

# rural dispatch



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The Official Magazine of the  
Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster

Summer 2009



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## David & Stephen Morrison

# Win Dale Farm Excellence Award

Excellent quality milk and first class farm management have resulted in David and Stephen Morrison from Armoy in North Antrim being announced as the winners of the Dale Farm Excellence Award.

Sponsored by the Ulster Bank, the awards were presented at Balmoral Show by Harold Hamilton, the United Chairman and John Turkington, Ulster Bank's associate director for corporate banking. The results were:

**Winner: David & Stephen Morrison, Armoy**  
**Runner -Up: Alan Coalter, Ballinamallard**  
**Highly Commended: Stephen Brown, Moneymore**  
**Highly Commended: David & Andrew Murray, Ballyroney**

"We introduced the Dale Farm Excellence Award to recognise the superb work that goes on day in, day out to produce excellent quality milk on dairy farms across Northern Ireland," explained, Harold Hamilton. "The judges were impressed with the attention to detail in every aspect of the management of all of the winning farms; and by the steps taken to measure and monitor the performance of their herds – from milk recording to benchmarking.

"David Morrison and his son Stephen run a progressive herd of 185 Holstein Friesian cows. The herd has an excellent average yield of over 8000 litres per cow, with well over 3000 litres



David (third left) and Stephen Morrison (second left) celebrate their success in the Dale Farm Excellence Awards with John Turkington of sponsors Ulster Bank (left) and Harold Hamilton.

being produced from forage, and very good milk quality. For a large herd with a replacement rate of around 20%, the farm has an excellent calving index that is close to 365 days," commented Harold.

"Ulster Bank is delighted to be associated with these awards," said Cormac McKervey, the Bank's Head of Agriculture. "There was a very strong list of entrants, demonstrating the excellent management on many dairy farms in Northern Ireland, and the judges had a really difficult task in selecting the winners."

## Amy claims Dale Farm Sports Award

Young Newtownards athlete Amy Foster has 'sprinted to the finish' to claim the 2009 Dale Farm Sports Award. Amy beat off stiff competition to become the fourth winner of the coveted title and was presented with her Award by Dale Farm's Andrew Nethercott and Dame Mary Peters.

The current 100m Irish and Northern Irish champion, 20 year old Amy made her mark winning the Irish Championship in her first year as a senior athlete. Her 2009/2010 schedule will see her defend these titles as well as compete at international level at the European U23 Championships this summer. Amy was chosen for the Award by an expert sporting panel from the Mary Peters Trust and Dale Farm, who together launched the award in 2006 to support home-grown talent. She wins a £5000 bursary and joins previous

recipients including Belfast boxer and Olympic medalist Paddy Barnes and ice-skating champion Jenna McCorkell.

"I'm completely overwhelmed to have won," said Amy. "Securing funding is becoming more and more difficult for young athletes so it's fantastic to know that organisations like Dale Farm are prepared to invest in us. To support my training costs, I had been working two part-time jobs which took up valuable training time but now I can focus my full attention on improving my running as much as possible."

"The funding will help when I go to Lithuania for the European Championships and hopefully this experience will allow me to reach my goals of competing at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and later at the London 2012 Olympics."



Dame Mary Peters DBE and Brian Beattie, Dale Farm's Head of Marketing, with Amy Foster, the Irish 1100 metres champion and winner of the 2009 Dale Farm Sports Award.

# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



**By helping and encouraging others we can all look forward to a prosperous future for the YFCU. The association offers more to young people than any other organisation that I know of. Be active and be involved and do all that you can now and I will promise that you will have fun and a lot of great memories for the future!**

It is hard to believe that Balmoral Show is once again behind us and that summer is almost here. The summer months bring the local shows which play an important part in rural life and I have no doubt that many of you will be taking part in the events organised to promote our unique organisation.

**In my role of president I encourage you to adopt this year's theme which is to "Help and Encourage Others"**

Competitions also play an important role within the association and with the beef and sheep judging just around the corner, I challenge each of you (who are within competition age of course) to take part in this.

This year YFCU is celebrating its 80th anniversary and as part of our activities we will be hosting an event at Hillsborough Castle on Thursday 20th August. This will be an event to celebrate all that is great about YFCU. Club secretaries will receive more info in the coming weeks and we would like to see representatives from every club and county. As space is limited please ensure that the invitation is taken up.

**Thoburn McCaughey**

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Pictured is the recently elected YFCU Presidential Team for 2009/10. From front left, Vice President Frances George, President Thoburn McCaughey, Deputy President William Wilson. Back left Vice Presidents Martyn Blair, William Gilpin and James Taylor.

## Meet YFCU's Presidential Team!

### **President Thoburn McCaughey**

Thoburn McCaughey has been a member of Lisnamurrigan YFC for 16 years and he has held many positions of responsibility throughout this time. Thoburn is a farmer and his other main interests include stockjudging, dairy farming, the arts and drama festivals and YFCU competitions.

### **Deputy President Willie Wilson**

Willie Wilson has been a member of Cappagh YFC for 18 years. A butcher by trade, Willie's main interests are farming, shooting, taking an active role in all YFCU events and socialising with friends.

### **Vice President Martyn Blair**

Martyn Blair belongs to Finvoy YFC and he has been a member for 10 years. Martyn has been involved in all aspects of YFCU events and activities and particularly enjoys the arts and drama productions. A farmer by trade, Martyn's other interests include football, rugby and socialising with friends.

### **Vice President Frances George**

Frances George has been a member of Moneyrea YFC for 11 years. During her time in YFCU, Frances has taken part in many competitions and activities and has also represented the Association at many events. Frances is an assistant scientific officer.

### **Vice President William Gilpin**

William Gilpin belongs to Collone YFC and he has been a member for 10 years. William works as an Operations Manager for his family-owned vegetable growing and packing business. During his time with YFCU, William has participated in many events and activities. His other interests include indoor bowls, football and socialising with his friends.

### **Vice President James Taylor**

James Taylor has been a member of Coleraine YFC since 2005. A farmer by trade, James also plays an active role within his club and enjoys encouraging member participation in all events and competitions. James is keen to see more young people farming and playing an active role in shaping the future of the agri industry.

# Memories of YFCU

This year the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster is celebrating its 80th anniversary and we would like to hear from past members.

Do you have a memory of your time in young farmers that you would like to share, for example, a friendship, an achievement, an event or a first love?

If so please send your memory to us at Headquarters, 475 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 3BD or alternatively email it to amy.hunter@yfcu.org

Where possible we will use it in our displays and events planned for the coming year as part of our 80th anniversary celebrations.



## Forthcoming Activities to Celebrate 80 Years of YFCU

**YFCU Evening at Hillsborough Castle**  
**Thursday 20th August 2009**  
**7pm – 9pm**

As part of our continued celebrations for the 80th anniversary, YFCU is hosting an event at Hillsborough Castle. This event will see the association celebrate all that is great within YFCU. Club secretaries will receive more info in the coming weeks and an invite for their nominated representatives to attend.

**80th Anniversary Dinner**  
**Saturday 6th March 2010**  
**Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena**

The finale of the 80th anniversary celebrations will take place on Saturday 6th March 2010 with a dinner dance at the Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena. Please put this date in your diary and keep an eye out for further details of the event later in the year.

YFCU is keen for all clubs to be involved in the anniversary celebrations. We would encourage all members to think of an event that their club could do to celebrate the work and history of the association.

## YFCU Prepare for Home Management Final

YFCU joined the Ulster Pork and Bacon Forum and Calor Gas in the kitchens of the Hilton Hotel, Belfast to finalise the cooking task for competitors of this year's Home Management competition.



The YFCU Home Management competition takes place over a period of six months with competitors taking part in the first two stages at club level and then the final which will take place on Monday 22nd June 2009 at the Newry and Kilkeel Institute in front of an invited audience.

In late November the first of the competition took place at club level and saw over 380 competitors complete a range of household tasks organised in their club hall. The top four juniors and top four seniors who gained the highest scores in each club competition then competed in stage two which took place in

January. Over 100 competitors took part in this stage and had to complete a multiple-choice paper consisting of questions based around different aspects of Home Management.

The top six junior and senior competitors have now been invited to attend the final which is the showcase for the entire competition. During this event the finalists must use their practical and theoretical skills, demonstrated in stages one and two, to prepare and cook a main course using Ulster pork and bacon within an allocated time and finally provide a budget.

◀ Pictured finalising the culinary task for the YFCU's Home Management competition at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast are Keith Smyton from sponsor Ulster Pork and Bacon Forum and Berni Neill (l) from sponsor Calor with Heather Kavanagh, YFCU's Activities and Events Coordinator.



# Silage Making

Samuel Hill from Randalstown YFC has been named the winner of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) 2009 Silage Making Competition that is sponsored by John Thompson and Sons Limited.

This is the third time that Samuel has picked up the title, winning in 2006 and 2008.

The competition began in November with members from throughout Northern Ireland taking part in regional heats and from these James Alcorn (Clanabogan YFC), Samuel Hill (Randalstown YFC), Richard McFarlane (Ballymiscaw YFC), Philip Reid (Collone YFC), Jonathan O'Malley (Lisbellaw YFC) and William Cochrane (Coleraine YFC) made it

through to the final. During this, the competitors were assessed by judges Hugh McCluggage from John Thompson and Sons Limited and David McCracken from Banbridge. The judges travelled to the farm of each competitor and carried out a visual inspection of the silage taking into account its fermentation, digestibility and dry matter content as well as the sealing of the silo and the way in which the effluent was collected. They also conducted an interview with each of the finalists in relation to how

the silage was made and their current feeding policy.

Once again the judges were greatly impressed by the enthusiasm of the finalists and their superb knowledge of silage making. The overall quality of the silage was the highest the judges have seen over the last 10 years, which was reflected in the excellent quality of their livestock.

In a close run competition Samuel Hill from Randalstown YFC was announced as this year's winner with James

Alcorn (Clanabogan YFC) taking second place and Jonathan O'Malley (Lisbellaw YFC) was placed third.

The Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster would like to thank the judging panel for taking the time to make their expertise available to the association. It would also like to extend a note of appreciation to John Thompson and Sons Limited for their continued support of this event.



Pictured during the Silage Making 2009 Finals are Jonathan O'Malley, Lisbellaw YFC who was placed 3rd (centre) with judges (l-r) David McCarcken from Banbridge and Hugh McCluggage, from sponsors John Thompson and Sons Limited.

Samuel Hill, Randalstown YFC, who was named Silage Maker of the Year 2009 picking up his prize from YFCU President Thoburn McCaughey at the recent AGM.



## Ten Pin Bowling

The YFCU's Annual Winter Sports Tournament "Ten Pin Bowling" took place in January at the Odyssey Bowl, Odyssey Complex, Belfast.

Eighteen teams from around Northern Ireland bowled on the night with Finvoy YFC taking the top spot. Each team had to compete in two games with the average score

used to decide the winners. The evening was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. Check out [www.yfcu.org](http://www.yfcu.org) for more photos of the night.



The Winter Sports Tournament 2009 winning team, Finvoy YFC.



Members from Newtownards YFC taking part in the YFCU's Annual Winter Sports Tournament.



Hillsborough YFC enjoying the Ten Pin Bowling tournament.

## Ulster Young Farmer

The annual Ulster Young Farmer competition took place over the past few months with the final stage being held in February at CAFRE, Greenmount Campus.

Sponsored by Northern Bank, the 'Ulster Young Farmer of the Year' competition is one of the most prestigious competitions in the association's calendar and attracts over 400 entries each year.

During the final stage competitors had to answer questions on a series of topics including finance, countryside management, beef, arable, machinery, sheep and dairy.

The results of the competition were announced at the YFCU's AGM & Conference and Simon Connell from Dungiven YFC was named the Ulster Young Farmer of the Year 2009.

Awards were also given to the member who scores the highest in each of the sections and Simon took three of these individual titles as well. Simon came first in the sheep section, winning the McCausland trophy. He went on to take the top

spot in the beef section and received the Ulster Farmers' Mart trophy. He also was placed joint first in the finance section and received the Northern Bank Cup.

On receiving the news at the association's AGM and Conference that he was the winner of the competition, Simon was overwhelmed;

"I was really shocked to learn that I was the winner of this year's competition," said Simon.

"It is an honour to be named Ulster Young Farmer of the Year. The competition takes in many topics and certainly tested all aspects of my farming knowledge" he added.

John Henning, Northern Bank's Head of Agriculture presented Simon and the other prize winners with their awards and commented on the competition;

"Northern Bank is proud to sponsor the prestigious Ulster Young Farmer Competition. This event epitomises the competitive spirit of young farmers and demonstrates the technical ability that has characterised NI agriculture over 80 years and which is now needed more than ever in these challenging times for the industry".

Overall second place in the competition was awarded to Trevor Wilson (Lisbellaw YFC) and third place went to Jonathan Hutchinson (Curragh YFC).

The Best Ulster 21 results were also announced at the AGM and Conference with William Bolton (Curragh YFC) in third place, Kathryn Taylor (Coleraine YFC) in second place and Trevor Wilson (Lisbellaw YFC), who also came second in the overall competition, taking the top spot in the Under 21 category and receiving the Golden Plough Trophy.

Following this, the results of the YFCU Junior Young Farmer Competition were announced. Steven Moore (Coleraine YFC) took third place, James Purcell (Dungiven YFC) came second and Robert Alcorn from Dungiven YFC took the top spot and collected the Robin Swann trophy.

The full results are listed below:

### Countryside Management

2nd Place – tie  
Lyle McCormick, Moycraig  
Jonathan Hutchinson, Curragh  
1st Place & The Clarke Black Trophy Trevor Wilson, Lisbellaw

### Sheep Section

3rd Place  
Peter Drummond, Donaghadee  
2nd Place  
Trevor Wilson, Lisbellaw  
1st & McCausland Trophy  
Simon Connell, Dungiven

### Beef Section

2nd Place – tie  
Trevor Wilson, Lisbellaw  
Stephen McCahon, Garvagh  
1st and Ulster Farmers' Mart Trophy Simon Connell, Dungiven

### Pigs/Poultry Section

2nd Place – tie  
Simon Connell, Dungiven  
Kathryn Taylor, Coleraine  
1st and Pigs Marketing Board Trophy  
Colin Smith, Straid

### Grass Section

3rd Place – tie  
Peter Drummond, Donaghadee  
Ian Currie, Kells & Connor  
2nd Place  
Simon Connell, Dungiven  
1st and Peter Fitzpatrick Trophy  
Tomas Boyle, Ballywalter  
Arable Section  
3rd Place  
Kathryn Taylor, Coleraine  
2nd Place  
Richard Boyes, Bleary  
1st and Noel Sufferin Trophy  
David Matthews, Donaghadee

### Dairy Section

3rd Place  
Lyle McCormick, Moycraig  
2nd Place  
Simon Connell Dungiven  
1st and Milk Marketing Board Trophy William Bolton, Curragh

### Machinery Section

2nd Place – tie  
Tomas Boyle, Ballywalter  
Thomas Gibson, Lisnamurrigan  
1st and NI Machinery Dealers Assoc. Trophy  
Jonathan Hutchinson, Curragh

### Finance Section

1st Place and Northern Bank Cup - tie  
David Matthews, Donaghadee  
Kathryn Taylor, Coleraine  
Peter Drummond, Donaghadee  
Simon Connell, Dungiven



Pictured is Ulster Young Farmer of the Year Simon Connell (back centre) with the overall section winners, John Henning from sponsor Northern Bank and YFCU President Thoburn McCaughey.



Northern Bank's Head of Agriculture John Henning tests (l-r) David Little and Trevor Wilson from Lisbellaw YFC on their knowledge of finance at this year's final of the YFCU Ulster Young Farmer of the Year competition in CAFRE Greenmount.

# Members Take to the Stage!

**FEBRUARY**

The YFCU's annual Arts Festival took place in February with shows in Kilrea, Ballymena, Craigavon and Ballymoney.

Sponsored for a number of years by NFU Mutual Insurance Society Limited, the YFCU Arts Festival showcases the talent that exists within the association. Each performance is written, produced and performed by the clubs and on the performance evenings adjudicators judged each performance on its content, presentation, technical competence, audience appeal and general effect.

The judges then revealed which of the 16 participating clubs had made it through to perform at the Arts Festival Gala Evening on Saturday 21st March 2009 at Belfast Waterfront. The five clubs who went on to entertain at the Waterfront were Coleraine, Glarryford, Kilraughts, Finvoy and Moneymore.

Here's some photos from the festival



# NI Quiz

**YFCU members descended on CAFRE Loughry Campus for the ever popular Ulster Bank sponsored NI Quiz on Friday 27th February 2009 which proved to be a fun filled event!**

An impressive forty four teams, of four members per team, took part on the evening. The quiz consisted of eight rounds of ten questions and included a picture and music round.

Moneyrea A Star were crowned the winners for 2009 and took the top prize money of £300 for their club, which was kindly provided by Ulster Bank. The winning team was made up of Frances George, Jennifer Townley, Beth Gregg and Jonathan Connolly.

In second place came the team from Straid which was made up of Alan Boyd, Robert Boyd, Colin Smith and William Rea. They were awarded £200 for their club and in third place, receiving £100, came a second team from Moneyrea, Moneyrea A which was made up of William McMordie, Jennifer McMordie, Rachel Carson and Robert Wallace.

Ann Calwell from Ulster Bank commented; "It was great to see so many clubs represented at the quiz and we were delighted sponsor this competition once again. Our congratulations to Moneyrea A Stars, Straid and Moneyrea A and we are sure they will put the prize money to good use in helping to further promote and develop their clubs".

While the markers were totting up all the scores from the NI Quiz, an extra element was added to the night in the form of a Rare Breeds Picture Competition. The team from Trillick YFC, consisting of Andrew Barrett, Laura McKinley, Judith McKinley

and David Henderson identified the most rare breeds and they were rewarded for their efforts with four tickets to the Balmoral Show kindly donated by Ulster Bank on the evening.

The Association would like to take this opportunity to thank Ann Calwell from sponsor Ulster Bank for her support and help, CAFRE Loughry Campus who provided the superb venue, Willie Wilson for setting the excellent questions, Adrian Cooper for his services as quiz master on the night and everyone who helped with the stewarding and marking on the night.



Pictured preparing for the NI Quiz are Moneyrea members, Jonathan Connolly (l) and William McMordie being tested on their general knowledge by Ann Calwell from sponsor Ulster Bank

**A packed hall of NI Quiz competitors!**



# Arts Festival Gala

The Arts Festival Gala evening took place in Belfast Waterfront on Saturday 21st March 2009.

Sponsored by NFU Mutual Insurance Society, the event is the finale of the YFCU annual Arts Festival and on the night the members of the five participating clubs who made it through the from the Festival had the opportunity to shine as they took to the stage of the Waterfront.

The five clubs who entertained the audience were Coleraine, Glarryford, Kilraughts, Finvoy and Moneymore Young Farmers' Clubs. UTV's Paul Clark acted as compere on the night and added a touch of humour between acts.

Permanent Secretary of Department of Education, Will Haire, was the special guest and after the clubs had taken to the stage he addressed the sold out crowd and commented that he had thoroughly enjoyed all of the performances and that the Arts Festival was an excellent platform to showcase the talent that exists within the YFCU.

Will Haire then presented members of each of the five clubs who performed at the Gala with certificates and plaques for Outstanding Merit.

Special Awards were then distributed to clubs who performed in the Arts Festival for their contribution to the overall effect of the performances. These were:

- Most Amusing Moment: Kilrea & Curragh**
- Most Imaginative Theme: Co Down**
- Best Choral Piece: Lylehill**
- Best Choreography: Finvoy**
- Best Newcomer: Moycraig**

The Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster would like to extend a note of thanks to NFU Mutual Insurance Society for their longstanding commitment and sponsorship of the event. Also, a note of appreciation must be given to special guest Will Haire for taking the time out of his busy schedule to attend the event and to all of those who came along on the evening to show their support of this special event.



President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Adrian Cooper joins special guest Permanent Secretary of Department of Education, Will Haire and Patricia Lewsley, Children's Commissioner at the VIP reception at the Association's annual Arts Festival Gala Evening that took place in the Belfast Waterfront.



VIPS gripped by the Six Nations at the VIP reception of the YFCU's annual Arts Festival Gala Evening.



President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Adrian Cooper joins Martin Malone (c) from the Festival's sponsor, NFU Mutual Insurance Society Limited and Paul Clark, compere for the evening, at the VIP reception at the Association's annual Arts Festival Gala Evening.



President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) Adrian Cooper (back, 4th from right) and compere Paul Clark (c) join the Producers from the five participating Young Farmers' Clubs at the VIP reception at the association's annual Arts Festival Gala Evening.



President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Adrian Cooper and his wife Rosemary (front r) join John Fay, Director of CAFRE and his wife Leslie at the VIP reception.

# Dairy Stockjudging

# APRIL

YFCU's annual Dairy Stockjudging County and Area Heats, run in association with Ulster Bank, recently took place.

The heats began with County Londonderry's on Tuesday 30th March which took place in Moneymore on Alec Brown's farm. Ninety-three competitors came along to test their dairy stockjudging skills.

On Thursday 2nd April 2009 the County Antrim heat took place at Wallace Gregg's farm on the Frosses Road. One hundred and forty-eight competitors attended, maybe encouraged by the great weather!

On Wednesday 8th April Co Tyrone & Co Fermanagh heats took place at Gordon Lee's farm in Co Tyrone. 123 competitors attended which was a great result in itself!

On Thursday 9th April it was the turn of Co Down & Co Armagh. The stockjudging competition was held at Paul Dunn's farm outside Bangor and 154 competitors attended on the night.

YFCU would like to take this opportunity to thank all the farmers and their families for the excellent facilities and also thanks to all the judges and stewards on the evening. Once again, YFCU would like to extend its thanks to Ulster Bank for its continued support of the YFCU's stockjudging events.

All those members placed will now attend the annual Dairy, Beef and Sheep Stockjudging Finals which will be held at CAFRE, Greenmount Campus on 9th July 2009.

The results are as follows:

## County Londonderry

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Ryan Adams, Coleraine YFC
- 2nd Jonathan McNaughter, Garvagh YFC
- 3rd Charlotte Collins, Garvagh YFC
- 4th David Reid, Coleraine YFC

### 14-16 Age Group

- 1st Joanne Smyth, Coleraine YFC
- 2nd Claire Adams, Coleraine YFC
- 3rd Steven Moore, Coleraine YFC
- 4th Michael Smyth, Coleraine YFC

### 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Kathryn Smyth, Coleraine YFC
- 2nd Alison Blair, Coleraine YFC
- 3rd Chantelle Murdoch, Coleraine YFC
- 4th Ewan Houston, Coleraine YFC

### 18-21 Age Group

- 1st David McNaughter, Garvagh YFC
- 2nd William Bolton, Curragh YFC
- 3rd Hugh Harbinson, Coleraine YFC
- 4th John Oliver, Dungiven YFC

### 21-25 Age Group

- 1st Harry Armstrong, Kilrea YFC
- 2nd Barbara McFetridge, Garvagh YFC
- 3rd Gavin Watson, Coleraine YFC
- 4th Philip Henry, Coleraine YFC

## County Antrim

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Richard Beattie, Finvoy YFC
- 2nd Samuel Beattie, Finvoy YFC
- 3rd Megan Uprichard, Lylehill YFC
- 4th Nicole McDowell, Gleno Valley YFC

### 14-16 Age Group

- 1st Gayle Adams, Lisnamurrigan YFC
- 2nd (tie) Gary Duncan, Lylehill YFC
- 2nd Mark McAuley, Glarryford Jnr YFC
- 4th Andrew Patterson, Lylehill YFC

### 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Robert Hanna, Kilraughts YFC
- 2nd Rachel Wilson, Lylehill YFC
- 3rd Peter Boyd, Straid YFC
- 4th Kathryn Rea, Straid YFC

### 18-21 Age Group

- 1st Carolyn Wilson, Lylehill YFC
- 2nd (tie) Graeme Agnew, Straid YFC
- 2nd Samuel Agnew, Straid YFC
- 3rd (tie) Andrew Boyd, Straid YFC
- 3rd David Dunlop, Finvoy YFC

### 21-25 Age Group

- 1st Richard Bartlett, Kilraughts YFC
- 2nd Samuel Hill, Randalstown YFC
- 3rd Carolyn Agnew, Straid YFC
- 4th (tie) Laura Ervine, Straid YFC
- 4th Ronan McAfee, Finvoy YFC

## County Tyrone

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Lindsay Hawkes, Seskinore
- 2nd Brian McKinley, Trillick
- 3rd Christopher McNeil, Strabane
- 4th Gareth Cummings, Strabane

## 14-16 Age Group

- 1st David McFarland, Seskinore
- 2nd John Edgar, Trillick
- 3rd Richard Marshal, Cappagh
- 4th Richard Kee, Strabane

## 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Aaron Shortt, Seskinore
- 2nd Nicola Armstrong, Seskinore
- 3rd Hannah Edgar, Trillick
- 4th Mark Little, Cookstown

## 18-21 Age Group

- 1st Stuart Lyons, Seskinore
- 2nd Gareth Hawkes, Seskinore
- 3rd Steven Lyons, Seskinore
- 4th Rachel Gibson, Trillick

## 21-25 Age Group

- 1st Graeme Hawkes, Seskinore
- 2nd Richard Alcorn, Clanabogan
- 3rd William McKean, Strabane
- 4th Ruth Blackburn, Seskinore

## County Fermanagh

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Luke Johnston, Lisbellaw
- 2nd Ross McDonald, Lisbellaw

### 14-16 Age Group

- 1st Andrew Little, Lisbellaw
- 2nd Kyle Wilson, Lisnaskea
- 3rd Alice Stubbs, Kesh
- 4th Jamie Johnston, Lisbellaw

## 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Zara Stubbs, Kesh
- 2nd Graeme Crawford, Lisbellaw
- 3rd Richard Law, Kesh
- 4th Neal Beacom, Kesh

## 18-21 Age Group

- 1st Roger Armstrong, Lisbellaw
- 2nd Ashley Johnston, Lisbellaw
- 3rd James Vance, Kesh
- 4th Jayne Little, Lisbellaw

## 21-25 Age Group

- 1st Clive Henderson, Kesh
- 2nd Clive Morrison, Lisbellaw
- 3rd David Little, Lisbellaw
- 4th Beverly Henderson, Kesh

## Co Down

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Kaitlyn Martin, Ballywalter Jnr
- 2nd Daniel Patton, Newtownards
- 3rd Robert Chesney, Ballywalter Jnr
- 4th Michael Orr, Newtownards

### 14-16 Age Group

- 1st Nicole Considine, Ballywalter Jnr
- 2nd Lauren Chesney, Ballywalter Jnr
- 3rd Jane Patton, Newtownards
- 4th Gillian Rankin, Donaghadee

### 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Andrew Patton, Newtownards
- 2nd Stuart Cromie, Annaclone & Magherally
- 3rd Jane Cowan, Annaclone & Magherally
- 4th David Sleator, Annaclone & Magherally

## 18-21 Age Group

- 1st Steven Cowan, Annaclone & Magherally
- 2nd David Dodd, Spa
- 3rd George Shaw, Spa
- 4th Nelson Shanks, Annaclone & Magherally

## 21-25 Age Group

- 1st Roberta Simmons, Rathfriland
- 2nd John Galway, Ballymiscaw
- 3rd William McMordie, Moneyrea
- 4th Lynn Boyce, Killinchy

## Co Armagh

### 12-14 Age Group

- 1st Andrew Boyce, Bleary
- 2nd Philip Boyes, Bleary

### 14-16 Age Group

- 1st Louise Halliday, Bleary

### 16-18 Age Group

- 1st Diane Halliday, Bleary
- 2nd

### 18-21 Age Group

- 1st Suzanne Halliday, Bleary
- 2nd Richard Boyes, Bleary
- 3rd Nigel White, Bleary



Pictured at the Co Antrim heat of the YFCU's annual dairy stock judging competition are Kells and Connor YFC members being put through their paces by Ulster Bank representatives Ann Calwell (2nd l) and Terry Winnington (r).



Pictured at the Co Down heat of the YFCU's annual dairy stock judging competition are Moneyrea YFC members with Ulster Bank representative David George.



Pictured at the Co Londonderry heat of the YFCU's annual dairy stock judging competition are competitor Jan Campton from Moneyre YFC (r) with Ulster Bank representative Fionnuala Hughes.

# YFCU's AGM & Conference 2009

SPECIAL  
REPORT

18th April, Armagh City Hotel

YFCU recently held their AGM & Conference at Armagh City Hotel. A packed programme of events had been put together starting with a breakfast sponsored by Fleming Steel who generously provided the members with breakfast baps to set them up for the day.

Delegates from sister organisations Macra na Fierme, the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs, the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, Wales Young Farmers' Clubs and the Isle of Man Young Farmers attended the AGM and their travel was kindly sponsored by TESCO.

The delegates joined in with the YFCU members and

rotated in groups around four workshops delivered by the Northern Bank, Aware NI, Armagh Living History and an exciting workout on a rodeo bull!

Following the workshops the AGM began and Thoburn McCaughey was elected YFCU President for 2009 – 2011. Here's a selection of pics from the day!



Pictured welcoming the YFCU's guest of honour, Duke of Abercorn, are Thoburn McCaughey (l) and Adiran Cooper (r).



Going back in time with a decorum lesson from members of the Armagh Living History group.



Adrian Cooper and Robin Swan chatting to Mike Ryan from Fleming Staff who kindly provided members with breakfast baps and refreshments prior to the morning workshops.



Ian Dunlop and Martyn Blair taking part in the Money Talks workshop hosted by Northern Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau.



Delegates from the Isle of Man, Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland young farmers who attended the AGM. Tesco kindly sponsored the delegates' travel and accommodation.



Holding on for dear life! Mark McAuley from Glarryford YFC on the rodeo bull at the AGM.



Chris Kneale from the Isle of Man addressing the crowd at the AGM.



Adrian Cooper passing on the role of YFCU President to Thoburn McCaughey.



Newly elected President Thoburn McCaughey addressing members of the audience.



Members at the AGM.

**18th April 2009**  
**Armagh City Hotel**



Mark McAuley from Glarryford Junior YFC was named Junior Member of the Year at the AGM & Conference.



Nelson Shanks from Annaclone and Magherally YFC was named Member of the Year at the AGM & Conference.



Ulster Young Farmer of the Year winner Simon Connell, Dungiven YFC (back centre) pictured with John Henning from sponsor Northern Bank, YFCU President Thoburn McCaughey and the overall section winners of the competition.



Pictured congratulating Samuel Hill, Randalstown YFC on winning the title of Silage Maker of the Year is YFCU President Thoburn McCaughey.



Pictured is Thoburn McCaughey congratulating Frances George, Moneyrea YFC on receiving badge 12 of the proficiency award scheme and William Cochrane, Coleraine YFC receiving badge 10.



Pictured are the Top PRO Stephanie Fulton (Finvoy YFC), Top Treasurer Alison Whan (Spa YFC) and Top Secretary Gillian Graham (Collone YFC) being congratulated by YFCU President Thoburn McCaughey.



## Image Change for Bleary YFC!

### Collone YFC's Recent Events



Collone YFC members at Stormont.

**Members of Collone YFC recently visited parliament buildings at Stormont thanks again goes to Danny Kennedy MLA for letting us have a guided tour of the building.**

It was a very enjoyable night by all members. The club recently had their end of year BBQ and a tractor handling competition last Friday night at Reids Farm Richhill thanks goes to Lindsay Burke for providing tractors and Philip Reid for use of his farm. Overall Philip Reid came 1st in the competition with most members taking part.



Pictured is Lindsey Burke presenting a trophy to Sarah-Jayne Allen from Collone YFC for coming 3rd in the Ladies Tractor Pulling competition at Mullahead Ploughing Match.



Bleary members modelling their new club rugby shirts.

**Bleary YFC have just launched their new club rugby shirts. A sponsors' evening was recently held at Bleary Farmers' Hall with many members in attendance for the event.**

The club is most grateful to Mr & Mrs Cecil Troughton, T H Troughton, Poyntzpass, Mr Richard Gilpin, R Gilpin Contracts, Gilford and Mr & Mrs Tom Alderdice, Alderdice Fuels, Dromore for their strong support and sponsorship of the new club shirts.

Many exciting new events and competitions have been to the fore for the club over the past year. Last summer the club entered the Build It Challenge for the first time. Then in December, it was practice, practice for the choir festival. More rehearsals were to follow from Christmas onwards with another new venture on the horizon. For the first time, Bleary took part in the area heat of the Arts Festival, an experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

The theme 'A Farmers' Special Blind Date' was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and indeed Bleary YFC were asked to perform a second time for the local Mullahead & District Ploughing Society awards evening. By early May it was the turn of the ladies with the formation of the first Ladies 5 A-side football team with the team taking part in the area heat at Loughry Campus.

After a successful club awards evening, congratulations go to club member Richard Boyes with the announcement that he had gained 2nd place in the 2009 Ulster Young Farmer arable section competition. Well done to everyone who has participated in many competitions over this past year.

With final preparations in place, the club is set to make the 'It's a Knockout Challenge' at Lurgan Show in June, a day to remember. The club would like to thank Craigavon Youthbank for their generous grant towards this event and we extend an invitation to other Young Farmers' clubs to come along and have a great day out.

## Money more's Got Talent!



Members from Money more YFC take to the stage

**Money more YFC recently participated in the Arts Festival Gala Evening. The club had worked very hard and impressed the judges on the adjudication night in Kilrea which gave them the chance to perform in the Waterfront Hall on 21st March.**

Money more YFC's performance was entitled "So you think you've got Talent" which was produced by Mary-Lou Richmond and Jennie Duncan. The production tells the story of Martha Robinson, played by Jennie Duncan, and her hopes of becoming a big star on stage. Martha's first step in making her dream a reality is to join Mr. Macintosh's Musical Society. However Martha's parents, played by James Glover and Gareth Bryson, have reservations about their daughter joining the society. But with some encouragement from Mr. Macintosh, played by Richard Love, Martha is well on her way to becoming a star. The production features a brilliant range of music from "Hallelujah" to "Don't stop me now!" and the performance was accompanied by Mark Dickson on the piano, Gavin Wray on the drums and Harry Wray on the bass guitar.

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this year's arts festival production. Also a big thank you has to go to Suzanne Hardy for organising the buses to transport all the supporters to the Waterfront and the club members would also like to thank all those parents, friends and relatives who went to the Waterfront and showed their support for Money more YFC.

## Spa YFC's Tractor Run

**On Saturday 25th April Spa YFC held a fundraising event in the form of a tractor run. This event was to raise money for the clubs chosen charity of this year which was Northern Ireland's Cancer Fund for Children.**

This is a local charity that works all over Northern Ireland providing physical, emotional and financial care to all those children up to the age of 21 who have suffered or been diagnosed with cancer as well as supporting their families.

Over 60 tractors took part in the run, both old and new. The tractors followed an 8 mile course around the Ballynahinch and Spa area. For some the hills proved challenging and for others, it was remembering the correct route to take appeared the problem!

All participants made it back to the field successfully where there was a BBQ waiting to provide everyone with refreshments. On this same date Spa YFC also held a beach themed disco in Ballynahinch Rugby. This too was in aid of raising some money for the Cancer Fund for Children charity. There was a great turn out with fancy dress costumes ranging from surfers to hula girls and many more sun seekers with fabulous costumes.

Overall a fun day was had by all and the partying carried on into the early hours of the morning. An astounding amount of money was raised for the charity and this will be presented to a charity representative at a later date. Many thanks go to all who took part in both events and worked towards making them a great success; a wonderful start to the summer calendar for Spa YFC!



## Trillick & District YFC 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance

**Trillick and District YFC's 45th Anniversary was celebrated on Friday 20th February in the Lough Erne Hotel, Kesh with more than 120 current and past members, parents, friends and supporters all gathering together for a night of celebration and nostalgia.**

Mr Adrian Cooper, past President of the YFCU, was guest speaker on the night and we are very grateful that he and his wife Rosemary were able to be a part of our anniversary celebrations. As well as this, Mrs Pam Robinson, former General Secretary of the YFCU who was present at the formation of our club 45 years ago, along with her husband Billy was also invited as special guests for the night.

Mr James Henderson, Club President began the proceedings by welcoming everyone and wishing them an enjoyable night. Grace was said by Allison Barrett, assistant club leader and after a wonderful 4 course meal, Mrs Robinson was invited to cut the beautiful cake which was baked and decorated by Mrs Mary Cashel. Mrs Robinson was assisted by Hannah Edgar, club secretary and her father Derek, a long standing vice president of the club. While everyone was having some well needed digestion time, club leader Jamie Armstrong read out a highly entertaining report of the clubs activities and highlights from 2004 to 2009 and introduced the booklet produced for the occasion by Zoë Gilmour and Pauline Armstrong.



Pictured are Pam Robinson, a founding member of Trillick & District YFC with Derek Edgar, Vice President of the club and Hannah Edgar current club secretary.

*Photo by Alan Neill Tyrone Constitution*

Mr Cooper began his remarks by thanking the club for his invitation and commenting on the wonderful success witnessed over the past 5 years with particular reference to the array of NI cups won. He also informed everyone of the events and activities planned by YFCU to celebrate the 80th year of the organisation. He concluded his remarks by extending his best wishes to Trillick and District YFC for the next 45 years!

Andrew Barrett, treasurer, proposed a toast to the special guests and Hannah Edgar proceeded to thank all those who had helped make the night such a success.

The club would also like to acknowledge sponsorship from Brian Keys Tractors, T. Dickey & Co and Tom Read Menswear towards the clubs new rugby shirts which were designed to commemorate this 45th Anniversary.

The committee and members of Trillick and District YFC would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the dinner dance and to all those who attended the celebrations.

## Moneyrea & Newtownards YFC Annual BBQ!

Moneyrea and Newtownards YFC annual BBQ will be held on 20th June at Aubrey Patterson's farm, Six Road Ends. Come along for what is always a great night out! Doors open at 9pm, over 18's only. For more details contact Frances George (07595940059) or William McMordie (07891903243).



# Glarryford Young Farmers' Club

**As the summer approaches things are starting to heat up for Glarryford Young Farmers' Club, hoping that their summer will be just as successful as the Winter months.**

The club once again stormed their way to the Arts Festival Gala, held in the Waterfront in March. Were they impressed the audience with their performance titled "Stocks and Blocks". However there was no rest for this determined club as they held their parents night on the 28th March. On the program was the Choir, Arts Festival, Prize Giving and the Club Scandal in the form of the Weakest Link, there were many red faces on show.

Meanwhile, during all this activity, the 3-Act cast were travelling all over the country to perform their version of "Cupid Wore Skirts", this was a great performance which was certainly enjoyed by many. At the County Drama Dinner Glarryford stole the show with John Christie, Stephanie Fulton and Nicola Hamil all getting acting awards, Susan Christie got best actress, awards for Best Costumes, Best Producers and Best Sound, so it was no surprise that they got 1st overall. As if all this wasn't enough for the club they once again showed off their talent with the 1 Act production of "Thomas James Gets a Wife", which they performed at Ballee High School.

Throughout Glarryford's hectic calendar the friends and family of the club have been there for support. Many

attended the annual church service held on 26th April. The club members sang their hearts out and put on a great service for the family and friends. The offering on the night was given to The Ulster Cancer Foundation with a total of £360 being raised.

Club member Mark McAuley has done his club proud by receiving Junior Club Member of the year, this has been a great achievement not only for Mark but also to Glarryford YFC.

Glarryford has been run off their feet but have still managed to prepare a fun filled summer program. Kicking off first is their Sports night on the 10th July, with sporting games, Bouncy Castle, Bungee Run, Bouncy Slide, five-a-side football, tossing the sheaf and lost more for family fun.

The club are also holding an over 18's disco in the Tullyglass House Hotel, with The Whyte Knights being the Dj entertainment for the night.

Rounding up for the summer, Glarryfords BBQ will be held on the 22nd August, at Glarryford Young Farmers' Hall, strictly over 18's.



Cheque presentation to the Ulster Cancer Foundation on behalf of all of those who attended the club's annual church service in April.

## Kilraughts Run for Kids

**Fifteen members of Kilraughts Young Farmers ran the collective distance of 115 miles at the Belfast Marathon on Monday the 4th May 2009. All money raised goes to 'Cash for Kids.'**

'Cash for Kids' is the Children's Charity of Downtown Radio and 97.4 Cool FM. Funds raised will directly benefit children and young people in Northern Ireland. With a focus on alleviating disability, combating illness, improving quality of life and encouraging personal development.



Kilraughts YFC runners all set for the Belfast Marathon.

Members then took part in the club's annual sports night held at Armooy Rugby Club on 22nd of May 2009. Events on the night included girls and boys five-a-side football, tug of war and the slippery pole which were all capped off by a tasty BBQ and a disco in the club.

## Kesh YFC Tractor Charity Event

**Kesh YFC held a novel event recently – Tractor Judging! The club invited their older members to drive their tractors into the centre of Kesh for a judging competition. Criteria included best kept tractor, cleanest tractor, best paintwork and so on.**

Local tractor expert, Ronnie McIlwaine came along to cast his eye over the tractors and decide on a winner. Fifteen members took part and the winner went home happy. Everyone who entered a tractor paid a £10 entry fee and younger members had the chance to test their judging skills in return for a £3 donation.

All proceeds raised from the event went to help with the establishment of a baby ambulance for the local area and the proceeds were handed over at the club's barbeque on Monday 20th April 2009.



Donna Beacom and Gail Thompson from Kesh YFC at the tractor judging charity event.

# Hillhall YFC Parent's Evening



Members of Hillhall YFC at their recent Parents & Awards Evening.

**Hillhall YFC recently held their parents and awards evening. The evening began with the secretary, assistant secretary and club leader reading out the last meeting's minutes and the secretary's report for the last year.**

The club patron Andrew Simpson then presented awards with the big winners being Alex Sleator and Martin Sloan winning two cups each and Andrew Simpson and Marcus Hart receiving their number 1 proficiency badges. The members then put on three plays, with Robert Whitten and David Simpson stealing the show with their wonderful portrayal as women.

There were also good performances from William Taylor and Lily Hulatt as a couple out for dinner. The evening concluded with a cup of tea and a bun or two.

The Hillhall Young Farmers are looking forward to a summer of fun and the chance to compete in many more competitions.

# Lylehill YFC

**Lylehill Young Farmers' Club have been really busy over the past number of months with club meetings consisting of swimming, visiting a driving range, playing bingo and holding our annual parents and friends evening.**

Following our terrific performance at the Choir Festival where we were awarded first place, Lylehill took part in the Arts festival competition and were awarded 'Best Choral Piece' at the Gala in the Waterfront Hotel where Christina McCollam prepared the floral arrangements. Lylehill senior members Stephanie McCollam, Thomas Johnston and Lee Kirkpatrick along with junior members Kyle Lindsay, Ryan McCoy and Scott Logan made it through to the next round of the Ulster Young Farmer Competition. Senior members Christina McCollam, Stephanie McCollam, Judith Murdock and Carolyn Wilson along with junior members Alana Dixon, Judith Patterson, Rachael Wilson and Allison Wilson made it through to the next round of the Home Management Competition.

Lylehill have also been successful in the efficiency competition, being awarded 2nd best club in the county. Club member Kathy Graham was awarded best senior member in the County and best Secretary in the County with Jayne Bones being awarded 2nd best Club Leader in the County and Ashley Lamont being awarded 2nd best Treasurer in the County.

The team of Stephanie McCollam, Christina McCollam, James Patterson and Megan Uprichard took part in the N.I Quiz at Loughry College where the results for various handicraft competitions were awarded. Christina McCollam was awarded 1st place in the 18-21 Craft competition, Megan Uprichard was placed 3rd in the 12-14 Craft competition and Lee Kirkpatrick came 3rd in the photography competition. Christina McCollam also came 3rd place in the Craft Demonstration and Presentation Competition. Kathy Graham has completed the Millennium Volunteers Scheme and both Kathy and Caroline Sherrard have participated in the Millennium Volunteers First Aid Training alongside the Lylehill committee members participating in a private First Aid Course. Lylehill members have also taken part in the Dairy judging with Megan Uprichard, Carolyn Wilson, Andrew Patterson, Gary Duncan and Rachael Wilson all making it through to the final. Members Stephanie McCollam, Christina McCollam, Judith Patterson and Andrew Patterson also made it through to the silage assessment final. We wish them all the best of luck for the finals and we hope that Lylehill YFC have an enjoyable summer programme as we make our way to our 80th Anniversary year!



Members of Lylehill YFC performing at the Choir Festival

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### June 2009

Friday 19th  
Monday 22nd

John Bradley Challenge  
Home Management Final,  
Newry & Kilkeel Institute

Monday 22nd – Fri 3rd July

Beef & Sheep Stockjudging

### July 2009

Thursday 9th

Stockjudging Final, CAFRE  
Greenmount Campus

### August 2009

Thursday 20th

80th Anniversary Evening,  
Hillsborough Castle

Saturday 22nd

Junior Conference – more  
details to follow

### September 2009

Saturday 26th

Swimming Gala, Seven Towers  
Leisure Centre, Ballymena

Checkout [www.yfcu.org](http://www.yfcu.org) Diary Dates for full listings of all club events

# 9th World IFYE Conference in Adelaide

**Fourteen Ulster YFA members and family made the journey to the 9th World IFYE Conference in Adelaide, Australia by a variety of routes via the far East or the USA along with 480 IFYEs from 24 countries all over the world.**

**The World Conference takes place every five years and just as the European Conference rotates round Europe every year, the World Conferences rotate round the Continents every fifth year. The next Conference is in Thailand in 2013.**

The Conference began on the Saturday night with the unofficial opening ceremony and cocktail party, in the Mercure Grosvenor hotel where we met many former IFYEs to Northern Ireland, all of whom remembered their time here and their host families with fondness. It was a chance to meet old friends, including Richard and Alison Siphthorp who are now running a guest house on New Zealand.

One of the New Zealand IFYEs was David Glass, originally from Co Antrim, who, in his youth, emigrated to New Zealand and then represented New Zealand as an IFYE in the USA. We also met many IFYEs who attended the European Conferences in Fermanagh in 2006 and Greenmount in 1993.

Sunday morning saw us all assemble at the Sports Centre for a massive group photograph and then the interdenominational service at the Kent Town Uniting Church. You have never heard the IFYE song sung with such enthusiasm.

After the service we walked to Prince Alfred College, led by the standard bearers, including our own Sam Hawkes. The weather was excellent, though those of us who forgot to cover up, paid the price later. On Sunday night we took the train to the National Railway Museum for a BBQ and entertainment.

The highlight of Monday was a trip to Cleland National Park and Mount Lofty Summit. We had the opportunity to feed koalas and see kangaroos and try to photograph Tasmanian devils. Dinner was in the Adelaide Shores Conference. Centre and dancing continued into the small hours.

Tuesday was Host Family day where a massive logistical effort saw most of us matched up with the locals. If you want to see how John and Fiona got on, go to You Tube and search for IFYE Australia. Wednesday's programme was workshops and a visit to Adelaide Zoo, followed by the ubiquitous barbecue.

Thursday saw us head off on all sorts of adventures, including horse drawn trams, steam engines and wine tasting. The evening ended with international entertainment with the Northern Ireland delegation jumping up and down to "My Bonnie lies over the Ocean" whilst Scotland fielded a newspaper pipe band.

A highlight of the conference was the address by South Australia's Deputy Governor Hieu van Le. He told his story, of how he and his wife, Lan, fled Vietnam following the War, and sailed in a fishing boat to Darwin, via a refugee camp in Malaysia, before being granted temporary permits and being sent to Adelaide in 1975, and, in 2007, he became the Deputy Governor of South Australia. Friday saw the announcement of the 9th World IFYE conference in Thailand 2013 and the evening and the Conference ended with drinks on "The Hill" at Adelaide Oval and a dinner dance in the Adelaide Oval marquee.

The next morning the IFYEs left town to continue, or in some cases start, their exploration of Australia. Everyone passed through Sydney and saw the usual sights – the Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and Bondi Beach. However the outstanding memory of the Conference, was the chance to renew friendships and make new ones. As usual Northern Ireland punched well above it's weight.. Thanks to Debbie and her team of helpers for looking after us so well. If you want to see how we got on, take a look at the web site [www.ifye.com](http://www.ifye.com)



**Have you seen this bird?**

**The Barn Owl Steering Group needs your help to locate the 'white owl' in your area. If you have any sightings to report, or have any information on barn owls in the vicinity, please get in touch with the Ulster Wildlife Trust.**

All information will be treated sensitively and can be kept confidential on request.

To find out more about barn owls in Northern Ireland visit [www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/biodiversity](http://www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/biodiversity)

Email: [barnowls@ulsterwildlifetrust.org](mailto:barnowls@ulsterwildlifetrust.org) Telephone: 028 4483 0282



# FARMERS SOUGHT FOR AFRICAN EXPERIENCE



**An international development agency with close links to farming is looking for participants to join it on a fund-raising field trip to the heart of Africa this Autumn.**

**Self Help Africa is seeking recruits to take part in the trip of a lifetime to Uganda during which participants will meet with local farm communities and spend time experiencing this magical land.**

A leading rural development agency, Self Help has been organizing field visits for its supporters to Africa for the past decade.

The trips require participants to fund-raise to support the charity's work, and enables recruits to see at first hand the work that is taking place, and the lasting impact that it has on the lives of Africa's rural poor.

Self Help Africa's UK director Steve Langdon says that the annual field trips enable supporters to get a real insight into the organisation's work, and also a great understanding of the challenges that face people in Africa.

'These field trips have been a fantastic source of public support for our work over the past decade, and we feel that they have also allowed people to not just support our work, but also get a very real insight into life in Africa', he added.

Self Help Africa was formed last summer following the integration of the activities of Irish agency Self Help Development International and the Shropshire based NGO Harvest Help. The organisation is the designated charity of the Irish Farmers Association.

To find out more about this year's field trips to Uganda log-in to Self Help Africa at : [www.selfhelpafrica.com](http://www.selfhelpafrica.com), or contact Liz Lever on 01743 277170 for further information.

# NSPCC Northern Ireland asks YFCU: 'Can you HACK it?'

The **NSPCC** is calling for young farmers to get their walking boots on and sign up for the NSPCC's **HACK – Hike Against Cruelty to Kids** - a 25 mile hiking challenge through some of the most stunning countryside in Northern Ireland.

The HACK is a successful hiking event that has taken place in England for several years, proving so popular with walkers that the Bishops Challenge HACK will be held in Northern Ireland for the first time on Saturday 5 September 2009.

The route passes through the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Sperrin Mountains, and takes in Benone and Magilligan strands, offering views over Roe Valley, Inishowen, Lough Foyle and the west coast of Scotland.

NSPCC Northern Ireland community fundraising manager, Cassie Riggs said: "We are delighted that Northern Ireland now has a HACK. The Bishop's Challenge could serve as a great goal for someone trying to keep fit, or a challenge in extremely picturesque surroundings for dedicated walkers and hikers. Either way it is set to be a fabulous day in the great outdoors, and a valuable opportunity to support the NSPCC."

All money raised through sponsorship will be used to support NSPCC projects and services across Northern Ireland, including ChildLine and the NSPCC helpline. The Child's Voice

Appeal aims to develop these services so that even more cries for help from children and young people can be answered, whether they call, email or text.

Places for the walk are limited, so early registration is advised. The registration fee is £15 and participants must be over 18. For further details and online registrations, log on to [www.nspcc.org.uk/hack](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/hack) or call 9035 7970.

Lots of volunteers are also required to marshal and man checkpoints throughout the route on the day of the HACK. Please contact Clare McKenzie on 9035 7970 or email [clare.mckenzie@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:clare.mckenzie@nspcc.org.uk) for information on how non-hikers can get involved.

Can you  
**HACK** it?

## Spotlight on Communication courses

### Interview skills training just the job

Communication students recently delivered interview skills workshops in local schools. The one-day programme, which has been delivered to over 9,000 pupils over the past eleven years, is run in conjunction with Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education partnership. In the morning, communication students through a series of active learning strategies assisted pupils to develop their CVs, helped them to prepare for interview and explained the techniques to use in the interview situation. The pupils got a chance to put the theory

into practice in the afternoon as they underwent mock interviews with local employers acting as the interview panel members. Patrick Dwyer, one of the communication students commented "It was funny speaking to students and telling them not to panic about interviews when I was panicking myself about delivering the training. However, after my initial concerns I really enjoyed it and the experience will be invaluable when I go for my own interviews."



Full-time Communication student Patrick Dwyer pictured with pupils from St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon after their interview skills training at Loughry Campus.



### Students celebrate at Queen's winter graduation

Colleen Haughey (Carrickmore) Emma McAleer (Carrickmore) Donal O'Neill (Cookstown) Laura McCullagh (Omagh) Noeleen Cleary (Cookstown) and Kristie Colbert (Dungannon) celebrate their MSc in Communication at Queen's winter graduation.

The Queen's winter graduation ceremony was the culmination of a special year for the students studying communication programmes at Loughry Campus, CAFRE with one student receiving her PhD and fourteen students picking up their MSc awards. 2008 also marked the 40th anniversary of the courses being delivered at the campus.

## Communication Courses Information Evening Tuesday 23rd June, 6pm to 9pm at Loughry Campus

Come along if you are interested in full or part-time study for a qualification in Communication with options in Strategic Management or Training and Development for Rural Business.

CAFRE Careers Advice Evenings will be held for those leaving school this June. Please log onto [www.cafre.ac.uk](http://www.cafre.ac.uk) for more information on our August events.

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