



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni Association

May 2011

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*...and skies are everywhere as blue as mine*



## Read more about:

**Good things in small packages, Ulster YFA**  
**News from the executive committee**

**Silver Pins**  
**I'm trying to contact...**

# Greetings from the President

First of all, I do hope that you have enjoyed the Spring and some fantastic weather as we have experienced here in the Isle of Man. It is always a pleasure to see everything coming to life each Spring and the Countryside taking on its Spring Colours. Certainly, the Sheep Farmers seemed to have had a reasonable lambing, despite the atrocious arctic weather we endured last November/December. We have recently had a prolonged spell of beautiful weather and much sunshine which lasted throughout Easter and also during the additional holiday to mark the special occasion of the Royal Wedding between Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton, now known as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Her Majesty the Queen is still the Patron of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and I wonder if the Duchess of Cambridge was a former Miss Young Farmer!



In a few weeks time, we will be celebrating the Centenary of the World famous TT Mountain Course, with about 40,000 fans travelling to the Isle of Man for a wonderful festival of Motorsport, fun and festivities. Have a look at [www.iomtt.com](http://www.iomtt.com) to whet your appetite! Considering our population is only 80,000 you can imagine the impact of so many extra people arriving on the Island.

I know we are all looking forward immensely to visiting Finland for the 53<sup>rd</sup> European IFYE Conference from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July and feel sure that the Finnish team will be working tirelessly to ensure we have a Conference to remember in IFYELand. More details are contained within this Newsletter. Apart from the fun and friendship we will also have the serious business of our Annual General Meeting and some important decisions to make, so I hope you will all take the time to give serious thought to what is on the agenda ahead of the AGM, and I look forward to seeing old friends and new ones in Finland.

See you soon!

Kindest regards

Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)

## TO ALL LIFETIME MEMBERS!!!

**HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY AND  
REMEMBERED TO UPDATE US WITH  
YOUR NEW ADDRESS?  
PLEASE UPDATE US ON E- MAIL**

## [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org)

On our web site you will find Minutes from AGM (August 2010 and earlier years) and Contact Members meeting, Country reports and Newsletters 10 years back.



### European IFYE Alumni Association

Web address: [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org)

e-mail: [ifye\\_europe \(A\)hotmail.com](mailto:ifye_europe(A)hotmail.com) (A)= @

Deadline next issue:  
1. September 2011

# Greetings from the Editor

Travelling as IFYE are a part of all of us. Some of us have had the opportunities to experience traditional days on out trips. Here in Norway we have just celebrated '17<sup>th</sup> May', our National day. We celebrate our Constitution which was signed on the 17<sup>th</sup> May in 1814.

The day is a public holiday and if you are here you are likely to be waked up early by 19 year old graduating pupils celebrating the end of 13 years of schooling. You will see loads of national costumes everywhere, and every village will have a parade with bands and happy children cheering 'Hurray'. In Oslo this parade lasts for hours with children from some 120 schools in the city attending. It's a happy day celebrating the freedom we have and the Constitution that give us democratic rights.



I have been fortunate to celebrate amongst others the festive tradition Sinter Claas in the Netherlands; I have been in UK on Guy Fawkes, seen parts of the Easter celebration in Spain and the Tynwald week in the Isle of Man. They have all been special experiences for a foreigner to attend. But one of the most impressive moments was in the Latvian capital of Riga where I happened to be some years ago on their Independence Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. The country got their independence in 1991. It was a touching to see all the happy people and the old veteran in front of the National memorial and all the flowers. During the occupation you could have been shot for leaving flowers there.

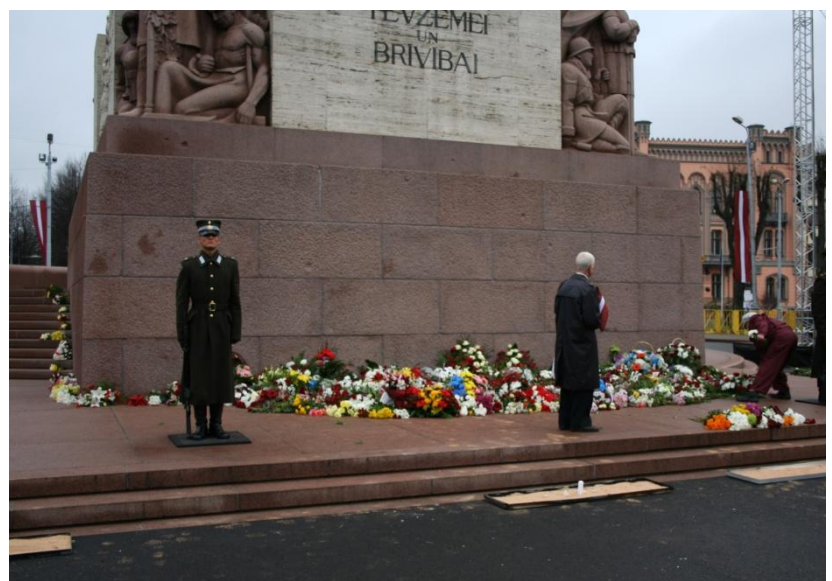
This experience puts a special colour to our own celebration of being able to live in a democratic society and I hope everyone is able to take in what National celebrations like the one in Latvia really are about.

17<sup>th</sup> May puts a colour to the season here in Norway and I hope you all will have a chance to take part in it one day, it's a pity there aren't any exchange or IFYE conference at this time of year.

I will encourage you all to next time when it's a national holiday in your country to find out more what are celebrated and what it means to, or meant to the people who fought for, or contributed to the day you can take part in celebrating.

Enjoy the summer! See you in IFYELand!

Hilde W. Riser (N)



# News from the executive committee

**A 3-year trial period on Baby IFYE subsidy for attendance on their first IFYE conference has come to an end. For the AGM in July 2011 the Executive Committee recommend that the Baby IFYE conference fee subsidy continue in its current format.**



The proposal detailed below was adopted at the AGM in Norway in 2007, and ran for a 3-year trial period. 'From 2011 – 2016 (a 5-year period), 800CHF will be available each year to encourage IFYE's to attend their 1st conference. Each newcomer will receive a maximum contribution of 160CHF towards the published conference fee. It will be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Full time attendance at the conference
- (2) Valid in any of the first 3 years following their exchange trip (an IFYE in 2008 could receive the contribution in 2009, 2010 or 2011).
- (3) The contribution is not valid in the IFYE's own country.
- (4) The application form will be issued and submitted to the Treasurer during the conference attended, and payment made that week.'
- (5) The contribution will be reduced proportionately if more than 5 applications are received in any one year.'

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**The Contact members will receive necessary information for the meetings to be held in Finland by early June. Some of the information will also be published on the web site.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**An updated issue of the Blue booklet have been published on the IFYE web site.**



*"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."*



# Good things in small packages, Ulster YFA

*by Linda Steele*

They say 'good things come in small packages' and that's certainly true of Ulster YFA (Young Farmers Ambassadors) Northern Ireland's IFYE organisation. We might be small in numbers but we have the advantage of living close together which makes it easier for our members to attend events regularly. Each winter the committee organises a dinner, usually on a theme and over the last few years we've had murder mysteries, mock weddings and even the reading of a will.

In summer there is a family picnic which is held in a different beauty spot each year. We've visited beaches, forest parks and even Rathlin Island off the north coast, and this is usually an opportunity for members to meet incoming exchangees.

Throughout the rest of the year we try to arrange activities which will cater for all ages and interests and these can vary from treasure hunts and sporting competitions to barn dances and quizzes.

Once every four years we host the UK reunion and our next one is scheduled for October 2012 in the historic city of Londonderry/ Derry. Although Derry suffered a lot during the Troubles and the economic depression of the 1970s and 80s, in recent years it has undergone a metamorphosis and has recently been named UK City of Culture 2013. The city also hosts the biggest Hallowe'en party in Ireland so there should be plenty going on that weekend for those who want to join us. In preparation for this we have been running regional fund-raisers. The first three centred



round food with a Chinese banquet, a Quiz and Irish Stew night and a 'Plant a Pot' Curry Night. The latter was hosted at Trevor Woods' new pottery studio where we not only capitalised on Claire Woods' horticultural expertise but explored our own artistic talents in clay. Our next big event is a 'Not So Young' Farmers Night, to increase the profile of the organisation and allow past members to catch up with each other and relive their youth.



The funds raised will also help us to support and promote the IFYE programme through the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster. In recent years the number of applications has been dropping, mainly due to the unpredictable economic situation, and so YFA members have been working even harder to spread the IFYE gospel. We have been talking to young people and their parents about the benefits of exchange and how this type of travel experience is like no other. Our efforts may be on a small scale but just as a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step we hope that, along with the work of other members around the world, it will contribute to

ensuring that the IFYE exchange programme continues to benefit rural young people for many years to come.





# SILVER PIN REPORT

## Recognition of an IFYE member's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Thursday 05 August in Ursprung, Austria, the executive committee was requested to consider and report back to the 2011 AGM, regarding the tradition of presenting a silver pin to 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary members.

### Background:

The presentation of a silver pin to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year since a members exchange trip commenced in 1983 at the 25<sup>th</sup> conference in The Netherlands. The raffle, which is still held, commenced a couple of years earlier, initially to raise funds for champagne to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> conference. It proved to be such a successful fund raiser that the surplus money was used to purchase silver pins to present to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary members who attended that conference, a tradition that has continued.

The 2010/11 budget, presented to the members at the 2010 AGM, included an allocation of 3,600 CHF (2,400CHF was to be taken from the lifetime member fund) to purchase 20 tie pins (given to males) and 40 pendants (given to females). The members queried the perceived high cost of the silver pins and a motion proposed by the Swedish IFYE members requested the executive committee prepare a report on the matter and present it to the members at the 2011 AGM.

### Newsletter Questionnaire:

The IFYE newsletter included a feature on the silver pins: members were requested to complete a questionnaire or send their suggestions concerning the issue to their contact member – 37 responses were received from 5 countries.

### Cost of silver pins:

The executive committee sought quotations for the supply of silver pins. It was concluded that there is very little difference between the existing suppliers quote (38€ for a tie-pin and 19€ for a pendant) and that which can be sourced elsewhere. The proposed supplier is yet to be confirmed.

### Mid Term Meeting:

The Mid Term Meeting was held in Luxembourg from the 07 -09 January 2011. The executive committee considered the responses received from the members. In conclusion:

- (1) There is general support from the members for the continuation of the silver pin presentation;
- (2) The issue of a silver pin to Baby IFYE's required consideration and;
- (3) Eligibility to receive a pin (apart from it being 25-years since a members exchange trip) should be considered.

In addition, the questionnaire replies provided several additional suggestions of how to give recognition to anniversary members, including:

- A 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary IFYE exchange report / a list of members names to be included in the newsletter;
- Anniversary members are invited to take part in the first dance at the farewell dinner IFYE and;
- Anniversary members receive a cake at the IFYE conference.

The above and the additional suggestions made by members would be an option for the conference hosts to consider for inclusion on an annual basis if so required.

### Recommendation:

The under-noted recommendations to be proposed for adoption at the 2011 AGM:

- (1) The presentation of a silver pin to mark, the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since a members exchange trip should be continued
- (2) A Baby IFYE is not eligible to receive a silver pin
- (3) Additional silver pins to be purchased from the best priced supplier

# On Line Friend

Source Unknown

## On Line Friend



*I had some free time, so what did I do?  
I checked the computer to see if I'd heard from you!*

*I used to walk out to a box to retrieve mail.  
But I'd rather get it instantly, than wait on the snail!*

*Checking my e-mail is always fun!  
I usually get a joke or greeting from someone.*

*I feel so blessed because on the other end,  
I know I've connected with a friend!*

*When I've had a hard day and need to share,  
Here I can find a friend who will listen and care.*

*And to this friend I hope I've let them know  
That I am always there for them also!*

*Isn't it a strange kind of bond we form?  
It isn't exactly like the "norm"!*

*But, where is it written, face to face we must be,  
For you to be a very good friend to me??*

*That little joke or note, or just a simple "Hi",  
Could be like a ray of sunshine from the sky!*

*So my online pals, this is dedicated to you,  
For all the smiles you have made anew!*

*May our friendship continue to grow,  
And the warmth we feel continue to flow!*

*Always remember this...  
A smile is such an easy thing to pass along the way,  
Like a ray of summer sunshine,  
On a somewhat gloomy day!!*

*Thank you for being my Online Friend!!!*



Obladi Oblada



## European Conference 2011 23<sup>rd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> July

The 53<sup>rd</sup> European IFYE Alumni Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 in IFYELAND, organized together with the Finnish IFYEs in Metsäkartano, FINLAND.

There is a limited edition of visas and they will be granted for 154 ambassadors first applied. Find the visa application form and much more info (and gossips) on soon coming website [www.ifye.fi/ifyeland](http://www.ifye.fi/ifyeland) and send Your emails (any IFYE-kind) generally to: ifyeland (A) gmail.com

Official mail, special ideas or questions to Mrs Sirkku Laurila or Mrs Kati Nurminen, who is receiving Your visa-applications. Kati's address is Käpykuja 3, 42300 JÄMSÄNKOSKI and phone (own) +358-50-4612770.



## I'm trying to contact...!

Sally Young, Scotland searching for a Swiss girl **Marianne Hegg** who stayed at my house about 22 years ago. Sally would like to get in touch Sally can be reached the IFYE e-mail account.

*We have more space for announcements like this in the future.*



## Congratulations!

Signe Nyland Ilnér (IFYE to the Netherlands 1995), Norway and Kristian Ilnér with a daughter, Kristine, born 12 February 2011



Danielle Naser (IFYE to the US 2000), Luxembourg and Claude Huss with a son, Nicolas, born 22 March 2011

Roger King (IFYE to the Netherlands 1992), Northern Ireland and Jennifer A. Agustin on their engagement.

Eric Crozier (IFYE to Switzerland 2008), Northern Ireland and Rachel Stanfield on their engagement

