

PRESS RELEASE

Please find below a press release for immediate use along with photos of last year's event. We would very much appreciate if you were able to cover this in your next publication. For any further information please use the contact details as below

5th May 2024

YOUNG FARMERS SHEAR THEMSELVES TO SUCCESS

A fast paced fundraiser proved a shear success for members of Eccleshall Young Farmers. The group have raised a tremendous £40,000 for charity through their annual speed shear since it began nearly ten years ago! The event held in 2023 was their most successful yet, raising £14,541! The money raised from this event is to be split between Eccleshall YFC, Farming Community Network, Midlands Air Ambulance and the Stroke Association. Cheques will be presented at the upcoming Staffordshire YFC pre show reception on the 29th of May at the Staffordshire County Showground.

First organised in 2015 by the club, the event has grown each year drawing more shearers and spectators from all over the region. Shearers compete to shear sheep in the quickest time possible to win a cash prize and shearing equipment. The top prize of open winner and the £200 cash prize was taken by Tom Hall from Staffordshire. He took the title with a time of just 23.13 seconds.

Tom Bowers, Eccleshall YFC Chairman 22/23, said: " We would like to say a massive thank you to the hosts, the Sillito family of Wincote Lane. Without the help of hosts, members and the public these events wouldn't be possible. We were overwhelmed with support from so many Eccleshall residents and spectators who travelled from far and wide to enjoy the evening" The event which attracted over 14,000 people was sponsored by Horner Shearing, Double M Plant Hire, Shires Vets, ABP, Dunbia along with many other local agricultural businesses. **A representative from Shires Vets said** " We are absolutely delighted to support Eccleshall and their speed shear. My colleagues and I thoroughly enjoyed it and it's fantastic they are raising money for such worthy causes"

Other achievements by the club include being runners up in the Kaleb Cooper EIEIO challenge. This was set during National Young Farmers week last October to try and promote the benefits of sourcing local British produce with people outside of the industry. The club have raised a total of £18,000 for charity during the last membership year and have really shown what being a YFC member can offer: fun, learning and achievement. Eccleshall organised a rounders match along with FCN, a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the Farming community.

The Speed Shear returns to a new venue of Clanford Lane, Seighford on the 7th September 2024. For any further information about the event or young farmers visit the Eccleshall Young Farmers Facebook page.

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Yours Sincerely,
Emily Cartmail



Image 1: Open Shearing Heat One

Image 2: Tom Bowers along with competition winner Caroline Stone

Image 3: Signing in desk stewards (From left to right) Emily C, Jess P and Carol W.

Image 4: Poster for 2024 Speed Shear

