

West Midlands Area of Young Farmers' Clubs

NEWSLETTER

Issue Seven— Summer 2009

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Herefordshire—Shropshire—Staffordshire—Warwickshire—Worcestershire

WMA Lottery Project 2006-2009

The WMA received funding from The Big Lottery in September 2006 for the Region to fund a Regional Development Officer and Administrator. The idea behind this funding was to enable the members within the WMA to have assistance with their training needs, have a representative at day time meetings to allow the movement to have a voice and feedback in regard to rural issues, Funding and legislation and to enable more partnership working with outside organisations. It has also tried to assist the counties in working more effectively together to enable the sharing of best practice throughout the region.

Through the project the members have taken part and received all or part funded training of over 950 sessions, which has enabled members to learn new skills to enhance their education and learning. The WMA is now known to over 60 other organisations some of whom have attended a number of your events as judges or just to share the events with you all. Three West Midlands Area networking events have successfully been held and the five counties are now working much closer together than before, and communication on all levels has been improved, aided by the quarterly newsletter.

A new bid to continue the Project for a further five years has been written by WMA members and submitted to the Lottery, but unfortunately we will not receive an answer before the current Project comes to an end. The final date is 3rd September 2009, Neil the administrator left on 14th July and Michelle's last working day will be 5th August. Please keep your fingers crossed for the lottery to grant the next bid, which will enable all of the positive work that has been achieved over the last three years to be built upon for the greater benefit of you, the members and your wider communities.



Networking with outside agencies



Learning together as an area



Socialising within the WMA

Caption Competition

Congratulations to Heather Smart from Cutnall Green YFC, Worcestershire FYFC won the caption competition from the last issue with 'How many Herefordshire members does it take to roll out pastry?!'



WMA Members Pioneer Youth Work Qualifications

With WMA Funding, six members from across the region have attended an Open College Network accredited Introduction to Youth Work course, giving them an invaluable start in leading YFC into the future. Congratulations to you all, and good luck to Becky Davies from Shropshire who will be doing the course in September.

Spotlight on Harriet Wilson

Harriet is
The West
Midlands
Area
Junior
Member
of the Year
2009



Age: 17
Club: Eccleshall YFC
County: Staffordshire

How and why did you join YFC?

From an early age I wanted to join YFC, and I begged my parents to let me join when I was 11. However, they told me I was too young, so I joined Newport YFC, although I really think the intention was to prolong the time until they were to become a full time taxi service!

What is the best thing about YFC?

I feel that I have become a more confident and sociable person, having made so many good friends in other clubs and counties, who are important to me and always make me laugh. It has also opened up new opportunities for me, to try and learn new skills.

If you were a quality street, which one would you be and why?

I think that I would prefer to be a Celebration, I don't like Quality Street. I would be a malteser- brunette on the outside, but blonde on the inside.

Describe yourself in three words...

Friendly, Lively,
Hardworking (my Dad may disagree though!)

What single item could you not live without?

My diary- I even take it on holiday with me!

WMA Competition Winners

Pantomime
Golden Valley YFC, Herefordshire

Junior Member of the Year
Harriet Wilson, Staffordshire

Intermediate Call My Bluff
Shropshire A

Strictly Ballroom
Bromsgrove YFC, Worcestershire

Ladies Hockey
Shropshire A

Men's Tug of War
Ridware YFC, Staffordshire

Fencing
Herefordshire 'A'

Efficiency with Safety
Welsh Newton YFC, Herefordshire 'A'

Young Stockman of the Year
Rebecca Watkins, Herefordshire

Pantomime
1st Golden Valley

Member of the Year
= 2nd Hannah Talbot, Worcestershire

Efficiency with Safety
3rd Welsh Newton YFC, Herefordshire

Design a Web Page
1st Ross YFC, Herefordshire

Member of the Year
Gaz Davies, Shropshire

Junior Public Speaking
Staffordshire A

Senior Brainstrust
Staffordshire A

Men's Rugby
Warwickshire

Junior Kwick Cricket
Herefordshire B

Ladies Tug of War
Tenbury Wells YFC, Worcestershire

Junior Farm Safety
Shropshire 'A'

Stockman of the Year
Katie Brian, Worcestershire



Notable National Results

Best Actor = Ben Lewis &
Best Actress = Lindsey Morris

Junior Farm Safety
2nd Upton YFC, Worcestershire

Men's Tug of War
1st Ridware YFC, Staffordshire

Photography
1st Adam Barry, Herefordshire

Skills from RABI

Help to gain skills to generate extra income from outside the farm. The RABI is running a project that aims to help working farming families take control of their financial future.

RABI's Gateway Project will provide funding for qualifying families to secure the necessary skills development and accreditation to help them increase their potential.

For more information contact RABI on: 01865 727888

Membership Watch

Well done to everyone, the area has once again managed to exceed 3000 members, giving us a formidable strength and depth, as well as enabling us to enter two teams into national finals. As of July 3rd the numbers were as follows:

Herefordshire: 654
Shropshire: 907
Staffordshire: 744
Warwickshire: 319
Worcestershire: 457
Total: 3081

Shropshire Off to London...

Following Shropshire FYFC's Float Competition at the Shropshire and West Mids Show, the winners of the 'Films from the Noughties' themed competition, Bridgnorth YFC, have been invited by the Shropshire Society to represent Shropshire in the Lord Mayor's Show in London later this year. Their chairman, Sarah Needs said, "I keep having to pinch myself, it's unreal...The Lord Mayor's Show looks fantastic." The show, on November 14th, runs from 11am until 5pm, where it culminates with a Firework Finale over the Thames.



And climbing hills....

For charity, twenty members including Gaz Williams, the county chairman are hiking the 'County Chairman's Three Humps Challenge'. In order to raise money for Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation, Prostate Cancer Trust and Ward 20 Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, these hardy members will be walking up the Wrekin, Long Mynd and Brown Clee, the highest point in Shropshire! If this wasn't enough, they are biking in between, covering approximately 65 miles in total. They will be leaving YFC County Office 7am 15th August, good luck!

Spotlight on Gaz Davies

Gaz is the West Midlands Area Member of The Year 2009



Age: 27

Club: Rushbury & Cardington

County: Shropshire

What do you do for a living?

I'm a farmer or general wurzel.

What has been your proudest YFC moment?

Being elected Shropshire County Chairman.

If you could take one thing on a desert island, what would it be and why?

My sheepdog, because it is the only woman I know that doesn't answer back and forgives me when I kick it!

What are your hobbies outside YFC

I don't have any hobbies, other than chasing women and foot bathing lambs.

What concerns you most for the future of YFC?

Too many people going to university; clubs are getting too young.

What has been your most embarrassing moment in YFC?

Commenting several times to a young lady on how impressive her tan was at the AGM, before realising she was an exchangee from another part of the world!

Describe yourself in three words...

Rude, crude and rural.

What is your ultimate ambition?

To have a lot of sheep!

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND 2007 – 2013

Re-Launch of the Strategic Investment Grant

On 23rd June the Strategic Investment Grant, funded by the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013, was extended and re launched. Some of the areas included are Fruit & Vegetable Packing & Processing, Basic Services for Rural Populations, Investments in Basic Services for Rural Populations, Centralised Storage & Processing and Supply Chain Facilities in the Livestock Sector (dairy, beef sheep, pigs, poultry, meat & eggs). For more information on how you could benefit contact your Local Rural Hub Coordinator or visit the Advantage West Midlands website:

www.advantagewm.co.uk

Rural Enterprise Grants

The REG is a capital grants programme, for grants £62,500 and below available to farmers and specific rural micro-businesses in the West Midlands Region. For more information contact Val Breakwell on 07833051602 or email Valerie.breakwell@wrh.org.uk

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

August

1st—Cleobury Mortimer YFC (Shropshire) Open Air Disco @ Mawley Town Farm

14th—Staffordshire FYFC County Disco @ The Winking Man

15th—County Chairman's Three Humps Challenge, Shropshire YFC

15th—Worcestershire FYFC Summer Glitter Ball, Great Lodge Farm, Hanbury, B60 4HW Contact 01905 621616 for tickets—sit down meal, band, and disco.

22nd—Herefordshire FYFC County Chairman's 'Ugly Bug Ball', Lower Hope, Ullingswick HR1 3JF

29th—Shropshire FYFC G Force Chairman's Ball - 29th August, Glebe Farm, Lydham, SY9 5HB

September

11th—Staffordshire FYFC County 'Neon' Disco, Staffordshire Pavilion, County Showground

12th — Rushbury & Cardington YFC (Shropshire) 70th Birthday Celebrations, Plaish Park Farm

26th-27th—NFYFC Cookery & Floral Art Finals, Three Counties Showground, Malvern



Dear Dave...

Where the WMA President helps you with your difficult problems...



Dear Dave, I am obsessed with talking about money and acreage. I don't know why but I can't stop this urge to see what single farm payments my neighbours get. In fact it's got so bad I now know how much every farm in a 100-mile radius is getting. Please help.

Yours, A Worrier

Dear Worrier, please stop worrying, this isn't a very smart thing to be doing. Let's face it, it doesn't matter how many acres or how much money anyone else has, it's the success of your business that counts, so stop worrying about others and start concentrating on your own business and you'll feel much more satisfied!

Dear Dave, I have done my best to help cross border relations during the course of the WMA project, but now it is coming to an end, I am feeling the need to cross further borders, this time international borders. Do you think that I am taking things too far? Yours, Itchy Feet

Dear Itchy Feet, Thank you for the outreach and team building work you have done within the area during the project, I think it is admirable that you wish to explore international borders now, but don't forget that air travel is tedious, so when you get bored of flying frequently to Italy, hopefully the new bid will have been successful and you will be able to resume your work within our area!

ENTRY LEVEL & HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

If any County or Club would like a talk/update from Natural England on Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Scheme then please contact Adam.West@naturalengland.org.uk

Adam & his colleagues will be happy to fit in with your evening meetings at your Clubs or Counties.

Final Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has commented and contributed to the newsletter over the last two and a bit years. Your feedback had made it all worthwhile, if you do have any additional feedback, please email dipsyhan@hotmail.com so that it can be considered should WMA be successful with their new bid and be able to bring you a new improved newsletter.

Hannah Talbot
Editor

