



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

June 2013



UK IFYE's at Austrian Swiss Ski weekend, supervised by an Austrian and the ... snowman

Read more about:

Executive committee report 2013

Updates Conference Wales 2013

Austrian/ Swiss Ski weekend

More than 60 years of IFYE history

Summary Country reports

Greetings from the President

Since my last greetings, I have enjoyed skiing with friends in Switzerland, but upon returning home to the Isle of Man, found that there seemed to be more snow at home than on the ski slopes in Zermatt!

I'm not sure what kind of weather the rest of Europe has had in the last couple of months, but in the Isle of Man and certain parts of the United Kingdom, we have experienced the heaviest snowfalls in 50 years.

Sadly, the Isle of Man farming community lost over 14000 sheep and several hundred cattle in the huge snowdrifts. Some of the farmers, when walking on the snow, found that it was adjacent to the tops of the trees.

It will have been very traumatic for all farmers and families, wherever they are, to have had to deal with the losses of their livestock and they remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Also as a result of the prolonged colder period, spring has been so much later, and cooler. Hopefully, we will have a better summer!

Excitement mounts as our thoughts turn to the forthcoming 55th IFYE conference to be hosted by Wales from 25th July to 1st August. I know that Alison Spencer, Mary Roberts and the rest of the Welsh team have been working tirelessly to ensure we all have a great time.

As retiring President – due to conclude my 6th year, this will be my last 'Greetings from the President'. (Thank goodness for that -I can hear you say! But in future, how will you ever keep updated with the weather in the Isle of Man?)

It has been an enormous honour, privilege and pleasure to have served as your President and I have enjoyed attending conferences in Switzerland 2008, Isle of Man 2009, Austria 2010, Finland 2011, Sweden 2012 and now this year in Wales.

I express my thanks and sincere appreciation to you all for your support, and my particular thanks to past and present Members of the Executive Committee for all their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm.

I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in Wales.

Kindest regards

Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)



European IFYE Alumni

Web address: www.ifye.org

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

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1. September 2013

Greetings from the Editor

Just as this is published it is 55 days till about 150 IFYE's are gathering in Wales to tame a Dragon and spend a week in Monmouth for another European Conference, the first one ever in Wales. This is one of the summer highlights for so many of our members. Hopefully we can welcome some new members this year as "IFYE babies" and hopefully we have the chance to welcome back faces we have not seen for some years...

As last year we publish the Executive Committee Report here in the Newsletter. For those of you going to the conference it's possible to save time by reading it now and for those of you not going, you can be updated already now too.

We have with help from the Contact members collected information on the exchange in our most active countries and share some of the information here. The Country Reports are also available on the web site. We have received some pictures from the Sunny Austrian Alps where IFYE's from four Countries gathered in March for plenty of fun. Finally we have challenged John and Fiona Cromie (Northern Ireland) to share some of their many IFYE experiences from the early IFYE days until recent years. Thank you all for your contributions!

I hope you enjoy the articles in this Newsletter and you are hereby challenged to contribute with small and big IFYE related stories in the upcoming editions.

Regards,

Hilde W. Riser (N)

ALL LIFETIME MEMBERS!!!

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

***ON OUR WEB SITE YOU WILL FIND MINUTES
FROM AGM (JULY 2011 AND EARLIER YEARS)
AND CONTACT MEMBERS MEETING, COUNTRY
REPORTS AND NEWSLETTERS 10 YEARS BACK.***



Executive committee: 2012-2013

President: Martyn Quayle, Isle of Man
First Vice President Gerhard Steinberger, Austria
Second Vice President Alison Spencer, Wales

Treasurer: Norbert Winkler, Austria
Secretary: Sally Young, Scotland
Newsletter editor: Hilde W. Riser, Norway

Executive Committee Report 2013

(To be read out at Country Meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting)

The 54th European IFYE Alumni Conference was held at Kungälv, Sweden from 21st – 28th July, 2012. It was a wonderful, eventful and relaxing week, full of new experiences, good food and entertainment, held in a truly historic location in the countryside alongside a castle. Our grateful thanks and appreciation are extended to our Swedish hosts who provided a wide-ranging programme in such a peaceful location.

The Executive Committee has again worked well as a team and met for the mid-term meeting in January in Abergavenny, Wales in the beautiful home of Alison and Keith Spencer. Mary Roberts joined us and we had a lengthy agenda, many discussions and decisions made, and amongst many items, the following should be of interest:

- Country Reports for 2012 are available on www.ifye.org
- IFYE Conference Promotion of Attendance – A six minute 'teaser' has been produced. (A link for this has been sent to the Contact Members to forward to their country members by email, and to all exchangees from the last three years, to tempt them to attend).
- A Letter of Introduction to European IFYE's in 2012, 2011 and 2010, was sent out by the 1st Vice President via e-mail, with links to the Welsh IFYE Conference website, and the new promotional conference 'teaser'.
- Lukas Helfenstein, (CH) kindly represented and promoted EIFYEA at the European Rally, held in Poland in 2012 and provided us with a comprehensive report. Closer links have been established with Rural Youth Europe in recent years, and it is hoped to build on these in future, by more effective promotion of EIFYEA during the European Rally each year.
- EIFYEA Administration – 'Executive Committee Guidelines', a comprehensive booklet, has been prepared by members of the Executive Committee. It sets out useful guidelines for the smooth running, and efficient operation of the EIFYEA organisation and will be of immense benefit to existing and new members of the Executive Committee in the future.
- A report has been provided to the IFYE continent groups around the World, outlining EIFYEA's purpose, structure and organisation.
- Newsletter – This has been produced four times during the last year and emailed to recipients.
- IFYE Website – A new host for the site was implemented from September 2012, and has proved to be more efficient than the previous host.
- Finances – The Executive Committee has reviewed all finances and is satisfied that no increase in the Membership fee is required, and that it should remain at 20CHF for an Annual Membership and 240CHF for a Lifetime Membership
- Membership statistics – There are currently 277 Lifetime Members and 35 Annual Members.
- 60th Anniversary of IFYE European Conferences in 2018 – The sub- committee has provided a report to the Executive Committee which was discussed at the mid term meeting and will give an update of its work, ahead of the 2013 AGM. The Executive Committee will consider the report and make recommendations for consideration by the Contact Members/Country Members at the AGM.
- Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences – Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in 2013 (Wales), 2014 (Germany) and Scotland (2015), and one Country has expressed an interest in hosting in 2017, the Executive Committee has written to all Contact Members to request that their country's discuss hosting the Conference in 2016, before the 2013 AGM.

As retiring President, (due to conclude my 3rd two-year term), this is my 6th and final Executive Committee Report. Since being appointed as President in Norway in 2007, I have been privileged to attend fantastic conferences, held in Switzerland 2008; Isle of Man 2009; Austria 2010; Finland 2011; Sweden 2012 and now this year in Wales.

It has been a great honour, privilege and pleasure to have served as your President, and I express my thanks and sincere appreciation to you all for your support, and my particular thanks to all members of the Executive Committee for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm.

I am sure Members will have noticed that much has been achieved in recent years, with great improvements in the smooth running of EIFYEA and in making the organisation 'fit for the future'!

I look forward to seeing you all in Wales for what is sure to be a super Conference, with the input from Alison Spencer, Mary Roberts and the rest of the Welsh team.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)
President

Statistics – Countries and Exchangees

Over the last years we have tried to systematically collect information on the number of exchanges and which countries the exchange is between the actual years.

From the information we can see that on some fields the countries are very much alike but there are also some major differences. To attend/apply for the IFYE programme it is in some countries enough that you are interested in agriculture and culture and want to travel, in most countries you have to be a member of your local organisation and in one country (Norway) you have to have completed your 4H programme which means doing 7 projects in 7 years and achieved "plaketten" to be able to apply, it's meant to be a treat to the members.

We see that some national IFYE clubs don't have a membership's fee, but most have. One country says that they have lifetime members. The size of the national alumni clubs varies from 33 to 556 members.

The exchanges offered in the different countries are between one week and 6 months and the country sending out most IFYE exchangees this year is Switzerland.

Country Reports can be found on the web site: www.ifye.org



Norway also send out more IFYE's than in many years and they have got a new flag to promote the IFYE programme

Congratulations!



Susanna Palkkimäki (president of Finnish IFYE and IFYE to Austria 2001) and Tuomo Alaviuhkola got engaged in February

Imke and Detlef Eckart (1994 IFYE from Germany to USA) with the birth of their second daughter, Svea) on 30 November 2012.

Rainer and Petra Kaupil (2002 IFYE from Austria to USA) with the birth of their daughter Anna on 8. March 2013



Rainer and Petra with Anna

Swiss-Austria IFYE ski weekend

15th-17th March

By Norbert Winkler

At the last conference in Sweden the idea of a Swiss-Austrian IFYE Ski weekend has been born. Heavy negotiations about the time and place followed until Andreas took the initiative to organize it. Soon a Facebook ski weekend group was formed, certainly it was open for every IFYE, not just Swiss and Austrian ones.

Time flies, and it was time to get on the way to Schladming/Styria, the place where this year's Skiing World championship took place. The B&B was located perfect direct at the slope, we just had to fall on the track.



The reunion started on Friday evening in the guesthouse for a typical Austrian cold snack, it was wonderful to meet again and to warm up all the happy memories. After 2 beers and many laughs we went to bed to be fit for skiing the next morning.

Strengthened by an ample breakfast, everyone was eager to get on the skis. Andreas did a great job, when he ordered the weather for the weekend, it was the best weather anyone can have for a skiweekend: Sun sun sun and a great piste. Sonja, Nadja and Doris took care of Paul, who had his first skiing experience after many years, but he did very very well ... the others followed the smell of racing.

The skiing day ended with après ski on top of the Gasslhöhe. After changing the dress and resting a little at the guesthouse the evening program started. A "Joseph" festival (all the Josephs and Josephines celebrated themselves) with a beer tent took place nearby and it was a great evening.

It was a little hard to get up on Sunday, but again the breakfast and the wonderful weather helped a lot. Soon the great day was over and it was time to say goodbye.



For us Austrians, it was a pleasure to be the host the ski weekend, we were honored to have guests from Switzerland, Northern Ireland and the Orkneys. Thank you Paul and Tom for making such a long trip to be with us. It was generally agreed, that it was a great weekend, it will be repeated for sure, and of course every IFYE is welcome.

Thank you for coming and see you soon in Wales.

Once an IFYE always an IFYE

by Fiona Cromie, april 2013



How wonderful it is to be an IFYE. John and I had the great good fortune to spend 6 months in USA. John thinks he had the best exchange anyone ever had in 1954, when he was hosted in South Carolina and Nebraska. But I disagree with this because I had a fantastic exchange in 1960, in Utah and Missouri!!!

How blessed we both were to be chosen by The Young Farmer's Clubs of Ulster to represent our country in the USA with some 150 other IFYE's from all over the world.

When John went to the states food rationing had only recently been lifted here in Northern Ireland and he was in awe of the huge steaks at a 'pot luck' supper in his host families church and he was absolutely shocked when the remaining T-bone steaks were hurled to the dogs, when all the people had had enough.

I was amazed to be offered 'punch' in Utah where no alcohol was served at a wedding. 'No thank you!' I said. But then I realised 'punch' was a fruit juice cocktail not whiskey and water as I expected, which was the way in Ireland!

John and I met on a Y.F.C. three week study trip to 'study' agriculture in Denmark, but John later went off to Australia for three years to explore New South Wales,

while I finished my studies. During these years of separation we corresponded by letter. In fact I didn't hear John voice for three years, how different to now when we can phone or skype!!

Being an exchangee is a life changing experience but hosting exchangees is very fulfilling as well. All during our lives we have had the pleasure of hosting. In the 50's we had Kay Homan, the then president of the Junior Farmer's of Ontario, who was with us again here last year. David Wilson was an exchangee from New Zealand, who fell head over heels in love with Tamara from Indiana. She was 19 years of age and David a mature 29 year old. I tried to talk sense to them but to no avail. The following year they were married in Indiana and John and I, with our daughter and a friend went to their wedding. They are now happily married with three gorgeous daughters. Ursula from Switzerland and Regula all made lasting friendships. Mary Ball come frequently from Virginia and actually first met us the evening John and I became engaged at the Opera House in Belfast.

Just last year our daughter Raequelle took her three teenagers to Schleswig-Holstein to stay with our son, Jonathan's, host family. Jonathan was an exchangee to Germany 25 years ago. He had the delight of planting cabbages every day and dancing every evening. His host sister Gersa came to us for six months to study medicine at Altnagelvin Hospital, so that she could improve her English, before specialising in surgery. All lovely people and each bring their special charm.



John and I had marvellous times at the World Conferences we attended. I will never forget standing and swaying on the tram in Adelaide and a man saying loudly 'That sounds like John Cromie'; the two men hadn't seen each other since being in the states in 1954. One day I looked out my kitchen window and gasped 'If that doesn't look like Marcus from Kangaroo Island' and it was!!

Thank you to all the European Conferences each better than the last that we attended – madly dressed up with face paint all over our bodies or as a 'hexan' in the Hartz mountains, or enjoying brilliant food at Toppen in Norway with Hilde. Thank you Hilde for having our daughter, son-in-law and our three grandchildren to stay a week in your home. What gorgeous lilies Hilde had in her garden.

John and I enjoy all our friends who come and stay or visit. You enrich our lives so much, but the icing on the cake is the fact that just last week Andrew our 16 year old Grandson was chosen for a short term exchange to Finland. It would be extra special if he was able to see Eva, who lives in Helsinki and was with me at Mid-point meeting in USA in 1960.

Thank you to everyone for their love and all the fantastic experiences we have both enjoyed throughout our lives since being IFYE's.



How to Tame Your Dragon

European IFYE Conference 25 July – 1 August 2013, Mounmouth, Wales

The dragon has arrived in Monmouthshire ! Rumour has it that he returned to Wales from across the border in England and is being tamed by Chris ready for the 55th Conference from 25th July to 1st August.

If you would like to meet our dragon and your IFYE friends of course, then you can still register. 150+ places have already been booked but there are a few beds available. If you are planning to come then go to the website at <http://ifye.osscltd.co.uk> or www.ifye.org to complete the booking form to ensure your place. Further details will be sent to all those who have registered later in the summer.

We look forward to welcoming all IFYEs to the first conference in Wales.



It's not always easy to understand what other people say or mean... this one is a good example and truly made me laugh, and as English is our common IFYE language...

What the British say	What the British mean	What others understand
I hear what you say	I disagree and do not want to discuss it further	He accepts my point of view
With the greatest respect...	I think you are an idiot	He is listening to me
That's not bad	That's good	That's poor
That is a very brave proposal	You are insane	He thinks I have courage
Quite good	A bit disappointing	Quite good
I would suggest...	Do it or be prepared to justify yourself	Think about the idea, but do what you like
Oh, incidentally/ by the way	The primary purpose of our discussion is...	That is not very important
I was a bit disappointed that	I am annoyed that	It doesn't really matter
Very interesting	That is clearly nonsense	They are impressed
I'll bear it in mind	I've forgotten it already	They will probably do it
I'm sure it's my fault	It's your fault	Why do they think it was their fault?
You must come for dinner	It's not an invitation, I'm just being polite	I will get an invitation soon
I almost agree	I don't agree at all	He's not far from agreement
I only have a few minor comments	Please re-write completely	He has found a few typos
Could we consider some other options	I don't like your idea	They have not yet decided