

Sign up for  
Defra Farm for  
the Future programme  
Closes 31st October



## THE FARMING LIFE CENTRE

SUPPORTING FARMING & RURAL LIFE  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

# *Rural Newsletter*



*'Winter on the farm' Christmas  
card competition open for entries*

The Farming Life Centre is here to support the farming and rural community within the Peak District National Park.

Website: [www.thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](http://www.thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

Email: [info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

Tel: 01629 810903

# A SEASON OF ADJUSTMENT AND HOPEFULNESS

*In times of change look for the constants to help remain anchored*

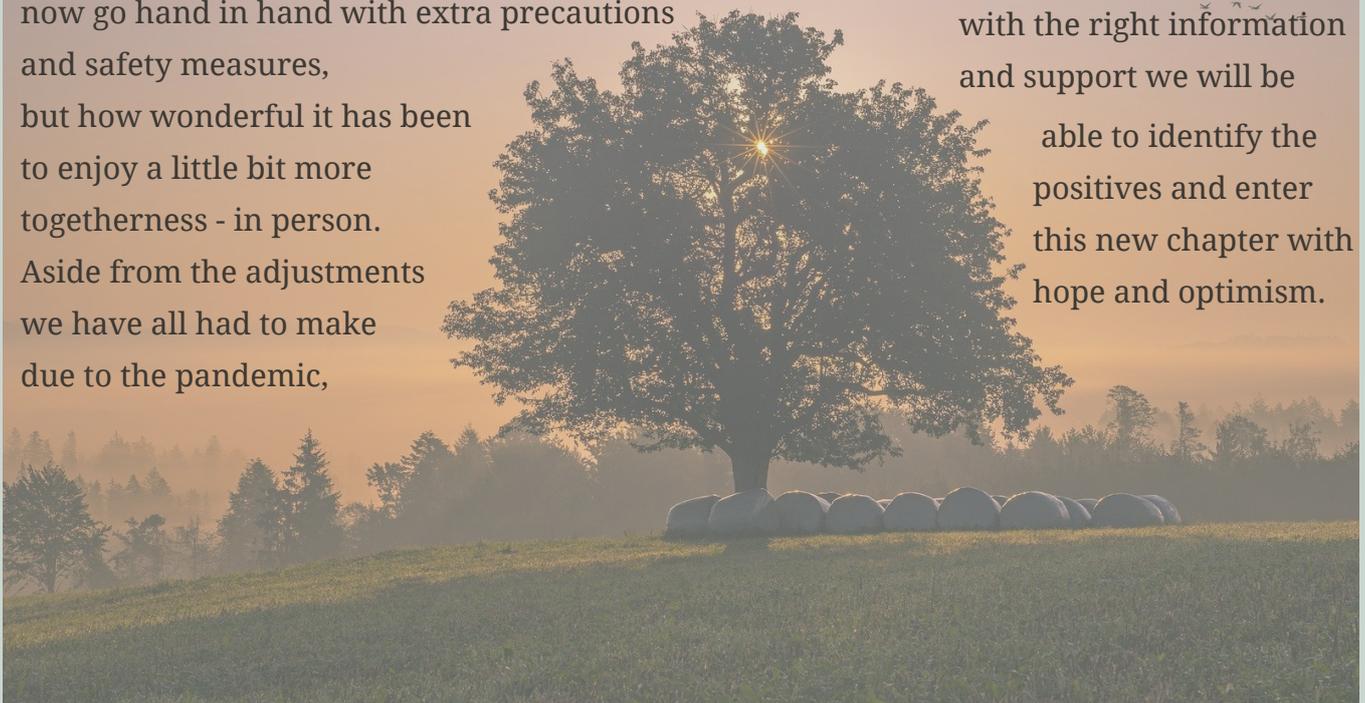
**SUMMER 2021 has gladly brought with it many joyful reunions with friends, family and colleagues thanks to the relaxation of Government Covid-19 restrictions. For us here at The Farming Life Centre this has allowed for our much loved rural social and walking groups to resume - much to everyone's enjoyment!**

It has also given us the chance to replace some of our Zoom and online catch ups (to which we have all become accustomed) with real life, face to face meetings and discussions. Of course, all of these things now go hand in hand with extra precautions and safety measures, but how wonderful it has been to enjoy a little bit more togetherness - in person. Aside from the adjustments we have all had to make due to the pandemic,

the farming industry itself is going through a period of great change as the implications of The Agricultural Transition Plan are rolled out. For some this may feel like an uncertain and worrying time, particularly due to the removal of the BPS payment, on which many of us have come to rely. The Farm for the Future programme, which the Farming Life Centre will deliver in conjunction with Defra, will hopefully help farmers to identify the new opportunities available to them. Change is coming, whether we are ready for it or not, but

with the right information and support we will be

able to identify the positives and enter this new chapter with hope and optimism.



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Farm for the Future
- NFU donation bolsters FLC
- Young'ish' Farmers night success
- Farming in Protected Landscapes grant scheme opens
- What's on



## Farm for the Future

# PREPARE YOUR FARM BUSINESS FOR THE FORTHCOMING CHANGES

*Sign up for our free programme of advice, information and support*

**THE Prince's Countryside Fund has invited The Farming Life Centre to help it deliver the Farm for the Future programme created by DEFRA to help create a better understanding of the policy changes that will affect the future of all farm businesses.**

All farmers are invited to sign up to this free programme of support to help you prepare for this next chapter of farming in the UK.

### Why sign up?

- It's FREE to take part
- Talks on preparing your farm business for the removal of BPS
- Discover environmental opportunities within the ELM schemes that may benefit your farm
- 1 hour free 1:1 expert advice to discuss future

opportunities on your farm

- Additional events and resources
- Meetings in person or online at times to suit you

### When will the programme begin?

We will be hosting welcome meetings in the next few weeks for anyone who would like to take part:

- Monday 1st November ~ Drop in 10.00am – 3.00pm ~ Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre in the conference room Buffet lunch ~ Two presentations at 11.00am and 2.00pm
- Thursday 4th November ~ Farmers Feast Cafe at Bakewell Agricultural Centre ~ Join us at 7.00pm for Pie, peas and a pint
- Wednesday 10th November 7.30pm ~ Welcome meeting via Zoom – link to follow

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### How do I sign up?

To sign up for this programme simply log onto: [www.tfaforms.com/4930228](http://www.tfaforms.com/4930228) and complete the short form ~ Closing date 31st October 2021

If you miss this deadline you will be able to sign up at any of our Welcome Meetings



## NFU DONATION BOLSTERS CHARITY

**We were thrilled to be on the receiving end of a very generous donation and some extra grant funding earlier this summer.**

Reflecting on the unexpected funding Charity Manager Rachel Metcalfe explained: "It is always difficult when applying for funding especially now, when applications for most grants have increased significantly because of Covid-19.

"We have had funding from Derbyshire County Council Public Health Locality Funding, which we will use to develop a Rural Resilience Hub as part of the 'Farm Your Future' Project.

"This will enable farmers, rural residents and local business to access support and services they need to keep their businesses viable and improve their mental health and wellbeing."

Despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic our charity has continued to offer support by keeping in touch with telephone calls, letter writing and online Rural Social Group meetings.

A member of the Ashford Rural Social Group commented: "We are so grateful to Rachel and the team for keeping Farming Life going in what has been a difficult time – we are looking forward when we can all meet safely again."

The Charity has received further support from the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund, which will go towards covering some core costs of the charity and also from the local NFU Branch in Bakewell. Rachel added: "This was quite unexpected and out

of the blue. It will really help to keep the Charity moving forward and ensure future sustainability of our organisation. We now have a real opportunity to maintain and develop new and exciting projects.' NFU Mutual has allocated a £2million national fund to support local frontline charities, which have been affected by the impact of COVID-19.

Trish Winterbottom, Agent at NFU Mutual Bakewell branch said: "I am delighted that our agency put forward The Farming Life Centre to NFU Mutual to receive these funds. We are very grateful for the wonderful work their charity is undertaking to support our community at this difficult time."

The Farming Life Centre is well placed to support Farming and Rural communities to 'restart' in a positive and confident way as 'lockdown' restrictions are eased.

Communities will be very fragile and may not have all the solutions but the services and projects we provide will offer a chance for people to reconnect, share their worries, celebrate successes and help them move on and be more resilient in the future.

If you or someone you know needs support then please get in touch in confidence.

Pictured: (Left to right) Trish Winterbottom (NFU Bakewell Branch) Rachel Metcalfe (Farming Life Centre Charity Manager) and Jackie Fee (NFU

# What's on at The Farming Life Centre

## Join our Rural Social Groups

**OUR regular rural social groups are very popular and take place at three locations within the Peak District at Hartington, Ashford in the Water and Boylestone.**

Each group has a varied programme of regular meetings and is well attended by local farmers and rural residents.

The Hartington group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Hartington village hall. The Ashford in the Water group meets fortnightly at various locations.

Visit the website for further information on the next meeting of your nearest Rural Social Group or call 01629 810903.

## Farm for the Future Welcome Meetings

### Monday 1st November

Drop in 10am - 3pm at Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre (conference room).

Buffet lunch, two presentations at 11am and 2pm

### Thursday 4th November

Join us at 7pm for pie, peas and a pint at the Farmers Feast Cafe at Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre

### Wednesday 10th November

7.30pm Welcome meeting via zoom - for joining details email [info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

## Join our walking group

**WE meet for each walk at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start. Walks are relatively flat and take 60-90 minutes with refreshments and a chat afterwards. All welcome.**

Next walk: Thursday 4th November - Derwent Dams. Meet in the long layby

which is half a mile on from the traffic lights where the Bamford junction meets the A57. The layby is on the left hand side of the A57 before Ashopton Bridge.

An autumnal walk beside Derwent Dams followed by refreshments at the Bird Cafe.

**For more information about our events call 01629 810903 or email [info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)**

# YOUNG'ISH' FARMERS LET THEIR HAIR DOWN

## *Charity night raises £3800 for farming community*

**YOUNGISH farmers from across the Peak District and surrounding area were given the chance to relive their youth at a charity event this summer.**

Organisers Nick and Felicity Gilman of Warslow (Staffordshire) hosted the party night at The Winking Man pub in Upper Hulme on Friday 20th August in support of The Farming Community Network and The Farming Life Centre.

It was intended to emulate the popular Young Farmers Club (YFC) parties which often take place at the same venue, but aimed at older farmers who still enjoy a good night out despite no longer being members of the YFC.

Nick, who comes into contact with lots of farming and rural families through his business N Gilman Livestock Fencing, explained: “When we were in lockdown and I went onto a farm or to suppliers people would comment about wanting a good night out like when they were in YFC. I just thought, why not do something and give back to the farming community?”

“All the people I spoke to were between 25 and 40, it seemed to be an age group that didn’t have any outlets or social events.

“It’s also apparent that this age group is under a lot of stress - stepping up taking family farms and businesses on, as well as providing for their family and trying to get everything just right.”

Due to Covid-19 restrictions being in place until the end of July Nick and his wife Felicity, whose family farm in Longnor, only had a few short weeks to organise the event.

Felicity added: “The farming community really came together, so thank you to everyone for your support. Tickets sold out with more than a week to go and the night turned out to be a success, thankfully.

“Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets, donated prizes and sold tickets for us. People gave very generously.”

An impressive £3800 was raised in total, through advance ticket sales as well as a raffle and auction on the night.

The money has been split equally and donated to two local charities which work to offer support to farming and rural families in the area.

“The two charities, The Farming Life Centre and The Farming Community Network, seemed the perfect charities to donate the money to.

“Not only are they charities we can all use at some point, it was about raising awareness so people know that they could turn to them for help and advice.

“Hopefully we can build on this and keep giving back to the community and help others out,” said Nick.

Responding to the donation, Alison Rickett of The FCN commented: “We would like to say a huge thank you to Nick and Felicity for planning this event and all the hard work they and their team have put into it, and to all those who supported it magnificently on the night.

“The money raised will really make a significant difference to the amount of support we can deliver through FCN within the local area, benefitting many more farming families.”

Rachel Metcalfe, charity manager for the Bakewell based Farming Life Centre, added: After a challenging year for all, the Young‘ish’ Farmers night was a great success and much needed for people to reconnect with their friends and let their hair down.

“The Farming Life Centre is so grateful to have received a very generous donation from proceeds of the event. This will be invaluable in helping us to keep providing our services to support the farming and rural communities across the Peak District.”



# COULD FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES GRANT BENEFIT YOU?

FARMERS in the Peak District National Park are invited to make applications to a new funding scheme called Farming in Protected Landscapes which offers grants of up to £250,000 for eligible proposals.

The scheme will provide funding for one-off projects which allow farmers and land managers in the Peak District National Park to:

- support nature recovery – such as increasing habitats to improve biodiversity or greater connectivity between habitats
- mitigate the impacts of climate change – such as reducing flood risk or storing more carbon
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly and sustainable farm businesses.

You can contact the team of Farm Advisers and Farming in Protected Landscapes Officers to discuss your ideas via:

- Email: [farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01629 816 270
- In person: Drop-in at the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell - Farm Advisers will be available every Monday from 10am to 2pm

Closing date for the first round of applications: 31st January 2022

For more information about the grant scheme or the application process visit the Farmers and land managers section of the Peak District National Park website.

## Have you entered our Christmas card competition?

Send us your picture of 'Winter on the Farm' for a chance to win a luxury hamper PLUS have your image featured on our charity Christmas cards!

Send your entries to:

[info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

Closing date: 31st October 2021

