Statement

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The information we hold about you is your name, email address and the destination and year of your YFC trips. We may also hold your home address, and phone numbers. Email communications are sent out by Blind Copy, therefore keeping your contact details hidden.

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