

YOUNG FARMER AMBASSADORS

SCOTTISH REGION

Newsletter MAY 2018



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YFA Scotland invite all present and past YFA members to a Drinks Reception ground floor at the Young Farmers Centre



Friday 22nd June 6.30pm;
SEE YOU THERE 😊



CHAIRMAN'S BLOG - ANDREW BAIRD

At the AGM in March, I was re-elected as your Chairman for another year. We held it in the Carnbo Hall, Kinross, which is ideal for such an event. Before the AGM started, we invited this year's outgoing exchangees to come along for a briefing session. These briefing sessions were something that was in place for many years, however, over the passing of time, they seemed to be forgotten. Steedsy took the role of preparing and delivering the session, and we hope that those who attended found it useful for their forthcoming trips. Thanks to Steedsy and to Richard, Harold & Julie for providing the stovies and to all those who helped. Thanks also to everyone who attended and also to those who gave their presentations. We have a couple of new faces on the committee this

year, Beth Dandie (Switzerland 2017) and Lucy McClymont (Kansas 2016 and New Zealand 2017).

The main event of the YFA calendar is our annual **Drinks Reception** at the YF centre on **Friday 22nd 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 evening so if you haven't bought any yet, make sure to buy some on the night. Before that we will be looking after the incoming exchangees on the Away Day on Wednesday 13th June visiting the usual places and dropping them off in Lanarkshire for their first hosts. It's great to see lots of Scots going to Northern Ireland in July for the European IFYE Conference. **Andrew**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Young Farmers Ambassadors Scottish Region was held on Sunday 11th March at Carnbo Village Hall. There was a turnout of 26 people and stovies were provided by Dickie, Harold & Julie. The Office Bearers and Committee elected are as follows:



Chairman:
Andrew Baird



Vice chair & Treasurer:
Neil Brims



Secretary:
Mary Turner



Newsletter Editor:
Katie Punler

Representatives to YFA National Executive:

Andrew Baird and Katie Punler

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

Contact Member for IFYE – Paul Fraser

Auditor: Sheona Bremner

A briefing session for outbound exchanges was held by David Stevenson and Beth Dandie before the AGM to provide information and advice on their upcoming trips. Hopefully this will prove to be useful for outgoing exchanges and we can build on this in future years.

Thanks to the following people who gave a presentation on their exchange trips:

Annie Bryson (Avondale) - Autumn Seminar Slovenia 2015

Gemma Bruce (Udny) - Tasmania 2016

Mhairi Dalglish (Thornhill) - Ireland 2017

Lucy McClymont (Lower Nithsdale) New Zealand 2017

Beth Dandie (Forfar) - Switzerland 2017

Emma Harper (Lower Nithsdale) - Colorado 2017

Gayle Allan (Avondale) - Montana 2017

Meghan Bremner (Halkirk) on behalf of the European Rally Team in Latvia 2017

OUTGOING EXCHANGES 2018



SAYFC held the International Exchange Interviews at the YF Competitions Weekend in February. This year's lucky members selected to represent Scotland are as follows:

Rachael Baillie (Stranraer & Rhins) – New Zealand

Shona Graham (Bell Baxter) – Tasmania

Hazel Murray (Lower Nithsdale) – Canada

Stephanie Bradford (Lower Nithsdale) – Montana

Colin McKinnon (Lower Nithsdale) – Colorado

Emily Dawson (Strathearn JAC) – Finland

Kirsty McMath (Stewarty) – Finland

James Gray (Crossroads) – Norway

Emma Harper (Lower Nithsdale), Laura Anne Logan (Beith), Linsey Campbell (West Renfrewshire) & Mari Gibson (Carluke) – European Rally in Scotland

GAYLE'S TRIP TO MONTANA

Here are some of the highlights of my 12-week trip to Montana in the summer of 2017

Meeting the other IFYEs and attending the 4H Congress in Bozeman; learning to do Line and Swing dancing with the 4H delegates. Watching stock judging of both livestock and horses and the fashion show of some of the clothing and quilts that participants had made during the week.



Then to my first host family Cory & Jennilee Bird and three kids Emily (12), Tanner (9) & Tyler (3) at Hahn Ranch, Townsend – an hour's drive from Bozeman. On arrival a big lightning storm had struck and started a wildfire, so the family were involved helping put the fires out and saving their cattle! It had been one of the hottest summers for many years, with July and August temperatures in the high 30s. The ground consisted of sparse dried out grass, cactus and rock which sparked huge wildfires that were mainly caused by fork lightning. The air was thick and hazy from all the smoke and ash from fires all over the region. Ultimately the government put restrictions on the public, vehicles and horses that were shoed onto going into the forests to try and prevent more fires from forming. You had to apply for a permit to carry out work in the forests if venturing in on shoed horses or quads.

Cory's family ranch consisted of 3 sectors that he and his uncles split control over. Cory was in charge of the cattle, his uncle all of the arable land and the other was in charge of the family's trucking business. Like most ranches in the state they grew potatoes, wheat & barley as well as alfalfa as their

main source of feed over the winter months. The Hahn ranch was the only ranch I was on that used irrigation systems. Cory was unsure of the total size of the ranch, but he could tell me that he has an indefinite lease of 28,000 acres of forestry land off the government as well as an estimated 81 square miles of land on the farm deed! Most mornings started between 4.30am – 6am, with a quick breakfast then out to either move cattle or maintain part of the 120 miles of fencing.

We were out pushing cattle to new pastures most days, and my favourite cattle push was when we went to gather a herd that had crossed the Missouri river onto a neighbour's land. It was amazing watching the cattle cross over the river. I love riding horses at home so learning to move cattle on horseback was pretty easy for me, getting familiar with a western saddle was the only difference.



Cory moved his cows every week since he estimated that 1 cow needed at least 32 acres to graze off of since the grass was so sparse. Black Angus and Angus Hereford crosses were just about the only breeds I encountered in Montana due to their ability to withstand the tough winters. On the Hahn ranch, Cory had between 950-1000 head of cattle, with a further 400 at his brother's ranch near Helena. He was calving around 500, with a further 70/80 replacement heifers being brought in and there were around 50 bulls in total, with 2 bulls being kept in each herd of 50-60 cows to make sure each one was being sired due to the vast sizes of the pastures and the mountainous terrain they grazing were on. He kept his cattle outside all year round

and recently had to change his calving season from Jan/Feb to March/April since too many calves were freezing to death as soon as they were born. All the sales of his cattle were done online via a video sale, instead of going to the market. The family were very religious and were members of the Baptist Church, which we attended every Sunday – said grace with them at meal times too.

My next host was Kat Pfau, who lived in Billings, and kept 18 chickens in the backyard and a steer called Nosey that they kept in the small pasture at her dad's house just down the street. Kat was divorced and had shared custody of her kids with their father for 2 weeks each. So, my first week would be spent with Kat alone until the kids arrived the following week. That evening I went to the Pig Races, quite a different experience seeing pigs racing on a track!

One of the highlights was visiting Yellowstone, an amazing experience to see the wild buffalo and the canyons.



Kat worked for the 4H office during the Billings Fair so in the week running up to the fair I helped to set up the 4H industrial exhibitions and during the week of the fair, Kat and I stayed in their camper on the fairgrounds. However, we set it up on the Monday and returned on the Friday for our first night's stay to discover that there was a leak in the water pipes which left about 1 inch of water on the camper's floor. So, the rest of the week we stayed in a slightly damp camper once the leak was fixed and Hoovering up as much water as we could!



Kat's two kids Kerstin (8) and Alex (9) arrived in the middle of the week and Alex came second in his class with the steer Nosey, which he then sold for \$6,536 - he was going to buy another steer and a pony!

It was during my time with the Pfau's that the eclipse happened so we held a BBQ and watched it through welding masks. Unfortunately, I must have stared at the sun too long and felt very ill that night so I went to my bed early and was woken up at 12 midnight to find Alex painting my nails! By far the strangest thing to happen to me on the trip!!

My third host family lived only 6 miles from the Canadian border near Babb, spanning both Montana and Alberta. Staying with the Cundall's was a welcome change since Jeston and Sharee had 3 lovely girls Myla (20) Sienna (16) and Coley (14) – so nearer my age group. The Cundall's worked the North Fork Cattle Company Ranch located just outside Glacier National Park on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation which their close friends owned. The ranch dates back to 1800 when the main house was originally built and before the ranch was bought over by Jeston's friends it was owned by Canada's 3rd richest man who ran it as a polo & breeding facility. We were remote - a 20-minute drive on a dirt track from the main road; nearest town was Browning – 40-minute drive and 2.5 hours to the nearest city; no phone signal, no TV only one radio station! All the farm vehicles were kitted out with radio intercoms so the family and workers could get in contact with each other wherever they were on the ranch. Again, Black Angus was the breed of choice and they calved around 1,300 cows between February and May with another 800 mother cows being brought in

during the calving season. In the winter they ran 13,000 head of cattle feeding them off of the alfalfa they harvest over the summer. Jeston had absolutely no idea how much land the ranch ran on but could tell me there was 19,000 acres on the ranch deed, plus other rented land!

Each morning, we woke at 6am to start the chores the girls had to do each morning and night. These began with feeding the nursing cows, 16 horses and 9 dogs, letting the sheep out to graze and milking 6 of the 18 goats Sienna owned by hand.

By this time in the summer, they were concentrating on baling the alfalfa and fixing fencing. As a result, I spent time gathering samples of alfalfa so it could be taken away for testing & helped Myla to mend the fences. There was only one day of work that I really detested during my stay here and it was cleaning out the Billy goats stall – how they stink!



I was also lucky enough to be invited to a family wedding in Kalispell. Fortunately, I was able to borrow a dress to wear since I didn't come prepared for this. It really was the most laid back, casual wedding I have ever witnessed and the service was the quickest I had ever seen. The bride must have walked up and down the aisle in about 8 minutes. The reception was in a big traditional red barn with a taco bar as the meal, and there was no entertainment just someone's iPod plugged into an amp.

One of the things I found interesting about the family was the fact that all the girls were home schooled by Sharee. They didn't follow any kind of formal education, instead they basically did whatever their mum told them to do. This seemed to focus more on homemaking skills such as sewing, cooking and crafts rather than the more traditional core subjects.

My time with the Cundall's was nearing the end and during my last couple of days with the family the temperature plummeted from 27 degrees to just 3 degrees Celsius. It was freezing outside and on my last night it snowed which finally put out the wildfires that had raged since I had arrived in the state. It cleared the haze to reveal all the Glacier Mountains in the background with their snow caps. It was beautiful to finally see this landscape that they had talked about so much and a nice ending to my American trip.



Meeting new people, learning about their culture and ways of life have left me with such happy memories – a trip of a lifetime. Thanks to YFA and the many others for their support towards the trip.

Gayle Allan

ROAD TRIP TO THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND

In January this year, a few YFA members met up to head to the north coast of Scotland to celebrate Neil Brim's 30th birthday. Steedsy and I headed north to Inverness where we met Angharad and Andrew from Wales, and Janette from Northern Ireland. Sabine from Austria would join us the following day. Collectively, we had travelled 6,000 miles to the tip of Scotland, so we had high hopes for the weekend! The Friday night was spent having an enjoyable 3-course meal at Neil's house followed by lots of wine and whisky to celebrate him turning the big 30!



Saturday was spent visiting some of the popular tourist destinations the north coast has to offer – a trip to Dunnet Head, the most Northerly point of the British mainland, John O'Groats and Duncansby Stacks.



Sabine arrived just in time for Janette's homemade Irish coffee in the afternoon which was very much welcomed after a day of trekking round the county in the snow. At Neil's party that night, a local band played a mix of party and ceilidh music and we spent our night between the bar and the dance floor. An excellent night was had by all.



On the Sunday, once we were fit to move, we headed south, despite the weather warnings. We got as far as Kingussie where we were met by snow gate closures! Stuck for over 4 hours with sore heads, rationed sweets and Steedy's one CD on repeat as there was no radio station available – it was definitely one of the less enjoyable experiences of the weekend! However, we eventually all made it home from what was a very enjoyable weekend spent up North!

Katie Punler

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Exchangee Away Day

Wednesday 13th June 2018

RHS Drinks Reception

Friday 22nd June Young Farmers Centre, Ingliston from 6.30 pm – open to all past and present YFA members

UK YFA Reunion Weekend

26th–29th October 2018 Altens Hotel, Aberdeen. This is a big event in the YFA calendar and the Reunion team have done a fantastic job – invitations will be out middle of July with a return date by 1 September

Raffle Tickets still available. Please get in touch if you wish to buy some.



FUTURE IFYE CONFERENCES

2018 – Northern Ireland

Greenmount College from 21st – 28th July - 60th Anniversary Conference. This is now fully booked and is shaping up to be an excellent week. Details of the week can be found [here](#).

2018 – 11th World IFYE Conference

8th – 16th September – a cruise from Vancouver, BC to Anchorage, Alaska. There are already lots of Brits signed up for this fantastic opportunity. Details of the week can be found [here](#).

2019 – Norway

2020 – England

2021 - TBC

2022 - Finland

CONGRATULATIONS to the following: Kerry & Jim Shanks (Canada 2002 & Euro Rally 2004) a son, George; Diane (Hunter - Canada 2008) & Grant Woodburn (Euro Rally 2006) a daughter, Pippa; Isobel Swanson (Euro Rally 2013) married Jamie Welsh

Sadly, the following have passed away: Margaret Sharp (Sparks) – Netherlands 1957; Dorothy Murray (Stephens) – Canada 1958; Lorna Matheson (Black) – USA 1953 – Lorna was a regular at many of the European IFYE Conferences.

YFA MEMBERSHIP: £10 per year which can be paid by standing order or £150 lifetime membership - please get in touch for more payment details

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YFA (Scottish Region) invites you to attend our annual **Drinks Reception at the Royal Highland Show on Friday 22nd June at 6.30pm.**

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 on the ground floor at the **Young Farmers Centre** and although it is an open invitation, responses back are much appreciated to assist us with the drinks order.

ANNIVERSARY OF EXCHANGE: ROLL OF HONOUR

1958 Maureen Rowe (Morton), Grace Steven (Lambie), Elizabeth Logan (McKerrow); Roy Will, Stuart Buchan (60 yrs)

1968 Flora McFadzean (Houston), Elspeth Dale (Lang), James Dunlop, Ron Millar, Anne Borthwick (Caldwell), (50 yrs) Janette Logan (Wilson), Albert Watson, Willie Parker, Jack Woodburn, James Black

1978 Anne Nicol (Peace), Alison Paterson (Sim), Kathleen Craig (Lyon), Aubin Roger, Helen Gibson (Purdie), (40 yrs) Katherine Vivers (Smith), James Thomson, Donald MacRae, Meg Findlay (Pratt), Bobby Lennox, Allan Dean,George Jamieson, Christine Lawrie (Hamilton), Margaret Davidson (McNaughton), George Dunlop, Dale Prentice

1993 Marion Bayne (Young), Lorna Dickson (Nicoll), Nigel Campbell, Hazel Gordon (MacPherson), Moira Roxburgh (25 yrs) (Murdoch), Christine Hall (Kerr), Allan Gray, Primrose Beaton (Dunbar), Sandra Stevenson (Weir), Alison Lindsay (Kirkland), Robert Craig, Rhona Davidson (Thomson), Iain Brown, Joanne McColm, Elma Wight (Morton) JaneLogan (Sinclair), David Stevenson

2008 Fiona Dykes (Shanks), Heather McDougall (McAllister), Stuart Jamieson, Diane Woodburn (Hunter), Paul (10 yrs) Bernard, Kayley Kennedy, Andrew Barrie, Sally Wilson, Margaret Gray (Baillie), Louise Smith (Miller)

2013 Karen Gemmell, Stephen Birnie, Katie Burns, Ruari Box, Neil Brims, Gillian Walker, George Muirhead, Isobel (5 yrs) Welsh (Swanson), Lizzi Mackie, Christine Struthers, Jane Orr, Heather Charles, Laura Mitchell, Amy Reid

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

