



# Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

For over Fifty years Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs have opened their doors to young people aged between 10 and 26 years. Young Farmers is where you can meet people of your own age, from different backgrounds. You don't have to be involved with farming but an interest in the countryside does help.

Meetings are usually once a week and you take part in the running of the club and help organise the programme of events that take place. As well as activities, which challenge, educate and are fun, you can find both male and female companionship, exchange ideas and information and debate important issues.

Involvement with your own club then leads to the opportunity to progress to county, regional, national and international level. This can include exchange visits in the U.K. and abroad. You can take part in cultural visits and even obtain work abroad.

The YFC organisation can serve as a voice for young people on any issue and as a young peoples organisation it values its contact with adults in the farming community and many other professions. There are thousands of Young Farmers throughout England and Wales who belong to clubs such as those in Berkshire.

In the 1960's there were 520 members in Berkshire's 15 open clubs and 10 school clubs. The boundary changes in the 1970's and the changes in agriculture have resulted in there now being 8 clubs with less than 180 members. However those members are as enthusiastic as ever. Learning new skills in a quiet or energetic way, making decisions about their club, planning the programme and organising the meetings. Young Farmers also has a great social life, not to be missed.

Every year a group of past members and friends either from one club or from all the clubs join together to organise and host the Berkshire Country Fayre. On this day Young Farmers from Bracknell, Bradfield, Maidenhead, Newbury, Shefford and Reading will compete in competitions such as flower arranging, brick laying, cooking, tractor handling and many more. Some of the winners will then compete in a national event in the autumn. It's a day when all Berkshire Young Farmers enjoy friendly rivalry and help each other achieve their best.

Young Farmers have put the Young back into farming. They reach out to achieve, enjoy learning new skills and most of all HAVE FUN!

## CONTACTS AND MEETING PLACES

### Bracknell

**Club Leader:** Andrew Kimber - 01628 670176; **Secretary:** Tom Watts - 0118 988 2353  
**Place:** Hurst Village Hall, Hurst, Nr Twyford; Alternate Tuesdays

### Bradfield

**Club Leader:** Charlie Smith-Plank - 07778 385886; **Chairman:** Georgie Craggs - 07947 734998  
**Place:** Mile House Farm, Theale; Every Wednesday

### Maidenhead

**Secretary:** Louise Rayner - 07876 767086  
**Place:** To be Confirmed

### Newbury Juniors

**Club Leader:** Jaki Evans - 07776 054252  
**Place:** St Francis Hall, Newbury; Alternate Wednesdays

### Newbury Seniors

**Club Leader:** Sandra Whiting - 01635 278206; **Chairman:** Richard Clarke - 07980 881645  
**Place:** St Francis Hall, Newbury; Alternate Wednesdays

### Reading Juniors

**Club Leader:** Janice Mason - 07867 534754  
**Place:** Swallowfield Village Hall; Every Wednesday

### Reading Seniors

**Club Leader:** Caroline Adams - 07876 700506; **Chairman:** Sarah Pepler - 07801 887925  
**Place:** Swallowfield Village Hall; Every Wednesday

### Shefford

**Club Leader:** Diana Whidbourne - 01488 638208; **Secretary:** Vicky Bracey - 01488 638248  
**Place:** Brightwalton Village Hall; Alternate Wednesdays

### COUNTY ORGANISER

Mrs Lydia Bendall

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