Spring 2023

YFC CHATTER







LES YFC APPOINTS A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Previously the Head of Operations for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, Mared Rand Jones started her new role as the Chief Executive Officer for the Welsh Federation of Young Farmers on the 16th of January 2023.



raised on a dairy farm, aspect of her role. Llanfair Fach, Llanfair close to the family farm.

Mared Lampeter

and then Trinity College Theatre Studies.

Mared is currently one of the Council Members of ASAO and a past Chairman of "Cynnal y Cardi" (Ceredigion Local Action Group) and Director of Coleg Ceredigion. Also, Mared was fortunate to be part of the Agri Academy Rural Leadership Programme in 2016.

Lampeter Rotary Club and Merched y Wawr, Tregaron.

She's one of 6 women that is responsible for organising the successful Tregaron Welsh Music Festival namely "TregaRoc".

Mared enjoys acting and is a member of the Felinfach Theatre acting company and acts the character "PC Wpsi Deisi" in the annual Christmas The Federation now looks forward to their busy calendar with Public pantomime. In her spare time she enjoys swimming, watching rugby and socialising with friends.

Mared had been working as Head of Operations for the Royal Welsh Mared Rand Jones was Agricultural Society for almost five years and thoroughly enjoyed every

Lampeter She previously worked as County Executive Officer for Farmers Union of and is the eldest of four Wales and Development Officer for Ceredigion YFC for nearly 11 years. She children. She now lives is a past member of Llanddewi Brefi YFC and competed in numerous in Tregaron however, competitions, held many club posts and was also a Ceredigion YFC her roots are still very attendant in 2004 and is currently one of the club leaders.

> Commenting upon her appointment as the new Chief Executive, Mared attended Rand Jones said:

"I'm thoroughly looking forward to working as the Chief Executive of Wales Comprehensive School YFC, an organisation that is very close to my heart. YFC is an excellent organisation for young people living in rural Wales that offers endless where she gained a opportunities for members between 10 and 28 years old. I'm excited to be degree in Welsh and working with the members, officers and staff to lead and drive the organisation forward".

The Federation's Chairman, Hefin Evans, said:

"It is an honour to appoint Miss Mared Rand Jones as the new Chief Executive of Wales YFC. Mared already has plenty of experience within the organisation as a former member and former County Organiser of She's a member of Lampeter Agriculture Show, Lampeter Stallion Show, Ceredigion. With her skills and experience in being in the organisation and working in the RWAS, she will bring excellent means and energy to move forward with the young and enthusiastic staff team and Wales YFC officers with their excellent work, while keeping the members and the Federation progressing forward."

> Speaking Day being held at the end of March on the Royal Welsh Showground. It's fair to say there are exciting times ahead for Wales YFC!

ENTERTAINMENT FEAST

Young People aged 10-28 with their varying talents represented their clubs and entertained audiences during the Wales YFC Entertainment Feast weekend.

A succesful weekend was held in Pontio, Bangor as members from all over Wales competed at the Wales YFC Entertainment finals in both Welsh and English. The event gives members the opportunity to perform on a professional stage with fantastic facilities, technical equipment and the support of professional tech teams.

On Saturday the 4th of March, the federation held their English Entertainments, with seven counties having competed for the title of Wales Champions and the opportunity to represent Wales in the NYFYFC finals. The first session commenced at 12pm and included the Radnor, Carmarthenshire and Montgomery federations. Following an interval, the second session began at 5.30pm and featured Brecknock, Gwent, Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire federations.

GODA Judge, Robert Meadows, was the adjudicator for the English Entertainment section. Robert began his adjudicating career more than twenty years ago. Since then, he has adjudicated finals of British and Irish full length and One Act Play competitions and has had the privilege of working for over one hundred theatre festivals across the UK. He is keenly interested in new writing for the theatre, having been involved in writing and producing many site-specific dramas for Heritage Lottery as well as having work produced by professional amateur groups. For many years he had his own Murder Mystery Company and so has enjoyed the cut and thrust of staging plays. Drawing on the experience of teaching and examining drama in schools and universities up to 2000, Robert went on to work as a keynote speaker on creativity and arts learning for Arts Councils across the UK and abroad. He continues - very occasionally, these days - to offer business development support to art and cultural organisations.

Prior to the event, Robert told Wales YFC;

"I have always enjoyed the Young Farmers' Competitions. There is a passion and energy that is hard to beat, and I have seen some very impressive work in competitions – including new writing – over the years. And you'll be hard-pressed to find a more supportive and enthusiastic audience. Very much looking forward to this year's event."

The first day of the feast was drawn to a close with an awards ceremony for the English section. Whereby the trophy for the most promising female performer was awarded to Rhian Hughes, Llandovery YFC, Carmarthenshire and the trophy for the most promising male performer was presented to Samuel Powell, Erwood YFC, Brecknock. Receiving the Paul Elkington Productions award for technical achievement was Wick YFC, Glamorgan. Finally, the E G H Trumper Trophy for the best performance went to Erwood YFC, Brecknock.



The final placings are as follows;
7th Abergavenny YFC, Gwent
6th Wick YFC, Glamorgan
5th Rhosgoch YFC, Radnor
=3rd Keyston YFC, Pembrokeshire
=3rd Llandovery YFC, Carmarthenshire
2nd Llanfyllin YFC, Montgomery
1st Erwood YFC, Brecknock

Both Erwood YFC and Llanfyllin YFC will now be heading to Learnington Spa on the 22nd of April 2023 to compete in the NFYFC English Language Entertainment final.

The feast continued on Sunday the 5th of March with four Welsh language Entertainments. The session started at 2pm with members from the Pembrokeshire, Montgomery, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Ynys Môn federations taking to the stage.



In the Welsh Section we welcomed Myfanwy Alexander who joined us from Montgomeryshire. Myfanwy has written a wide range of things, including for radio and television programmes and her series of fictional novels. The fifth novel in the series will be launched at the Royal Welsh Show this year. She has also worked in community drama, especially with the YFC Movement which helps develop her eye for comedy: she won the Sony award for satire. Myfanwy is the mother of six girls who have all benefited from the opportunities provided by YFC.

During the awards ceremony for the Welsh Entertainments, the trophy for the most promising female performer was awarded to Sulwen Richards, Carmarthenshire and the trophy for the most promising male performer was presented to Ilan Jones, Montgomery. Receiving the Paul Elkington Productions award for technical achievement was Pontsian YFC, Ceredigion. Finally, the Buddug James Memorial Trophy for the best performance went to Dyffryn Cothi YFC, Carmarthenshire. The weekend of Entertainment was drawn to a close with the Welsh section final placings as follows;

5th Bodedern YFC, Ynys Môn 4th Hermon YFC, Pembrokeshire 3rd Bro Ddyfi YFC, Montgomery 2nd Pontsian YFC, Ceredigion 1st Dyffryn Cothi YFC, Carmarthenshire

Wales YFC would like to extend their grateful thanks the Judges, stewards, members and supporters who all made the event the success that it was. We would also like to acknowledge with grateful thanks, our sponsors; Wynnstay, the sponsors of the Wales YFC Entertainment Feast, Kuhn, sponsors of the English entertainment awards and JCP Solicitors for sponsoring the member of the year competitions.

Member of the Year

Also during the Entertainment Feast weekend, we held our annual Junior and Senior member of the year competitions and the result of the prestigious award were announced on stage.

After thorough discussion by the panel of judges; Anwen Orrells, Jan Lloyd and lestyn Pritchard, it was Elain, Merionnydd that received the Junior member of the year award.

The panel judging the Senior member of the year competition included: Bethan Wyn Williams, Sioned Edwards and Rhiannon Dafydd. The judges were impressed with all competing members, but it was Endaf Griffiths, Ceredigion that was presented with the Senior member of the Year Award.



Entertainment Gallery

To see more of images of our members performing on stage, head to the gallery on our website!









Dates for you Diary

26.03.23 Public Speaking

15.04.23 Field Day

22.04.23 NFYFC Entertainment Competition

Competition

11.06.23 Sub-Committees & Council

18.06.23 Sports Day

12.08.23 Chairman's Challenge

Winter Wonderland Trip

On the 5th of January, 2023, the Wales YFC Youth forum held a trip to Winter Wonderland, Cardiff. Junior members of the federation gathered and began the day by socialising and getting to know one another as they competed in games, enjoyed the fairground rides and drank hot chocolate!

From there the group went to the iceskating rink, located in the historic and picturesque venue of Cardiff Castle. The members thoroughly enjoyed themselves and look forward to any future events the Wales YFC youth forum has in store.



The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee, Cerys and Gethin, told YFC;

"It was good to see so many members there enjoying themselves and it's a great way to advertise the Wales YFC Youth Forum. The members really enjoyed themselves and we look forward to organising more trips like this in the future and watch the committee go from strength to strength."

The Wales YFC Youth Forum was formed as a way for the junior members of the organisation to have their voices heard. It is made up of the finalists of the Junior Member of the Year competition in addition to elected representatives from each of the Welsh Counties. The Youth Forum meet around three times a year, run a selection of exciting projects and trips and feed into the Wales YFC Council to make sure the federation continues to run great competitions, events and activities for junior members

If you are a YFC member, under the age of 18 in Wales. Why not join your local youth forum! Contact your county office for more information.

DYDD MIWSIG CYMRU

Wales YFC have a history of celebrating Welsh Language Music Day, with its popular recorded single 'Bydd Wych', a Rhys Gwynfor cover, being a success in 2020, whilst also raising awareness of mental health by raising money to the meddwl.org charity. The single is heard regularly on the radio and has become an anthem for Wales YFC. With many members being an active part of that project, the organisation was eager to hold another celebration this year.

This year, Wales YFC members created lip sync videos to popular Welsh songs to mark the ten year anniversary of Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day).

This was an open entry competition for YFC members, eight entries were received in total; Fishguard YFC - Pembrokeshire, Hermon YFC - Pembrokeshire, Llanddewi Brefi YFC - Ceredigion, Llanelli YFC - Carmarthen, Llangollen YFC - Clwyd, Llangwyryfon YFC - Ceredigion, Pontsian YFC - Ceredigion, Rowen YFC - Ervri.





The videos were judged on the amount of 'likes' each post received within the first 24 hours of being posted on our four social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram and our English and Welsh Twitter pages.

The top three, highest voted videos received cash prizes for their YFC Club. In third place, receiving £100 for their YFC Club was Llanddewi Brefi YFC, Ceredigion. In second place, earning £200 was Rowen YFC, Eryri, and voted first place by our followers was Llangwyryfon YFC, Ceredigion, who will be given £250 for their Club.

Welsh Language Music Day celebrates all Welsh language music and the selection of songs chosen by our members in this competition emphasises this. We hope that holding the competition has enabled members to look into the range of Welsh language music further and also introduce new songs to members watching the shared videos.

Wales is known for being 'The Land of Song' and rightly so, Wales YFC are also fortunate to have many talented musicians as members. A playlist has been created to gather music released by past or current members. The playlist can be found on Spotify under 'Cerddorion CFfl Cymru | Wales YFC Musicians'.

Wales YFC would like to thank Welsh Government for allowing this fantastic opportunity to be provided for our members.





FOLLOW US...



@cfficymru_walesyfc1



cfficymru-yfc



CFfI Cymru Wales YFC



@CFfI Cymru @Wales YFC

CERYS - WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER



"Being a member of YFC has given me so many great opportunities, but none have topped my experience with the Welsh Youth Parliament. I was elected as a Welsh Youth Parliament member for Wales YFC as a partner organisation in December 2021, alongside 59 other members from constituencies and organisations across Wales. The role has been invaluable to me, as a member of the mental health and well-being committee we conducted a survey of young people in Wales and finalised a report which I was able to speak about in the Senedd Chamber in November as well as asking questions to Jane Bryant MS and Racio Cifuentes, Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The entire weekend was a very surreal experience, not many young people get a chance to speak in such a prestigious place. I have also made so many great friends as a result of my role from across Wales and rural life and agriculture in general. I am really grateful for Wales YFC giving me the chance to become a Welsh Youth Parliament member for rural areas to get their voices heard through such a large platform."

WALES YFC Newsletter Spring 2023

COUNTY NEWS

Glamorgan

Well where does time go? We're nearly half way through March already! The Federation of Glamorgan Young Farmers has certainly been busy, with firstly our 1st Public speaking day was held at Pendoylan Church, where over 60 members took part in Junior reading, Junior public speaking, Junior and Senior member along with Under 21 and Under 28 Situations Vacant. Many thanks to judges, Wyndham, Gwen. Aled & James.

Moving on, it was straight down to practice for the Entertainments competition, this year held at The Memo Arts Centre, Barry. Yet again the members' enthusiasm was brilliant with over 130 Members taking to the stage, putting on various performances;

Gelligear YFC – Under The Sea
Wick YFC – Scam Travel
Llantrisant YFC – Strictly Fairy-tale Talent
Neath YFC – A Bedtime Story
Maendy YFC – Return to Paradise
Gower YFC – Mountain Duel
Wick YFC Were victorious and headed to Bagor
for the Wales YFC Finals.

A brilliant evening was had with a joint evening held with Gwent YFC for a very informative talk by Justine from Elanco. Many thanks to Lee for facilitating the evening.

Next up was the second public speaking competitions evening with Clubs making their way to Penclawdd Rugby Club, A very busy evening was had with 8 brainstrust teams and 9 call my bluff teams entered, with topics up for discussion ranging from:

Do we need two farming unions in Wales? Jeremy Clarkson has done more for British agriculture than the farming unions.

Today's television is too politically correct Huge thank you to the judges, Dan & Dai. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Ceredigion

The County Half Hour Entertainment competition was recently held. There was a full week of competition with 13 clubs taking part, and thanks to judge Shôn Midway Rees for judging the competition. Pontsian YFC won the competition with Bro'r Dderi YFC coming 2nd and Felinfach YFC in 3rd.

The names of the High School ambassadors were announced on Monday 20th of February and a week later it was announced that Siôn Wyn Evans, Felinfach Club was the Junior Member of the Year and Endaf Griffiths, Pontsian Club was the Senior Member of the Year. Endaf, Siôn and Pontsian YFC then represented the County in Pontio, Bangor at the beginning of the March.

On the 10th of March we will be announcing the new County Officers for the coming year at an evening of Castle Bingo at Castle Howell, Pontsian. We will finish the weekend with a Singing Gathering in Pisgah Chapel, Talgarreg.

The Chairman's challenge this year is to walk 20 miles from Aberystwyth to Tregaron on the 7th of April to raise money for breast cancer. If you are interested in joining the trip you will need to register with the Office before the end of March.

Gwent

Gwent YFC most certainly had the WOW FACTOR at our entertainment's competition held at the ICC Wales last month. The event was attended by over 500 people who came to see our 6 clubs perform on the big stage. The venue was superb with first class facilities on offer and our members certainly rocked the stage with some epic performances. But at the end of the day there can only be one winner and this year taking home the winning trophy in 2023 for the best performance, with a very young cast was Abergavenny YFC! Well done to all the clubs and members for helping create a wonderful day, Gwent YFC wouldn't be what it is without you all

Clwvd

Congratulations to Aled Llwyd Jones, Nantglyn for being nominated as Senior Member of the Year for Clwyd and to Erin Medi Williams, Uwchaled, for being nominated as Junior Member of the Year for Clwyd. And congratulations also to Uwchaled club for winning a National YFC Award – for Supporting their community.

Our Youth Forum had a very enjoyable evening at the Skating Ring in Deeside, 85 Under 18 members attended and everyone one went home in one piece!

Preparation is on the way for our Field Day which will be held at the Llysfasi College on Sunday 12th March. Thank you to Llysfasi College for hosting us.

We had a very interesting evening with Dyfrig, the local vet who gave a session on successful lambing – the event was well attended by members and parents.

Clwyd Rally 2023 will be held on the 27th May at the Ruthin Auction and preparation is well on the way.

Meirionnydd

With the Spring season about to start we will have a break for the members during the lambing period. We have had an extremely busy period with several county competitions whether it be Public Speaking, Fieldwork, Quiz and Eisteddfod, Mared from Dinas Mawddwy club had a very successful result as she won the Crown at the Cymru YFC Eisteddfod! Stock Judaina competitions were then held with very good results coming from the Winter Fair with Meirionnydd winning the winning team with Beef Cattle Judging. It was nice to have another successful result for Meirionnydd with Elain from the Prysor club and Eden coming out on top in the Cymru YFC Junior Member of the year competition! We are very proud of Elain, she has been a very loyal and active member for several years now and we wish her well in the coming year. Rally is the next main event and that is on the 17th of June at Pallmall Farm, Tywyn. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sir Benfro

Members of Pembrokeshire YFC have recently been busy preparing for our Entertainment Talent Feast, with both Welsh and English competitions being held. The Welsh language competition was held with Hermon YFC awarded the Best Performance award. Catrin George, Eglwyswrw, was presented the Best Female Performer award and Tomos Lewis, Hermon, presented the Best Male Performer by judges Geraint Lloyd and Anna ap Robert. The English Language competition was also held with eight clubs competing, showcasing a variety of talents! Judges, Brian & Margaret Harries, were faced with a challenge, and awarded Keyston YFC first place. Daniel Morgan, Keyston, was presented Best Individual Performer, with other trophies awarded to Llysyfran, Llawhaden and Martletwy.

Our Members of the Year were also announced recently, with Charlotte Lewis, South Pembs, named Junior Member, and Terrie Savage, Keyston, named Senior Member. Clubs are now busy preparing for the next competition in the calendar, the Field Day!

Brecknock

February Brecknock YFC held their annual Junior Drama/Entertainment/One Plus Festival at Theatr Brycheiniog Brecon. It was great to see so many members return to the stage whether it was their first or last time performing it certainly brought a great atmosphere back in the county. Builth Wells YFC won the Junior Drama, Sennybridge YFC won both Junior and Senior One Plus and Erwood YFC won the Entertainment.

Our Junior member of the year was awarded to Rachel, Pontfaen YFC and Libby Sennybridge YFC was awarded Senior Member of the year.

Erwood YFC and our Member of the year members recently travelled to Bangor to compete in the Wales finals. Libby gained 3rd place in the Senior member of the year and Erwood YFC winning overall in the Entertainment competition with Samuel Powell winning best Actor award. Good luck to Erwood YFC who will now represent the county and Wales in the NFYFC finals on the 22nd April.

This year Brecknock YFC are celebrating their 80th year we have two events planned this summer to mark the momentous occasion, an anniversary dinner and a concert mid summer. Please keep an eye on our social media page for updates.

Radnor

The past few months in Radnor have been solely focused on the Entertainment competition with twelve out of our thirteen clubs entering the competition. Weeks of practising in village halls across the county saw over 300 members performing at the Albert Hall Theatre in Llandrindod Wells across four competing nights, followed by a Gala night where the top three teams strutted their stuff on stage. Over 2000 people watched the shows over the week, record numbers after a three year wait due to Covid! Rhosgoch YFC were crowned overall champions for the first time in over eighteen

With members now heading for the lambing shed – Radnor YFC will be focusing on the main event of the year – Rally Day – and preparations are underway for our 75th Rally.

Ynys Mon

It's going to be a busy month / two in Anglesey, having held an evening of entertainment and going on to compete in Pontio on Sunday where Lowri and Ynyr from the Bodedern club were mentioned in the "Top Three"

His two stock judging "Field Work Days" are to be held on Sunday 12/03/23 and fencing etc on Saturday 25th March

We are also looking forward to competing in Welsh Public Speaking on Sunday 26th March in Llanelwedd

We are currently organizing a Youth Forum trip to Deeside skating center on Friday 24th March.

The arrangements for the Eisteddfod Cymru 2023 are going well and it is nice to welcome Mared and Rhianwen over to Anglesey to discuss this Wednesday night 8th March.

We also organize 1st Aid training for members over 16 during April.

Of course also looking forward to holding our Rally on Saturday 17th of June at the Anglesey Showground. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Montgomery YFC and lots of our members has spent the past couple of months for our preparing and practicing Entertainment Festival which was held in Theatre Hafren, Newtown from the 22nd -25th February. We had several clubs competing and showcasing an array of different Entertainments, making it a difficult task for our judges. It was Llanfyllin YFC who won the English and Bro Ddyfi in the Welsh. We had some great candidates running for our Senior and Junior Member of the year competition with Elin Lewis, Dyffryn Tanat YFC winning the Senior and Mary Jerman, Tregynon YFC in the Junior.

We also run a separate competition with our One Plus, filling in the slots between performances in front of the curtains, it was great to see clubs of all sizes having a go and showing their talents, with Sarn YFC taking the top spot

Sir Gâr

Congratulations to all the members of Llandovery YFC for their special performance of "Under Pressure" in the Welsh YFC English Entertainment competition, and for winning 3rd prize. Congratulations also to Rhian Hughes for winning the trophy for the best performer in the English Department.

We are very proud of the members of Dyffryn Cothi YFC for their performance "Dyffryn Cothi ar Daith" and commend them for winning the 1st prize in the Cymraeg Welsh Entertainment competition of YFC Cymru. I would also like to congratulate Sulwen Richards for winning the Best Female Performer trophy in the Welsh Language Department.

Congratulations to Sara Jones and Elen Bowen from Capel Iwan YFC who competed in the Junior and Senior Member of the Year competition. Sara won 3rd prize in the Junior Member competition, with Elen winning 4th prize in the Senior Member competition. Good luck to them in their positions as Junior Member and Senior Member of the year C.Ff.I Carmarthenshire over the coming year.

Ervri

We are pleased to see the County's membership on the rise this year and as a result of the progress, we have had a very busy period of competition. With the Eisteddfod, Winter Fair, Quiz, Dance and the County's Public Speaking Night having been held, our attention is now on organizing the County's first Fieldwork Day which will be held on Saturday, 25 March at Coleg Glynllifon Farm we really looking forward to it and hope it will be an annual event in our calendar.

As well as the Field Work Day, we hope to hold a Sports Day, Rugby Competitions, Mock Eisteddfod and Sarn and District Plow Race competitions before reaching the pinnacle of the year - THE RALLY! This year's County Rally will be held under the auspices of Dyffryn Madog Young Farmers Club on Saturday, 27 May at Llystyn Ganol Farm, Garndolnemaen with an Evening Dance in the company of Brvn Fôn to follow.

COUNTY NEWS CLUB OF THE MONTH

The Club of the Month feature is new to Wales YFC for March - Llangadog YFC, Carmarthenshire 2023. Each month, the spotlight is shed onto a different club, with each month being dedicated to a different county. This is the perfect opportunity for clubs to put themselves on the map and to be featured on our social media platforms and newsletter!

In February we celebrated Penybont YFC in Radnor, they are a strong club that has seen a large increase in membership, so much so, that they are now the largest club in their county!

In the month of March, we then travelled to Carmarthenshire, where Llangadog YFC were featured for being a very active club within their county.

February - Penybont YFC, Radnor



Name of Club: Penybont YFC, Radnor

Number of Members: 39

Where you Meet: Penybont Hall, Powys

Describe your Club in 3 words: Young, Determined and Enthusiastic

Favourite Club Night Activity:

One of our more recent club nights has been a Quiz and Pizza night. However, with help from some grants, we have also been able hold some unique club nights, such as hiring a Rodeo Bull last February and a Bungee Assault course last year.

Fundraising Accomplishments:

We raise club funds by annually hiring a charity shop which raises an excess of £1000, which keeps the club ticking financially. We also hold a concert after the entertainment/panto competition which makes enough money to cover our expenses to enter the

In addition to this, we have also begun to organise an annual after dark tractor run which we held just before Christmas, this year we raised over £5300 to be split between Birmingham children's hospital, Teenage Cancer Trust and MNDA, last year we raised over

Work Within the Community:

The tractor run showcases the very best of young farmers and the farming community to the wider public. We had over 100 tractors attend this year with a route planned to maximise our presence in a range of local villages and towns. This is now being recognised as part of the local community Christmas calendar.

As a club we also support local community events such as carols around the Christmas tree and local speed shears.

Favourite Competitions:

Entertainment has to be our favourite competitions, because it is a whole club competition which brings the club closer together. Another favourite is the inter club quiz which is well attended by teams from across Radnor.



Number of Members: 47

Where you Meet: Llangadog Rugby Club

Describe your Club in 3 words: Active, Friendly, One Family

Favourite Club Night Activities:

- A 'Lost on a bus' night closing the bus windows and being left somewhere remote and having to find the way back on foot
- Christmas party fun and games, plenty of silly games

Fundraising Accomplishments:

- A tractor ride which raised £1813 for Junior Drovers Rugby Llandovery in memory of Mr. Arwel Davies (Ad-Clad)
- Carmarthenshire Urdd Fisteddfod Appeal Committee 2023 - £725
- Noah's Ark Charity £130 after a former member's little girl received treatment there.
- £1265.82 towards Glangwili Hospital Chemotherapy Unit in memory of Mr. Chris Davies, Cwmcowddi, the father of one of our members.

Work Within the Community:

- Holding the Llangadog C.F.I Show annually.
- Assisting during the Llangadog Sheep Dog Trials.
- Going around the area to sing carols annually.
- · Holding an annual thanksgiving meeting and donating food to local food banks.
- Raising money and promoting the Urdd Eisteddfod coming to Llandovery in 2023.

Favourite Competitions:

Everyone enjoys all kinds of competitions at the club. We ensure that everyone gets the chance to compete in every competition! We compete in the Field Day, Eisteddfod, Stock Judging, Competition Entertainment, Public Speaking and the Rally annually.

How do you use the Welsh Language:

The language of the club is Welsh. So we discuss in Welsh during the meetings, when we play games and compete with the rest of the County. However, we are an inclusive club, so if members are less confident in Welsh, we ensure that they understand and contribute in English if they want to. As a result we improve the confidence of members who are learners or less confident in using the Welsh language.

Fun Facts:

- The club is celebrating its 80th year this year
- In 2015 we came 3rd in the NFYFC English Drama





RURAL AFFAIRS ROADSHOW

Elanco Animal Health Talk

Wales YFC Rural Affairs Committee has had a very busy couple of months getting out and about at different events. Since our conference in early January, we held the first of our Elanco animal health talks. This was held at Pencoed Rugby club and was supported by members from Glamorgan, Gwent, and Carmarthenshire. This was an insightful and interactive evening discussing important animal health issues. The members found the evening very useful and informative.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol - Gelli Aur

February saw the start of not one but two conferences, the first was held at Gelli Aur College with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. Wales YFC were in attendance to promote to potential and current members what the federation has to offer. The conference was well attended by colleges from all over Wales and it was lovely to see speakers from Aberystwyth University, Coleg Gelli Aur and Melanie Owen to name a few.

Made With Wool Event

Before our next conference representatives from Wales YFC attended an event at the National Wool Museum, Llandysul organised by Gwnaed a Gwlan, Menter Mon. Four speakers from the World of wool gave an insight to how they use wool, from insulation to kitchen cutlery and clothing, the day definitely gave food for thought on how we can better market this amazing by-product.

NFU Conference

Next on our list was the NFU Conference at the ICC Birmingham, where five Wales YFC representatives attend the conference 'Feeding a Changing World' and we are very thankful to NFU Cymru for giving us the opportunity to be there. Over the jam-packed two days we had a chance to listen to very high-profile speakers to include Rt Hon Mark Spencer, Sir Keir Starmer, Prof. Tim Benton and many more. It was all chaired very professionally by NFU President Minette Batters and Deputy President Tim Bradshaw.

A session with Welsh Water

On Tuesday the 28th of February, the Wales YFC Rural Affairs committee held the first of their joint road show with Dŵr Cymru – Welsh Water, held at Monmouthshire livestock Market where members from Gwent and Glamorgan came together to learn about the working partnership between Wales YFC and Dŵr Cymru. They also learnt about the Water Champions scheme. A presentation was given on water catchment areas and an insight into the journey our water has before it comes through our taps. Speaking after the event, Emily Morgan, Glamorgan YFC told Wales YFC;

"It was great to learn about the importance of what Welsh Water do and how they work in conjunction with Farmers. The WaterSource Scheme looks to be an exciting opportunity for YFC members whether they are looking for a career in Welsh Water or even to enhance their CV".

An evening with Oxbury Bank

On Monday the 6th of March, members gathered in the International Pavillion on the Royal Welsh Showground for an evening with Oxbury Bank. The evening commenced with informative talks from Oxbury staff, where they explained the opportunities available for our members, including their New Gen scheme. This was followed by an engaging Q&A session. It was fantastic to see so many members in attendance and we look forward to what the future of agriculture has instore.

Wales YFC Agri23 Weekend

On Saturday the 14th of January 2023, Wales YFC held their seventh Rural Affairs Conference kindly sponsored by CCF. The location this year was the picturesque venue of Plas Isaf, Corwen.

'Farming Journeys' was the theme of this year's AGRI23 Conference and they were certainly taken on some very difference paths throughout the day. Another theme that was touched on throughout the day was mental health.



The Federation were told that it was very 'humbling' to hear guest speaker, Nigel Owens MBE, speak with the upmost honesty on his own struggles with mental health. They also heard of his farming journey from the age of sixteen and how that was put on hold to pursue his passion for refereeing rugby. After achieving a World Record for his 100th International Test Match, he then returned to farming as he built his Mairwen herd of Pedigree Hereford Cattle.

The second speaker of the day was Llyr Jones 'Derwydd' who spoke of how he utilises resources from his own farm to generate energy and how puts the excess is brought back into the business to make it more sustainable. A wide range of renewable energy projects at Derwydd mean all our electricity is green. His hydroelectric plant uses water from a stream to produce enough energy to run 26 homes for a year. A ground source heat pump heats his egg unit, keeping the hens warm, air source pumps heat the farmhouse and holiday cottage, and solar panels also produce electricity exported to the grid. His determination and hard work has allowed him to grow his business, very successfully, with many new ventures planned for the future.

The Federation then welcomed Rhidian Glyn, who spoke of his journey that was different from our previous speakers' in that he didn't have a farming background. However, he has since successfully built his farming business from just 15 Welsh mountain ewes in 2008 to securing a 10 year farm business tenancy at Rhiwgriafol and has grown to a flock of 850 ewes and 250 replacements. He has also established a dairy herd of which he will be milking for the first time this spring.

The final guest speaker of the day was Rebecca Wilson, a fifth generation farmer from Yorkshire and one of the presenters of Farming 'Boots and Heels' podcast spoke about her journey from a young child growing up on farm to then achieving a degree at University of Cambridge in Human, Social and Political Science to then moving on to a masters at the Royal Agricultural University. Rebecca then worked within the sector but eventually went back to farming and is now managing her family farm alongside her father and sister. Rebecca has a very big following with her podcast, Instagram and YouTube channel and is doing an excellent job showcasing what British Agriculture is all about.

That Afternoon, the conference attendees split into two groups; one group stayed in Plas Isaf, while the other group ventured on a farm tour of the Rhug Estate, kindly lead by Gareth Jones. Members went around the Estate on their transport trailer were told the story of how Rhug has developed and changed in the last 30 years, under the Ownership of Lord Newborough.

Meanwhile the other group attended an afternoon session of speakers; Helen Roberts and Caryl Hughes from the NSA, NFU Cymru Next Generation Ambassador Erin Mcnaught, Kate Miles from The DPJ Foundation and Angharad Thomas, FUW. These sessions were all about organisations that help young people within the agricultural industry and some touched on the struggles that young people can endure during this process.

The day was drawing to a close with David Evans, Chief Executive of CCF gave some closing remarks on how well the day had gone and how pleased CCF were to be sponsoring the conference for the 7th time and he looked forward to doing the same next year. Wales YFC would like to give their sincere thank you to CCF for their continued support, it is truly valued, the conference wouldn't be what it is today without their support.



On Sunday, the 15th of January, members from Wales YFC then attended a farm tour with the Ellis Family of Ty Newydd, Trefnant. Rhodri and his wife Agharad, along with their four children, kindly welcomed the group of young farmers to their farm. Rhodri and Angharad started Contract Farming in 2006 and purchased 250 organic Holstein-Friesian herd in Rhydycilgwyn, Ruthin. They were given notice to leave Rhydycilgwyn in 2012 because of illness of the farm owner. And were then lucky enough to gain the opportunity to move to Ty Newydd in March 2012. They sold their 250 heads of cattle and purchased 250 spring calving cross-breed heifers. They now have a contract with Arla Organic McDonalds milk, milking 950 across two units. They also have a conventional herd milking another 270 cows. This is a very busy and forward-thinking farm and they are always striving to help young families get onto the ladder, just as they did by employing local farm hands and herd managers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rhodri and his family for their warm welcome to Tv Newydd and wish them all the best in the

All in all, this was a hugely successful event, with members learning a lot about the variety of farming paths there are. And they hope that the Federation can continue to build on this success in the future.



WALES YFC Newsletter Spring 2023

Chairman's Challenge

Each year the Chairman of the Welsh Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs selects a charity. This will then be the charity the federation works to raise funds for throughout the year.

The current Wales YFC Chairman, Hefin Evans, has chosen Diabetes UK Cymru and Wales Air Ambulance to support during the 2022-23 year. Here are a few words from the Chairman;

"Wales Air Ambulance is an amazing charity as they provide a lifeline to the rural areas of Wales, providing transport and medical attention for people in accidents. Diabetes Cymru is a charity that is close to my heart with many family members suffering with it. And I aim to raise awareness around the disease. The challenge I will be embarking on is the Three Peaks of Wales Challenge, which will be taking place in August 2023. The challenge will be open for all members, they can join us in doing all the three summits or choose the summit that is closest to them."

Diabetes UK Cymru have told the federation:

"We are very grateful to the Welsh Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs for confirming Diabetes UK Cymru as one of their charities to support over the coming year. Diabetes is a serious condition and can affect everyone; YFC's support ensures we can continue the fight against Wales' growing health crisis. We look forward to working with YFC to raise awareness and support people living with and at risk of developing diabetes, especially in our Welsh farming communities. Our fight involves us all; we are proud to work together with Wales YFC and look forward to the year ahead."

- Rachel Burr, National Director, Wales

In a statement from Wales Ambulance they said: "It means everything to Wales Air Ambulance to be selected as charity of the year for Wales YFC. A high number of our life saving missions are related to agriculture or farming. Having doctors on the helicopters and rapid response vehicles means we are now able to bring A&E to the patient instead of taking the patient to hospital. This ensures that lifesaving treatment can be administered at the scene resulting in better outcomes and quicker recovery times. We receive no direct government funding so we truly rely on the support from the people of Wales to make sure that we can continue to serve Wales and save lives."

Chairman's Challenge

This year, Hefin Evans, chairman of Wales YFC will be embarking on his chairman's challenge, the Three Peaks of Wales. This will consist of scaling the three highest and most iconic mountains in Wales; Yr Wyddfa Wales' tallest peak, Cadair Idris, a spectacular peak at the southern edge of Snowdonia National Park and finally, Pen y Fan in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The group will set off bright an early on Saturday the 12th of August, climbing the three peaks against the clock to raise donations in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, Diabetes UK Cymru and Wales YFC.

If you would like to embark on this challenge or make a donation, please contact information@yfc-wales.org.uk.

To keep up to date with news and developments within Wales YFC, including the details of future fundraising events, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Job Opportunity with Carmarthenshire YFC

Carmarthenshire is looking for a dynamic individual full of energy to maintain and develop a successful C.Ff.I organization in Carmarthenshire.

Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Club Federation is keen to employ an Organizer to provide a wide program of activities and develop the work of the federation in partnership with an administrative officer, a team of County officials and the organization in Wales.

This person needs to have the ability to inspire and support young people and have special interpersonal, organization and communication skills. You must also have the ability to work effectively as part of a team that promotes different activities and projects within the County and beyond. For more information click the link (*Link to the job description)

Wales YFC Centre Room Hire

The Wales YFC Centre has facilities available for hire. Our meeting/training room will accommodate approximately 22 people theatre style and 20 people in a boardroom layout.

Bookings include:

- Meeting room, in either Theatre, Boardroom, Workshop or Function Layout
- Cafe Area
- Wi-Fi via an Ethernet Cable
- Television Presenting Screen
- Refreshment Facilities
- Abundance of Free Parking
- Hybrid option with an additional charge

For enquiries and bookings, contact; Email: information@yfc-wales.org.uk Phone: 01982 553502

Uwchaled YFC win National Award

A Clwyd Young Farmers' Club has been recognised for a national award for its efforts supporting its rural community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Uwchaled YFC in Clywd was given the Community Spirit Award, sponsored by Tama, at The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs' (NFYFC) YFC Achiever Awards 2022, sponsored by Kärcher UK.

The annual YFC Achiever Awards recognise the achievements of members and clubs during the previous membership year. This year's event was held at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham on Saturday 11 February, and was introduced by NFYFC President and former international rugby referee Nigel Owens MBE.

Uwchaled YFC members were rewarded for their good deeds – delivering food, medicines and supplies to the vulnerable people of their community during the pandemic. Senior club members also volunteered to help the local GP surgery with stewarding on vaccination days.

During the first Christmas lockdown – when most events were cancelled due to restrictions – members were keen to raise spirits. They created 80 wreaths, which were left on doorsteps of the older people living on their own in the community with a note saying "Cyfarchion Stepen Drws", translating to "Door Step Greetings" in English.

The following Christmas, with restrictions lifted, the club celebrated by driving a tractor and trailer decorated in fairy lights around eight local villages, raising £1,200 for the Welsh Air Ambulance.

But it wasn't just their own local community that Uwchaled YFC supported. Following the invasion of Ukraine, members collected essential items such as clothes, shoes and coats and took them to a warehouse in Wrexham from where they were sent on to Ukraine.

Club Chair Ceridwen Edwards said:

"We were in shock to find out we had won! We cried a lot of happy tears. We're doing so much for the community. We're a 100% Welsh language club and we're doing so much for the Welsh language in the community too. We're very proud and we're so grateful for winning this award."

The club's efforts impressed the judging panel, which consisted of Ellen Helliwell, the shepherdess from the first series of TV programme Clarkson's Farm, Olly Harrison, a farmer and YouTube blogger, and James Nixey, NFYFC's Membership and Marketing Group Vice Chair.

Tama is a proud sponsor of the Community Spirit Award 2022 and Warren Tatton, Tama UK Commercial Manager, said:

"Working with the NFYFC means a great deal to us. Tama, being farmer owned, understands what it takes to be a farmer and what it means to provide support and guidance to the next generation. We congratulate Uwchaled YFC in Clwyd on their achievement of gaining the Community Spirit award. The actions taken during the pandemic by the club provided vital support to their community at a time of great need. Well done to all at Uwchaled YFC!"

The Community Spirit Award is one of eight award categories and all the winners were revealed during the YFC Achiever Awards event on 11 February 2023.*

NFYFC Achiever Awards



A young farmer from Nottinghamshire has been given a national award for her dedication to developing rural young people involved in Young Farmers' Clubs.

Jessica Rose, 28, from Newark in Nottinghamshire, was shortlisted with four others for The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs' (NFYFC) Heart of YFC Award, sponsored by Kärcher UK.

The award was part of NFYFC's annual YFC Achiever Awards, sponsored by Karcher UK, which recognise the achievements of members during the previous membership year. Due to the pandemic, this was the first year the awards had been held in person. More than 400 young farmers, supporters and alumni attended the event at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham on Saturday 11 February, which was hosted by NFYFC President and former international rugby referee Nigel Owens MBF

The YFC Achiever awards include eight award categories and Jessica was revealed as the Heart of YFC Award winner after receiving the most votes from the YFC community. Nearly 1500 people voted on the five finalists in this category to choose the person they felt represented the values and ethos of YFC the most.

Jessica, who lives on the family arable and sheep farm in Newark, and is an online sales manager for a clothing boutique, was recognised for the support she had given young people involved in her club and for helping to organise county-wide events such as the show and rally, and a Christmas tractor run. She was also recognised for her work on county and national YFC committees.

Jessica said: "It is the greatest honour to win this award. Something I only dreamt of winning is now somehow my reality. A definite pinch me moment! I love everything YFC stands for. The opportunities it gives you and the places it takes you. The links you make with your local community are invaluable. Whether that be forging lifelong friendships with people you didn't know lived on your doorstep or fundraising for charities in your area who thrive from your support. It is simply the best organisation that enriches the lives of so many young people. I hope to be involved with YFC for many years to come and keep giving back to an organisation that has given me so much."

The Heart of YFC Award was one of eight awards presented on the evening, which included hundreds of young farmers from across England and Wales.

The eight YFC Achiever Award winners are:

- 1. Heart of YFC, sponsored Kärcher UK Jessica Rose, Nottinghamshire
- 2. Farm Safety Award, sponsored Farm Safety Foundation James Hosking, Cornwall
- 3. Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by KUHN, Matt Ingram, Warwickshire
- 4. Community Spirit, sponsored by Tama, Uwchaled YFC, Clwyd
- 5. Community Supporter of the Year, Hollie*, Leicestershire
- 6.YFC Supporter of the Year, Michael Bailey, Hampshire

some amazing rural young people that are involved in YFC.

- 7. New Member of the Year, sponsored by Eternit, Dave Odell, Warwickshire
- 8. Aspiring Rural Leader, sponsored by Savills, Jamie Pottow, Wiltshire

The awards, which were first launched in 2020, are a way of recognising and rewarding members of Young Farmers' Clubs (YFCs) for the work they do in the community, for enterprising initiatives and for helping to develop other rural young people.

Top names from the farming industry were among the line-up of judges who helped to choose the 2022 winners. Judges included farmer and BBC3's The Fast and The Farmerish presenter Tom Pemberton, The Kenyan Pig Farmer Flavian Obiero and Ellen Helliwell, the shepherdess who featured in series 1 of TV programme Clarkson's Farm.

Simon Keeping, Group Managing Director, UK & Ireland Kärcher UK Ltd, said:

"Farming in the UK, and with it, Young Farmers' Clubs, face challenging times ahead. Climate change, the impact of technology and new international trade deals all create opportunities but in turn put additional pressures on UK agriculture. At Kärcher we describe ourselves as 'Custodians of the brand' – it guides us in how we act and develop the business. Young Farmers are also custodians – custodians of the land, or more precisely the 69% of this country's land mass that is in agricultural production. It's a privilege for Kärcher to help celebrate success with YFC and to encourage young farmers to embrace their mantle of Custodians of the land."

NFYFC's President Nigel Owens MBE hosted the evening's ceremony and was among the judging panel who helped to shortlist the five nominees for the Heart of YFC Award. Nigel Owens said: "It was an absolute honour to host NFYFC's first YFC Achiever Awards ceremony. It was a very special evening that brought together members, supporters and alumni to celebrate the achievements of

"NFYFC's YFC Achiever Awards are a positive acknowledgement of the great work that young people in rural communities are doing every day. From charity fundraisers to enterprising initiatives that improve the rural economy – YFCs and their members are making a difference. All the finalists and the winners should be very proud."

Welsh Agricultural Engineer and CLAAS Scholar discusses the future of Net Zero and the engineering industry



Having received the coveted CLAAS placement and scholarship last year, Agricultural

Engineering student, Rhodri Williams, spent much of 2022 in Harsewinkel, Germany, working as

part of the company's cutting-edge technology efforts.

"I was part of the CLAAS Advanced Developments Department, working on the future of combine harvesting technology. We were mostly working a few years in advance — at least — and trying to match future technologies to current issues.

"What I realised at CLAAS was, without engineers most sectors won't get very far – just look around the room and think of all the things you use that require some form of engineering. Lots of engineers, especially Agricultural Engineers, are going to have to feed the world and design, develop and produce the machinery for the agricultural industry to achieve this.

Originally from Whitland, south west Wales, Rhodri became Chairman of the Harper Engineering Society during his fourth year of study, refocusing the club's efforts on knowledge exchange and employer relations.

"I was actually at CLAAS when I got contacted about the opportunity – it was such a great honour to be elected Chairman. "My aim now is to build on key relationships between the engineering department, its students and potential employers. The value of your placement for example. That experience, it's second to none – you can't put a value on it!

"The future of engineering is the engineers studying now, both in schools and universities. Ultimately, we're the ones who have got to rise to the ever-changing [sustainability] challenge for the future of our planet."

Despite obvious demand within the sector, according to Engineering UK, only 39% of young people aged 14 to 16 said they 'knew what to do next in order to become an engineer'. Rhodri, however, believes a recent NFU project he champions, Farmers for Schools, might just have the answer.

"I'm going into schools in London and Manchester to try to get students interested in agriculture and engineering. I think one of the issues is the stigma surrounding the sector. People feel they need to be from farming backgrounds or skillsets and it's just not true. Projects like this one from the NFU are trying to bridge that knowledge gap and show just how many opportunities are out

"Having those conversations is working, too! On our last November Open Day, two students who I'd previously spoken to, came to Harper – and it was all because of this project."

When he isn't encouraging the next generation of engineers, Rhodri is busy finishing his integrated Masters degree in Agricultural Engineering.

"How it works at Harper is, you learn the fundamentals in the classroom and then in the tutorial sessions you go out and get under the machine to see how those techniques are actually applied in real life. Again, it's all about putting theory into practice for me – it means you try new things, have a better grasp of what you're being taught. I think the sector is going to need engineers like that"

"I'd recommend Harper to anyone; the opportunities you are exposed to here you would just not be given anywhere else. Like I say to my Farmers for Schools students, just come for an open day and see how you could be part of creating the future of the world."

Harper Adams officially recognised as a world-leading specialist university



Harper Adams has been officially recognised as a world-leading specialist English university in the latest funding announcement from the Office for Students (OfS).

To achieve the status, the University provided evidence that it has a genuine and ongoing reputation, nationally and internationally, for teaching in its specialism; that its graduates have a recognised ongoing impact in the professions and industries for which they have been prepared; that students, graduates and teaching practitioners contribute to the development of their particular specialisms in a way that is recognised internationally; and that its world-leading status is integral to its specialism.

16 Universities and Colleges have been granted World Leading Specialist Teaching status by the OfS with Harper Adams University being the only one with an agricultural specialism.

Harper Adams University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken Sloan, said: "This announcement from the Office for Students confirms the quality, reputation and impact that a Harper Adams education has on our students, on the industries which recruit our graduates, and on society at large.

"The University has received funding in previous comparable rounds but it is heartening to see that our reputation for world-leading specialist education has been confirmed through this new highly competitive process. At a time when the world has never been more aware of the significance of agriculture, food and farming on the health and well-being of its population, it is fantastic to know that there is access to world-leading specialist teaching in England, and in Shropshire.

Come to our Harper Adams Experience

Monday, 3 July 2023, 14:30 to Tuesday, 4 July 2023, 15:30

Visiting Harper Adams University isn't just reserved for our Open Days – we have plenty of opportunity throughout the year to visit, including our Harper Adams Experience day.

Open to 16-18-year olds, join our two-day residential where you'll have the chance to try out course-related activities, stay in our halls, eat in our dining room and explore the campus – with the people you might be at university with.

Register your interest now for your chance to immerse yourself in student life at Harper

Cost: £40



http://harper.ac.uk/yfhae

An Open Day for all



Want to explore what Harper Adams has to offer? Come along to our university open days throughout 2023.

Open to all undergraduate and postgraduate enquirers, you'll have the opportunity to speak to course tutors and students, take a tour around our countryside campus and engage in subject related activities – including tasting sessions, suturing and canine hydrotherapy demonstrations.

Book on to our next Open Day here to start your degree that matters, today.

This Newsletter is sponsored by Harper Adams University









WELSH 3 PEAKS CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

Er budd: In aid of:









