



# Young Farmers Ambassadors England and Wales Newsletter February 2020

## **IFYE 2020 - International Farm Youth Exchanges**

### **62nd European Conference - 8 to 15 August**

*We would like to invite you to the 62<sup>nd</sup> European IFYE Conference. The conference will be held at Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire. Open to all YFA members, recent exchangees, and their partners, this is going to be a week-long festivity. Think YFA reunion weekend but all week!!*

*We are planning a week of activities and trips based on the theme of "Farming, Food 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. Full programme listed on page 7.*

*Registration is open until 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020, so please contact Helen or Christine to confirm that there is still availability*

*Contact:*

*Website: [ifye2020.com](http://ifye2020.com)*

*Helen Ramsay ([helenramsay@btinternet.com](mailto:helenramsay@btinternet.com))*

*Christine Cooper ([cooperleece@yahoo.com](mailto:cooperleece@yahoo.com))*

**England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors would like to congratulate the following YFC members selected to travel in 2020.**

## WALES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2020

ULSTER	Tim Williams	Gwent
ULSTER	Angharad Gwillim	Gwent
SCOTLAND	Tomos Lewis	Pembrokeshire
SCOTLAND	Ceri Jenkins	Ceredigion
FINLAND	Elin Childs	Carmarthenshire
FINLAND	Swyn Hughes	Meirionnydd
EUROPEAN RALLY	Angharad Edwards	Pembrokeshire
EUROPEAN RALLY	Carys Phillips	Pembrokeshire
EUROPEAN RALLY	Michael Burley	Glamorgan
EUROPEAN RALLY	Cathrin Jones	Carmarthenshire
EUROPEAN RALLY	Elin Lewis	Carmarthenshire
AUTUMN SEMINAR	Dan Morgan	Pembrokeshire
AUTUMN SEMINAR	Hannah Phillips	Pembrokeshire
STUDY SESSION	Angharad Thomas	Carmarthenshire
STUDY SESSION	Sophie Davies	Glamorgan
CANADA	Nerys Lewis	Gwent
CANADA	Eifion Evans	Carmarthenshire
COLORADO	Martha Morse	Ceredigion
COLORADO	Alaw Rees	Ceredigion
MONTANA	TBC	
USA	Elis Smith	Meirionnydd
USA	Sioned Davies	Brecknock
UGANDA	Elliw Dafydd	Ceredigion
INTER RAILLING	Sioned Davies	Ceredigion
INTER RAILLING	Lauren Jones	Ceredigion
INTER RAILLING	Sara Patterson	Ceredigion
INTER RAILLING	Anna Phillips	Carmarthenshire
INTER RAILLING	Ffion Edwards	Pembrokeshire
INTER RAILLING	Rachel Anstey	Glamorgan
INTER RAILLING	Bethan Jarvis	Glamorgan
INTER RAILLING	Sian Emberton	Montgomery
INTER RAILLING	Grug Evans	Montgomery
SAILING CHALLENGE	Cadi James	Carmarthenshire
SAILING CHALLENGE	Mari James	Carmarthenshire
SAILING CHALLENGE	Eleanor Dew	Pembrokeshire
SAILING CHALLENGE	Ieuan Jones	Montgomery

## NFYFC TRAVEL 2020

<b>HOMESTAYS</b>	
<b>Australia</b>	Elizabeth King, Pembrokeshire
<b>Canada JFAO</b>	James Nixey, Buckinghamshire
<b>Canada 4H</b>	Bethan Anthony, Herefordshire
<b>Canada 4H</b>	James Greenfield, Cornwall
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	Charlie Morgan, Herefordshire Leah Bevan, Glamorgan
<b>Scotland</b>	Hannah Mason, Herefordshire Polly Baines, Staffordshire
<b>Montana, USA</b>	Emma Lawson, County Durham
<b>Colorado, USA</b>	Georgie Haston, Lancashire
<b>RURAL YOUTH EUROPE</b>	
<b>RYE Study Session</b>	Jemima Brown, Staffordshire
<b>RYE European Rally</b>	Dewi Parry, Clwyd (Leader) Adam Ringrose, Leicestershire Connie Reeves, Northamptonshire Lucy Stewart, Warwickshire Liz Cook, Nottinghamshire
<b>RYE Autumn Seminar</b>	Jack Salt, Staffordshire Steve Rogers, Herefordshire
<b>PROJECTS ABROAD:</b>	
<b>Vietnam</b>	Charlotte Seare, Dorset Georgie Surman-Pierce, Leicestershire Martha Bland, Derbyshire Marcus Bailey, Essex Louise Kittow, Devon Evie Price, Shropshire Alyss Austin, Buckinghamshire Anna Morley, Suffolk Anna Tucket, Buckinghamshire
<b>Peru</b>	Laura Terry, Yorkshire Chelsea Kennedy, Bedfordshire Helen Bamford, Bedfordshire Megan Bailey Warwickshire Steven James, Pembrokeshire Ellie Bagshaw, Warwickshire Billy Green, Bedfordshire Eve Phillips, Staffordshire Emily Phillips, Staffordshire Jessica Elliman, Cumbria, Alistair Hughes, Liecestershire Jenny Paull, Somerset
<b>C Alma Baker:</b>	
<b>Outgoing – May 2020</b>	Charlotte Heaps, Leicestershire
<b>Outgoing – September 2020</b>	Thomas Huntley, Glamorgan
<b>Outgoing – January 2021</b>	Sian Downes, Ceredigion

## Adam Ringrose from Leicestershire – Colorado Trip with NFYFC Travel



### *Who did you stay with in Colorado?*

I spent seven weeks with four different families and it was the experience of a lifetime.

The families I stayed with were all different – one managed a John Deere dealership, another had a small holding where I milked goats, the third was a tree farm in a remote rural location and the fourth family lived on a cattle ranch.

With one family I got to see inside a massive meat processing plant, where they process 5,000 cattle a day. My family have a livestock farm and butchers so this was really interesting to see something on this scale.

The families had a lot of questions about farming in the UK and about the butchery where I work. Mainly though, they wanted to know what life is like in England. We opened Google Maps and compared the grid system of roads that they have with our “higgledy-piggledy” roads. They thought that word was hilarious!

### *How did you travel to each family?*

It was all arranged through 4H and IFYE (The International Farming Youth Exchange) program. They coordinated all the families who would help me get from one location to the next. I did catch a train through the Rockies, which was amazing, but the rest of the time the families helped me.

### *Did you work?*

I helped out with most of the families. I didn't have to but you're expected to do a bit. The most work I did was at the tree farm as I was able to be quite useful there. Most of the time I did what I wanted to do and tried to help out as much as I could as they were doing me a favour.

For a lot of farmers, their work is their life so that's how you become involved in their lives.

### *What were some of your highlights?*

It felt like I was in the movies! You look around you and all the small details are things you only recognise because of films. Seeing water dispensers on the side of roads and finding a gun counter in Walmart!

My highlights have to be:

- Working with a cowboy for a week with one of the families. He taught me how to lasso.
- Going to the Greely Stampede, a rodeo, which was fantastic as it was absolutely huge. You can't believe that people still do these things but it's a real sport there.
- Camping in the mountains.

***Did you prefer the YFC Travel experience to being a tourist?***

There is no way I would have had the range of experiences I had if I'd have gone as a tourist. Camping in the mountains with the ATVs was on off-road routes and you wouldn't have known where to go. The visits I had, such as going to the meat processors, were arranged by the families I stayed with.

I went travelling afterwards on an epic road trip, which highlighted how different YFC Travel is from being a tourist. The experiences can be a lot

richer as you get access to places and activities you can't do on your own. There's stuff I did you just can't do as a tourist.

***How much did it cost?***

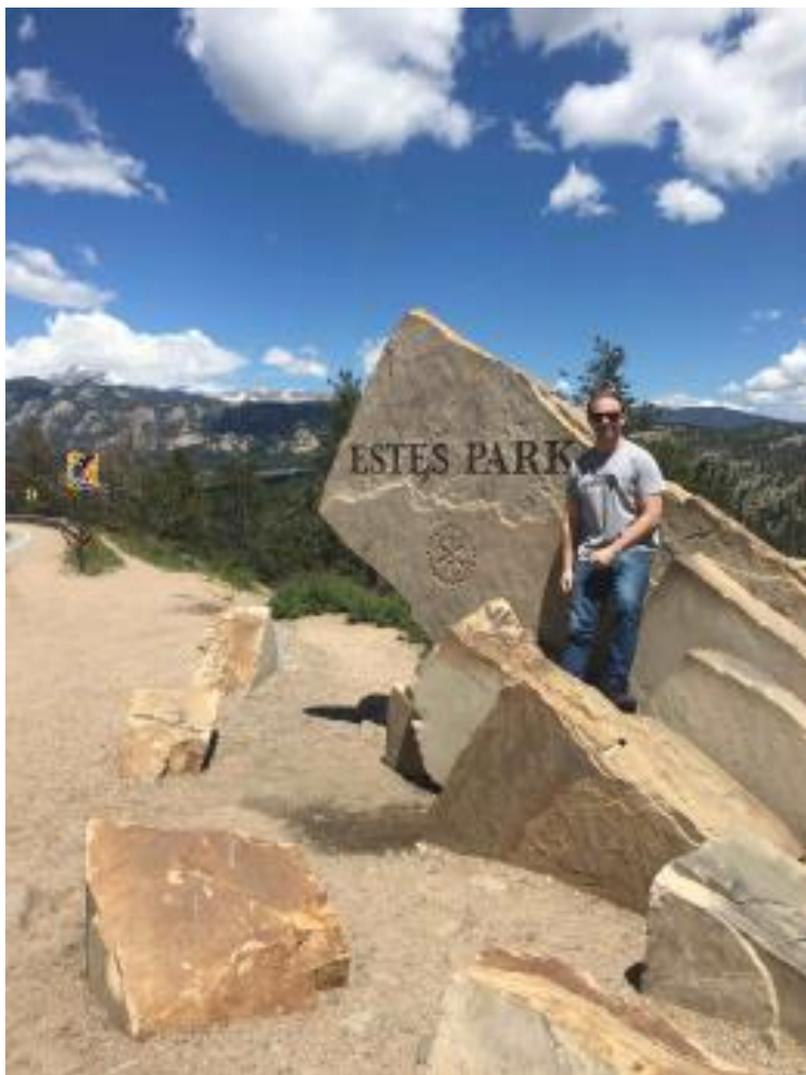
I spent around £400 in total and that includes my flights, insurance and expenses. I got help from Leicestershire County Federation of YFC's to help with the costs of my flights so that brought my spend down a lot. It doesn't cost you much at all. I spent more money on my road trip afterwards!

***Would you recommend YFC Travel?***

Absolutely, without a doubt! You learn so much, and you grow as a person. It's a different way of seeing another culture.

It has been described as Young Farmers' best-kept secret by a number of people. This baffles me that more people don't apply because the trips are fantastic. I went to Germany a few years ago with YFC and all of my experiences have been brilliant - I'm off to Slovenia this year!

You get everything done for you, it doesn't cost you as much as it would if you travelled alone, and you get to experience the real richness of the culture.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NFYFC trip to Poland, 1970



In 2019, it struck me that it was almost 50 years since eight of us intrepid Young Farmers went to Poland with NFYFC, so I decided to try and track down as many as I could for a get together.

It took a bit of doing as three of us had changed names, two had sadly died, one had moved County and only two of us are still involved in YFC. But with the help of Facebook and YFC contacts, my daughter and I managed to get hold of all six 'survivors' and we had a lovely meet up at Peter's place in summer 2019.

The 'now' picture. Front (left to right): Gwyneth nee Davies, Denbighshire YFC; Sue nee Jeffery Derbyshire YFC; Liz nee Hurton, Warwickshire YFC.

Back, left to right: Peter Anderson, Worcestershire YFC; Owen Elliott Glamorgan YFC and Jim Stanhope Worcestershire YFC.

Annoyingly I don't have one of all of us together in 1970 - but the black and white picture shows we haven't changed a bit!

**Sue Hall (nee Jeffrey)**



## **62nd European IFYE Conference - 8 to 15 August 2020**

### **Myerscough College (pronounced Myerscoe)**

A college of Higher and Further Education in land-based and sports subjects. It is a National Centre for Excellence in rugby, football, golf, cricket and basketball and is the National Arboricultural Centre. Originally established in the 19th century and known as the "Lancashire College for Agriculture" it moved to its current site in 1969.

The college occupies the substantial grounds previously occupied by the hall and farm, extending to River Brock on the north side, and St Michael's Road on the south. The college also leases several local farms, including Lee Farm and Lodge Farm, for agricultural research and teaching purposes. The college estate extends to 605 hectares, and the campus has extensive residential accommodation with single, twin and accessible bedrooms, some with en-suite shower rooms.

The site has a garden centre with cafe, on-site shop, ATM and its own pub called The Stumble Inn. This will be the centre of our evenings' entertainments!!

<b>Saturday 8th August -</b>	Afternoon Evening	Registration from 2pm to 6pm Photos of Norway and introductions
<b>Sunday 9th August -</b>	Morning Afternoon  Evening	Opening ceremony at St Hilda's Church, Bilsborrow College based activities Garden Party in National Costume Country Photos Pub quiz
<b>Monday 10th August -</b>	Morning Afternoon Evening	Team challenge Lancashire skills Lancashire in music - Liz Harrison
<b>Tuesday 11th August -</b>	All day Evening	Day in the Lake District Hog Roast
<b>Wednesday 12th August -</b>	Morning Afternoon Evening	Myerscough College tours Visits to local farms and agriculture based industry Sweden evening
<b>Thursday 13th August-</b>	Morning Afternoon Evening	Garstang market and the local area AGM Dinner Dance - with Denis Westmorland
<b>Friday 14th August -</b>	All day Evening	Host day visits - Lancashire, Yorkshire or Westmorland Fish and Chips night
<b>Saturday 15th August -</b>	Morning	Fond farewells and Departures

## **My first YFA Reunion - by Nerys Lewis, Gwent YFC - Exchangee to Northern Ireland 2018.**

Whilst I was away over the summer in New Zealand, I received several emails about the 2019 YFA Reunion. To be honest I didn't really have much idea about what it included, but I knew it was in Newport, South Wales. Being so close to home I thought I'd have to go, and I'm so glad that I did.

After deciding that I wanted to go, it didn't take much to persuade my brother, George, and my friend Hanna Mason from Herefordshire to come as well. At first, we still weren't 100% sure what was going to be happening but it all fell into place. Everyone is so welcoming and were there for the same reason - to have fun.

With the first night's theme being 'Thank you for the music', it was easy to get to know people. The costumes were really incredible. Something I'm definitely going to have to improve on for the next Reunion!

The next day (Saturday) while everyone was on different trips, I had to head home for a prior hunt commitment in the morning and then to rescue sheep as the river levels were rising.

Trips that I was unable to attend included the Royal Mint, the Adams family farm, Castell Coch, Roman Ruins in Caerleon and Tiny Rebel brewery to name a few.



*L to R: George Lewis, Australia, 17, Rally 19; Hannah Mason, Ulster 19; Nerys Lewis, Ulster 18.*



Saturday evening started with a drinks reception which was kindly sponsored by Keith, Alison, Andrew & Douglas Spencer in memory of Donald Spencer who was an exchangee to the USA in 1950. We were then entertained by the guest speaker Mark Hutchings, BBC Wales Political Correspondent, who gave an amusing account of his career. It was a lovely atmosphere along with great food and great music - even if I'm slight biased with the band, Soul'd Out, being made up of some Gwent YFC members. It was a wonderful evening meeting new people from all over the UK.



Sunday, started with a church service raising donations for Farm Community Network, followed by the country meetings and the AGM, when James Cowan from Wales was elected as National Chair. The afternoon was filled with activities and I learnt that I definitely don't have a head for heights on a trip to the Celtic Manor High Ropes course. Other opportunities were to play golf at one of the resort's mini golf course, have a tour of the 2010 Ryder Cup course or a walk around Usk and the



surrounding area. On the final evening, many fellow Gwent YFC members joined us as they provided the entertainment for the evening.

I must say I am so, so glad that I attended. It was a relaxed yet fun packed weekend, where I met so many amazing people who I cannot wait to see again. I would like to thank the Wales Reunion committee for hosting such a wonderful weekend and hope to see many of you at the next Reunion in Northern Ireland.

# YFA Reunion 2020

## Northern Ireland

The 2020 YFA Reunion is to be held in Northern Ireland, from **the 30<sup>th</sup> of October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November in Newry.**

We will be staying at the 4 star Canal Court & Spa Hotel.

The experienced committee has been busy arranging some excellent trips and entertainments, so if it's your first or fortieth Reunion, you are sure to have a great time. More information and booking details in the next Newsletter.

### 2019 IFYE Conference, Hamar, Norway.



In August, 2019, over 200 YFA members from all over the world met up in Hamar, Norway for the 61<sup>st</sup> European IFYE Conference.

A full and exciting programme had been arranged for us, and a total of 22 delegates travelled from England and Wales to experience the Norwegian hospitality.

Most of us spent some time in Oslo before travelling by train north to Hamar.

The conference programme kicked off with some ice-breaking activities, which turned out to be a lot more competitive than expected, but were a great way of meeting new friends.

During the following days, there were some great trips in the beautiful Norwegian countryside for hiking, sightseeing, farms, distilleries, factories and some other wonderful places.



*English YFA Members at 2019 IFYE Conference*



That is the great thing about YFA Reunions and IFYE Conferences – You get to see stuff that you would never see as a tourist - Farms, Factories, Family homes – as well as the best tourist attractions in the area.

The week continued with some great entertainments, more trips, and a wonderful evening boat trip with live music in the company of 200 friends.

A saying which was often heard during the week, which perfectly sums up IFYE Conferences and YFA Reunions:

There are no strangers – just friends you are yet to meet’.

It is also true to say that your NFYFC Travel or Wales YFC Exchange programme trip is just the beginning of a lifetime of travelling.

See you in Myerscough or Newry or Sweden or Austria or.....



**Welsh YFA Members at 2019 IFYE Conference**

## **Congratulations to the YFA Scholars for 2020**

Bethan Anthony	Herefordshire	Canada 4H
Elizabeth King	Pembrokeshire	Australia
Polly Baines	Staffordshire	Scotland

## **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

Joy Cornock-Thomas (Kenya 10, Rally 12, Rally Leader 13, Patagonia 14) and Emyr are delighted to announce the arrival of Gruffydd Gwilym Thomas on 7 January. Anni Wyn is very happy with her new baby brother. Llongyfarchiadau i chi.

Congratulations to Sara Jenkins (nee Downes, USA 02, Rally 08, Rally Leader 12) and Eifion on the recent birth of Leusa Myfanwy, a sister for Leusa Myfanwy and Elinor Gwenith. Llongyfarchiadau gwresog.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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),  
**Katherine Cole** (nee Wilson) (Rally 91), **P M Cale**, **A M Sparey**, **Rhys I R Davies**.

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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](mailto:dfw@aber.ac.uk)

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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](mailto:kellygibbs22@hotmail.com)

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## England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors Privacy Statement

You are receiving this Newsletter because you are a member of England and Wales Young Farmers Ambassadors, or are a recent exchangee on the England and Wales YFC exchange programmes.

Your personal information is kept securely by the Membership Secretary, and it is not shared with anyone else. We will only contact you to ask for news for the Newsletter, send you the Newsletter, and invite you to the UK Reunion, European and World IFYE conferences.

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.

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Huw Williams [dfw@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dfw@aber.ac.uk)