

Ashford & District Young Farmers Club

This year has been a busy one for Ashford YFC members, not just with attending events and competitions, but also for proving that the young farmers marriage bureau is still going strong! Chris and I tied the knot on a blustery day in May, Ed and Verity chose a very wet day in August, closely followed by Alex and Ammelia, and my secretary, Karen married Lee on one of the hottest days in September. So all in all, you could say this has been the year of the weddings!!



So what have we done apart from getting married?? Well, one of the first competitions of the year was the County Night Hike, with the Ashford team being victorious. I must say, cradling 'Percy' the water balloon the whole way round has prepared me for aching arms when babies need carrying!!

Competitions within the club have been well supported, even though we didn't reign supreme all the time. The local NFU teams were crowned football and Quiz champs, however the club were the best when it came to challenging our Advisory to a game of rounders, followed by a bat & trap evening later in the year.

The annual Dinner & Dance was a huge success, with DJ Karl keeping us on the dance floor with tune after tune, until it came time to call it a night.



During the festive season we made up 20 hampers containing fruit and veg kindly donated by Perry Court Farm, and hand delivered them to the elderly throughout Ashford. We celebrated Christmas in true Young Farmer style at the Bonny Cravat in Woodchurch, and to round off the season we held our 'Just Missed It' disco on the 12th day of Xmas – with people arriving in a variety of outfits!!!

The next main event on the calendar was our Lambing Day, held at Rawnie Farm in Appledore. This year Ed had to do some work.... The sheep forgot to cross their legs, and we had lambs popping out everywhere!! The Easter egg hunt for the kids was so popular we ran out of eggs, and had to go and get reinforcements.

County Competitions were supported by members of all ages, with our new younger members proving that as 118 guys, they make excellent blind sheepdogs!!!

Summer comps were held on a scorchingly hot June weekend – with Rob, Jimmy and Tom trying hard to build a fence in rock hard ground – well done guys.



Blackpool came and went, with a strong male domination traveling up there from our club. Due to pre-wedding stress and chaos I didn't make it – so who knows exactly what happened???



Kent Show was a windy affair this year, but that didn't stop our members doing well in the show ring, with Nick making his showing debut with a pair of lambs, Stef walking away as the Beef Turnout champion, and Chris, Ozzy and Eggbert showing off in the fancy dress ring!!

Throughout the year we've had talks on a variety of topics, and farm walks from our members and advisory – so we now know exactly what you do when you say you are busy at work!! We've also done a variety of fun nights, some messier than others, but all were well supported and entertaining – especially the 'raise money for charity' night with Rob being made up as a female and sent shopping in Tesco's!!!!

Throughout the year we have held numerous fund raising events and activities.... Tree planting at Hugh Richards, a Lambing Day, Disco and a raffle, to name a few. The money raised will be going to our chosen charity – R.A.B.I.



Now at the end of my reign as the Ashford YFC chairman (living in East Sussex) I am now finally moving to Kent – better late than never!!! I must say a big thank you to my vice, Phil Boyd, who kept the club going whilst I was stressing out over my wedding. Good luck to the next chairman, and lets hope the club continues to go from strength to strength.

Miriam Bowley
Ashford YFC Chairman