

# My YFC



## Meet **Helen Roberts, 34,** chairwoman of NFYFC council

### Tell us something we don't know about YFC

While the organisation is still firmly rooted in its original connections to agriculture and the countryside, I don't think the breadth of our membership base today is fully appreciated, nor the scope of the opportunities YFC involvement affords members.

### What attracted you to join YF?

I joined Berriew YFC at the age of 14 because my parents had been members and they encouraged me to join. I joined primarily to make friends outside school and immediately after joining YFC I began to make new friends in my village, county, and eventually further afield. Another big appeal to me was the variety of competitions, particularly cookery, which I loved.

### What's so great about the AGMs?

I love the size and atmosphere of the events during our AGM weekend. They are a fantastic chance to meet YFC members from all over England and Wales and catch up with old friends from across the federation.

### Have you found love at YF?

Yes, I met my boyfriend, Martyn Williams from Llysyfran, Pembrokeshire, at the AGM in Blackpool in 2006!



Helen shows off the YFC stand at last year's Royal Show to the Duke of Kent

### The most surprising thing that has happened to me in YFC was...

The incredible range of events and experiences that I have been asked to be involved with this year, from Cornwall YFC's wonderful carol service at Truro cathedral to the Beautiful Farm Awards ceremony hosted by Lord Palmer at the House of Lords, where TV chef James Martin presented the awards to the winning businesses.

### How do you explain YF to someone who has never heard of it?

The organisation offers young people living and working in the countryside unique opportunities to take the lead, have a say in influencing their future, develop and learn new skills, work with their local community, travel abroad, compete in fun competitions and enjoy a full social life.

### How can the future be made more secure for young country people?

Vibrant, affordable communities and attractive career opportunities.

### Have you pursued a career in farming?

Yes - I work as head of delivery for Farming Connect, the Welsh Assembly government's flagship support scheme for Welsh farm businesses.

### What influence has YF had on your life?

I have met the majority of my friends through YFC, and the skills I have gained - including taking responsibility, confidence and decision-making - have helped me progress my career.

### What YFC achievement are you most proud of?

Becoming NFYFC chairwoman of council. I'm really proud to be the first-ever person from Montgomery in the national role and the first from Wales since 1990.



Helen gets back to her roots on farm and meets the latest batch of YFC recruits!

### Have you travelled with YFC?

I have travelled with the Montgomeryshire YFC exchange programme to many destinations including Canada, Estonia, Sweden, Holland and Greece.

### What does your role as national chairwoman involve?

Representing YFC at various functions, travelling all over England and Wales to attend YFC events and representing the membership at national level. I have also been busy promoting my chosen charity for this year, which is the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

## National YFC Diary Dates



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COUNTY OFFICE

### TUESDAY 6 JULY

Farm business development competition,  
National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh

### SATURDAY 24 JULY

Farm business development awards  
presentation, CLA game fair, Warwickshire

### TUESDAY 7-WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

Dairy event and livestock show, NEC,  
Birmingham

### SATURDAY 18-SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Royal county of Berkshire show, Berkshire

### SATURDAY 25-SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Malvern autumn show, Three Counties  
Showground, Worcestershire

### SATURDAY 9-SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

NFYFC competitions weekend, Stoneleigh

New members are always welcome. The times and venues of some events are still to be confirmed - contact the county office on 02476 857200.

Visit the national federation at YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warks, CV8 2LG, call them on 02476 857200 or visit [www.nfyfc.org.uk](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk)