



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

September 2012



IFYE conference, Kungälv, Sweden 2012



## Read more about:

European Conference 2012, Sweden  
Annual General Meeting 2012  
IFYE history – new project

Future World Conference 2013  
Silver Pins / Golden Certificate  
Norway (or anywhere) on a budget

# Greetings from the President

May I say what a pleasure it was to have been with so many of you at the 54<sup>th</sup> European International Farm Youth Exchange Alumni Conference, held in Kungälv, Sweden from 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

We all enjoyed a fantastic week of catching up with old and not so old friends, and making new ones. We were blessed with some of the best weather we've enjoyed all summer, a stunning, historic location, and a wide ranging, packed and interesting programme which also allowed us to enjoy some of Sweden's magnificent countryside and coastal scenery.

A conference report is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter and on behalf of you all; I express sincere thanks and appreciation to The Three Kings, Anette Nilsson, Ann-Margreth Karlsson, Peter Jimmefors, and all of the Swedish team for their outstanding hard work in preparing for the conference and for providing us with such a memorable week. Who can ever forget all of the various 'animals' finding treasure in the forest and calling for their mothers to come and collect the treasure? A cacophony of various sounds, mayhem and madness!

At the Annual General Meeting, Gerhard Steinberger (AUT), Norbert Winkler (AUT) and Hilde Riser (NOR) were re-elected for 2 year terms, in their positions as First Vice-President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor respectively. We thanked Anette Nilsson (SWE) for her contribution as Second Vice President, and welcomed Alison Spencer (Wales) upon being elected as Second Vice President.

Since returning home, I'm sure we all enjoyed the memorable Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in London. Congratulations to all athletes for their fantastic endeavours and achievements.

In the British Isles, we've endured the worst summer weather for a hundred years, but hopefully, you'll enjoy some good humour from the Scottish Edinburgh Fringe Festival and I hope you enjoy the top 10 jokes:

1. Stewart Francis – "You know who really gives kids a bad name? Posh and Becks."
2. Tim Vine – "Last night me and my girlfriend watched 3 DVDs back to back. Luckily, I was the one facing the telly."
3. Will Marsh – "I was raised as an only child, which really annoyed my sister."
4. Rob Beckett – "You know when you're working class when your TV is bigger than your bookcase."
5. Chris Turner – "I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet.... I don't know Y."
6. Tim Vine – "I took part in the sun tanning Olympics.. – I just got Bronze."
7. George Ryegold – "Pornography is often frowned upon, but that's only because I'm concentrating."
8. Stewart Francis – "I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together. Riveting!"
9. Lou Sanders – "I waited an hour for my starter so I complained. It's not rocket salad."
10. Nish Kumar – "My Mum's so pessimistic, that if there was an Olympics for pessimism.... She wouldn't fancy her chances."

Kindest regards  
Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)



**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. December 2012

# Greetings from the Editor



Autumn is back here in Norway as I sit here and finalise this edition of the Newsletter. There have been nights with frost... but hopefully it will be long to the next and instead look back on lovely summer experiences. For those of you who didn't go to the IFYE conference in Kungälv I hope to share some impressions from the week with you. We also give you updates from the AGM, information on a new project on IFYF history and for those of you consider going to the World Conference in Thailand in 2013; we have received some news from their organising committee. Thanks to all who have helped me with text and pictures for this edition! It's much appreciated.

Since the Conference this summer I have had the chance to go back to my IFYE country; the Netherlands. Realising that friendship only gets stronger but also that IFYE memories is more than experiences and friendships. To me it's also places! And I have enjoyed spending time biking on the dijks and enjoying the long sandy and windy beaches (my favourite place) I bet you also have such places that pictures your IFYE experience and bring back special memories.

Two years ago we made some changes to our Newsletter. The AGM on Isle of Man in 2009 decided that the Newsletter should for the future only be published on the web site and the members could subscribe for a notification when it was a new edition of the Newsletter. Today we send out notifications to some 220 IFYE's. This gives us the possibility to have more up to date news, something which the members also commented.

We have also increased the number of editions to four pr year. On this years conference we asked the members present on some feed back on the Newsletter. It seems most of the members reads the newsletter and many seem to read all the articles. The feedback was that four editions is preferred to the two which it was earlier, and we got a lot of feedback on what the members likes to read... Thankfully it told us that we have already published articles which match with future demands but there were also asked for more news form the different countries and more gossip. So you are all herby challenged!!

Kind regards  
Hilde W. Riser (N)

**TO ALL LIFETIME MEMBERS!!!**

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



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## Executive committee: 2012-2013

**President:** Martyn Quayle, Isle of Man  
**Treasurer:** Norbert Winkler, Austria  
**Secretary:** Sally Young, Scotland

**First Vice President:** Gerhard Steinberger, Austria  
**Second Vice President:** Alison Spencer, Wales  
**Newsletter editor:** Hilde W. Riser, Norway



# Annual General meeting 2012

The annual general meeting was held the Thursday morning on the IFYE conference in Sweden. The minutes is soon to be find on the web site.

The executive committee proposed for this year AGM that a committee should be established to investigate the possibilities to make a historical report for the organisation. Former President (99-03) Helle Bonderup from Denmark is appointed to chair the committee. See her invitation to members to contribute on the following page.

The eligible members of the executive committee where re-elected and as Wales is hosting next year's conference they are holding the position as the second vice president and Alison Spencer from Wales was welcomed to the board as a new member.



*Board 2012-13: Gerhard, Hilde, Martyn, Sally, Norbert, Alison*

## Collecting IFYE History

In six years time the European IFYE organization can celebrate its 60th conference. To commemorate the history of our organization and conferences, a group were formed at this year's AGM on the conference in Sweden. The purpose of the group is to collect the history from the past, and to preserve and share. But we can not do this work all by ourselves, so we need YOU to help us collect the best stories and pictures from our past. So do you have a story or picture, related to IFYE life or know someone you think we should talk to, please let us know.

Here are some angles that may inspire you:

- My best IFYE conference
- A love story
- Once an IFYE – always an IFYE (everyday life as an IFYE )
- Career opportunities and choices made possible from the IFYE experience

The subcommittee is consisting of:

Sirkku Laurila (Fin)	<i>giasas.ifye (at) gmail.com</i>
Katharina Steinrücke (D)	<i>ifyekatharina (at)t-online.de</i>
Inga-lill Eriksson (S)	<i>inga-lill.eriksson.sfr (at)folkbildning.net</i>
Dorothy Wilson (Eng)	<i>dorothy (at) wilsonwilloughby.plus.com</i>
Helle Bonderup (DK) (chair)	<i>helleb (at)teliamail.dk</i>

We look forward to hear from you!



*Memory from the European Conference in Sweden in 1981. One of the trips was deep sea fishing on trawlers. Unfortunately, virtually everyone was sea sick. When we arrived back we were faced with a barbecue supper of spit roasted pig. Some of them look as though they weren't even up to a drink of water!*





Bohus Fortress and Kungälv (PJ)



Helping to knock down the last part...(HWR)

## 54<sup>th</sup> European IFYE Conference

# Sweden

### 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012



Knights tournament (HH)

It was a week of sun, fun and a royal touch took place in Kungälv. The location was the Nordic Folk high school overlooking the Bohus Fortress in the area where a historical meeting for the three Scandinavian kings took place long ago in very pre ancient IFYE time. Now we all gathered to a week filled with traditional activities, games, trips, meetings and parties. We had such a great week.



IFYEs and "the three kings" (AF)

The week started with the Mediaeval festival at the Fortress, trips to coastal sights, exploring Gothenburg using public transport, Celebrating Midsummer and partying with a Royal touch.

We asked Pauline Armstrong (NI) how she did enjoy the week at the conference.

"I enjoyed everything about the Swedish IFYE Conference - the venue, the programme, the beautiful location in Sweden, the relaxed atmosphere, the food, the weather... I could go on and on!"



Exploring Gothenburg (AF)



View over Gothenburg – still exploring (AF)





Canoeing (PJ)



Boat trip to almost open sea (MT)

I have happy memories of the final dinner with our table hosts Monica and Jörgen, of exploring Gothenburg with Hilde and Brigitte, of the lovely meal at the sawmill/cafe, of all the events at the midsummer day especially meeting with IFYE's who came for the day - in particular Marianne and Nils and Katrin, Torbjörn and their children, the frog dance, the lovely music at the final dinner and the pizza party with the IFYE's who stayed the extra night!

However something that has really stayed with me was the imagination and enthusiasm of the young couple who had developed their mushroom business. I was so impressed with their business story - how they wanted to have a business which allowed them to combine it with the care of their children, how they developed and marketed their own products and the long hours and commitment they put in to make it successful. Really inspiring!

the Swedish IFYEs gave us such a good time - thanks to them all!"

*Pictures by: Arne Forbord (AF), Anita Eckerstorfer (AE), Hilde Hjelt (HH), Mari Kindsbekken (MK), Anette Paulsen (AP), Peter Jimmefors (PJ), Sally Young (SY), Mary Turner (MT) and Hilde W. Riser (HWR)*



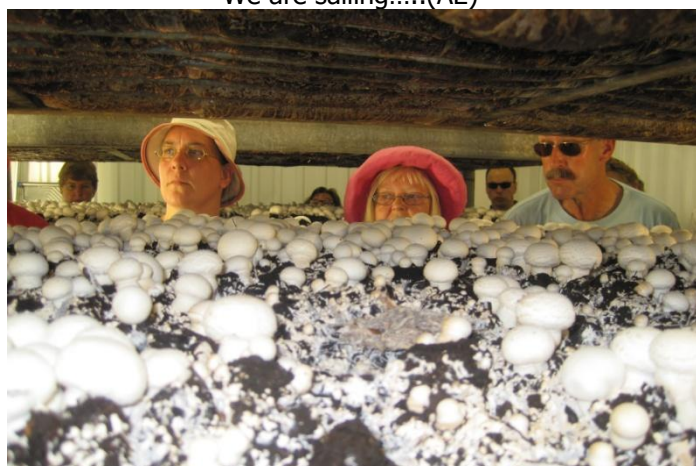
Lilla Kålviks båtbyggeri, boat builder (HWR)



We are sailing.....(AE)



Halltorps mejeri, goat farm and dairy (AP)



Östragårde Går, mushroom growers (SY)





Royal craziness (HWR)



Mostly Swiss royals (MT)



Royal baby IFYEs (AP)



Diamond jubilee goes Sweden (MT)



Make sure we have another picture of this (AF)



Games at Midsummer (AP)



Playing Kubb at Midsummer (AP)



Self made wreaths - Midsummer (MK)



# Norway (or anywhere) on a budget



With this year's reunion in the west of Sweden it seemed the most logical thing in the world to include a few days to see some of Norway as well. "Are those countries not very expensive?" was the usual response I got to this suggestion. To be fair Scandinavia is regarded as one of the more pricey regions of Europe to visit but experience has taught me that no matter where I want to go, my motto should be "Never fear, IFYE is here!"

Long before CouchSurfing was even a twinkle in its creator's eye IFYEs were travelling the world on a budget and here are just a few top tips for the young or uninitiated, to make sure your Euro/Pound/Kroner/Dollar goes that little bit further.

1. **Cross reference your flights with your IFYE address list.** If there is someone living nearby they are an invaluable source for advice on connecting buses and trains, or perhaps even picking you up. Better still they might offer you a bed for the night.
2. **Meet up with IFYEs for a drink or meal.** This provides you with a local guide and translator as well as some good conversation or nights out. It may cost you the price of a meal or a few drinks but it will save you much more in time, stress, taxis and shoe-leather which you would have spent looking for local landmarks or good bars, hotels and restaurants. If it hadn't been for local knowledge we might not have found the best coffee shops in Munich, the best open-air museum in Norway, the best cakes in Vienna and the best cocktails and roof-top views in Prague.
3. **Never refuse a free lunch.** No matter how good the local restaurants are you'll never beat home cooking, and I'm somewhat of an expert in this department. Also, instead of supporting multi-national fast food outlets you can console yourself that you're helping local farmers and producers as that's where your host is more likely to shop.
4. **Make full use of modern technology.** Update your Facebook status at regular intervals and you never know who might coincidentally pop up in the same place at the same time. I've had some great random reunions en route to a conference which has made the trip all the more memorable.

Of course this doesn't mean it's going to be cheapest trip you've ever had, but you will certainly get a lot more for your money in the shape of better food, more interesting places, not mentioned in the tourist guides, and more varied and fascinating company. The only downside, if you can call it that, is you may have to return the favour, but I have found that this is nothing but a pleasure too. Hosting visitors has given me great excuses to visit local places which I often ignore or sit up into the wee small hours, often on a work night, reminiscing about past reunions or planning new ones.

And finally, another reason to attend a reunion, if indeed you needed one, is, your address list just keeps on growing!!! So now you know the secret what's stopping you? I'm already planning my trips for next year....you have been warned!



*by a happy traveler*



## ***What a summer, so many great memories!***

On behalf of the Swedish IFYE Alumni and the European IFYE Conference 2012 we would like to send you all a huge Thank You! – Tack! for participating and giving us so much credit for the work we have done due to the conference.

It has been a great journey and adventure and we really enjoyed planning for the conference and to host you here in Sweden. Not just did we have splendid weather, you also seemed to like the venue, our trips and not at least – our Midsummer celebration. What a day! Great weather, silly games, dance around the Maypole, sill & nubbe and a traditional barn dance. An extra “TACK” to all the Swedes that came for just that day. We really enjoyed having you over and visiting with us! The kitchen staff had a good time looking at all those people, playing up in the hill, sounding like animals. They had a good laugh!

The people that we met during the week on our trips, but also the staff at the school really enjoyed being around us and to work and spend time with us. What we all have together is a blessing – something very special!

We hope that you also have enjoyed looking at all the photos at Facebook. It has also been a joy to receive all messages from you after the conference. Truly hart warming!

We now wish Wales all the best for next year’s conference and we hope to see you all again soon!

Yours sincerely!

Anette, Peter, Maria and Ann-Margreth

## **Flag on the move**

**Wales 2013**



Whilst the eyes of the world might have been on London and the Olympic flag on the evening of Friday 27th July for the opening ceremony of the Olympic games, IFYE members from Wales were making a piece of history of their own with another flag. At the closing ceremony of the European Conference in Sweden, held on the same evening the IFYE flag was handed over to 4 members from Wales to bring home ready for the 55th Conference in Monmouth in July 2013.



The flag has arrived in Wales for the very first time and will be flying above Haberdashers’ Monmouth School for girls from 25th July 2013 as we welcome all IFYE members to the first European Conference to be held in Wales. More details to follow soon.



## Olympic Updates



**Sadly, despite their long hours of training, the IFYE Synchronised Swimming Team failed to qualify for the finals at London 2012.**

**On a more positive note trials for the IFYE Beach volleyball team in preparation for Rio 2016, will take place in Wales next summer. Don't forget your sun cream!**



## UK Young Farmers' Ambassadors Reunion

**26<sup>th</sup> Oct - 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012**



Best Western White Horse Inn, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Past exchangees and friends from all over the UK will gather for a weekend of excursions and socialising. If you're in the vicinity we'd love to see you, so please come along and join us.

More details and the application form are available on [www.ifye.co.uk](http://www.ifye.co.uk)

## 10<sup>th</sup> World IFYE Conference Thailand 2013 - first announcement

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the President of IFYE Thailand, you are cordially invited to participate in the 10th World IFYE Conference 2013 which will be held during 12-19 November 2013 in Chonburi Province, Thailand.

The Conference will be jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Thai Yuwakasetkorn Promotion (TYKP) Foundation under the Royal Patronage of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and International Farm Youth Exchange Association of Thailand (IFYE Thailand), with the support from relevant concerned organizations of both public and private sectors.

The Conference's theme is highlighted on "Towards Green and Happy Society" which aims at providing a forum for IFYE members and families, 4-H members and leaders, farmers and interested persons and officials-in-charge from across the world to share views and experiences in the development of farm youth





and farm population towards self-sufficiency and happiness, to foster IFYE network regionally and to impress with beautiful Thai culture and identity.

Besides a series of conventional meetings during the Conference, you will be invited to take part in a wide range of spectacular activities, for example, field visits, home stay, handicraft making practice, loy kratong festival, 4-H fair and much more interesting activities. Please find enclosed herewith the tentative programme for your perusal. More information, in particular, registration fees, registration method, accommodation will be made available in the Second Announcement and in the website <http://www.worldifye2013.com>. Should you need further communication, please contact us at [worldifye2013@mail.com](mailto:worldifye2013@mail.com).

We truly welcome you to the 10th World IFYE Conference 2013 and look forward to meeting you in Thailand in November 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Sakorn Praphaiphong  
President of IFYE Thailand



Tentative Programme of the 10 <sup>th</sup> World IFYE Conference 2013					
12 - 19 November 2013, Pattaya City, Chonburi Province, Thailand					
Date/ Time	09.00 - 12.00 hrs.		13.00 - 16.00 hrs.		18.00 - 21.00 hrs.
Tuesday 12 Nov. 2013	Arrival of participants/ registration		Exhibition setting of IFYE from foreign countries		
Wednesday 13 Nov. 2013	Orientation/ Keynote speech		Opening ceremony/ Exhibition visit		Welcome dinner/ Thai cultural performance
Thursday 14 Nov. 2013	Panel discussion by the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, FAO and ASPAC IFYE		Foreign IFYE visit Thai Agricultural Innovation Fair		Dinner/ IFYE regional cultural performance
			Thai farm youth and other Thai participants participate in technical contest		
Friday 15 Nov. 2013	Study visit : the 1 <sup>st</sup> 4-H farmers group of Thailand and the Farm Youth Museum in Bang Pa Kong District, Chachoengsao Province			Agro-tourism/ Home stay	
Saturday 16 Nov. 2013	Agro-tourism (continued)				Dinner and a cruise along Chaophraya River/ IFYE regional cultural performance
Sunday 17 Nov. 2013	Optional visit to tourist attractions in Chonburi and nearby provinces				Dinner/Loy Krathong festival in Pattaya City
Monday 18 Nov. 2013	Board of Directors Meeting	General Assembly/ Regional	General Assembly/ Bidding for the 11th World IFYE Conference 2018 and announcement		Farewell dinner/ exchange of tokens/ candle ceremony
	4-H members participate in social interaction activities and cultural exchange				
Tuesday 19 Nov. 2013	Departure for respective home countries/ continue tour in Thailand or other countries				



## Congratulations!



Sabine and Andreas Poelzl (IFYE to USA 2000), Austria with a daughter Laura, born 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the proud big brother is Lukas



Marianne Huhtala (IFYE to Austria, 1987) and Tapio Hyvönen, Finland with a son, born 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Lyndsey Johnston (IFYE to USA 2008) and Robert (Robbie) Galway (IFYE to Canada 1994) both Northern Ireland on their wedding 14<sup>th</sup> August.



## Silver Certificates and Pins 2012



Patrick Gautier, France, Ann-Britt Gripestam Eliason and Helene Johansson, Sweden and Birgitte Løes, Norway. Arne Svensson, Sweden also received a Silver pin.

## Golden Certificate 2012



Alf Johansson, Sweden, Ruth Johansson and Galdys Grovan Medalen, Norway, Ulla-Mari Kankaanpää and Inga-Britt Jagerstam, Sweden and Adrian Francis, Wales. Ejdon Johansson, Sweden also received a Golden Certificate.

Pictures: Arne Forbord

