



# News & You April 2011

## 2011 Berkshire YFC Pre Show Classes

Bradfield YFC hosted the pre show classes by kind permission of the Munro-Ashman family, Peter Waters and Richard Plank. Having all the stock on one site proved too difficult but having three sites close together seemed to work quite well and we try to minimise the amount of travel required by planning the timetable round the sites. We were blessed with glorious weather and the members seemed to be quite relaxed in the warmth of the spring sunshine.



her animals. A number of members were trying stock judging for the first time and they are all to be congratulated for having a go, whether as juniors or seniors, stock judging is always a daunting proposition for first timers.

A sizeable class of juniors competed in the Cycling safety, a competition that tested not only cycling ability but also the highway-code, observation skills and bike maintenance. Shefford took this one by storm with Josh and Patrick in first and second place. Juniors from Newbury and Bradfield perhaps should have some cycling proficiency evenings in their clubs!

The stock judging always throws up some interesting results and this year was no different with judges even having to recheck pens of animals to assure themselves that they were still happy with their own preferred order. Andrew Findlay shone in the junior section, claiming all four classes, although younger sister Holly gave him a run for his money in the sheep section in only her first attempt at this class. Elsewhere, Bradfield Chairman Steve Waters showed that competition and work experience certainly counts. Not to be outdone, Bradfield secretary Kate Ashman secured the top score of the day in the sheep – having avoided her own speciality, pigs – well they were



Richard Plank with his girls

In the fence erecting, two teams battled it out, an experienced Bradfield side with a new face in the line up and an inexperienced Newbury side, there to learn the ropes. I'm glad to say that the Newbury lads did more than just learn the ropes, they gave it a damn good try and should be very proud of what they achieved in the two hour time limit. Bradfield lads won the competition but also took away some invaluable insights into what judges are looking for in this prestigious and tough competition.



Newbury get to grips with a strainer and support



Bradfield team prepare to strain the netting



Judging the Fence Erecting is taken seriously - constructive criticism helps the development of teams' skills

CLASS		FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
DAIRY	Junior	Andrew Findlay NEWBURY	Michael Philips BRADFIELD	Eliza Watts BRADFIELD
	Intermediate	Jenny Rowe BRADFIELD	George Mason READING	-
	Senior	Stephen Waters BRADFIELD	Ruth Woodley NEWBURY	Chris Butler NEWBURY
BEEF	Junior	Andrew Findlay NEWBURY	Melissa Dawes BRADFIELD	Michael Philips BRADFIELD
	Intermediate	George Mason READING	Jenny Rowe BRADFIELD	-
	Senior	Stephen Waters BRADFIELD	Kate Munro-Ashman BRADFIELD	Chris Butler NEWBURY
SHEEP	Junior	Andrew Findlay NEWBURY	Holly Findlay NEWBURY	Eliza Watts BRADFIELD
	Intermediate	Jessica Dewey BRADFIELD	2 <sup>ND</sup> = George Mason READING 2 <sup>ND</sup> = Carrie-Ann Young SHEFFORD	-
	Senior	Kate Munro-Ashman BRADFIELD	Ed Leach BRADFIELD	Ruth Woodley NEWBURY
PIGS	Junior	Andrew Findlay NEWBURY	Michael Philips BRADFIELD	Melissa Dawes BRADFIELD
	Intermediate	George Mason READING	Jenny Rowe BRADFIELD	-
	Senior	Stephen Waters BRADFIELD	Ruth Woodley NEWBURY	-
Junior Cycling		Josh Mason SHEFFORD	Patrick Nield SHEFFORD	Melissa Dawes BRADFIELD
Fence Erecting		BRADFIELD	NEWBURY	-
Team Cookery		Steve, Ed, Jack NEWBURY	Chris, Ben, Andrew	-
		Emily, Sophie, Holly		

## Two new Television Offers

I write from a TV company called **optomen** ([www.optomen.com](http://www.optomen.com)) – we are one of the biggest producers of factual and features programmes in the UK, and have many programmes including *Two Fat Ladies*, *Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares* and *Mary, Queen of Shops*.

We are currently working on a project for The Food Network in America, which is provisionally titled *One Fat Lady Rides Again* and will be presented by Clarissa Dickson Wright. The programme will focus on game hunting and game cooking. The reason I'm writing to you is that we are looking for a young man to co-present with Clarissa, who needs to be a brilliant shot, a keen hunter but also a great personality. I was wondering whether there are any young farmers who are also keen huntsmen – and who have the requisite charm and charisma?

We are looking for someone young, but probably at the upper end of the Young Farmers age range. The programme will focus on Clarissa and the hunter cooking a meal for which they will gather the ingredients from the wild. The co-presenter will be there to deliver expertise and interesting facts about the countryside, and what is involved in going out and catching your own dinner. It would be brilliant if you could tell me if you've come across any young farmers who you think would be brilliant on TV. My number is 020 3227 5945. Thanks very much indeed, and let me know if you need any more information.

Harriet Jaine

Development Producer, Development, Optomen Television Limited, 102 St Pancras Way, London, NW1 9ND  
Direct Dial: Switchboard: 0203 227 5900, Fax: 0203 227 5901 [www.optomen.com](http://www.optomen.com)

I'm writing from KEO films as I said where we're producing a documentary series for Channel 4, I'd like to ask for your help in reaching as many people who might be interested as possible.

Last year we made a series in 2010 which saw five young Amish people visit the UK on an extraordinary cultural exchange to explore what it is to be a teenager in modern Britain. This summer we'd like to take a group of young British people to stay with Amish families to see what they can learn from the Amish way of life, but also what they can show the families there about what it is to be a modern teenager in the UK. As you may know, the Amish run traditional farming communities but generally don't use modern technology so it would be an opportunity to potential experience historic farming techniques first hand.

We hope that this will be a unique learning and travel opportunity for the young people involved. We're looking for 17-21 year olds who are engaging, articulate and interested in new experiences, and we also want to find people from a wide range of backgrounds, academic achievement and cultures. I'm interested in getting this information passed around to members of the Young Farmers' Clubs who might really benefit, enjoy and learn something from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



I really appreciate your help with this. Please give me a call if you need any more information.

You can see some clips from the original series and let people know they can apply at

<http://www.facebook.com/livingwiththeamish>.

Best wishes,

**Elise Bramich, Casting Researcher, KEO films, 101 St John Street, London EC1M 4AS**

t:+44 (0) 207 490 3580 ext 62, f:+44 (0) 207 490 8419, m:+44 (0) 7786 315 105, Email: [simonh@keofilms.com](mailto:simonh@keofilms.com)

## South of England Agricultural Society International Farmlink "Travel Bursary"



Involved in a **land based** industry in the South East?



Need some **inspiration** for your Business?

Want to see what is being done **elsewhere**?



Need some **help** to fund an explorative trip?

Apply to the South of England Agricultural Society for an **International Travel Bursary**

[www.seas.org.uk](http://www.seas.org.uk)

01732 861493

Hi Folks

I am writing to you as a Council Member of the South of England Agricultural Society.

Early in March you all received from Mandy Ashdown information about the SEAS Travel Bursary for the Rural Sector, which I hope that you have distributed to all your members by some means or other that is appropriate to your County, SE Area and SEAS YFC.

I personally feel this is a great opportunity for YFC members and would ask you to promote as much as possible to your membership. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Ashdown - [Mandy@c-l-m.co.uk](mailto:Mandy@c-l-m.co.uk) who I am sure will be more than happy to help.

I look forward to hearing from Mandy that she has an application from a YFC member.

Cheers Mary

South of England Agricultural Society - Member of Council

Mary Masters

1 Deans Farm Cottages, Piddinghoe, Newhaven, BN9 9AL

Tel: 01273 517824

## Bradfield YFC Club Report

Over the past month Bradfield have been busy planning and prepping for the show classes, we have had an arts and crafts evening, which involved paper mache, and we have also discussed ideas for our float.

As well as all that, we have had our monthly sports evening, due to the large number of juniors we now have, we have split this evening into two, with the older members arriving later; meaning there is no excuse not to play!

In addition we have had our now monthly senior meeting, where we went to TGI Friday's for a meal- this meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss fancy dress ideas for Blackpool and also ideas for future meetings. We also have an exciting programme ahead with No Cook cooking and Stockjudging.

## Newbury YFC Club Report

Newbury YFC celebrated Pancake Day by having a pancake making evening with Sandra, everyone enjoyed eating what they had made with a variety of toppings.

Next Rob came and spoke to us about Beekeeping. He explained to us the things that threaten the wellbeing of his bees and how he collects his honey. He produces over 80 jars of honey a year and brought us examples of other things which contain beeswax, such as candles, furniture polish and hand cream.

Our last Wednesday meeting was spent constructing wooden bird boxes with Simon. Everyone had fun putting them together with the screws and we took home some splendid new homes for the local bird population.

Our next meeting will be a visit to Faccombe for night lambing with Andrew.

Ruth



**JOHN BISHOP'S BRITAIN IS BACK!**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR **YOU** TO TAKE PART.  
PRIME TIME, BBC1 – Comedian John Bishop is back.

**We are looking for people all over Britain to interview about their funny, true stories from their lives. So wherever you are from in Britain, whatever you do for work, whatever your thoughts/opinions are...we want to hear from you.**

If you'd like to take part get in touch NOW!

Email your contact details to:

[takepart@objectiveproductions.com](mailto:takepart@objectiveproductions.com)

Or call **020 7202 2343**

(Send us your name, email address, contact numbers, occupation, location and a photo of yourself please)

**We want to hear your stories/opinions on everything from food and music to fashion, friends, DIY and regional Britain.**

**We also have a Christmas special – so get your funny Christmas stories in too.**

NOTE: Standard geographic charges apply and calls may be included in your telecom provider's call package. Calls from mobiles may be higher.

## Reading YFC Club Report

Reading YFC has been busy for the past month. Meetings have included show classes, football evening, play dough making and modelling, bowling and a stock judging evening. George and Tom will be attending this year's National AGM and are very much looking forward to it. The club will be having a break over Easter but when we get back it will be all systems go for our show classes. We hope the rest of the county have a great Easter and look forward to seeing you all at the Rally.

# Shefford YFC Club Report

## Stock Judging

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Shefford Young Farmers were very kindly asked once again, by Jerry Austin to visit Eling Farm to see the cattle, where Jerry would teach us how to mark a cow in stock judging.

We all arrived ready to learn how to stock judge. First of all Jerry gathered up two cows, that we could look at. With these cows we firstly learnt that during judging we should look at the neck. By this we learnt that the cows should have a straight neck at the top and all the way down to the hips.

We also learnt that when the udder isn't filled up with as much milk as it should, the teats point in-wards. When they are filled up a lot the teats point out-wards. The teats are meant to point straight down. We also learnt that you don't want the udder so long it almost touches the floor.

After that we went to go and see the baby cows (calves). One of the calf's we saw had just been born when Jerry was talking to us about stock judging.

Thank you to Jerry for inviting Shefford Young Farmers it was a very enjoyable and interesting. We learnt a lot.

## Lambing

On the Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March Shefford Young Farmers were very kindly invited by David Carlisle to go and see the lambs being born (this time we hoped to see some lambs actually being born!) I think last year they were shy and would rather go into to labour in peace and quiet and not with us lot talking!. And we did visit a week or 2 earlier this year.

We gathered at David's farm in West Ilsley and as quiet as we could went into the lambing shed. Once inside the shed we were amazed how many sheep were in there, but it was a big barn. The whole team including our own Carrie-Ann who was there keeping a close eye on the sheep. David had not long been telling us about the sheep when one started to go into labour. Unfortunately the first lamb to come out was dead. David explained to us that it might have been because it was two deep down in the womb or got something stuck in his/her throat.

When the lambs were being born we learnt that when they have come out of the womb they place the lambs next to the mothers head , so that the mother came lick them off and make them clean , they also did it so the mother can gets used to the lambs quickly. We also leant that they sometimes use a string to pull the lambs out of the womb because they can get a bit trapped round the hips, legs or head.

Next David took us into the other barn where the lambs that had been born that day or the previous day. They were all so cute and we all wanted to take them home, but unfortunately we weren't allowed.

After that we went into the farmer's house and had something to eat and drink and to also wash our hands.

All of Shefford Young farmers would like to thank David and his team that gave up their time to talk to us and show us some lambs being born.

## County Diary Dates

### May

1 <sup>st</sup>	Newsletter Deadline
6-8 <sup>th</sup>	National YFC AGM and Conference Blackpool
21 <sup>st</sup>	Reading YFC Rally
30 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday

### June

1 <sup>st</sup>	Newsletter Deadline
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	South of England Show, Ardingly
16 <sup>th</sup>	SEA Meeting

## Newbury YFC, Meetings

20th April  
20 Night Lambing 7.15pm Faccombe Estates

May  
11 & 18 Float building and show preps 7.15pm  
Fuces Farm Headley

If you are interested in joining us and having some fun, please contact Andrew West on 07771657950

## Reading YFC, Meeting

No meetings over Easter

If you are interested in joining us and having some fun please contact Tom Watts on 07818094361

## Bradfield YFC, Meetings

### April

27<sup>th</sup> Senior Night (Float Building)  
Milehouse Farm 7.30 pm

### MAY

3 Club Committee Meeting  
New Barn Farm 7.30 pm

4 Float Evening  
Milehouse Farm 7.30 pm

11 Senior Night (Float Building)  
Milehouse Farm 7.30 pm

18 Final Show Prep  
Milehouse Farm 7.30 pm

21 **YFC COUNTY RALLY**  
**WHITEHOUSE FARM**

25 Sport and BBQ  
Bradfield VH  
Under 16's @ 7pm 16's and Over @ 8pm

If you are interested in joining us and having some fun please contact Stephen Waters on 07960346889

## Shefford YFC, Meetings

### April

27<sup>th</sup> Co-Op preparation

### May

1<sup>st</sup> Brightwalton Village Fete  
2<sup>nd</sup> Crafty Raft Race  
11<sup>th</sup> Bricklaying/Tractor Driving

### June

1 Advisory  
8 Farm Walk at Yattendon  
22 Rounders & BBQ

If you are interested in joining us and having some fun please contact Katherine Bunn on 0778001120

YFC Office, The Slater Centre, Buckner Croke Way, New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berks, RG19 6HN

Tel: 01635 500 872 (mobile: 07525 004064) email: berkisyfc@btopenworld.com