


RABI[®] NEWS

Celebrating our links with the farming community

Summer 2023



Congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their Majesties' coronation.

24/7 helpline: 0800 188 4444
www.rabi.org.uk

Chair’s welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of RABI News for 2023! As the season continues to unfold with an exciting schedule, it’s hard to believe that it’s already my first anniversary as Chair.



One of my standout moments from the past 12 months was Emyr Wigley’s cattle sale at Shrewsbury Market in March. Emyr has been a generous donor for years, and at the sale I witnessed many members of the farming community and RABI staff coming together to show their support of everything that Emyr has achieved. It was a heart-warming experience. The regional RABI committee held a raffle, while others contributed their time and services free of charge. It was humbling to witness everyone working towards a common goal of raising funds to support our charity. You can read more about Emyr on page 15.

More recently, it was a privilege to meet so many supporters at the RABI Conference at the end of May. We heard from inspiring speakers, learning more about the reality of the sector and how we’ve been able to help. Being able to get together with so many of our volunteers to say thank you was a truly memorable occasion.

Looking ahead to the summer months, my wife and I are excited to show our Blackbrook Longhorns at six upcoming events, including the Great Yorkshire Show and Three Counties Show. Many of you will know that breeding livestock is a privilege and a labour of love, beginning with the careful selection of which animals to pair.

Showing animals at events is not just about competition. It’s about being part of a larger community, making friends and sharing in the joys and challenges of our collective experiences.

It takes years of dedication and hard work to achieve, but when your peers recognise the quality of the animals, it’s a very special feeling. Good luck to fellow participants this season!

Another area that has involved preparation and careful planning is the development and launch of our 2023 Return to School campaign. Building on the success of last year, when we provided £1.5m

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RABI Enquiries – 01865 724931

in grants to help four thousand people, we are excited to introduce this targeted support for farming families at a time when the cost of living is impacting more people.

We’re hoping to reach those who are not yet familiar with RABI and call on our supporters and volunteers to help raise awareness over the coming weeks.


John Stanley, RABI chair

Alicia Chivers’ big picture

Reflecting on what remains an undeniably challenging time for so many farming people, I realise that I am, at heart, an optimist. My outlook is perhaps best encapsulated by the Winston Churchill quote, “an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”



I sense a gradual, but important shift in attitudes when it comes to farming people feeling more comfortable accessing support. None of us is indestructible. The reality is that we are all affected by difficulties and challenges.

I suspect however that many of us still have invisible barriers that make reaching out for help feel like a weakness rather than a strength. Our goal at RABI is to try to help everyone feel more comfortable to take that courageous and positive first step. We must all keep breaking down the barriers.

Last year’s Return to School campaign played an important part in helping to do just this, as well as providing much needed financial support to around 4,000 people. With almost 90% of grants being awarded to farming families with no previous contact with the charity, we have continued to work with many of these families subsequently.

With the cost-of-living crisis continuing, we will be running a second Return to School campaign this year. You can read more about the campaign on page 7.

Six months into 2023 and RABI continues to participate in important conversations about supporting the mental wellbeing of farming people. In January, I was fortunate to attend the

Oxford Farming Conference, where RABI’s latest mental health services video was unveiled.

Oliver, who appears in the film, and farms with his family on Exmoor, is an inspiration to me, representing the true spirit of optimism.

As he says in the video: “The ripple effect of keeping problems to yourself can be huge.”

I recommend that we all make time to follow his straightforward advice of popping in to see our neighbours, putting the kettle on and sitting down to have a proper chat. Without talking openly to each other, it can be easy to feel isolated and for troubles to escalate.

Such a simple act really can make the difference.

Please remember, RABI is always here for you. Our team can be reached 24/7 on our freephone helpline: 0800 188 4444.

Starting conversations

The farming King

As a passionate advocate for British farming, King Charles III has consistently demonstrated his support for farming people and his enduring commitment to developing greater resilience across our rural communities. Our hearty congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the historic occasion of their Majesties’ coronation.



Image courtesy of the Prince’s Countryside Fund

National news highlights

Shaping the future of farming support.

Conferences kick start the year



Caron Whaley presenting at ORFC

The new year began with RABI attending the two annual farming conferences in Oxford. Both events provided a forum for lively debate, where current financial pressures were a recurring theme.

Director of services Caron Whaley joined a panel discussion entitled 'Can farming and food traders weather the economic

storm' at the Oxford Real Farming Conference. Caron provided a timely reminder of the poor mental wellbeing, resulting from the various stressors faced by farming people, reported in RABI's Big Farming Survey.

At the OFC, RABI unveiled its latest video. The short film features Exmoor farmer Oliver

Edwards and highlights the importance of normalising conversations about mental health, as well as information about RABI's accredited mental health training courses.

North Wales regional manager Dewi Parry was awarded the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Oxford Farming Conference Bursary to attend this year's event. Not only did he meet the Princess Royal, Dewi also took the opportunity to network with other delegates.

"One of the messages that resonated most with me was the importance of collaboration and openness, especially if farming is to achieve the positive and necessary change so many of us need going forward," Dewi said.

Popular TV show inspires support for farmers

The public gave an overwhelming response to the bovine TB challenges as highlighted by dairy farmer, Emma Ledbury in an episode of Clarkson's Farm 2.

The programme, broadcast in February, led fundraiser Rebecca Poole to set up a Go Fund Me page after seeing Emma's plight. To date her campaign has raised over £40,000.

After paying to badger-proof one of her sheds, Emma kindly decided to donate the remainder

of the contributions to RABI.

As a nurse unconnected to farming, Rebecca says the TV programme opened her eyes to the difficulties facing the sector.

"It's a pleasure to raise money for such a worthwhile cause. We need our farmers and they need our support. [RABI's] survey stats are appalling to read and need highlighting at the highest levels," said Rebecca.

It is an incredible donation, which will help the charity to

help even more farming people. Thank you to Emma, Rebecca and everyone who has donated.



Bovine TB can be devastating

RABI at the Palace

On 3 May, ahead of King Charles III Coronation, four of the RABI team were honoured to attend a Royal Garden Party hosted by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace. In their words, it was "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Kim Claxton, our national volunteering manager, was joined by Lauren Codling, regional manager, and regional support managers Gemma Lee and Lindsay Derbyshire.

The invitations were kindly issued by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester – RABI's president. The team were thrilled to have chance to express their gratitude to him personally at the garden party.

"It was a real privilege to meet the Duke and discuss the many ways in which we support our farming community with a person-centred approach," says Lindsay.



RABI team at Buckingham Palace

Policymakers reference RABI's survey

RABI has welcomed the recommendations put forward by the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee in the inquiry into poor mental health in rural communities.

The report uses much of RABI's ground-breaking insights, gained from over 15,000 responses to the charity's Big Farming Survey. This follows Dr Luke Evans MP referencing the survey's findings in parliament in March.

"We were delighted to be able to provide wide-ranging and unequivocal evidence to help policymakers understand the realistic picture of the everyday mental health pressures on farming people," says Alicia Chivers. "We welcome the opportunity to continue supporting policymakers on the development and delivery of greater proactive support and training that will benefit farming people."

Women in Food & Farming hear from RABI

Head of partnerships Suzy Deeley led a valuable discussion on mental health across the agricultural sector at a Women in Food & Farming event held at Savills' headquarters in London.

"It was great to meet an audience so receptive to having a conversation around mental health and wellbeing," says Suzy. "Many of the organisations involved have invested in mental health training for their teams, who were keen to learn how they can help farming people access support."



Suzy Deeley at Women in Food & Farming

RABI reports record support levels in 2022

Over two and a half times as many members of the farming community received support from RABI last year in comparison to 2021. Despite the increase in people receiving support, there is still much more that can be done to improve the wellbeing of the farming community.

"The uptake of professional counselling suggests a sizeable need in our community for wraparound wellbeing services that complement the financial help and guidance we provide," says Caron Whaley, director of services. "We want to continue encouraging people to access early, preventative wellbeing support."

In 2022
RABI supported
X 2.5
more people

Helping farming people

Delivering holistic support

RABI offers comprehensive support to the entire farming community including working, retired and non-working farming people who worked in the sector for more than two years.

RABI's approach is tailored to the individual, with a focus on understanding the specific issues they face.

Whether financial, practical or emotional factors or combination of those – RABI works to identify the problem's root cause and support farming people to find solutions.

Managers extend their learning

In February, RABI service delivery managers Helen Sisk and Chloe Rigler attended the National Suicide Prevention Alliance Conference.

Prof. Sir Louis Appleby gave a powerful presentation on the emerging mental health concerns in rural communities.

RABI continues to work collaboratively across the sector, to help farming people access the right support and change lives for the better.

Beneficiary story: RABI helps struggling poultry contractor

Taken into foster care at the age of three, it was Mark Grant's foster family who inspired his love of farming. He went on to run his own specialised pressure cleaning business for the poultry sector. For much of his adult life, Mark has suffered with a debilitating health condition, which began limiting the work he could do.

In November 2022, Mark was preparing to sell his business when the outbreak of avian influenza led to its immediate closure by Defra.

"I felt like 20 years of my life went down the drain overnight. Everything I worked so hard for disappeared. The business was gone. I couldn't pay my bills. I was facing the prospect of being evicted in ten days," he says.

Without an income, Mark was unable to keep up with his mortgage repayments. He didn't know where to turn. Thankfully, the NFU put him in touch with RABI.

"I'm not one for talking about my problems, but RABI has helped me sort everything out. I'm dyslexic

and was feeling overwhelmed with paperwork. They have worked through everything; researching different claims and exploring what help is out there for me," he adds.

RABI facilitated the process of securing Mark alternative housing and provided him with a short-term financial grant to cover daily living essentials.

"My generation were taught to keep our feelings to ourselves. But my experience has shown me not to bury your head in the sand. You need to talk. Let people know your situation and help you out. The help I've received has been fantastic and feel that now I have the support from RABI, things are improving," Mark concludes.



Mark was recently interviewed on BBC Radio 4

Return to School campaign launches for 2023



Thousands of farming families will benefit from Return to School funding

Following the success of RABI's Return to School campaign in 2022 and a continuing need for support, confirmed by on the ground sector-wide research, RABI has launched a further Return to School campaign aimed at reaching more families in need.

The Return to School 2023 grant offers a fixed sum of £250 per household to farming families with school age children, who are in need of support to provide uniform and equipment ahead of the start of term in September 2023.

"Evidence suggests the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has worsened the financial position for many farming people," says Caron Whaley, RABI director of services.

"As a result, we've launched a new Return to School campaign that is aimed at supporting one of the most 'at risk' age groups identified by the Big Farming Survey, with more than 80% of last year's applicants aged between 35-45."

The campaign, launched on 5 June 2023, has a fixed budget of £500,000. Applications

To apply for funding visit:

rabi.org.uk/returntoschool

This year Return to School will run in two phases, each of 1,000 grants:

Phase 1: 5 – 30 June 2023

Phase 2: 17 July – 25 August 2023 (if budget cap is not reached by this date)

The service delivery team will work with applicants to establish eligibility for the grant.

will be open to parents and caregivers of children who will be returning to or starting school from Reception class to Year 11.

"Asking for help should be seen as a strength and not a weakness. We want to encourage all farming families to apply for the children in their care," adds Caron.

"This is why this year's grants have been set at £250, to ensure we can directly reach as many families as possible."

There's always RABI

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking to a farming-focused support professional who can offer free, confidential information, advice and guidance, then please don't hesitate to contact RABI.

RABI's Click & Chat mental wellbeing platform is available from any device at: explore.kooth.com/rabi/

or Call the 24/7 confidential helpline: 0800 188 4444



Making the initial call can be tough. But we're here to listen.

Listen to RABI interviewed on Defra's Farming Advice Service podcast

Regional support manager, Caroline Harrison, explains why farming-focused support services are so vital, and where people can turn to for a range of wellbeing support. Find out more here:

farmingadvice.service.org.uk/resources/mental-health-farming



Partnerships

Great British Beef Week is 'naturally delicious'

RABI's longstanding relationship with Ladies in Beef continued as the chosen charity partner for Great British Beef Week, which took place 23–30 April.

The theme of this year's awareness week was 'naturally delicious', celebrating the world-renowned quality and sustainability of British beef.

RABI proudly supported this fantastic initiative with a series of fundraising dinners. Read more about [#GBBW2023](#) events on our regional news pages.



Great British Beef Week

YANA passes baton to RABI for mental health support in Worcestershire

RABI and YANA have agreed to transition support services in Worcestershire, following YANA's decision to scale back its work in the county to focus on providing support in East Anglia.

Head of partnerships Suzy Deeley has worked closely with the

YANA team to ensure farming people can seamlessly access free, confidential support.

"Any further calls to YANA's helpline made from Worcestershire will be redirected, if appropriate and with the caller's permission, to RABI," she said.



YANA mental health support

NFU Conference

Members of the farming community gathered at the ICC, Birmingham, in February for the annual NFU Conference, where RABI had a stand.

RABI chief executive Alicia Chivers says having a presence at one of the biggest events in the farming calendar facilitated important discussions with farmers, NFU staff and the agricultural community.

"We need to maximise on opportunities where we can speak directly to farming people," she says.



RABI at NFU Conference

Normalising the conversation

RABI's accredited mental health training courses are helping equip people with the skills to start talking about their wellbeing more easily. Training is provided by professionals and comes with aftercare support.

Farming-focused training can break down barriers and help ensure people who need further support know what is available and how to access it.

If your work takes you out on farm, or has you regularly speaking with farmers, please consider undertaking RABI's training. To find out more, email mentalhealthtraining@rabi.org.uk

"The training was excellent, we found it really interesting and it made us all think about how we handle situations."

**Giles Simpson,
Pearce Seeds**



Fundraising

Q&A with Paul Pirie

Paul joined RABI's senior leadership team in November 2022 as head of fundraising.

Why is fundraising so important to RABI?

Our aim by 2030 is to support ten times as many farming people as we do today. We're at a pivotal point on this journey. To achieve this ambitious growth, our service delivery levels will need to expand significantly and in turn we must build and deliver a fundraising strategy that generates significant funds across various income streams.

My role will be to craft and implement a fundraising strategy that builds on the current good work we already do in raising funds. Introducing evidenced-based processes, systems and additional income streams will help us achieve this goal.

What skills do you bring to the charity?

As a marketer, I have many strings to my bow! However, I have a rooted empathy for people and communities that are disadvantaged.

Having over thirty years of director-level experience in fundraising, marketing and communications, together with business development, means I'm able to embrace RABI's ambitions and support the wider team. It is an exciting challenge.

What's your background before joining RABI?

I spent 21 years at the Salvation Army running a range of projects

including their international Fair Trade programme, which focused on connecting international communities and developing social enterprise programmes. After this, I led the business development function of ICAN, a children's communication charity, and more recently pioneered a new strategic direction for the Film and TV Charity, which like RABI is a benevolent fund.

What made you want to work for the charity?

I am driven to end deprivation and poverty, which are often the underlying cause of family breakdowns and ill mental health. We face challenging times, with the most vulnerable being hit the hardest. Therefore, RABI has a vital part to play in supporting the wellbeing of farming people.

Since joining, what have been our standout moments?

On a recent visit to a farmer in Devon with Lindsay Derbyshire, our South West regional support manager, I saw first hand how resilient farming people are despite the challenges they face every day. It was a vital part of my orientation, which highlighted how important our front line work is and how professional our team are. They are not only compassionate but provide quality advice and practical support with real life changing aftercare.

When I speak to potential funders I can share real life examples of how we support the farming community – authenticity is essential when

conveying such messages. Such an experience helps keep my eyes firmly fixed on the reality of the needs of farming people.

Oh, and also having dinner with 1,500 farmers at the NFU Conference. It was great to have some insightful conversations, as well as eat some great food grown and nurtured by our farmers!

What are your future plans for RABI's fundraising?

Currently, we are in the midst of a research and development phase. Over the coming months, we will put the building blocks in place that will, over time, yield significant funds from a varied source of income streams. Watch this space!



Paul Pirie RABI head of fundraising

RABI Conference

On Wednesday 24 May RABI was pleased to bring together over 130 volunteers, Trustees and members of staff for a one-day event. RABI chair John Stanley welcomed attendees before Alicia Chivers provided an update on the charity's progress. Delegates then heard from a range of people – including Thomas Baines-Sizeland, Norfolk county committee chair and two of the regional support team – about the importance of their work with farming people. There was also a premier of the new 2023 RABI video “We are RABI”.

After lunch the RABI Awards were presented. The 2023 Winners are:

Emyr Wigley Outstanding Contribution Award
Winner – Philip Wynn, Chair of LEAF & Deputy Master of Worshipful Company of Farmers

Philip is a wellbeing champion for farming people as well as a staunch supporter of RABI's work to understand and support our agricultural community.

Philip has worked tirelessly to further understanding of the toll that living with constant uncertainty can place on farming people. As Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, Philip initiated the Company's Health and Wellbeing Forum and swiftly commissioned the first dedicated research into health and wellbeing within farming.

Achieving over 15,500 responses to our Big Farming Survey was in no small part driven by Philip's advocacy of our research across his extensive network. Bringing influence, guidance and enthusiasm,

he remains unequivocal in backing the development of greater tools and services to increase the resilience of farming people. We are very grateful for Philip's support of our work and advocacy for all those involved in farming.

Volunteer of the Year (voted by county chairs)
Winner – Emma Hamer, Worcestershire

Emma's fresh ideas and connections have been a magnificent addition to the committee as well as working in her role as County Advisor for Worcestershire NFU.

Over 2022 she spoke to several groups and organisations, and in lieu of speaker's fees, £1000 was donated to RABI. Her hours of dedication recently led to the first successful RABI quiz in the county, raising over £1100 and just as importantly attracted new, younger supporters and volunteers into the fold.

Community Contribution
Winner – Nick Bragg, Somerset

Nick has led many fundraising initiatives in support of RABI. For the last 6 years he has held a fundraising dinner, bringing together the great and the good of Somerset and raising £6,500 for the charity. And if fundraising and big events weren't enough, Nick has now stepped up as Somerset Committee Chair!

Innovation Award
Winner – Montgomeryshire committee.

Tasked with how to get the RABI

message to more farmers, the committee worked with Welshpool Livestock Sales to ask auctioneers to put a RABI leaflet in with every cheque they sent out to vendors. Thanks to a small, but brilliant, bit of thinking, hundreds of farmers who may not have heard about RABI now had our details in their hand.

Most Resilient Award
Winner – Carolyn Gay, Norfolk

Carolyn has been part of Norfolk's committee for well over a decade. Her energy, enthusiasm and positivity has never waned over this time, and has led to the committee staging lots of successful events. Carolyn can often be found organising the catering and arriving at events with a boot full of raffle prizes gleaned from the many contacts she has!

YFC or Young Person Award
Winner – Tritlington YFC, represented by Ellie Burn

Tritlington YFC Steak and Strawberries is an annual event, and a highlight of the Northumberland YFC calendar. Last year the event was attended by 224 people raising a total income of approx. £19k, shared between RABI and another local charity. Great work Ellie and the team!

Young Hero Award
Winner – Oscar Andrews, West Midlands

RABI stepped in to support Amy Andrews and her family when she lost her mum just days after her son Oscar's first birthday. Amy's dad stepped in and became the perfect grandad and farming inspiration for young Oscar. Sadly, last year

grandad Dennis passed away. Oscar, aged 8 at the time, decided to do something in memory. In December he walked 30 miles and said, “Grandad can no longer walk the land, but I can, and will do it for him.” And that's what Oscar did, smashing his £200 target and raising over £700 for RABI, and spreading awareness of us all the while. An absolute hero and a worthy winner of our special Young Hero Award.



Guests enjoy the sunshine at the RABI Conference



Alicia Chivers and Philip Wynn



Some of RABI's 2023 award winners

Volunteering news

Valuing our volunteers

As demonstrated by The Big Help Out initiated as part of His Majesty King Charles III's coronation celebrations, volunteering is a wonderful thing!

Volunteering is a great way to meet friends, feel part of the community and make a real difference.

Whilst lots of people stepped forward to volunteer during Covid, post-pandemic numbers have dipped nationally and initiatives such as The Big Help Out are trying to make it easier for people to give their time.

RABI's volunteers and county committees play a tremendous role raising awareness of the charity's work and highlighting the difference dedicated support can make to those in farming. Volunteers are at the heart of a huge range of events – bringing the local community together and generating much needed funds. This support is invaluable.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering, or have ideas on different ways people could get involved, email volunteering@rabi.org.uk

New appointment to champion volunteers

RABI is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Mark Crosby as head of volunteering at RABI. Mark brings over 25 years of experience from across the charity sector in volunteer management and community engagement.

“We're so thankful for the instrumental role our volunteers play,” says Mark. “They are a powerful force for good in helping to raise greater local awareness of RABI's support and making vital social connections in their farming communities.”

Over the next few months Mark will be spending time getting to know the county committees, understanding what they do and the needs of the farming community.

“It's important we listen to and work with our existing volunteers to help identify ways for more people to get involved.”



Mark Crosby, head of volunteering

Harvest Appeal

Please support our Harvest Appeal by downloading our fundraising pack and ideas. Ideal for community groups, churches and societies or just for yourself, family and friends. Raise funds to support our farming community.

We are grateful to the Bishop of Exeter, the Church of England's spokesperson in the Lords on rural affairs, in providing a focus for our thoughts for Harvest.

rabi.org.uk/harvest | fundraising@rabi.org.uk | 01865 724 931

Dates for the diary

Show season is back again with plenty to get involved in across the country. Our staff and volunteers are gearing up to attend over 40 national, regional and trade shows as well as planning numerous events and fundraisers. We would love to see you this summer!

Shows

June

- 1 Suffolk Show
- 1-3 Royal Bath & West Show
- 8-10 Royal Cornwall Show
- 9-11 South of England Show
- 13-14 Cereals
- 16-18 Royal Three Counties Show
- 20-21 Royal Cheshire Show
- 21-22 Lincolnshire Show
- 25 Blaston Show
- 28-29 Groundswell
- 28-29 Royal Norfolk Show

July

- 1 Hanbury Show
- 12 Fruit Focus
- 11-14 The Great Yorkshire Show
- 15 Penrith Show
- 19 Drifffield Show
- 22 Mid Devon Show
- 21-23 Royal Lancashire Show
- 25 Ryedale Show
- 25-27 New Forest and Hampshire County Show
- 24-27 Royal Welsh Show

August

- 2 North Devon Show
- 3 Burwarton Show
- 3-4 Thame Sheep Fair
- 5 Brecon Show
- 6 Wayland Show
- 9 Vale of Glamorgan Show
- 10 Okehampton Show
- 12 Ellingham Show
- 16-17 Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show
- 16-17 Pembrokeshire County Show
- 19 Ashbourne Show
- 19 Minsterley Show
- 24 Melpash Show
- 28 Aylsham Show
- 28 Glendale Show
- 31 Bucks County Show



September

- 2 Alresford Show
- 2 Kingsbridge Show
- 2 Moreton Show
- 2-3 Dorset Show
- 4-5 Wolsingham Show
- 9 Usk Show
- 13-14 Westmorland County Show
- 24 Nidderdale Show
- 30 Gransden Show



County Committee Events

June

- 10-11 Park Farm Open Farm Weekend, Thornley, Cambridgeshire
- 10-11 Newby Hall Tractor Fest
- 11 G's Open Farm Sunday, Ely, Cambridgeshire
- 11 Shropshire Garden Party
- 13 Berkshire RABI Farm Walk
- 16 Summer Supper Evening, East Yorkshire
- 18 Bucks RABI Cream Tea
- 20 Gloucestershire RABI Farm Walk

July

- 21 Brockton Shoot
- 22 Wiltshire RABI Farm Walk – Lackham
- 24 Essex RABI Clay Shoot
- 27 Cambridgeshire RABI Ben's Yard opening event
- 4 Shropshire Farm Walk
- 6 Wiltshire RABI Farm Walk – Lyburn Farm
- 13 Worcestershire Farm Walk
- 16 National Garden Scheme, Shropshire
- 16 Warwickshire RABI Wren Hall Teas
- 25 Bucks RABI Vineyard Tour

September

- 10 Essex Afternoon tea
- 13 Suffolk RABI Golf Day
- 24 Norfolk RABI Ploughing Match
- 30 FFF&B Ploughing Match





South Central
(Laura Ractliffe)

The South Central region has been a flurry of activity so far in 2023.

Farmhouse breakfasts

Two brilliant farmhouse breakfasts kicked off the year. Over 100 people joined Warwickshire RABI on a beautiful morning at Wethele Manor and Gloucestershire RABI hosted 85 guests at Stowell Park, Yanworth. Over £5,300 was raised for RABI.



Farmhouse Breakfast

Oxfordshire RABI
Evensong dinner

Oxfordshire RABI finally held their dinner at Christ Church after a three-year postponement. 300 guests gathered for Evensong followed by a three-course dinner. The evening's speaker was James Chapman MBE and Julian Sayers led the auction, with lots including England Football tickets and a signed Alastair Cook cricket bat!



Oxfordshire Dinner

Warwickshire Farmers Ball

The Warwickshire Farmers Ball committee donated £8,000 to RABI in a cheque presentation to Warwickshire RABI committee members Sharon and Helen. Thank you for your continued support.

GBBW

As chosen charity for Great British Beef Week for the twelfth year, committees across the region held events celebrating British beef and raising funds and awareness for RABI. Berkshire and Gloucestershire RABI both held beef dinners, while Bucks RABI held a Pie & Pudding night.



South East
(Richard Austin)

As winter slowly gave way to summer, our county committees have been busy with a packed schedule of events.

Kent's series of fantastic farmhouse breakfasts reached over 300 people, raising over £4,000 for RABI. Furthermore, they held a successful clay shoot at West Kent Shooting School – a very enjoyable day made possible by our hardworking volunteers and generous hosts.

East Sussex we saw our busiest farmhouse breakfast yet, with nearly 250 guests in Hellingly Community Hub.

It was a great success and down to the efforts of Gill and the team of enthusiastic volunteers on the day.

Both Hampshire and West Sussex teamed up with FCN to deliver

farmhouse breakfasts, one in a beautifully restored barn on Fitzleroi Farm. These events are an excellent way of bringing the farming community together.



West Sussex Farmhouse Breakfast in Fitzleroi Barn, Pulborough



North West

(Lauren Codling)

It's been a fantastic first half of 2023 in the North West. We've been making connections across the region and have attended multiple agricultural trade days.

Cumbria RABI held two successful farmhouse breakfasts raising over £2,500. The committee also received many donations from local farming people from sales of lambs and in memory donations.

Carlisle YFC also hosted a Dyno Day in aid of RABI, raising £1,250.

Over 15 talks have been held with

YFCs, vets, solicitors and many other agricultural organisations. These sessions saw over 330 attendees learning about RABI and the fantastic support we offer to the farming community.



(Left to Right) Craig Brough(Hopes), Kerry Scott, Lisa Hodgson, Gillian Potts, Ian Mandle (NFU), Alison Wilson & Betty Graham.

With a busy show season ahead, a huge thanks goes to our volunteers for their ongoing support and dedication to raising funds and awareness across the region.



RM Lauren Codling (far left) with Carlisle YFC



North East

(Sally Conner)

Among the wonderful things about county committee events is not only the amazing people involved, but also that they usually include food. We've had some great breakfasts, lunches and dinners over the last few months!

We had a lovely morning at Thirsk Mart with more people attending the auction mart breakfast than we anticipated – always a good problem!

For Great British Beef Week, both Co Durham and East Yorkshire held excellent events to support British farmers and raise funds and awareness for RABI. These were also great opportunities for guests to socialise!

Finally, we'd like to remember two very dear volunteers from our North East committees. We miss and remember them very fondly, and their loss has underlined how important each of our volunteers are – thank you.



Attendees at the Thirsk auction mart breakfast



Children showing off their activity sheets with RM Sally Conner at the Co Durham GBBW lunch (all parents have given permission for image to be used)



Co Durham GBBW lunch



Wales

(Dewi Parry)

It's been a rough first half of the year for farming with the Welsh weather making lambing, calving and drilling a challenge. Yet RABI committees have been as active as ever to support the farming community!

Monmouthshire RABI kicked off 2023 with their annual quiz, attracting a phenomenal 152 participants to Raglan Market café. Since then, there have been successful Bingo evenings held in Brecon & Radnor, Clwyd, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion. It's hotly contested which of these is the 'best' Bingo night.

Meirionnydd RABI held fabulous Sunday lunch in Bala Golf Club, where farming people were

pleased to gather after the isolation of lambing to catch up and look forward to summer.

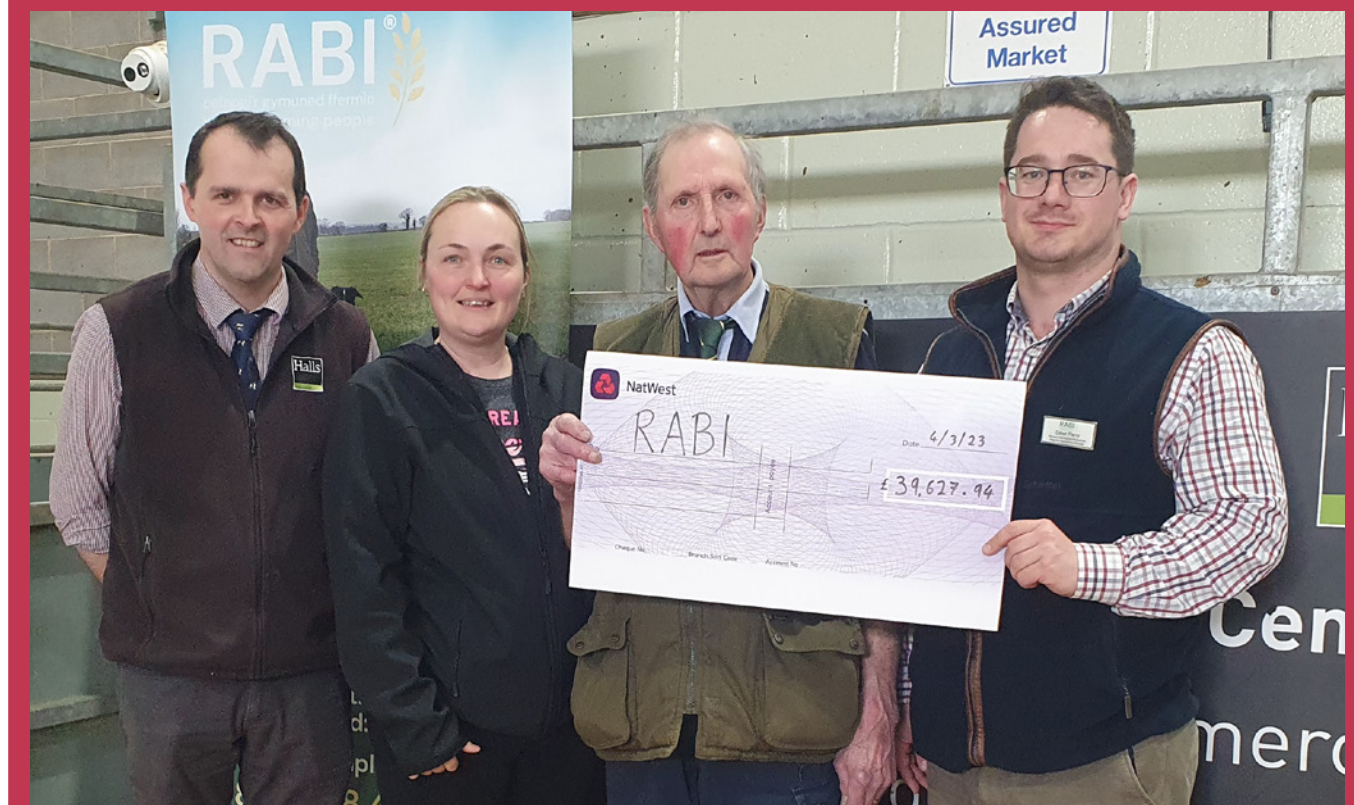
Legendary RABI supporter Emyr Wigley had an unforgettable and emotional day when he dispersed his charity herd, the Old Stackyard Blues. The cattle were a sight to behold and made over £80,000 when they went under the hammer. The sale took Mr Wigley's fundraising total past the £200,000 mark, with half coming to RABI. We can't adequately put into words our thanks to Mr Wigley and his niece, Laura, for their efforts.

RABI were sad to say goodbye to regional manager Linda Jones and regional support

manager Elonwy Williams; we wish them both well. Amanda Owen has settled in as regional support manager, and we have now welcomed Liz Rees as regional manager, so make sure you call by the Royal Welsh stand to say hello.

"It doesn't actually matter how much the cattle sold for, because even the smallest amount will help someone."

Emyr Wigley



Dewi receiving cheque from Emyr Wigley, his niece Laura and the Halls auctioneer following the sale of Emyr's Old Stackyard Blues herd



Central (Bekah Anstey)

It's been a busy start to 2023 with plenty of activity in central England.

We hit a record number of tickets sold at the Bagshaws quiz! Both Southwell and District Agricultural Society and Collingham and District Agricultural Society donated proceeds from their recent ploughing matches to RABI. Leicestershire also held their fantastic annual golf day at Charnwood Forest Golf Club.

We'd also like to thank the National Association of Cattle Foot Trimmers (NACFT) for donating £6k to RABI following a recent fundraising event.

There are plenty exciting events coming up this year, including flower arranging, an art evening at Radbourne Hall, gin tasting and the annual horse rides, tractor runs and ploughing matches!

Thank you to all our supporters for a wonderful start to 2023.



Nottinghamshire RABI chair Simon Bust (right) receiving cheque from Collingwood & District Agricultural Society



East (Lucy Bellefontaine)

It's been an exciting beginning of 2023 as committees have been busy organising and planning for the year ahead.

Debenham YFC presented RABI with a cheque for £2,129.53 after their annual ball took place in November. Great bunch of guys and girls, well done.

Suffolk RABI enjoyed their first event of the year, an interesting evening learning about Suffolk Secret Jungle.

Rob Stacey, Essex RABI chairman, took on a walking challenge over the Easter weekend. Rob walked 42 miles of St Peters Way, from Ongar to Bradwell on the Essex coast, raising £2,500 on his Just Giving page.

RABI committees across the East have a full calendar of events over the summer including a clay shoot, two golf days, a quiz night and drinks reception- we'd love to see you get involved!



Rob Stacey's walking challenge at the end of day one



Debenham Ball committee



Tesco tokens



West Midlands (Kate Jones)

There have been many wonderful events to kick off 2023 across the region.

Herefordshire

At the Herefordshire Charity Ball in March, 350 guests said farewell and celebrated a fabulous character and friend, Russell Price, who sadly passed away in 2020. Funds were raised for RABI and Cancer Research.

Shropshire

Shropshire RABI have been very busy, hosting both the 25th annual quiz night and a coffee,

cake and chat event. The two events raised over £1,600 for RABI.

Staffordshire

Over 250 guests attended the annual Staffordshire RABI dinner in March. Attendees enjoyed a delicious three course meal and talk from Sir Lee Pearson CBE. The event raised £7,321.54 altogether.

Staffordshire RABI member Hazel Woodward organised a fashion show at Staffordshire County Showground, attended by approximately 90 people and raising almost £1,000 for RABI.



Full Marquee at the Herefordshire Charity Ball



Staffordshire Dinner committee



South West (Colum Taylor)

The South West has had a lively start to 2023, and summer is shaping up to be one of our busiest yet.

Devon RABI held its first event of the year in February with their Spring Dinner, which was a great success and very well supported. Big shout out too, to the newly re-formed Somerset RABI committee who held a quiz night in March with great reviews.

Looking ahead to the summer show season, we are busy preparing for shows in all counties across the region, including the Devon, Dorset and Somerset shows.

We are also delighted to be have

been an official show charity at the amazing Royal Cornwall Show this year. The show is always a hotly anticipated date in the South West's calendars and it was great to engage with so many members of the farming community. Special thanks to event organisers RACC for their support.



Cornwall tractor run



Dorset quiz night



Devon Dinner and Auction

Regional managers

RABI’s team of regional managers are your local point of contact for volunteering 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 volunteering enquiries email volunteering@rabi.org.uk



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Liz Rees – South Wales
Regions covered: Brecon & Radnor, Camarthenshire, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire
Email: Liz.Rees@rabi.org.uk



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



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

Regional support managers

RABI’s service delivery team provides support and guidance to farming people in need working both with new referrals and existing beneficiaries ensuring they receive the relevant help, grants and benefits available to them and their unique circumstances.



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



South England
Regions covered: Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire



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



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



Zoe Cauter-Clarke
Provides targeted national support



Gemma Lee
Regions covered: Derbyshire and remote support



Nikki Cochran
Regions covered: Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk



Tom Newby
Regions covered: Cumbria, Lancashire



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



Amanda Owen
Regions covered: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Glamorgan, Pembrokeshire



Lindsay Derbyshire
Regions covered: Devon and Cornwall



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



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



Louise Wilkinson
Regions covered: Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire

From 3 July 23
NEW RESOURCES

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Harvesttime leaflet filled
with inspirational ideas for
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Download fundraising resources

rabi.org.uk/harvest

fundraising@rabi.org.uk
01865 724 931

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