



WALES YFC **IMPACT REPORT** 2023





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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN HEFIN EVANS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARED JONES



Wales YFC was established in 1936 and is a voluntary youth organisation operating bilingually throughout rural Wales.

Almost 6,000 young people aged between 10 and 28 years are currently members of the organisation, all of which are members of a network of 138 YFC Clubs and 12 County Federations. Wales YFC is a dynamic and accessible bilingual rural youth organisation that creates opportunities for members to shine. The strength of the organisation is the democratic structure; all decisions are made by the members. Wales YFC seeks to meet the needs of rural young people through a variety of educational, training and social programmes that encourage community involvement and concern for our environment.

The Wales YFC Impact Report showcases all the great work that the members do throughout Wales and focuses on the following key pillars:

- Welsh Language
- Skills and Employability
- Health and Wellbeing
- Rural Sustainability



“Members are the heart of this report and I would like to take the opportunity to thank present and past members that took part in the surveys and the case studies. Members are the voice of the organisation and your views were key to the report. Thank you also to SamKat for delivering the impact report.”

The impact report gives evidence of the excellent work and support that Wales YFC gives to young people to become successful farmers, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. Also, most importantly the report looks at the future needs of Wales YFC.”





WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Wales YFC is a dynamic and accessible bilingual rural youth organisation that helps and supports young people to become successful farmers, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Wales YFC is run by our members; they are actively involved in every step of the decision-making process from what competitions to run to what charities we support. We have seven committees made up of members that make the strategic decisions for Wales YFC – **they make it happen!**



We have almost
6,000 MEMBERS
across Wales in
12 COUNTIES
and
138 CLUBS.

Our members
are from
10 TO 28 YEARS OLD
and over 3,400
members have
competed in our
96 COMPETITIONS
across Wales.

Our members
dedicate over
1.1 MILLION HOURS
each year to
SUPPORT
their club, county,
community and
rural Wales
by learning,
developing,
competing and
volunteering.

Over
200 COUNTY EVENTS, COMPETITIONS
and
VOLUNTEERING
opportunities are
SUPPORTED
by members
each year.

COUNCIL
with 70 members,
the council shapes
the future direction
of Wales YFC.

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT
with 19 members,
they keep a check
on anything relating
to money and the
running of Wales YFC.

COMPETITIONS
with 28 members,
they decide what
fun and exciting
competitions to run.

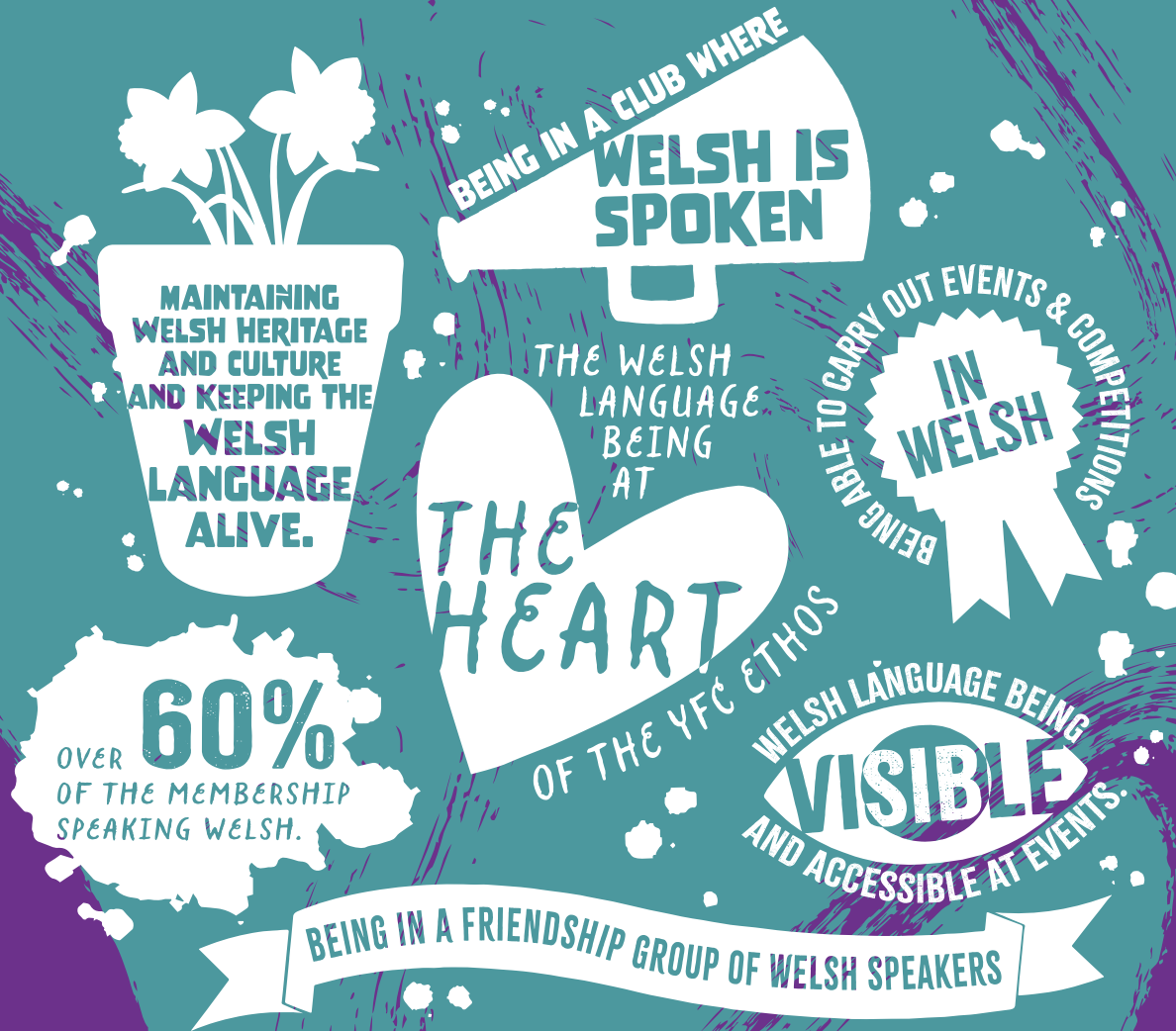
EVENTS & MARKETING
with 21 members, they
consider which events
to hold and support,
and how Wales YFC
promotes itself.

YOUTH FORUM
with 16 members,
representing the
views of the youngest
members of Wales
YFC.

RURAL AFFAIRS
with 27 members,
they focus on how
YFC supports rural
communities.

INTERNATIONAL
with 19 members, they
decide where in the world
YFC members will visit.

Our members have told us why it is so important that Wales YFC is alive and active within rural communities across Wales.



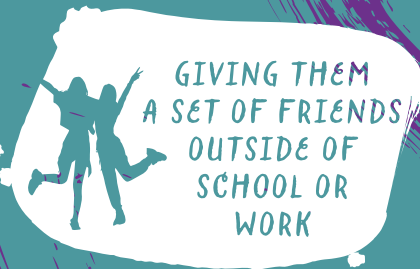
“IT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO USE THE WELSH LANGUAGE IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS SUCH AS DRAMA. THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT DOING AN ACTIVITY IN WELSH OUTSIDE OF YFC, IT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO LEARNING WELSH IN SCHOOL.”



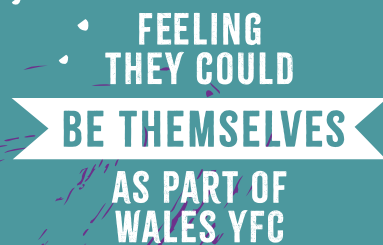
“I HAVE BEEN GOING TO MEETINGS SINCE I WAS 15 AND I AM CONFIDENT TO SPEAK UP IN MEETINGS. I KNOW HOW MEETINGS SHOULD OPERATE AND ALSO HOW TO FEEDBACK TO OTHERS WITHIN THE TEAM.”

OVER
75%

OF MEMBERS HAVE TOLD US THAT BEING A MEMBER OF WALES YFC SUPPORTS THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING BY:



WALES YFC HAS SUPPORTED MEMBERS HEALTH AND WELLBEING BY:



"IF I DIDN'T HAVE YFC, LIFE WOULD BE A LOT QUIETER, I LIVE FOR YOUNG FARMERS, YOU KNOW THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO AND PEOPLE TO MEET WITH."

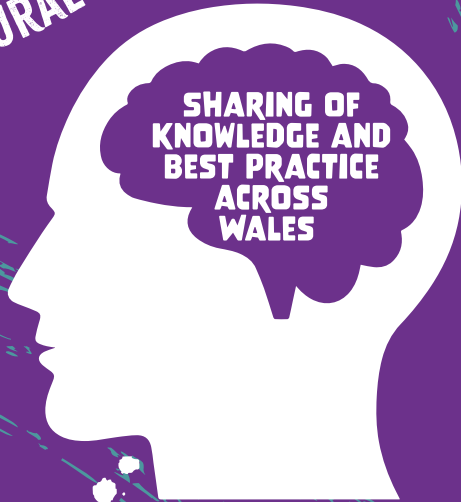


OVER
70%

OF MEMBERS HAVE TOLD US THAT BEING A MEMBER OF WALES YFC SUPPORTS RURAL SUSTAINABILITY BY:



YFC SUPPORTS RURAL COMMUNITIES BY:





We focus on a democratic process where the members make the decisions, the plans and then make it happen.

Our members have told us that there are five main pillars that support every aspect of Wales YFC, and these will continue to be our focus areas.

OUR 6,000 MEMBERS AT CLUB, COUNTY AND NATIONAL LEVEL WILL SUPPORT EACH OF THESE PILLARS. →

THE FUTURE OF WALES YFC

1

Supporting and growing the Welsh language and culture.

2

Supporting, enabling and being at the heart of our local rural communities.

3

Building the skills and employability of our members through events, competitions, training and development.

4

Supporting the health and well-being of our members by giving them a place to be themselves, meet friends and try new things.

5

Continuing to grow the membership throughout Wales by appealing to a broad range of young people from all backgrounds.



Wales YFC is run by the members for the members.

Their voices are throughout this impact report.

WHY IS BEING A MEMBER OF WALES YFC IMPORTANT TO YOU?

EXCITING INTERESTING
LEARNING confidence FRIENDS
AMAZING EXPERIENCE opportunities
skills COMMUNITY
competitions sociable
family FUN educational
enjoyable

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCES THAT YOU HAVE WITH WALES YFC?

challenge different
MEMORABLE AMAZING
unforgettable enjoy
EXCITING UNIQUE
FUN
LIFE CHANGING INTERESTING
EDUCATIONAL



A YEAR AT WALES YFC

3,400 MEMBERS HAVE
COMPETED IN OUR 96
COMPETITIONS ACROSS
WALES

MEMBERS GIVE 1.1 MILLION
HOURS EACH YEAR TO SUPPORT
THEIR CLUB, COUNTY,
COMMUNITY AND RURAL WALES

OVER 200 COUNTY
EVENTS, COMPETITIONS
AND VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES EACH YEAR

SEPTEMBER

The YFC Membership year runs from 1st September to 31st August. September is when clubs re-start for the year by holding club programming sessions and new members' nights.

Annual General Meetings are held across clubs and Counties where officers are elected to the various positions such as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Minute Secretary and Club Leaders. Wales YFC AGM takes place during a weekend with the Counties elected representatives forming the Wales YFC Council.

The Wales YFC Annual General Meeting marks the start of a new democratic team of members taking the helm and leading the organisation.

OCTOBER

Club and County programmes are in full swing with many Counties holding events such as stockjudging and their County Eisteddfods.

Training takes place to support members in their officer roles and in supporting them in running a club and meetings.

Stockjudging will include members gaining skills in stock selection for the fatstock/butcher industry. The Wales YFC Rural Affairs Study Tour will take place where members come together to visit various agricultural practices and gain knowledge and skills they can use on their own farms.

NOVEMBER

The Wales YFC Eisteddfod is held giving members the opportunity to perform in both English and Welsh in an array of competitions such as singing, recitation, sketches, and mimes.

The YFC Eisteddfod is the only bilingual Eisteddfod of its kind in Wales. The Eisteddfod is hosted by a different County each year, with a North County and a South County taking it in turns to host.

We also hold various competitions at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair including three direct entry competitions, namely the Baby Beef, Prime Lamb Producer and Prime Pork competitions. These are a great opportunity for young farmers to show off their stockmanship skills and learn valuable information regarding the agricultural sector.

DECEMBER

Wales YFC runs an International Programme each year with the selection day happening during December. Members can select from the various trips on offer and apply. There is an application and interview process which determines who will be awarded places on the various trips.

The programme enables members to travel in a safe environment experiencing various cultural experiences.

Clubs and Counties hold Carol Services throughout Wales as well as Carol singing in their local communities as part of the endless community work and charity fundraising, they fulfil throughout the YFC year.

JANUARY

The Rural Affairs conference takes place during January. Held over one day, the conference offers members the opportunity to come together with likeminded people and expand their knowledge on various agricultural topics learning from the guest speakers, tours and panel discussions.

The conference gives scope for Wales YFC to promote the work of the Rural Affairs committee including schemes such as the Wales YFC Lamb Initiative. This is a partnership between Dunbia (Llanybydder), Sainsbury's and Wales YFC. The initiative provides the opportunity for Wales YFC members to supply their Welsh lamb to Welsh Sainsbury's stores at a premium price all year round.

The aim of the scheme is to work with a forward-thinking processor and retailer to attract Wales YFC members who produce lamb to become suppliers and to keep Young Farmers at the forefront of the industry. Ultimately the initiative is about creating a sustainable supply chain to help support the future of rural Wales.

FEBRUARY

Clubs will be busy preparing for the County rounds of the Entertainment Feast during February.

Nights of practicing, learning lines, making costumes and set building is an excellent way to bring the clubs and community together.

Many clubs put on concerts in their local community halls, opening the doors to the wider YFC network of supporters. Counties then host their events, some over several nights through the medium of Welsh and English. Packing theatres and large halls out, filling them with laughter and enjoyment.



MARCH

The Wales YFC Entertainment Feast takes place each year in March and rotates between Drama, Pantomime and Entertainment and showcases the talent of members from across Wales, in both English and Welsh languages.

For many budding actors and actresses this is a unique opportunity to perform on a professional stage with up-to-date facilities with assistance from experienced stage managers.

As well as the Entertainment for members to enjoy, there is strong competition between members who are competing for their County in both the Senior and Junior member of the year within Wales.

Wales YFC Public Speaking Day is held at the end of March. The Festival of Public Speaking is a chance for members to show off their public speaking skills in competitions such as debating, after dinner speaking and reading.

APRIL

The Field Day takes place during April and includes competitions which have strong links to the agricultural industry and focus on rural skills.

This event gives members the skills required to work safely in a rural career and showcase their skills in stockjudging, fencing and farm machinery skills.

The Field Day moves around Wales and is hosted by one of our 12 Counties year after year. Hosting an event allows Counties and members the opportunity to take ownership over the event and learn numerous organisational skills.

MAY

Clubs and Counties are all focused on preparing for their annual Rallies during May, with Rallies being hosted across Wales during May and June.

Numerous competitions take place at a Rally which acts as the eliminator for Counties to select their competition representatives for the Royal Welsh Show and the National Federations' finals.

The Rally is a fun packed skilled based day offering something for all members aged 10 to 28 years. Wales YFC open their doors at the Royal Welsh Spring Fair to showcase what the organisation has to offer, including activities for younger children and promoting YFC and the agricultural industry.

JUNE

Wales YFC members test out their physical fitness every year at the Wales YFC Sports Day. The competitions vary from year to year testing members' skills and in the past have included everything from netball to ultimate frisbee.

With the last of the County Rallies taking place, all focus is then on preparing for the Royal Welsh Show.

The Royal Highland Show offers members a taste of Scottish culture and Wales YFC send a team to represent them in the stockjudging, giving members the opportunity to represent their Country, gain skills and meet new people.

JULY

The Royal Welsh Show is the highlight of the year for many YFC members. The week is packed full of competitions such as shearing, dancing, stockjudging and flower arranging.

The YFC Centre becomes a hive of activity during the week with members, supporters and the public catching a glimpse of the action.

The doors of the YFC Centre are open each day to our members past and present. Our conference room hosts many functions from various companies, funders, stakeholders and partners. Wales YFC play a key role in the Royal Welsh Show, providing entertainment on our stage, in our marquee and in the Cattle Ring. Our senior officers take active leads on various panels and we are represented in many receptions.

AUGUST

August is at the end of the YFC year, however, it is still a busy time for Clubs and Counties. Many members assist within various community events such as village fêtes and agricultural shows, taking active leads in organising.

The Wales YFC Chairman's Challenge takes place involving as many members as possible. Challenges over the years have involved biking, hiking, walking, tractors runs and parachuting. All focused on raising money for charity and bringing members together.

Most of the members who were successful in securing a trip on our International Programme travel during August. Various excursions take place across the globe involving groups of young people. Travelling to destinations such as USA, Isle of Man, Ireland, Orkney, Milan and Berlin.



OUR CLUBS

We wanted to paint a picture of what we get up to in our 138 clubs that are all over Wales – here are a handful of examples...

A BIT ABOUT THE CLUB...



FISHGUARD YFC

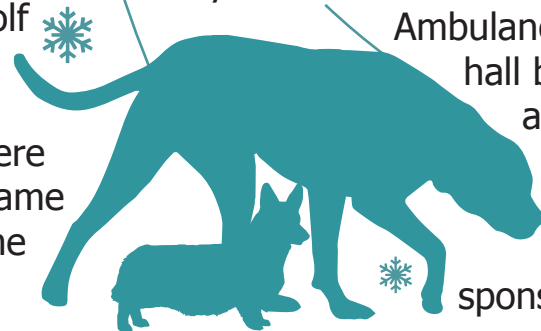
...has 68 members and they meet weekly in Mathry Village Hall, the club describe themselves as **active, excitable** and **talented!**

Trips and joint club nights are always a highlight. A trip to Judgement Day in Cardiff, Wild Lakes Aqua Park and the Golf Driving Range certainly stood out for our members. We also had a brilliant joint club night with Hermon YFC where we headed to Newport Beach for a game of rounders, a dip in the sea and some Morfa Milk Milkshakes.

WHAT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU SUPPORTED?

Over the years, we've raised large sums of money for various charities. For the year 2022-2023, our chosen charity is the Welsh Air Ambulance. In addition to this, we're in the process of rebuilding our club hall which means our fundraising efforts also go towards this project. We hosted a very successful Christmas and Easter bingo this year raising nearly £1,400 between both events. We raised £900 in our concert showcasing our talent performance and our Eisteddfod acts. We also organised a pub quiz which was fantastically supported by our local community and we raised £454 during the evening. As well as these excellent fundraisers, we have also raised money for our chosen charity, Welsh Air

Ambulance and club hall by organising a coffee morning, carol singing and a Christmas sponsored dog walk.



Fishguard Show and the Dance is a big fundraising accomplishment for us. Last year, over £12,000 was raised from the day, we hope the same will happen this year.

We look forward to organising many more fundraising events to support the Welsh Air Ambulance and Fishguard YFC Hall Project in the very near future.

HOW HAVE YOU SUPPORTED YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

During this competing year we have worked hard to support our community. We started the year by launching our sport shoe appeal where trainers were collected to be reused and recycled. 43 pairs of trainers, astros and rugby boots were collected and donated to local schools and clubs: Ysgol Wdig, Ysgol Glannau Gwaun and Fishguard & Goodwick RFC. These shoes potentially helped 43 families and ultimately enabled young people to participate in sport. Over the Christmas period, we collected items from members, leaders, parents and friends of the club to make 'Hampers for Emergency Services'. These hampers were made to give thanks to our emergency services in our local community. Nine hampers were donated to the ambulance, fire, police and lifeboat

stations, as well as the health centre and vets.

We were invited by a local school, Ysgol Casblaidd to help out with their Ground Force Day. We got stuck in with painting, fence repairs, willow weaving and pallet recycling to give the school a little tidy up.

During the Easter weekend, gift bundles were delivered to five care homes in our community. Members made chocolate nests and easter rocky roads in club and



flowers were included.

More recently, a community litter pick was organised around Mathry and a group of members took part. This was to help Mathry Community Council and to do our bit for the National Federation YFC 'Operation Green'.

During Rally practices, we collected dog and cat food from members which has been donated to the Pet Food Bank by Cariad Pet Therapy. The idea of supporting this was to meet the needs of those who are doing all they can to support and stay with their pet. We have also helped during our local County Urdd Eisteddfod where we stewarded the doors for the day. We donated a trophy on behalf of Fishguard YFC to our local secondary school (Ysgol Bro Gwaun) to be given in their prize evening to a student who studies GCSE Agriculture. Additionally, we do our bit to help our club hall. We've been painting the new build and when ready, we'll be back to do some more. Bus shelter cleaning and fire station painting is next up in our calendar.



meetings, informal conversations, whilst competing, in community events and on trips. It also plays an important part on our social media platforms; we always strive to make a comment or post in Welsh. **Rydym yn browd iawn bod ein clwb ni'n defnyddio'r Gymraeg yn rheolaidd!**

ACTIVE EXCITABLE TALENTED

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT THE WELSH LANGUAGE?

We are a bilingual club which we are very proud of. The Welsh language can always be heard within our club. Most of our members are fluent Welsh speakers, with others using Welsh as their second language. Due to this, the Welsh language is constantly being used within club activities from club



Carmarthenshire YFC



Ceredigion YFC



Dyffryn Tanat YFC



Betws Yn Rhos YFC

A BIT ABOUT THE CLUB...



LLANLLWNI YFC

...has 69 members and they meet weekly in Llanllwni Church Community Hall (known locally as 'Church Room') the club describe themselves as **active**, **competitive** and **hard-working!**

FAVOURITE CLUB NIGHT ACTIVITY:

On the first night of the year, we have a 'Sausage and Cider' evening to welcome new members. We play games and have hot dogs with Cider for the senior members and soft drinks for the juniors!



FUNDRAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We hold numerous fund-raising events for the club such as concerts, treasure hunts and especially this year our 80th anniversary teas and tractor run we also raise money for various charities. Over £1,000 is raised annually from the members carol singing around the local area but our main charity fundraising event is the annual show (organised solely by the Club), the proceeds being donated to charity. In 2022 the total presented was £9,582 shared between Noah's Ark Appeal and Tir Dewi.



YOUR WORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

The Club takes a very active role in the community. One of the main community events of the year is the annual show organised by the club. There is a range of competitions for all, from a fun dog show to the hotly contested rosettes of the Sheep section, horticulture, cattle video show, cookery and sports. There is also evening entertainment. The club has held this event starting



as sheep dog trials on the August Bank Holiday since 1985. The club throughout the year provide events to bring the community together as well as supporting other local organisations such as the village primary school.

FAVOURITE COMPETITIONS:

The club members enjoy all manner of competitions and are known to give anything a go! The Mime at the Eisteddfod is taken very seriously and stage competitions such as the half hour entertainment are also a particular highlight! The club has keen public speaking teams and enjoy team sports.

HOW DO YOU USE THE WELSH LANGUAGE?

All the clubs' meetings and activities are through the Welsh Language.

ACTIVE
COMPETITIVE
HARD WORKING



A BIT ABOUT THE CLUB...



PONTSIÂN YFC

...has 60 members and they meet weekly at Neuadd D H Evans in the village of Pontsiân the club describe themselves as **Community. Camaraderie. Competitive (in a good way).**

FAVOURITE CLUB NIGHT ACTIVITY:

Our club nights vary a lot – sometimes we have activities such as quizzes, games and craft making – and at other times we might go out on a visit to a farm or local business, go ten-pin bowling, and sometimes, in the

summer months, we even go to New Quay to play games on the beach. The programme for the year is organised by the club's Programme Secretary who is supported by other club officials (who are usually senior members). Every year, the programme tries to strike a balance between the educational and the fun.

If we had to pick our favourite event – or the most important one during the year – then that would be the 'Social Night'. This is an activity that is held every start of the YFC year (September) and includes a variety of games (outdoor/indoors) and a buffet to conclude. This is a sort of 'icebreaker' event for new and old members – a chance for them to get a taste of the fun that is to be had within a YFC.



FUNDRAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Every year, members of Pontsiân YFC, like many other YFC's across Wales, choose a charity (or charities) to support during that YFC year. Money will then be raised in different events during that period. These events include a Thanksgiving Service in November, and Christmas Carols in December (where members travel around the Pontsiân, Capel Dewi and Llandysul areas singing carols from

door to door). Last Christmas, on our Christmas Carols tour, we managed to raise over £1,000 in one evening, and all in aid of three charities: Alzheimer's Society Wales, Bowel Cancer UK, and Pontsiân YFC itself.

The Club also holds one-off fundraisers from time to time. For example, during the period 2021-22, we held a 15-mile bed-push around the area of Pontsiân and raised nearly £5,000 for Glangwili Hospital's Chemotherapy Unit, Ukraine Refugees, and Pontsiân YFC.



YOUR WORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

Community is very important to Pontsiân YFC and is an integral part of our activities. In many rural areas, the local YFC is what keeps the community going, and in the village of Pontsiân, where sadly the local school, shop and

post office have all closed their doors in recent years, we, as members and leaders of Pontsiân YFC, feel it is our duty to keep things going. That is why we continue to hold different events throughout the year that involves the whole community. These events include a Guy Fawkes Evening in Pontsiân's Community Hall every November, carol singing during Christmas time, and two entertainment concerts – one in November after Ceredigion and Wales YFC's Eisteddfods, and one in March after the Performing Arts Competition.

A few years back during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pontsiân YFC was one of the first YFC's in England and Wales to offer its services to the community, collecting medical prescriptions, food shopping and other supplies for the vulnerable and those who were isolating. We also held a virtual fun run and raised over £8,000 for the Intensive Care Units in Glangwili Hospital (Carmarthen) and Bronglais Hospital (Aberystwyth) – both hospitals are located within the Hywel Dda University Health Board area.

FAVOURITE COMPETITIONS:

Pontsiân YFC has a varied membership in terms of age, tastes, and background.

What's great about the YFC movement is that it has something for everyone, whether you are a farmer or not. Pontsiân YFC firmly believes in the mantra: 'You don't have to be a farmer to be Young Farmer'. Our members enjoy a variety of competitions, from the performing arts competitions (The Eisteddfod, the Pantomime/Drama/Half Hour Entertainment, and Public Speaking competitions) to the sports (Rugby, Swimming, Athletics), and the more rural and traditional competitions such as stock-judging and fence erecting. What's great about the YFC movement is that members can pick and choose what they want to do, and we as a YFC try our best to facilitate this. These competitions help rural young people to



gain new life-skills, new experiences, and self-confidence.

HOW DO YOU USE THE WELSH LANGUAGE?

The Welsh language is an integral part of Pontsiân YFC's activities. We are in a relatively strong Welsh speaking area, and most of our members, if not all, are first-language Welsh speakers, therefore our activities (from club nights to competitions) are almost all done through the medium of Welsh. Records of meetings are also taken in Welsh.

Being a Welsh-medium YFC does not mean that our doors are closed to those who don't understand the language. We aim to be as inclusive as possible and non-Welsh speaking members can still enjoy a wide range of activities that the YFC movement in Ceredigion (which Pontsiân YFC is a part of) has to offer.



Trecastle YFC



Wentwood YFC



Montgomery YFC



Brecknock YFC

SOME STORIES FROM **PAST MEMBERS** ABOUT HOW **IMPORTANT** WALES YFC IS TO THEM...



STEVE HUGHSON

PREVIOUS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE ROYAL
WELSH SHOW

Steve grew up on a beef and sheep farm in Powys and was a member of the Newbridge on Wye YFC, which his father helped to run. He was an active competing member from the age of 13 until he left to go to London at 18. He particularly enjoyed the drama opportunities, public speaking, reading competitions and stock judging (beef and dairy cattle) and had the opportunity to compete at the Royal Welsh Show and Smithfield Show in London. At 18 he applied to join the Metropolitan Police in London and had to catch the train from Powys to London on his own for the interview process. He was very nervous but his experiences within YFC gave him confidence and skills for the interview and he was successful and became a Metropolitan Police Officer. He had a 30-year career in Policing at the Metropolitan Police and Dyfed Powys Police retiring in 2013 as a Chief Superintendent. He then

went on to join the Royal Welsh Show as Chief Executive. Steve is confident that the skills gained from YFC played a big part in that successful selection process.

What difference has Wales YFC made to your life?

“ When I look back, I don't think I would have had the skills and confidence to get on a train on my own to London to be interviewed for the Metropolitan Police without YFC. It gave me the confidence I needed to go in front of the selection panel and present a positive impression. It also gave me a community of friends with similar interests, many of which I keep in contact with today. For young people living in rural areas that social group and sense of community is so important. I recognise now how much YFC has given me, which at the time you don't even realise. ”

SAMUEL KURTZ

MEMBER OF THE SENEDD
CARMARTHEN WEST AND SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE



Samuel went briefly to Brawdy YFC from 13 years old and then moved to Fishguard YFC around 15 years old. He took part in most of the activities including public speaking, tug of war, the rally, sports day and drama. Samuel held the roles of Club Treasurer, Club Secretary, Youth Forum Rep, County Competitions Committee Delegate, County Executive Committee Delegate, Wales YFC Competitions Sub-Committee Delegate and Chairman of Pembrokeshire.

What difference has Wales YFC made to your life?

“ It instils a level of confidence where you can be dropped in any situation, from public speaking to introducing yourself to someone new or finding yourself in a new situation – it prepares you with that level of competence and confidence to deal with situations. It gives you great foundations, you know how meetings should work, taking minutes, finances, accounts and running a diary. Having that structure as a young person is great for personal development and you are doing it within a social environment, you are learning without realising you are learning. I use all the skills that I learnt in YFC in my day-to-day role now. ”





HILARY JONES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BROMYRDDIN



Hilary is the Chief Executive of Bro Myrddin Housing Association. She joined YFC age 11 and her whole family were involved. Her sisters were members and her father was one of the founders of the Capel Iwan Club in Carmarthenshire. Hilary wanted to be involved and to try everything – she loves doing new things. She left school at sixteen and had gained so many skills from YFC that helped her in her career. Becoming one of the first Nationwide Building Society Managers that had not been part of the Trainee Manager Scheme. She then changed career and worked her way up through the housing sector – putting a lot of her success down to the confidence and skills that she had gained through YFC and particularly her understanding of the governance process, which she developed through her leadership roles in YFC. Hilary held several roles at county level including County Chair and then progressed to several roles at Wales level culminating in Wales Chair and then represented Wales at national level.

Hilary is still involved 50 years on as Chair of the Personnel and Remuneration Committee.

Tell us about being a Wales YFC member:

“ Meeting so many people, we go somewhere, and I say I was there with YFC – the friends that you made all over Wales. I was fortunate to go to European conventions. Meeting a lot of likeminded people and giving something back. I used to support a local school with interview practices for the pupils and you could spot the children who were involved with youth movements such as YFC – because they had a lot of confidence.

What difference has Wales YFC made to your life?

The interpersonal skills, performing and speaking in front of a crowd gives you that confidence to speak up in meetings – you are used to getting positive and negative reactions and you get used to that. You learn how to win and how to lose, that is something that is important in life – it gives you resilience.”



LEANNE DAVIES

BRECKNOCK YFC COUNTY CHAIRMAN,
FARMING CONNECT ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
ADMINISTRATOR FOR LANTRA WALES

Leanne went to Brecknock County, Troedrihwdalar Club, she joined in 2004 at the age of 12 as a competing member and finished in 2022. At Club, she held roles several roles: Social Secretary, Attendance Officer, Treasurer and Club Chairman. For county: Youth Forum Chairman, Finance and Development Chairman, Welsh Development Officer, Youth Forum Leader and County Chairman. Sat on various Wales and National committees. At Wales YFC she sat on Finance Committee, Youth Forum Committee and currently sits on the Wales Council. At national level she sits on the Membership and Marketing Committee alongside National Council. Leanne took part in a variety of events - public speaking competitions, drama, sports and various rally competitions including things like handwriting, poster designing, cookery, relay races, generation games, Eisteddfod competitions and promotional competitions. At a club level – organising fundraising, bonfire and fireworks night, speed shears, bingo, quizzes, talks, bowling, trampolining,

games nights, pumpkin carving, Christmas activities and lots more.

What difference has Wales YFC made to your life?

“ Being a member of YFC developed my confidence and I learnt skills for life. I learnt to speak Welsh as a second language, it helped massively to have the opportunity to practice my Welsh speaking. I met new friends and had travel opportunities such as the Highland Show last year. As a youth forum member trips to Llangrannog and Glan-llyn also rural affairs visits to different farms and businesses, these trips were great for networking but were also educational and informative. I have created memories for life in YFC, participated in competitions and training I wouldn't have had the chance to do otherwise. I have undertaken officer roles which has helped me to learn how to run meetings, take minutes and formal conduct which has helped me in my career.”



KATE MILES

CHARITY MANAGER OF THE DPJ FOUNDATION
(THE WELSH AGRICULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY)

Kate went to Neath and District Club in Glamorgan, she is now a club leader of Gower. She joined at 13 or 14 until she was 19 – finished for a bit whilst she went to university and then came back at 25 as a competing member, and it really re-invigorated her passion for YFC. Kate held various offices – initially Minute Secretary – which gave her really good skills for being a trustee, for her current job leading a charity and for being a lawyer. “It was absolutely terrifying in club having to read out the minutes, but I got used to it and it gave me confidence.” She then went on to develop into other roles: Club Secretary, Club Chairman, County Chairman, Wales Activities and International Chairman and Wales YFC Chairman and was also a representative on National Federation YFC committees too and attended the RYE General Assembly. Once you start getting involved it’s hard not to do more: “I couldn’t sit back, I wanted to make a difference and be part of it and get my voice heard.”

Why do you think having YFC in Wales is important?

“YFC is fundamental, certain parts of Wales would crumble without YFC – it has developed our local community leaders, our volunteers and even some politicians. I first learned about good governance through YFC meetings. Social isolation is a massive thing, in my job we see how isolated people are. YFC provides a real opportunity for people to come together and connect as well as to volunteer. Some young people don’t even realise they are volunteering bringing those communities together. Where I live now is really rural and YFC brings young people together to have fun and learn at the same time, when otherwise they would not have this chance. They can be themselves in a safe environment and help the local community through volunteering and events. As somebody who isn’t a Welsh speaker, my Welsh got so much better as a member of YFC because I had the opportunity to practice. As I became a Wales YFC officer, I had to be able to speak a certain amount of Welsh.”





CENNYDD JONES,

LECTURER, LIFE SCIENCES DEPARTMENT,
ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Cennydd joined Ponsian YFC in Ceredigion when he was 13 and he is still a member now at 28, he will leave in August 2023. He took part in competitions such as stock judging, the Eisteddfod and travelled with YFC to Colorado and Northern Ireland. He held the following roles within club: Chair, Treasurer, Programme Secretary and was Young Farmer of the Year in Ceredigion and Senior Member of the Year for Wales YFC. He is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences at Aberystwyth University and still helps out on the family farm.

Why do you think having YFC in Wales is important?

“YFC is so important particularly to rural communities. Welsh Government are targeting one million Welsh speakers by 2050 – YFC play an important role in developing the Welsh language – in our local county we put on events in our local theatre and that is in Welsh and it sells 240 tickets each night for five nights – this is local people supporting entertainment in the Welsh language – this would not happen without YFC. YFC supports rural affairs and brings together a diverse group of people across the county, we wouldn’t be together if it wasn’t for YFC – it builds that local social community, it can be quite isolating for young people in rural communities. We have seen a significant benefit from working through YFC with charities focused on mental health such as the DPJ Foundation.”



SIAN ELERI

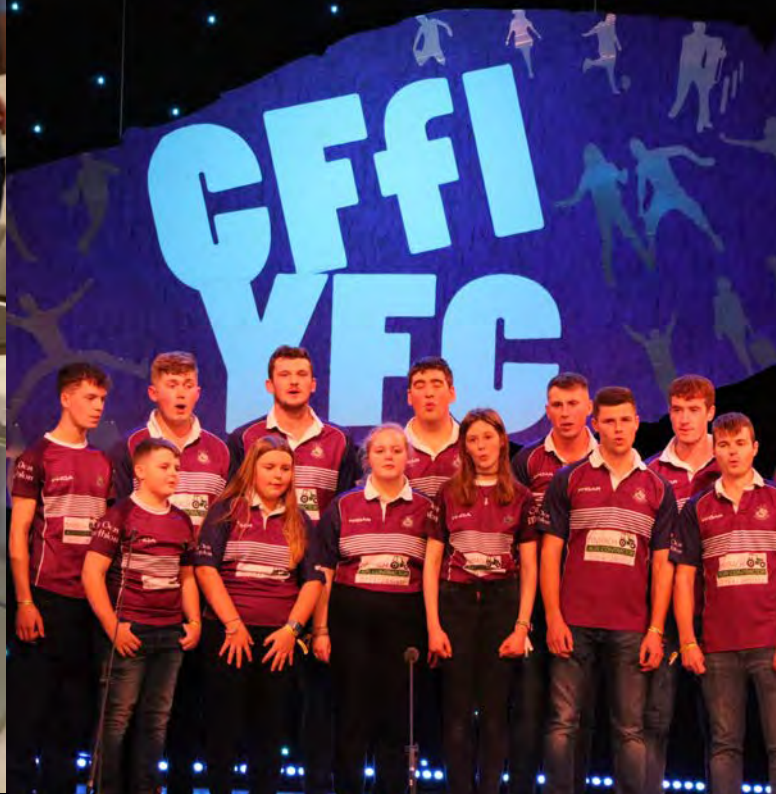
FARMER AND BUSINESS WOMAN

Sian joined Edw Valley Young Farmers Club, Radnor YFC at the age of 10 and has been a member for 15 years. Sian took part in an array and varied programme of competitions, meeting new people, part of the Rural Affairs committee, socialising with friends. Sian took part in every available activity possible! From a club and county level, sports day, stock judging, club evenings, fundraising activities. Taking part in county field day, sports day, stock judging day and county rally.



What difference has Wales YFC made to your life?

“It built my confidence by taking part in junior reading to public speaking, senior and intermediate debating level. This has helped with job and university interviews. It gave me a group of friends for a lifetime. It gave me so many skills that I have been able to use in everyday life such as stock judging, training courses, first aid, cookery, flowers, singing, dancing, DBS training, public speaking, CV and interview training. It has built connections with the agricultural industry attaining sponsorship and being at the heart of our rural communities and areas. It has given me great memories and friends for life. An active social life is essential for rural mental health and the main highlight was coming second at the National final of the Auctioneering competition.”





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