

At the heart of farming, food and the countryside.

# NEW CHAIR FOR YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



**West Yorkshire farmer and businessman Rob Copley has become the new Chair of Yorkshire Agricultural Society.**

Rob who owns Farmer Copleys farm shop and café in Pontefract, has taken over the reins from Nick Lane Fox of Bramham Estate who was Chairman for five years.

Rob is a Food Hall Steward with Steven Crabtree at the Great Yorkshire Show and has been on the YAS Council since 2008.

Rob says it's a real honour to be made Chair of Trustees, leading the team which oversees the YAS and the organisation of the Great Yorkshire Show.

He said: "As a child I came to the Great Yorkshire Show every year

with my grandparents as they were lifelong members of YAS. I think it's great that a farmer from Pontefract gets to become Chairman - it's an honour and a privilege."

Rob, whose family has been farming for over 140 years, runs Farmer Copleys and Moo Café with his wife Heather. Rob is also chairman of the Farm Retail Association which has gone from strength to strength since coming under management by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in 2019. The membership organisation now has 320 members in farm retail across the UK and has an annual conference and awards in March.

Rob says: "I hope to bring my experience in farming and in leading a team of 80 at Farmer Copleys, to my work as Chair of trustees and I look forward to working with Charles and the rest of the team in taking the Great Yorkshire Show to

the next level based on its new four-day structure."

Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Nigel Pulling said: "We thank Nick for his work as Chair over the last five years during which time there was the multi-million pound rebuild of Hall 1 in the Yorkshire Event Centre.

"Both Nick and Rob played a vital role in ensuring the Great Yorkshire Show was held this year and despite the challenges and restrictions placed on this year's event, it was an incredible achievement to be able to deliver this.

"We are delighted that Nick will continue on the YAS Council and the Great Yorkshire Show and we look forward to working with Rob to drive the YAS forward and to take the Great Yorkshire Show into a new era."

## GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2022

The Great Yorkshire Show will be held from Tuesday July 12 to Friday July 15, 2022.

There will be a limit on attendance each day to ensure everyone has a relaxed and enjoyable experience and membership numbers will also be capped. Tickets are on sale now and will be day-specific.

The daily programme of events is still to be finalised and this will be made public in Spring 2022.



# YORKSHIRE DALES VET AWARDED 'NUFFIELD' TO EXPLORE NET ZERO GOAL

**A Yorkshire Dales veterinary surgeon has been awarded a prestigious international scholarship, sponsored by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.**

Miles Middleton, 36, of Skelgill Farm, Askrigg, has been selected for a Nuffield Farming Trust Scholarship which will see him scrutinise the dairy sector's role in meeting British agriculture's net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal.

With farming often portrayed as a climate change problem, rather than part of the solution, Miles is keen to cut through the misinformation and gain a better understanding of how dairy farmers can manage their herds to maximum benefit for both the environment and food production.

Miles said: "There is a lot of dogma and mistruth talked about farming and climate change but when we take the time to look at it properly, there are a lot of interesting trade-offs that are not widely recognized or understood.

"We all know that ultimately, there is an absolute requirement to produce food, and there is a finite amount of farmland. Farms could reduce their carbon output by moving out of cattle, but we are forgetting

all the production required to feed an ever-growing population. The food we derive from cattle would have to be replaced by food coming from somewhere else, and what would be the carbon costs of being reliant on imported food?"

Miles hopes to visit advanced grazing systems in New Zealand and pioneers of the regenerative agriculture movement in North America.

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society has sponsored Nuffield Farming Scholarships for more than four decades. As a registered charity that champions and supports farming families and British agriculture, the Society is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the industry.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships allow individuals to study and travel abroad, meet like-minded people and explore cutting edge developments in the industry.

Nigel Pulling, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society said: "We are delighted to be supporting Miles whose research will no doubt offer really useful insights for others as the industry strives for the best balance between profitable food production and maximum environmental gain."

## FREE FARMER HEALTH CHECKS

The Yorkshire Rural Support Network will be offering free health checks for farmers and family members at the Ripon Farm Services Show at the Great Yorkshire Showground on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th January.

Offering quick and simple checks, such as measuring blood pressure and cholesterol, these health checks are convenient opportunities for busy farmers to get a quick health MOT, and you're guaranteed a warm welcome.

# YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

**The Yorkshire Agricultural Society is calling out to members to join its governing body and help shape its future.**

The Society has come through a difficult period in a strong position and is looking to build on this and drive on forward.

The Council meet four times a year and are elected directly by members.

Charles Mills, Show Director said: "We are about promoting, supporting and spreading the message about farming, food and the countryside through an extensive range of activities. Whether it's the Great Yorkshire Show to the free Countryside Days we organise for 6,000 primary school children in June. We need a strong, forward-thinking Council covering all four corners of Yorkshire to help us do the work we do. And we are appealing to our members to come forward and create a strong governing body who will drive the Society forward."

The Council elects Trustees as well as advising and guiding the Society in all activities and events including the Great Yorkshire Show.



Any member can be nominated to stand for election for a three-year period and this will be voted on by members in each area.

**To get involved, please fill out the enclosed application form or contact Jayne Dyer on 01423 546201 or email [jayned@yas.co.uk](mailto:jayned@yas.co.uk)**

## BRITISH CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS

**Marldon Christmas Tree Farm in Devon won the accolade of providing the Christmas tree for Downing Street after being crowned Champion Christmas Tree Grower of the Year.**

Organised by the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA), the annual competition has been running since 1998. The BCTGA, which was formed 31 years ago, has been managed by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society since August 2020

Red Shepherdess Hannah Jackson was the celebrity judge for this year's competition which took place at The Tree Barn, Greenfeld Farm, Oxfordshire.

This year saw more entries than ever before with 73 Christmas trees entered and 26 wreaths from growers all over the UK.



## PLOUGH SERVICE JANUARY 2022

The annual Plough Service will be held at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 9th January when our Women in Farming Network will stage its 'All in a Day's Work' photography exhibition.

Launched at 2021's Great Yorkshire Show, this fascinating exhibition of black and white images was shot by Ampleforth-based documentary photographer Lucy Sadders and tells the story of entrepreneurial women across rural Yorkshire.

## FREE TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

Our next free teacher training courses at the Great Yorkshire Showground will take place on dates in February and March.

Fully subsidised by YAS as part of our charitable activities, these Spring Term courses includes a school gardening course. Visit [yas.co.uk/training-courses](http://yas.co.uk/training-courses) for full details. In March, we take delivery of more than 250 trees from the Woodland Trust which will be planted by school groups on or around the Great Yorkshire Showground.



# EVENTS BOUNCING BACK AT THE YORKSHIRE EVENT CENTRE

**The Yorkshire Event Centre celebrated a busy end to the year, with the forecast for 2022 looking strong.**

New events included the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF) held in the UK for the first time, the Great Taste Golden Fork Reception previously held in London and the Great Yorkshire Christmas Fair.

There was also the fabulous funfair held at half term and the BP 2021 Trade Show (British Potatoes) which was back for another successful event.

Heather Parry, Managing Director of the YEC, said that securing new events as well as welcoming back regular events, was hugely positive and events for the YEC are looking strong for 2022. "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing new business to Harrogate and to Yorkshire, with a number of new events signing up with us for the first time. It's truly wonderful to be back doing what we do best after a tough 18 months.

"We are looking forward to bouncing back, bigger, better and stronger than ever in 2022."

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOWGROUND

JANUARY			
Wednesday 19 - Thursday 20	<b>Ripon Farm Services Show</b>	YEC	01765 692255
Friday 28 - Sunday 30	<b>Decorative Arts and Antiques Fair</b>	POH	01278 784912
FEBRUARY			
Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10	<b>Ice Cream and Artisan Food Show</b>	YEC	01332 203333
Friday 18 - Sunday 20	<b>Spring Quilt Festival</b>	YEC	01406 372600
MARCH			
Friday 18 - Sunday 20	<b>The Yorkshire Motorhome and Campervan Show</b>	YEC	07790 700041
APRIL			
Saturday 2	<b>Springtime Live</b>	YEC	01423 546283
Sunday 10 - Tuesday 12	<b>British Craft Trade Fair</b>	Trade Only	
Thursday 21 - Sunday 24	<b>Harrogate Spring Flower Show</b>	YEC	01423 648212
Thursday 28 - Friday 29	<b>Toolfair and Elex and Professional Builder Live</b>	Trade Only 01923 237799	
MAY			
Saturday 7 - Sunday 8	<b>Northern Shooting Show</b>	YEC	

Venue: YEC = Yorkshire Event Centre PoH = Pavilions of Harrogate

Note: The information is correct at time of publication. Please check with the organisers to verify details prior to planning your visit. Thank you.

# VACCINATION CENTRE

**Patients in the Harrogate district who are eligible for their COVID booster vaccine can continue to book appointments to have their jab at the Great Yorkshire Showground until mid March.**

The programme will continue to run at a designated site on the Showground until mid March and appointments are available through the NHS National Booking Service online or by calling 119.

The Yorkshire Health Network - a collaborative of GP practices in the Harrogate and Ripon districts - delivered around 20,000 jabs from the Great Yorkshire Showground in December.

Heather Parry, Managing Director, said: "We are proud to play a part in the drive to ensure the nation stays safe against COVID-19, by supporting the NHS as we have done throughout the pandemic."

When the COVID pandemic struck, the business adapted and worked with the NHS to become a PPE and supplies hub and then became a vaccination centre. During this time, 64,000 first doses and 62,000 second doses were administered at the Great Yorkshire Showground, and now the booster programme will continue into Spring.

### YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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