

# **YFCU Club Programme Ideas**

**Note these ideas are a start, amend and  
change them to suit your members.**

# **Simple Ideas For Club Programming**

## **First of All Why have a Programme?**

A good programme is a mean of retaining Club members. The programme has to be carried out in a warm friendly atmosphere and should be decided by **ALL** your members. It must reflect a proper balance.

**Remember the SOCIAL- CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL life of your club will determine your IMAGE and BUILD your membership.**

## **Why Print a Club Programme?**

An attractive printed programme is an effective Public Relations tool. It informs parents of forthcoming events, venues etc. Provides contact names, addresses, etc. of Club Officials. It informs members of upcoming events and the content of meetings, Chairperson etc.

When preparing your programme for printing consider the following:

### **1. IMAGE**

- Its appearance/presentation/layout
- The information it imparts:- dates, venue, time, contact names & addresses, telephone numbers, Chairperson for each meeting (where applicable).
- Cost of production - off-set with adverts.
- Deadline for distribution/effecting printing etc.
- Ensure that contacts are made and confirmed to deliver content of programme.
- Manner of distribution/marketing.
- Personal contact divided into areas where existing members come from.
- Explore new avenues place posters and distribute copies to i.e. schools, local shops etc.

### **2. CONTENT OF PROGRAMME**

- Have a post mortem on last years (don't copy it).
- Avoid repetition.
- Emphasis on advance planning.
- Attempt at least 1 new venture each year (a replacement rather than an addition).
- Elect a Chairman for each meeting and have this printed on the programme.

- Utilise your talent and reduce pressure on Club Officials by delegating responsibility for certain meetings/outings to -
- Male members/female members/juniors/seniors.
- Consider - The composition of ages and plan accordingly.
- Environmental and countryside concerns.
- Community involvement.
- Sacrifice a night or daytime event for:-
- parents/friend/elderly/disabled.
- Education and Library Boards (Register annually).
- Rural District Council - Community Relations Officer
- Explore funding possibilities
- Press - Local/National.
- Establish an acquaintance with above. Provide complimentary tickets occasionally. Meet their deadlines and inform them well in advance of any major events taking place.

### **HOLDING MEMBERS INTEREST**

People either accept what is on offer or reject it quietly by not attending. Officers and leaders have to ensure that the members have chosen the programme which is on offer. Use small special interest groups of members to obtain their ideas. Be sensitive to whether activities are genuinely supported. Make sure the programme is run efficiently, so members are proud to belong.

## **Remember!**

**IF YOU GIVE A MEMBER A TASK AND YOU HOLD THEM FOR A DAY**

**However, If You**

**STIMULATE A MEMBER'S INTEREST AND YOU HOLD THEM FOR LIFE**

### **INTRODUCTION to the ideas!**

This is your "YFC Lucky Dip"! **use it to prompt ideas** when your inspiration runs dry, but don't let it replace your members' own ideas. For contacts, use the telephone directory, Yellow Pages and the pool of knowledge within your Club.

## **FOR EASY REFERENCE Ideas are grouped according to;**

TALKS, VISITS, INSIDE, OUTSIDE and SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### **NOTE - SAFETY AND INSURANCE!**

Ensure that at every event you organise, at least one member is designated to think of the safety aspects. Danger lurks around every corner and accidents cannot be undone. Be aware of the dangers and go over-the-top in protecting everyone involved - it is always better to be safe than sorry. Inevitably, there are some risks in everything we do, so YFC has an insurance policy. Some activities are excluded because they are particularly high risk - e.g. motor sports. Contact the NFU Mutual for details.

### **PLOUGHING MATCH AND MARATHON**

These take a lot of organisation, beforehand and during the event. Local companies can be approached for sponsorship, machinery, fuel in fact anything necessary, in return for the publicity they will gain from association with the event. Beware that ploughing marathons beyond 12 hours are not covered by YFC Insurance. Ensure members do not damage machinery because of tiredness or rash driving.

### **CHARITABLE FUND-RAISING AND SPONSORED WOT NOTS**

These are YFC unorthodox methods of travel to the National Convention. If you are wary of going 'straight in at the deep end', try a 'Mini Wot Not' to a County event. Sponsored Wot Nots raise considerable amounts of money for charity. Start planning your Wot Not now, and see if you can raise your Club's image and profile by working for others.

### **FUN RUN OR SPONSORED WALK**

Depends how fit or energetic you are! Instead of walking round and round a set track, try walking the parish boundary, or walk (or run!) from one village to another using public footpaths. Have stewards positioned along the route in case of emergency. If you have to use the road - even if it is just crossing it - remember to notify the police.

### **SPONSORED ..... SOMETHING!**

For a sponsored event with a difference, try a farming activity - a "thistle bash", sponsored muck-spread/balestack/sheepshear. Or, for the more noisy members, try a sponsored silence! Most activities can be sponsored, but must be well planned and genuinely achieved. If trying for a record or timed activity, appoint neutral umpires.

### **CLUB LEADERSHIP**

If a Club is to be exciting, there must be co-operative and sustained effort by all members. This needs leadership. In our democratic youth organisation such leadership often comes from Club Officers, but they too need leadership. Ensure the Club Officers know their roles, help officers to learn and rehearse the

necessary skills, ensure harmony, common purpose and good teamwork. Make sure that your Club team works towards a happy, well-run, sophisticated Club.

### **ROVING SUPPER - an old favourite!**

Plan a five-course meal - with each course in a different house. How about this for division of labour - the girls prepare and eat, and the boys drive and wash-up.

### **YOUNG FARMERS' HOLIDAYS**

Club Holidays are becoming more popular, from barge holidays, or skiing, to lying on sun drenched beaches. Use a reputable travel agent, check important things like insurance, and send a postcard home to Mum

### **A NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE**

For a different kind of social night, invite other Clubs or groups to a Caribbean Night, Bavarian Evening. Dinner Dance, Barn Dance, Square Dance, Pool Party, Pram Race, Mini-Olympics, Super Stars, Its a Knockout or Human Draughts (played on different coloured floor tiles).

### **QUIZZES AND COMPETITIONS**

Here is a selection of ideas, some traditional, some based on TV programmes, Do You Want to Be a Millionaire, Poultry Bingo, Beetle Drive, Whist Drive, Race Night, Blankety Blank, Give us a Clue, Call my Bluff, Quiz against other Clubs or organisations, Mr. & Mrs, Blind Date, Blockbusters, Pop Quiz, Balloon Debate, Domino Drive.

### **SILLY SPORTS DAYS**

Designed to involve every member, races can be as silly as you like - have a giggle at space hopper racing, three legged egg and spoon, woosack racing, obstacle races (the messier the better - try molasses, flour and water), wheelbarrow/piggyback relays etc.

### **CLUB EXCHANGES**

Exchanges with Clubs in different parts of the country have long been popular. Obtain members' commitment, make firm plans and never let your partner down. Why not twin with a club in another country? Or for those happier staying closer to home, try a visit with a theme, such as a Conservation Exchange - help a Club with their Countryside Project.

### **SLAVE AUCTION**

This can be done as an event in itself, or attached to something like a Harvest Supper. Sell off Club Members in singles or pairs for a days work. If slaves are in fancy dress and a local auctioneer does the actual selling, this can be highly entertaining and very profitable for a charity.

### **SOCIAL EVENINGS**

You don't always have to have a planned programme - social evenings with parents, Advisory, or other Clubs and organisations, are great attractions. For a change from the traditional Cheese and Wine Evening, try Pate and Pickle, Punch and Pastry, Pimms and Pate, Beer and Batch or a Pint and Pastry Night.

### **FARM OPEN DAY**

Farm Open Days are an excellent way of raising the Club's profile beyond the local community. Make it as active and interesting as possible - how about a children's farm, pets corner, refreshments, demonstrations, displays, trips round the farm, and plenty of people to talk to and easy-to understand information. Invite town youth groups specifically, and be very conscious of safety. Check insurance.

### **COUNTRY FAYRE/HORSE SHOW**

These are hard work but very rewardig. The public enjoys a day out in the countryside. Plenty of advance publicity is important and practical attractions are always most popular. The organisation of a horse show is more specialised, use the experts within your Club, or seek advice from outside.

### **SEASONAL**

There are many traditional celebrations spread fairly evenly throughout the year. Think of a few silly games and celebrate Halloween, Christmas, New Year, April Fools Day or Valentines Day. You could hold a Midsummer Christmas Party or a Bonfire and Fireworks Party (safety first), invite the local community to a Harvest Festival, or terrorise the neighbourhood Carol Singing.

### **RAFT RACE**

A popular event with Young Farmers - something to do with the water, perhaps? Make sure you have permission from the local Water Board, and the people through whose land you will be passing, and be sure that your course is safe. Life jackets must be compulsory for all participants.

### **DISCOS**

Just for a change, give your Disco a theme and try Tramps and Tarts, Flashers and Fairies, Beachwear, Australian, Shorts and Shades, Pyjama Party, Black & White Party (or any other colour), Bows and Braces, Silly Hat, Stockings and Suspenders, Nursery Rhymes, Childrens TV, Scarecrows, Cartoons, Circus, Mad Monks, Cowboys and Indians.

### **JUMBLE SALE**

With some advance publicity, and support from parents and past members, this kind of sale can raise a lot of money for charity. Very popular with mothers, aunts, grandmothers etc, but keep out of Granddad's way when he finds out you have sold his best suit!

### **GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

An interesting time could be spent 'at Her Majesty's pleasure' by visiting a prison. Count all your members in and out again! There is also an opportunity for members to take part in prison programmes - discover more during your visit. Or you could arrange a trip to a local Army or RAF Base.

### **NON-ALCOHOLIC DISCO**

For younger or older members! You can also set up and 'Exotic Soft Drinks Bar', and have a competition to see who can make the brightest, the nicest or the most over the top non-alcoholic cocktail!

## **FARM DIVERSIFICATION AND EXPANSION**

Many farmers are introducing new enterprises to increase the farm's profitability. Visit a farm which has a goat or sheep dairying enterprise, a caravan or camp site, an ice cream business, a fishing or recreation area, a cross country course, all weather gallop, or anything else out of the ordinary!

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

You could offer to host a local radio programme, or book tickets for a live television show (make sure everyone is on their best behaviour)! Arrange a visit to your local TV or radio station and find out how your favourite programmes are made. A visit to your local telephone exchange will be popular, as will a visit to your local newspaper. Find out what makes the news and how you can contribute!

## **NATURE**

There are many Nature Reserves, Bird and Wildlife Sanctuaries, Aquariums, Dolphinariums, Safari Parks and Zoos accross the country. Try to negotiate a group admission charge!

## **HERITAGE**

There are many National Trust properties, castles and stately homes through the country - invite a local representative to speak, then arrange a visit. There will probably be an admission charge to go towards the upkeep of the property - help protect it for the next generation!

## **KENNELS**

There are several kinds to be visited - a boarding kennel (sometimes with a cattery), hunt kennels (to provoke the usual arguments), and quarantine kennels (all those pleading eyes are definately not for the soft hearted!) Arrange a visit to a dog rescue centre and find out the real story behind 'A dog is for life not just for Christmas'.

## **VISITORS AND SPEAKERS**

People who give their time to the YFC need to know several basic details - how many people will be present, their age range, directions to the venue, timings (including how long they should speak), and the facilities (extension leads, power points, etc). Send a reminder before the event, and thank them soon after. Most speakers attend out of the goodness of their heart, so offer to pay their travel expenses! A well mannered audience will ensure that your speaker leaves with an excellent overall impression of the YFC.

## **'THE BARE NECESSITIES'**

Visit you local Sewage Works, Water , Gas, or Electricity Board, Refuse Collection and other services, and find out how the things we take for granted really work!

## **AIRPORT**

With more airports becoming increasingly busy across the country, there is sure to be one near your Club. Why not go 'Plane spotting', and dream of far off places you could be heading. Many airports are active 24 hours a day - experience a day in the life of an active airport!

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

A vital part of our community, and something which should not be taken for granted. Arrange a visit to you local Ambulance, Fire or Police Station. Remember that these people can be called to an emergency at any time - don't be in the way. Find out what the Civil Defence arrangements are in your area in case of nuclear war - what are the plans to protect your district?

### **RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

This heading could include Photographic Laboratories and Research Stations, experimental projects, examples of high tech industry, such as space engineering, nuclear power, biotechnology, genetic engineering, computers and robots. The Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) is very interesting, and has several videos which are well worth watching. Use local opportunities.

### **SCENERY AND SURROUNDINGS**

Even if there is not a National Park near you, it is likely that there will be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) somewhere nearby. Contact your local FWAG or nature conservation trust for further details - find out where these sites are, and why they are important.

### **INDUSTRY**

Finding out about industrial production can be very interesting, but watch the legal restrictions. You will have thought of the large car, tractor and machinery manufacturers, so try a bakery, flour mill, brewery or cider press. Don't forget the small and rural industries, which have been established over the past ten years.

### **BLACKSMITH OR FORGEMASTER**

Most of today's working forges are steeped in history, and fascinating places to visit. Watch horseshoes being made from just a strip of iron! Some Blacksmiths are diversifying into other fields with a growing demand for ornamental gates, fences and even sculpture.

### **CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA**

Approach your local Council for a talk (or visit) on this deadly (!) serious subject. Find out all you ever wanted to know about what happens afterwards'. The records and management of space are vital to an efficient retrieval system!

### **HORSES**

There are several options under this heading, such as a Racing Stables, Stud, Riding School, Riding for the Disabled Centre, Pony Trekking Centre, Heavy Horse Centre, Saddler, or a Home for Retired or Rescued Horses.

### **SPORT AND RECREATION**

For an evening with an activity theme, a visit to a local Sports Centre, Fitness Centre, Sport Club, Football Ground, Country Club or even a Golf Course is a must. For Clubs without such facilities close by, it is easy to create your own sporting and recreational activities - invite non-members to join you for a sports night, and they may even 'sign-on'!

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

Have you considered making a visit to the heart of the legal system in your area, or to the place where the decisions are made? Contact your local Court, Police Station, County Council Headquarters or Town Hall.

### **'DIFFERENT FARMS'**

Farm Walks are important to Young Farmers ... in moderation! You could therefore try 'Farms with a Difference' - such as an Experimental Husbandry, Organic, Mushroom, Fish, Deer, Butterfly, a City Farm --- or even a Health Farm!

### **A LITTLE CULTURE**

Why not impress everyone's parents with an evening of culture and arrange a visit to the theatre, opera, ballet, museum, or art gallery. Failing that, just resort to the traditional Young Farmers activity and see a pantomime! You may be able to negotiate group entrance cost!

### **GO-KARTING, LAWN MOWER RACING AND TRACTION ENGINES**

Lawn Mower Racing, Go-Karting and Traction Engines can sometimes be seen at local shows, where contact can be made. If you take part you are not covered by the YFC Insurance Policy, ring 0789 204211 to check.

### **OUTDOOR CRAFTS**

Find a local expert and have a go (or just a demonstration) at Clay Pigeon Shooting, Falconry, Sheepdog Handling, or Flying Model Aeroplanes. You may discover a new talent or interest!

### **WATER SPORTS**

Young Farmers seem to become very enthusiastic whenever water is mentioned - especially if they are not supposed to end up in it! Contact your local swimming pool, angling club or watersports centre to arrange the following - fishing (deep sea, coarse or fly), swimming gala, skin/scuba diving, water skiing, wind surfing, sailing, rowing, canoeing, life saving. Always be aware of safety.

### **OUTDOOR SPORTS**

For the energetic and more adventurous members, visit an Outdoor Pursuits Centre, and try pot holing, rock climbing, absailing, caving or mountaineering. Make sure your instructor is qualified and experienced. Check your YFC Insurance cover before you start - 0789 204211.

### **ADVANCED DRIVING**

So you think you can drive? Book a demonstration session with the Institute of Advanced Motoring and find out all your bad habits. Keep both hands on the wheel when members book their course of instructions.

### **HEDGELAYING AND DRY STONE WALLING**

These traditional skills can be invaluable well beyond the farm. Contact your local agricultural college, NFYFC or the Agricultural Training Board for a tutor. These are ideal skills to enhance your community or countryside project.

### **TRADITIONAL PUB GAMES**

There are still some Public Houses (what?) which offer traditional pub games, such as skittles, horseshoe pegging, dart etc. For some activities you will need to

book. Talk to the landlord, but don't let the club's reputation suffer by overdoing it or by holding activities in which the younger members cannot participate.

### **PONY TREKKING**

This will sort out the tender spots! It is a very attractive activity especially for those without farming or horse contacts, and would be a good activity to attract new members. Negotiate special Club rates.

### **AIR SPORTS**

Contact local Clubs or Air Fields for information on Hang Gliding, Parachuting, Flying, Parascending, Microlighting, and Gliding, but note that this is not part of the YFC Insurance Policy, so call the NFU Mutual to ensure cover.

### **'WHAT A WAY TO RUN A RAILWAY'**

A visit to your local station, will be a revelation. Find out about how the rail network operates, the management and repairs to the lines, how the system developed, and why people go train spotting!

### **MIDNIGHT HIKE**

Backpacks on, sandwiches and drinks packed and away into the night! This can be organised as part of a camping weekend, - it's a lot of fun! Make sure that safety is always taken into account, good adult stewarding and support is essential if younger members are taking part.

### **TREASURE OR SCAVENGER HUNT**

A Treasure or Scavenger Hunt can be great fun. They can be done on foot, on bicycle or in cars, but beware of safety aspects, and have respect for other road users. You could organise a Treasure Hunt with a theme - plant, animal or farming - and go Country Spotting!

### **CARNIVAL/VILLAGE FETE**

Improve the image of you Club in the local carnival - it involves hard work, but is great fun on the day! You could also run a stall or attraction at the Village Fete, and might even make a profit!

### **LOGGING**

Young Farmers are very generous when it comes to helping others, and log delivery to pensioners, especially around Christmas, is always well received. It will also give your Clubs image a boost with the community.

### **ASSAULT COURSES**

The Territorial Army may have a suitable site for you to test your agility and fitness - if not, try the Sports Centre. Make sure that equal encouragement is given to girls and boys, juniors and seniors. A very enjoyable activity, but wait for the aches and pains the next day.

### **LEARN A NEW SKILL**

YFC teaches many traditional skills. Organise a 'Beginner's Night', where the complete novice can learn about Tractor Driving or Stock Judging, or you could try After Dinner Speaking, or Car Judging, (same rules as Stock Judging, but with cars). Try to involve everyone. New members should be encouraged to learn these skills well before they are selected for a Club team.

### **WINTER SPORTS ... AT HOME**

More dry ski slopes are now being built - ask at your local Sports Centre for your nearest slope and practice for a skiing holiday at home! Alternatively - try grass skiing! There is probably an ice rink near you - dress up warmly (plenty of padding!) and try ice skating. On a similar theme, but drier and warmer, try a Sports Centre for roller skating.

### **PET SHOW**

For a light-hearted evening, invite a 'tame' vet to judge you members' pets at a Club Pet Show. You could run competitions such as the dog with the waggiest tail, most appealing eyes etc. But for the most entertainment, ask members to bring their dogs, invite an Obedience Trainer, and just watch people cringe with embarrassment as Rover completely disgraces them!

### **A DAY AT THE RACES**

For an exciting afternoon or evening, try greyhound, horse or truck racing, speedway, point-to-point, banger racing, cross country cycling, rally driving or motocross. There are also the annual events, such as the Lombard RAC Rally and the Milk Race. What about an evening with Racing pigeons!

### **GENERAL MEDICINE**

You would be surprised at how many people are frightened of going to the doctor or dentist. Invite any of the following to a meeting, and find out if there really is any cause for worry! - General Practitioner, Dentist, Anaesthetist, Physiotherapist, Chiropractor, Psychiatrist, Blood Transfusion Service.

### **ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (FOR ANIMALS AND HUMANS)**

for a meeting with a difference, try hypnotherapy, yoga, acupuncture, psychotherapy, reflexology, or homeopathy. Ask your local doctor or vet for a contact.

### **FARMING ORGANISATIONS**

A good relationship with the following organisations can be of great benefit to your Club, and can all be contacted locally or nationally

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY INSPECTORATE**

We all have to comply with certain rules and regulations, so approach any of the Council's Inspectors - Environmental Health Officer, Trading Standards Officer, or the Health and Safety Officer for an interesting talk. Find out how to stay on the right side of the law!

### **CAREERS**

Try "A Day in the Life of A....." Travel Courier, Farm Secretary, Air Host/ess, Air Traffic Controller, Vet, Auctioneer, Coastguard, Lighthouse Keeper, Taxi Driver, Vicar, Driving Instructor, Undertaker, Coroner, Solicitor, Stock Broker, Pathologist, Book Maker, Milliner, Photographer, Butcher, Jeweller, Potter, Editor/Reporter, Game Keeper, Boat Builder.

## **LOCAL HISTORY**

The Parish Council, Church, local school or college, are often the best places to approach for a speaker on the history of your area. A talk could incorporate slides, pictures and memorabilia, and could be followed by visits around the community. You will be amazed by the past happenings on your doorstep!

## **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Try local colleges or libraries for a talk or demonstration on candlemaking, bonsai trees, cacti, elocution and etiquette, country customs, or anything else you can think of. Discover a new interest or hobby!

## **“CARING ORGANISATIONS”**

There is a growing awareness and concern for people with particular disadvantages. A lot of interest can be gained from a talk by the NSPCC, Save The Children, Barnardo's, Oxfam, Action Aid, National Childrens Home, RNLI, Missions to Seamen, PDSA, Red Cross, St. Johns Ambulance, Guide Dogs for the Blind, British Heart Foundation, Salvation Army, Help The Aged, Shelter, Home Farm Trust.

## **RURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

A good relationship with other organisation is vital for the image of your Club, so find out more about: British Field Sports Society (59 Kennington Road, London), British Association for Shooting and Conservation (Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, Clwyd), Farming and Wildlife Trust (NAC, Kenilworth, Warks.), Countryside Commission (John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Clos.), Women's Institute (local).

## **DIFFERENT CULTURES**

In many places in England and Wales there are groups of people whose origins are in a different culture. A lot of prejudice exists because of what we have been told about their lifestyle, religion and culture. Find out for yourself by inviting their Community Leaders, to discuss their beliefs, lifestyles and frustrations. Approach your local Youth Officer and handle contacts with sensitivity!

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

You could contact your local wine merchant or home brew centre for an interesting evening and maybe a taster too! Approach a buyer from a supermarket or a shopkeeper for an interesting insight into which produce they buy, and how tomorrow's farmers can make more money from their products.

## **“PEOPLE IN CRISIS”**

Find out what your local community has to offer, by approaching a speaker from: Marriage Guidance (Relate), Rape Crisis, Family Planning, Childline, Samaritans, Drug Abuse, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Battered Wives, Phobias, AIDS Helpline, or any other local schemes.

## **POLITICS**

Like it or not, politics is an integral part of our lives invite your local MP, Euro MP or a member of the local Council (Parish, District, Borough or County) to speak to your Club, and find out how you can contribute to the democracy. How does

Parliament work? Why do Mps work all night? Find out the answers to these and many other questions!

### **OCCUPATIONS WITH A DIFFERENCE**

An interesting talk could be given by a Medium, Palmist, Tattooist, Astrologer, Water Diviner, "Ghostbuster", Astronomer, Magician, Actor/Actress, Private Investigator, or a Film Director - you may think of more.

### **CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY**

We are always talking about the weather, and the Meteorological Office will be able to tell you how the forecasting is really done! For more local information, talk to an archaeologist, ask your nearest school or college about map making, or find out about local geography and geology - how your area was formed!

### **OUR "FURRY" FRIENDS**

This subject covers all aspects of the living (and dead!) world. For speakers on Hedgehogs, Frogs, Bats, Vermin Control, Otters, Taxidermy, Snail & Worm Farming, Insects, Bee Keeping, Ferrets, Fox and Mink Farming, Snakes, Bird Watchings, and Notifiable Diseases (!), contact local wildlife groups, biology teachers, or your local vet.

### **PRESSURE GROUPS**

For a lively evening, invite a speaker from a pressure group to discuss and debate their beliefs. There are many to choose from, most with local branches, For example, League against Cruel Sports, RSPCA, CND, LIFE, Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth, and Greenpeace. Don't forget the groups dealing with local issues!

### **ART**

A local college will be able to give you a talk and/or a demonstration on various types - watercolour, oils, photography, painting on porcelain, and sculpture. For a more practical evening, try tie-dying, or paint can be obtained to design patterns on clothes. You may discover a bedding fashion designer or the next Leonardo de Vinci!

### **THE BODY BEAUTIFUL**

Find out how to make the most of yourself! Equally important for both sexes, a local beautician could give an interesting and useful talk on hairier, make up, fashion, manicure, keep fit and diet.

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### **ANTIQUES ROADSHOW**

Contact a local Antique or Fine Art auctioneer or valuer and bring along your antiques (not grandma!). You never know, the painting which hangs over the fireplace may prove to be a masterpiece.

### **POTTED SPORTS**

Have a number of indoor games suitable to be played by a team of six or seven people. Choose a steward/scorer for each game and divide the members into equal/balanced teams. Lay out the room to accommodate each game and the

chief steward masterminds the action. Games must be suitable for a small area and not use equipment that will damage the walls.

### **BOY SCOUT KNOT NIGHT**

For anyone who has not experienced a 'Boy Scout Knot Night', a real treat awaits them! Alternatively known as '101 things to do with a piece of string', contact your local Scouts or Venture Scouts for details.

### **AN INTERNATIONAL EVENING**

Every Club has the opportunity of inviting incoming and outgoing Exchangees as speakers. Ask your County Office or NFYFC for details. International Visitors can show you pictures, slides and souvenirs, talk about their visit, relate funny experiences, and encourage members to take part in the exchange programme. Every member needs 'An International Experience'!

### **ORIGAMI**

No, it's not a martial art! With this ancient Japanese art you can learn how to make different shapes, flowers and even animals out of paper. Contact the art department of a local college for a contact (not a black belt!).

### **POULTRY TRUSTING**

Another useful skill, this can also involve plucking, drawing, dressing and de-boning. A great evening's entertainment for anyone who isn't squeamish, and doesn't mind getting in a mess! This could be extended to include dressing a rabbit, or preparation of game for the table. Contact a local butcher, or the WI for a demonstration - maybe classes later.

### **ROLE REVERSAL**

For a fun evening, break a few traditions, and get the male members of your Club flower arranging or cake decorating - you might be surprised at how good they are! The girls could try car maintenance, or bricklaying. You may discover new talents!

### **INDOOR SPORTS TOURNAMENT**

Find or create the facilities for a Club Sports Tournament. Set out to involve every member. There are a number of possibilities - table tennis, badminton, volleyball, 5-a-side, football/hockey, cricket, athletics, short tennis, or anything else you can think of!

### **'HERE IS THE WORLD...'**

Bring the World closer to your Club! You could try speakers on different religions - Buddhism, Hindu, etc, an international cooking course/demonstration, and international food evening - everyone brings something unusual, hold a quiz with an international bias, invite speakers on voluntary work overseas, help with your Twin Town arrangements, or discover how different political systems work.

### **GRASS/FUNGI IDENTIFICATION**

Contact your local FWAG Advisor or Agricultural College for an evening identifying plants and fungi. You can find out about 'food from the hedgerows' - what to eat and what not to eat!

### **COMPETITIONS TRAINING**

Most competitions require specific skills, for which training is necessary if you are to do justice to yourself and the Club. Your Advisory Committee should be able to put you in touch with suitable trainers. When organising a practice, involve as many members as possible, not just the team - which is how you find tomorrow's stars.

### **COUNTRY CRAFTS**

Choose one of the 90 Crafts available through the YFC Scheme, gather a group of interested members and organise a course. It's easy, rewarding, and you're learning a new skill! Contact your Country Crafts Link person through County Office.

### **FIRST AID**

This is something which could prove invaluable to you. Even a very basic knowledge of first aid is better than no knowledge, so contact St John's Ambulance or the Red Cross. There are two certificates available, valid for 12 months and 3 year, following the successful completion of intensive courses.

### **GAMES NIGHT**

If a speaker lets you down at the last minute, or if you just want a light hearted evening, bring a few games - 'Cluedo', 'Twister', or 'Fireside Farming' - for an entertaining evening. Potted Sports is always a winner, so have a 'moment's notice' box standing by with the right equipment!

### **SELF DEFENCE**

For a practical demonstration, contact a local self defence or martial arts centre. The world is not a safe place, so find out how you can protect yourself.

### **MOCK COURT/INTERVIEW**

To set up a mock court, it is best if you have an expert (perhaps a barrister or a JP) to help. This can be useful in helping people to understand how our judicial system works. With the mock interview, try to introduce someone from outside the Club to conduct the interview. This is invaluable practice for those seeking new jobs!

### **COME DANCING!**

For an energetic night, approach a local dance school and 'dance the night away'. You could try different types of dance - ballroom, disco, tap, rock and roll, belly, Irish, country or limbo!

### **COUNTY ROADSHOW**

One of several options offered by County Federations. Find out all you can about the opportunities and how the YFC movement works. County Roadshow 'teams' are often willing for you to 'set the subject' for their visit. For an entertaining evening, contact your local County Office.

### **AEROBICS**

Contact a local Sports Centre for a qualified aerobics teacher, and spend an energetic evening! Remember, 'If it hurts, you're doing it wrong...'

