

RABI[®] NEWS

Celebrating our links with the farming community

Autumn 2022



Queen Elizabeth II
1926 – 2022



John Stanley, RABI chair

Chair's welcome

"I've had close connections with RABI for some time. Firstly, through my wife's work as a trustee for the charity, and through my own experience as a trustee over the past six years.

"Being from a farming family myself, I'm acutely aware of the pressures our community faces. And it's a joy to be able to give something back in my new role as Chair.

"In my 40-plus years of farming, we've never seen such radical change to the agricultural landscape as we do today.

"In the last five years alone we've had Brexit, spiralling input costs, and huge fluctuations in commodity prices. We're heading at speed into revolutionary government policy change, which will see direct subsidies for agriculture taken away. We all know we have to do more, to unfortunately get less, and times are tough.

"Yet, the farming community has always been one of the best to say 'I'm fine' and retain a 'stiff upper lip'. We sit on our tractors all day, and don't speak to anybody.

"However, times are changing, and we're finally seeing more of us within farming beginning to recognise mental health is a huge issue.

"During my time on the council of trustees for RABI, I've been proud to be part of the committee that's introduced the charity's mental health services; in

person, online and text-based professional counselling support.

"We know that if help and support is provided early enough, it can have a real impact on an individual's quality of life. Through RABI's partnerships, trained agricultural counsellors are able to provide rapid support to the farming community as and when people feel ready to talk.

"In many ways, it's unfortunate it's so popular, but we're clearly delivering a service that is very much needed.

"Looking to the future, I hope that we can continue to support farming people through some of the tough choices that might lie ahead for them. During this time of transition, it's important that charities such as RABI are here to support people when they need us most.

"I truly believe we will reach more people than ever before in the coming years, and at the heart of this is communication. It's so important we all understand what RABI is trying to achieve, but also that we listen to you, our community, to understand what's required and how we can best deliver that.

"I look forward to the work ahead."

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John Stanley, RABI chair

Life is full of uncertainties

Queen Elizabeth II served as our Patron for the entirety of her 70-year reign and we are honoured and thankful for the keen interest she took in our work throughout her Patronage.

This issue of RABI News was on the cusp of being printed when the sad news of Her Majesty's passing was announced. It is therefore a little later arriving than usual.

Her Majesty was a remarkable constant in all our

lives and along with the entire farming community, we mourn her loss, whilst celebrating her remarkable life.

I was deeply honoured to be invited to represent RABI at Her Majesty's State Funeral at Westminster Abbey and pay our final respects. I would like to record our sincere thanks to Her Majesty for her unwavering commitment to RABI and farming people. Rest in peace Ma'am.



Alicia Chivers, RABI chief executive

"Although I'm hopeful we are starting to normalise the conversation around reaching out for support, I also recognise that we find ourselves in ever more challenging times.

"The current cost-of-living crisis is significantly impacting people from all backgrounds and unfortunately looks like it's here for some time to come. For those in farming, it's adding yet another pressure to an already stressful landscape.

"RABI's recent cost-of-living response campaigns have been a prompt reaction to provide support to a pressure that is universal. These campaigns have extended our reach significantly and hopefully, this will help to start removing some of the barriers that can make reaching out for support feel like a challenge, rather than a strength.

"It's times like these that reaffirm why RABI is here and why it's so important for us to be raising awareness of how we can help. "It can feel like a tough world out there. But that's why we remain committed to our farming community and to supporting four times as many farming people in the future."

"Over the summer I have been back at events and I have hugely enjoyed spending time with the RABI team and volunteers, and chatting to visitors at our stands up and down the country. It's been an opportunity to meet face-to-face with so many people from our farming communities.

"What has resonated with me most has been the number of people coming to talk to us at the shows about their challenges and taking that courageous first step towards seeking support.

"This is one of the reasons I believe RABI's presence at shows is so important, to provide a place for anyone to take a breath and connect at their own pace. I feel privileged to have held quiet, informal conversations with farming people at every show I have attended.

The RABI Council of Trustees, staff and volunteers share in the grief of the nation at the sad passing of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. As the holder of a Royal Charter, RABI are thankful for her enduring support to our charity and dedication to farming people throughout her reign. We offer our deepest condolences to the Royal Family at this saddest of times.



National news highlights

Shaping the future of farming support

Summer of events

This summer has seen the welcome return of many national and regional events which has given everyone the opportunity to get out and socialise once again. RABI staff and volunteers enjoyed meeting supporters and members of the farming community face-to-face at numerous shows

across England and Wales.

As well as being out and about at shows, RABI continues to ensure that farming people's voices are heard and that the charity's support services are publicised far and wide.



RABI with the Yorkshire Shepherdess at the Great Yorkshire show

Representing farming in Westminster

Following RABI chief executive's invitation to participate in the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into rural mental health in April, Alicia Chivers also represented RABI at the launch of the Inclusive Finance Report at the House of Commons in May.

"Finance and issues surrounding it are such an important area for RABI and the people we support," says Alicia. "We're excited to be part of the conversation around inclusive finance."

Having a seat at the table during these important discussions

is incredibly valuable. The evidence delivered by the Big Farming Survey continues to inform the UK's parliamentary decision makers and ensure the needs of farming people are fully considered.



Alicia Chivers at Westminster

Awards finalists

RABI's support for the farming community has received national recognition in the prestigious Charity Times and Third Sector Awards for 2022. Included in the four awards categories for which the charity is shortlisted, is the highly sought-after Charity of the Year 2022 award.

Celebrating excellence across the not-for-profit sector, these nominations acknowledge the talent, dedication and commitment of everyone at the charity, as RABI continues to develop ambitious initiatives to support farming people.

As well as Charity of the Year, Charity Times shortlisted RABI for the Change Project of the Year award and Supporting Leader of the Year award. The Third Sector Awards shortlisted RABI for the Breakthrough of the Year award. The winners will be announced in September – fingers crossed!



RABI rolls out mental health training

Having the right tools to talk about mental health can make a big difference to us all. Farming-focused training from people who understand the challenges farming people face can help break down barriers to start conversations about mental health.

Following the successful pilot of RABI's mental health training, the charity recently announced this professional, accredited service will now be made available to the wider farming industry.

Training is available in the following formats:

- Two-day mental health first aid training
- One-day mental health training
- Half-day mental health

awareness training

As a benefit of the training, RABI offers two years of unique, follow-up aftercare support. This allows all trainees access to experienced mental health specialist trainers and counsellors, to debrief and make sure no-one shoulders

the responsibility of difficult conversations alone.

Some funded places are available. To find out if your organisation is eligible for a funded place, or to enquire further about training availability and prices, email mentalhealthtraining@rabi.org.uk.



Suzy Deeley at a mental health roundtable with retailers and farming charities

Further support from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

Following last year's generous donation from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust, RABI has again been recognised as a key national charity with an additional grant being received.

RABI is incredibly grateful for such a significant charitable donation, which has been given in recognition of RABI's ongoing support for farming people.

The additional funding will allow RABI to continue making a real difference to individuals and farming families across England

and Wales. Thanks again to the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust for its continued support.



NFU Mutual
Charitable Trust

RABI offered a series of grants to support farming families and individuals, including grants to support energy costs and children returning to school. Turn to page six to find out the impact of those grants.

Helping farming people

Offering support through day-to-day challenges

Farming people, like many across the UK, are facing the realities of dealing with increasing expenses for many everyday necessities. With the cost of living crisis seeing prices soar to the highest level in a decade, RABI has developed a series of grants to support farming families and individuals including grants to support energy costs and children returning to school.

"The relief of knowing I can get all four children's full uniforms is unreal, especially with three now being in high school requiring school branded sportswear."

"Super grateful, a massive help. The children are moving to a local school near the farm and so I've had to buy four new uniforms as we have no hand me downs ready. Couldn't have come at a better time."

"This is a great initiative by RABI supporting so many."

"This grant has had a big impact on relieving the cost of school uniforms. Well done to those who made this happen."

"I made an application for the return to school grant and the lady I spoke to was incredibly patient, helpful, and understanding. The grant has allowed us to clothe the kids for another year at school and relieves some financial pressure."

"It's not just clothes, it's shoes, trainers, bags, and equipment. It all adds up and I hope this helps other families who may also be struggling."



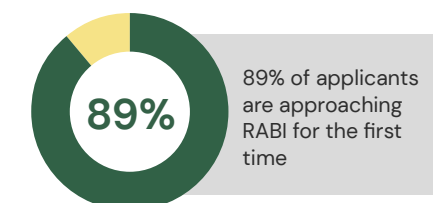
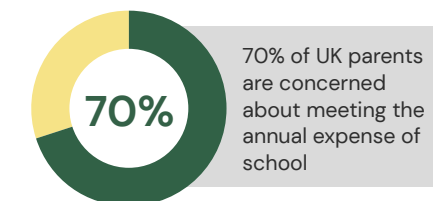
Record breaking support

In response to the unacceptable financial choices many farming families face, RABI introduced a return to school grant. Launched in July, the grant helped cover the average annual cost of school uniforms, P.E. kits and other vital equipment.

"Worryingly, almost 70% of parents across the UK are concerned about meeting the annual expense of school clothes and equipment," explained Caron Whaley, director of services at RABI.

Following an unprecedented uptake of this grant, RABI was delighted to be able to provide £1.5 million of support to farming families.

"This support campaign has introduced RABI to lots of new, working farm people with 89% of the applicants approaching us for the first time. We hope this will have broken down some of the invisible barriers that often make reaching out for help feel like a weakness rather than a strength," continued Caron Whaley.



Supporting the step-up to secondary school

Anonymous testimonial from a return to school grant applicant.

"RABI's return to school grant is a brilliant initiative, which I have used in addition to other services they offer.

"My eldest son is moving up to secondary school this year and the price of uniforms and equipment he needs was a complete shock. Budgeting for these things is another job that falls to me on the farm but with everything costing so

much at the moment I wasn't sure how we would manage it.

"I have two children but know many farming families are often bigger. Several people I know in our local community have three or four children to take care of and get ready for a new school year. It's one less thing for farming parents to worry about at a time where there are so many financial pressures."



Return to school

Suited and booted for the new school year

Anonymous testimonial from a return to school grant applicant.

"Thank you so much, you have no idea how much this grant has helped me. I was already stressing about the cost of returning to school, especially as we have one child starting high school, and the cost of the uniform and equipment is so high. Like so many farmers, we never seem to be eligible for anything as far as the schools and children are concerned, not even school dinners. It's really hard but this grant has

made things so much better for my children. I cannot thank you enough. Even though I felt awkward and almost embarrassed calling, I'm so glad I did.

"I hope the country realises how much it needs our food producers before it's too late. Our children are so keen to follow on farming – I just hope the industry is there for them. It's fantastic work you are doing supporting farmers and their families."



Return to school

Volunteering conference speakers

No nonsense advice from The Black Farmer

Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, better known as The Black Farmer, presented a flamboyant keynote speech at this year's volunteering conference. The charismatic entrepreneur and Devon farmer talked about challenges he has faced throughout his varied and vibrant career.

Wilfred shared three valuable life lessons with the audience, which all focused on the need to be resilient, and adaptable enough to handle the unexpected situations that life can sometimes throw at you.

He started by highlighting the importance of giving way to change. "By accepting the discomfort change may give to you, you are freer to roll with the pain and come out the other side stronger," he said.

Secondly, Emmanuel suggested that we should avoid going into survival mode and embrace

change as it happens. "So often in life we feel too busy to want to change something, no matter how big or small it may seem. However, by embracing change we are better set to face the evolving world around us."

Finally, he delivered a timely reminder. "The only thing that is certain in this world is uncertainty will face us all. Therefore, it's crucial to be able to embrace it and use the support and tools available, such as those from RABI, to help you move forward through uncertain times," Emmanuel concluded.



The Black Farmer with Alicia Chivers

Poor mental health can impact us all

"Poor mental health is like having a broken rib, on the outside you look fine but on the inside every breath you take hurts." This was the poignant message shared by Oliver Edwards, an Exmoor hill farmer and RABI beneficiary, during his talk at the volunteering conference.

In 2019, following a diagnosis of bowel cancer and undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatment on top of the everyday stresses of running the family farm, Oliver realised he was suffering from depression and had hit a wall.

Recognising he needed help, Oliver reached out to RABI who were able to support him. "I was helped massively with advice and by having experienced

people to talk to, who understood my situation," he explained.

Oliver ended his inspiring talk by reminding everyone that even farmers can suffer from poor mental health, but help is at hand.

"It's important to have the support of RABI to break down the barriers that many people in our community have around seeking help for mental health challenges," he said.



Oliver Edwards presenting

Celebrating our volunteers

In recognition of the outstanding contribution made by RABI volunteers, a series of special awards were presented at the 2022 volunteering conference earlier this year. Here, we shine a light on those volunteers who were so deservedly recognised at the conference.

Emyr Wigley

**Gwobr Gwirfoddoli Cymru
(Welsh Volunteering Award)**



Delme Harries, Emyr Wigley, Linda Jones

Emyr was very deservedly awarded with Gwobr Gwirfoddoli Cymru, the Welsh Volunteering Award, Having raised £45,000 for RABI.

Since 2017, Emyr has been holding an annual Old Stackyard Blues open farm and garden event in addition to selling youngstock from his pedigree herd of British Blues to raise money for the charities closest to his heart, RABI and Ovarian Cancer Action. Last year Emyr spotted a window of opportunity despite Covid-19 restrictions and was able to welcome visitors to his farm, who helped him raise an amazing £3,658.

Cilcain YFC

Young Farmer Contribution Award



Dewi Parry, Carol Stephenson, Suzy Deeley

Cilcain Young Farmers Club held a charity ball to raise money for a number of charities including RABI. The event was a success despite having to rearrange the date not just once, but twice, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Rather than being downhearted and cancelling the event, they saw each postponement as an opportunity to sell more tickets and grow the fundraising potential of the ball.

Cumbria car treasure hunt (Cumbria committee)

Innovation Award



Mark Herrod, Nicki Quayle, Alison Wilson, Lauren Codling

The Cumbria committee held a Covid-secure 'car treasure hunt' in 2021 to allow everyone to get

involved. The event was held in Wigton, Cumbria and raised over £500. To develop an all-inclusive event during Covid-19 was truly innovative. It proved to be a very successful event which also raised awareness of RABI.

Bethan Roberts (Merionethshire committee)

Most Resilient Volunteer



Richard Binning and Linda Jones

The Merionethshire committee comprises of a number of elderly members who were apprehensive about meeting face-to-face following the pandemic. Many of the members were unable to access any form of electronic communication so Bethan, as secretary, took it upon herself to keep in touch with members by regularly phoning them up to check in on them. She actively looked after the group to make sure no-one felt isolated and that they were comfortable to resume normal activities.

Celebrating our volunteers

Chris Downes (Shropshire committee)

Biggest Heart Award



Jean Woolliscroft, Chris Downes, Kate Jones

Chris Downes was presented with the Biggest Heart Award. From her infectious enthusiasm in the Shropshire committee to her relentless passion for fundraising and regular promotion of RABI's support services in her Shropshire Star columns, everyone felt that Chris was a truly deserving winner of this award.

Thelma Thorogood (Suffolk committee)

Positivity and Impact Award



Alicia Chivers and Thelma Thorogood

Thelma received the Positivity and Impact Award, which was incredibly well deserved. Her optimistic and innovative approach didn't go unnoticed by the members of the Suffolk committee who nominated her. Thelma adapted her outlook during the struggles of lockdown and encouraged others to embrace seeing difficult circumstances as an opportunity, rather than an obstacle.

Jim Nightingale (East Yorkshire committee)

Most Inspirational Chair



Jo Turnbull, Jim Nightingale, Sally Conner

Jim Nightingale from the East Yorkshire Committee was awarded the title of Most Inspirational Chair. Jim really is an unsung hero, with his boundless energy, enthusiasm, and passion for holding fundraising events. He passionately raises awareness of RABI's work and inspires people from the younger generation to get involved in volunteering too.

Kirsty Johnson (Buckinghamshire committee)

Outstanding Digital Volunteer



Jo Turnbull, Jim Nightingale, Sally Conner

To keep up the festive cheer during lockdown in 2020, the Buckinghamshire vice chair, Kirsty, who previously hated getting in front of a camera, stepped completely out of her comfort zone to host a virtual wreath-making fundraiser from home. The idea was simple, but the impact was huge – it brought people together at a time when many were feeling isolated.

David Spencer (Monmouthshire committee)

Volunteer of the Year



Lynsey McCabe, David Spencer, Linda Jones

The energy and enthusiasm that David Spencer throws into his Monmouthshire Committee role is amazing. He received the Volunteer of the Year 2021 Award for his young-at-heart attitude and unwavering commitment to RABI. David always jumps at

a chance to help out and raise awareness of what RABI does.

If you're local to his area, you can meet him every week at the Rural Support Trailer that he mans at Monmouthshire Livestock Centre. We know he'd love you to stop by for a chat.

Sadie Darke (Devon committee)

Outstanding Contribution to 2021



Pam Wills, Devon committee members, Sue Lister

Sadie was delighted to receive the Outstanding Contribution Award for such a challenging year. The Devon committee feel incredibly lucky to have Sadie as their secretary and showed this gratitude by nominating her for always exceeding expectations and for keeping everyone in the committee informed and included. Sadie constantly makes a huge positive difference to the farming community.

JFC Agri

Community Fundraiser of the Year



David Locke and Kate Jones

JFC Agri, led by their national sales manager Sue Taylor, took on the challenge of a gruelling and hilly bike ride covering 120 miles in just one day. The team took on this admirable challenge to support RABI, the DPJ Foundation and Riding for the Disabled – all charities close to the team's heart. Amazingly, the team have already smashed their four-year target of raising £13,000.

Laura Ractliffe

Regional Manager of the Year



Jeanette Dawson, Laura Ractliffe, Lynsey McCabe

Laura is an inspiration to so many in the farming community and always goes the extra mile to support all the volunteers in her area. She also remains hands-on at the family's dairy and beef farm during her time off. In addition to this, Laura has served as club secretary of Painswick YFC for several years.

Roger Campion (Warwickshire committee)

WOW Award

We'd like to take this opportunity to remember Roger who sadly passed away in July this year. Roger was a truly inspirational man and deservedly won the WOW Award in recognition of the outstanding effort he contributed as a volunteer.

Connecting the community from home, Roger powered on with RABI fundraising throughout lockdown. He single-handedly secured over 60 lots for a silent auction and arranged a virtual BBQ which raised over £22,000 for both RABI and Blood Cancer UK.

Regional manager of South Central, Laura Ractliffe has shared some additional words on Roger's remarkable impact to RABI on page 13.



John Stanley, Heather McCurdie, Sue Moore, Sharon Barnes, Laura Ractliffe

Dates, fundraising and appointments

Dates for the diary

RABI's regional managers and county committee volunteers continue to keep busy with plenty of great upcoming events throughout autumn. From regional shows to tours to bingo and quiz nights, there's something for everyone. We'd love for you to join them and get involved!

Shows and fairs

September

- 24 – Masham Sheep Fair
- 24 – Gransden Show

October

- 5 – The Dairy Show
- 28 – Borderway Agri Expo

November

- 19 & 20 – English Winter Fair
- 28 & 29 – Royal Welsh Winter Fair

County committee events

September

- 25 – Cumbria RABI Car Treasure Hunt
- 27 – Hollyoaks Nursery Tour
- 27 – East Yorkshire Breakfast
- 28 – Cheshire Ploughing Match

October

- 1 – Gloucestershire RABI Harvest Supper
- 8 – Bucks RABI Breakfast
- 12 – Curborough Farm Walk
- 14 – Wiltshire RABI Harvest Supper
- 15 – Elvis Tribute Night, Checkley

- 15 – Suffolk RABI Quiz
- 15 – Carmarthenshire Harvest Supper
- 19 – Carmarthenshire Bingo Night
- 29 – Hampshire RABI Quiz Night
- 30 – Warwickshire RABI Tractor Run

November

- 4 – Worcestershire RABI Dinner
- 16 – Carmarthenshire Bingo Night
- 18 – Ceredigion Dinner

Farming in focus 2023

Our 2023 calendar and ever-popular Christmas cards are now available.

Our thanks go to all the professional agricultural photographers who kindly submitted their stunning images which capture highlights from throughout the farming year.

To order your copy of the 2023 calendar or some fantastically festive cards, follow the steps on the order form enclosed or go to www.rabishop.org.uk and help to spread some merriment and cheer this Christmas.



RABI welcomes new starters

RABI offers a warm welcome to all the new starters at Shaw House.

We would also like to give a warm welcome back to Lucy Bellefontaine, who returns as regional manager for the East following maternity leave.

See page 18 for full list of regional managers (volunteer support) and regional support managers (service delivery)



South Central (Laura Ractliffe)

I'd like to start by remembering Warwickshire RABI chairman Roger Campion, who sadly passed away in July. Roger deservedly received the WOW Award at the Volunteering Conference in May this year. His dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for RABI and the farming community over the 40 years he served was outstanding.

Cirencester Park Estate Farm Walk

Lord Bathurst, alongside farm manager Mike Patch, led a detailed tour of Cirencester Park Estate. Organised by the Gloucestershire RABI county committee, the walk included the polo club, developments and various farming areas. A BBQ finished the evening,

sponsored by Knight Frank. The event raised £605.

Royal Farm Walk

Starting with coffee and concluding with a picnic at Windsor Farm Shop, attendees were led by farm manager Mark Osmond and his team around the Park and Prince Consort Farm. Shorts Agricultural Services and Field Seymour Parkes sponsored the day, organised by Berkshire RABI county committee, raising £2,500.

Buckinghamshire RABI Cream Tea

Held at Creslow Manor by kind permission of the Lear family, this event was back for the seventh time after a two-year break due to Covid-19. The committee made around 180 scones, with the jam and cream sponsored by Teide Engineering. Brian Gregory's red velvet cake won the Men's Bake-Off. Over 200 guests enjoyed delicious cakes, tea and coffee, raising a brilliant total of £2,168.



Buckinghamshire RABI Cream Tea

South East

We've had a busy summer in the South East, including attending the South of England Show and plenty of other exciting events.

Farm Safari

The East Sussex RABI county committee held a splendid safari at Montague Farm, raising over £600. Supporters toured the historic farm, enjoying breath-taking views over the Pevensey Levels to the castle and the sea, and viewing various ecological features that the farm is renowned for. One pasture in particular contained nearly

4,000 flowering Green-winged Orchids and over 20 species of grass. Thank you to the Hole family for kindly hosting us and the committee for organising.

Hampshire autumn fundraising events

The Hampshire RABI county committee have been busy planning their events for the Autumn, with a quiz night and ploughman's supper planned for 29 October. Do come along and test your general knowledge.



Glorious weather for a successful farm safari



North West

(Lauren Codling)

The North West has been a hive of activity this show season. It's great to see support in the region growing and I'm excited to meet more of you over the coming months.

Fun day for farmers

Matty and his team from Windmill Animal Farm, along with support from South Lancashire Rural Crime Team, hosted a family fun day. The event raised an outstanding £5,000 and was hugely successful in informing more people about the support available to farming people. We would like to thank Matty, the local crime team and the machinery companies who all ensured the event ran smoothly.

Award winners

Alongside local shows, Cumbria RABI county committee hosted a business breakfast at Hopes Auction Mart that was very well-attended by local rural

corporates and supporters. Cumbria also won the 'Innovation Award' at the RABI volunteering conference for their Covid-safe car treasure hunt in 2021, due to happen again mid-September.



Sean Dalby, Paddy Stewart, Matty Slinger, Helen Williams at Windmill Animal Farm



North East

(Sally Conner)

Attending events and listening to the enthusiasm of our volunteers always makes me smile and summer has been no exception. It's been a flurry of activity, including our annual golf day in East Yorkshire, where the sun always seems to shine!

We have been present at many shows including Beef Expo, Newby Hall Tractor Fest, Great Yorkshire Show, Driffield Show and Ryedale Show. All have been good fun and successful. I even had the honour of accepting a cheque of £5,200 from Helen Healy, who wanted to give something back after receiving help from RABI.

As part of my role, I was able to speak to the farming community about our work at an NFU Health & Safety workshop in Northumberland – so wonderful to meet you all!

It's always a lovely surprise when an unexpected supporter donates to us, so I would like to thank all the individuals and groups who have raised funds for us.



Helen and her family meeting Sally Conner, East Yorkshires county committee member Nicky Hepworth, Ag Soc chair Fenalla Gilliat and her husband Ian



North Wales

(Dewi Parry)

It's been an exciting summer across North Wales.

After winning the Best Welsh RABI Supporter Award at the Volunteering Conference, Emyr Wigley held his annual open garden alongside his Old Stackyard Blues herd and a lovely afternoon tea. Thank you Emyr for hosting such a great day.

It was brilliant to be back at the Royal Welsh Show, with Clwyd as the show's feature county. Newly elected chair of Clwyd's RABI committee, Joanne Strange, joined us and the many invaluable volunteers on the stand.

At the Denbighshire and Flintshire show, our 'pull a nail from a bale' was a great success in garnering interest in RABI's work.

RABI has been well supported elsewhere in North Wales too. As

well as being a chosen charity of the Welsh National Tractor Road Run, a night organised by Anglesey YFC raised awareness and money for farming support charities. Diolch i pawb.



Emyr Wigley's annual open garden



Wales

(Linda Jones)

There have been many fantastic events with our county committees this summer.

Carmarthenshire Hog Roast

The Carmarthenshire RABI county committee held a well-attended hog roast at Cwm Country Club, Trawsmawr. A raffle and auction followed the delicious hog roast. Prizes included Welsh Rugby Union tickets, hedge-trimming and 50 hay bales. The event raised a fantastic £3,500.

Brecon & Radnor Spring Social

Guests joined the Brecon & Radnor RABI county committee at Rhosgoch Golf & Leisure Club for a delightful spring social. As well as a meal, raffle and auction, guests enjoyed stories told by local raconteur Alan Grosvenor and danced to the band, The Two of Us. The event raised over £1,145.

Merionethshire Breakfast

Over 60 people attended the Merionethshire RABI county committee's farmhouse breakfast. Guests enjoyed tasty local food, expertly cooked by Sian and assisted by RABI volunteers. The morning raised £1,125. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone that contributed to the event.



Guests at the Merionethshire breakfast event



Central (Bekah Anstey)

What a summer we have had!

Northamptonshire golf day

The Brampton Heath Golf Club hosted the region's biggest fundraiser yet, with their RABI golf day raising a fantastic £35,947! A huge thanks to all of our supporters, William and Jules Rice of Brampton Heath and Kate Thompson of Fisher German.

Bluebell Ride

Over 150 riders joined the Leicestershire RABI county committee to ride through the bluebells of Merevale Hall and parkland, raising £2,519. Huge thanks to Sir William Dugdale and the organisers, especially Ann Bodycote and her team.

Oxton Farm Walk

Organised by the Nottinghamshire RABI county committee, over 60 guests enjoyed a private tour by Richard Cross, Farmers Weekly Farm Manager of the Year award finalist. The evening closed with a raffle and excellent food.

Special mention

The Derbyshire RABI county committee worked diligently this year. They organised a wide range of events, including one at Hanson Auctioneers that raised a fantastic £1,100!



Joanne Wright from Ella Cotts, Kate Thompson from Fisher German and Northamptonshire chair, David Hutchinson



East (Lucy Bellefontaine)

It's been a very lively summer across the East.

Cambridge

Christine and Stuart Bish showcased their flour milling at the open farm weekend in Cambridge. Their granddaughter, Pippa, was featured on our website as one of RABI's youngest and most enthusiastic volunteers.

Essex

The Essex RABI county committee had several fantastic summer events. A beautiful afternoon tea raised over £3,000 and their golf day raised almost £1,000. Around

120 participants at the June clay shoot raised over £2,000.

Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire RABI county committee held their first ever event – a delightful afternoon tea at Redbournbury Mill. 50 attendees helped raise £1,125.

Norfolk

Princess Anne attended the Royal Norfolk Show, which had a fantastic turnout. RABI was delighted to achieve first place in the Bonds Challenge Award as the best charity stand.

Suffolk

90 supporters attended the Suffolk RABI county committee's spring lunch, raising well over £3,000. The committee also held a brilliant golf day, raising almost £2,000.



Essex clay shoot winning team



West Midlands (Kate Jones)

I would like to start by expressing my sadness following the loss of Staffordshire committee member, Robert Collier. He worked tirelessly for so many organisations, particularly RABI, and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Staffordshire Show

The Staffordshire show was well supported. I thanked Danni Mulligan for the £6,379 donation from the Stone branch allocation of NFU Mutual's Agency Giving Fund.



Danni Mulligan and Kate Jones

Shropshire Dinner

350 guests joined the Yorkshire Shepherdess, Amanda Owen, at a Shropshire RABI county committee dinner. The evening included an insight into Amanda's life and a promise auction led by David Giles. Thanks to Amanda, David and all supporters who helped raise over £22,500.

Farm Walks

These are always popular events! In Shropshire, supporters visited PDM Produce UK Ltd to view lettuce production and Wyndford Wagyu beef rearing. Meanwhile, Staffordshire supporters toured Sheepwash Farm, Lichfield.

Garden Party

Over 50 people gathered at Eaton Mascott Hall for a glorious garden party and raffle by kind permission of Mr W Blum Gentilomo. Many thanks to everyone who baked cakes, helped run the event and raised over £690.



Amanda Owen and Kate Jones

South West

It was wonderful to return to shows and social events in the South West this summer.

Devon County Show

Visitors and participants alike enjoyed an action-packed three days at the Devon County Show, where RABI was show charity. Volunteers from the Devon RABI county committee joined staff on the stand to engage with attendees and members of the farming community from across the region.

Royal Cornwall Show

RABI staff and the Cornwall RABI county committee were delighted to return to the Royal Cornwall Show. Alongside engaging with the local farming community, the team recognised long-time volunteer Dick Twinney for his outstanding contributions to RABI.

Having exhibited at the show for 30 years, Dick started volunteering on the RABI stand in 2010. Dick also donates an original painting to the raffle every year.

The RABI annual auction rounded off the show. Run by the committee with the support of Cornish Mutual, the auction raised over £11,000.



Dick Twinney was recognised for his outstanding contributions to RABI

Regional managers

RABI’s team of regional managers are your local point of contact and work closely with our county committee network and volunteers to organise fundraising events and raise awareness of the charity’s support for farming communities.

For fundraising enquiries email volunteering@rabi.org.uk



Lauren Codling – North West
Regions covered: Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire
Email: Lauren.Codling@rabi.org.uk



Kate Jones – West Midlands
Regions covered: Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire
Email: Kate.Jones@rabi.org.uk



Sally Conner – North East
Regions covered: Co Durham, East Yorkshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire
Email: Sally.Conner@rabi.org.uk



Lucy Bellefontaine – East
Regions covered: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk
Email: Lucy.Bellefontaine@rabi.org.uk



Dewi Parry – North Wales
Regions covered: Anglesey, Caernarfon (Gwynedd), Conwy, Clwyd (Flint/Denbighshire), Montgomeryshire
Email: Dewi.Parry@rabi.org.uk



Vacant – South West
Regions covered: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset
Email: volunteering@rabi.org.uk



Linda Jones – Wales
Regions covered: Brecon & Radnor, Camarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Glamorgan, Merionethshire, Monmouthshire
Email: Linda.Jones@rabi.org.uk



Laura Ractliffe – South Central
Regions covered: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire
Email: Laura.Ractliffe@rabi.org.uk



Bekah Anstey – Central
Regions covered: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland
Email: Bekah.Anstey@rabi.org.uk



Vacant – South East
Regions covered: East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex
Email: volunteering@rabi.org.uk

Service delivery team

RABI’s service delivery team provides support and guidance to new referrals and beneficiaries, ensuring they receive the relevant help, grants and benefits available to them and their unique circumstances.



Jackie Attfield
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland



Caroline Harrison
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Staffordshire, Telford (Shropshire), Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire



Gillian Carr
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Co Durham, East Yorkshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire



Del Hicks
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire



Zoe Cauter-Clarke
Regional support manager
Remote support



Mel Jones
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Anglesey, Caernarfon, Conwy, Clwyd, Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire, Shropshire



Jackie Clegg
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, West Yorkshire



Laura Parrott
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Berkshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, London, Surrey, West Sussex



Nikki Cochran
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk



Gemma Raia
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Derbyshire and remote support



Claire Crichard
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Brecon & Radnor, Gloucestershire (North and South), Herefordshire, Monmouthshire




Elonwy Williams
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Glamorgan, Pembrokeshire



Lindsay Derbyshire
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Devon and Cornwall



Louise Wilkinson
Regional support manager
Regions covered: Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire



**Farming can be tough.
Talking to someone who
understands can help.**

- Referral to a professional counsellor within 24 hours of a call
- Fast, free and confidential
- Face-to-face, by telephone or video call

**Call our free, confidential 24/7 helpline
0800 188 4444 | www.rabi.org.uk**