



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

October 2013



Dragon Race IFYE conference, Monmouth Wales



## Read more about

**European Conference 2013, Wales**

**Annual General Meeting 2013**

**Postcard from Costa Rica**

**Finnish Development Fund Project**

**Silver Pins / Golden Certificate**

# Greetings from the President

May I say what a pleasure it was to have been with so many of you at the 55th European International Farm Youth Exchange Alumni Conference, held in Monmouth, Wales from 25.07 – 01.08, 2013.

It is the first time for me to start here with some words which a real pleasure. 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 hot - not typical welsh - weather, a stunning location on the hills over Monmouth, and a wide ranging, packed and interesting programme which also allowed us to enjoy some of South Wales magnificent countryside. Some of us had also the opportunity to see parts of the Royal Welsh Show which took place the days before our conference to get a deeper look into Welsh agriculture.

A conference report is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter and on behalf of you all, I express sincere appreciation to Alison Spencer & Mary Roberts and the Wales team including the Welsh dragon that hosted the conference for their outstanding hard work (day& night) in hosting us in Wales - I am sure they spend afterwards days in bed ;-). Thanks ones again for that memorable week!

At the Annual General Meeting, there were a number of changes to the Executive Committee and we expressed appreciation to Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man) who did a brilliant job as President over the last 6 years and to Sally Young (Scotland) who retired as Secretary for all her fantastic work over the last years - we wish especially her all the best and hope to see her next year in Germany.

I was most grateful for your support to start as President for a next 2 year term, Linda Steele was appointed as Secretary for a 2 year term and we welcomed Anna Persson (Sweden) to the Executive Committee as 1st Vice President and Katharina Steinrücke (Germany) as 2nd Vice President. Norbert Winkler (Austria) continues as Treasurer and Hilde Riser(Norway) continues as our Newsletter Editor. I believe it's a great team to take IFYE forward into the future.

The conference in Wales will always stay in my mind - for sure of the fantastic location, program & team but also of my luggage problem and the help from you all – many thanks ones again!

August runs very fast and normal life is back – so I wish you all a fantastic late summer & fall and do not forget there is the World conference in Thailand this year – be part of it.

Kind regards

Gerhard Steinberger  
Austria



**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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Deadline next issue:  
1. December 2013

# Greetings from the Editor



The autumn has just said hello and the snow have been spotted even by me in the mountains as powdered sugar and then again here is the autumn edition of our newsletter.

The summer gave us loads of good memories from the European Conference in Wales. The first one ever! For those of you not there I'll try to share some memories from the week and for those who where there it's a reminder what happened!

This years conference had as normal visitors from afar, some for the first time and some enjoyed it so much last year so they came back this year. Thanks Matti Kuykendall for your report! The Finns received grants from the Development fund in 2012 and their brief report can also be read in this edition. And of course are we already looking forward to next year's conference, in Germany. The German organising committee are sharing some information with us in this edition too.

As editor it's vital to receive help from members both to share stories and pictures. I'm happy to have received pictures from many of you this time as well, and some of the Contact members have come back to me with happy news on newlyweds and newborn babies.

Thanks to you all who have helped me with text and pictures for this edition! It's much appreciated.

Kind regards

Hilde W. Riser (N)



## Help needed!

The sub-committee has started their work gathering material for the commemorative report celebrating 60 years of IFYE conferences. We have now decided on the focus and want to keep it informal and with stories from different angles from our fellow IFYE's and past presidents spiced up with pictures.

We still haven't made decisions on the format, but would like to explore various options. As none of the committee members have much knowledge in the field of producing a report other than printing, we search for people that can help and guide us. We need help to explore the different options on printing – producing of DVDs or any variation that could be possible.

So if you have any knowledge or skills and would like to lend us a hand, please contact one of us from the sub-committee:

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### Executive committee: 2013-2014

**President:** Gerhard Steinberger, Austria

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Anna Persson, Sweden

**Treasurer:** Norbert Winkler, Austria

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Katharina Steinrücke, Germany

**Secretary:** Linda Steele, Northern Ireland

**Newsletter editor:** Hilde W. Riser, Norway

## Annual General meeting 2013

The annual general meeting was held the Tuesday morning on the IFYE conference in Wales. The minutes are soon to be found on the web site.

The committee that have investigated the possibilities to make a historical report for European Conferences for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018 gave their report and concluded that the work should continue and that there will be possibilities to make a report not yet decided in what format. Former President (99-03) Helle Bonderup from Denmark continues to chair the committee.

Chair of Rural Youth Europe and member of Estonian 4H Kadri Toomingas extended an invitation to the first European IFYE Conference in Estonia in 2016.

New members of the executive committee were elected and the leaving members Martyn Quayle, Sally Young and Alison Spencer were presented with a small token of appreciation.



### **The Executive committee 2013-14**

*President Gerhard Steinberger Austria, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Katharina Steinrücke Germany, Secretary Linda Steele, Northern Ireland, Newsletter Editor Hilde W. Riser Norway 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Anna Persson, Sweden and Treasurer Norbert Winkler Austria.*

A presentation of the members will follow in the December edition of the Newsletter

## Golden Certificate and Silver pins

On this years conference 4 members received Golden certificate and 12 members received Silver pins.



### **Silver pins and Silver certificates 2013**

Helle Bonderup, Denmark, Anne Brødsgaard, Denmark, Hartmut Kegel, Germany, Marie-Anne Kayl, Luxembourg, Luuk Geurts, Nederland, Ann-Sofie Ihrfors, Sweden, Eva Grahn, Sweden, Mona Bodin, Sweden, Madeleine Zimmermann, Switzerland, Angharad Williams, Wales, Margaret Evans, Wales, David Hill, Wales

### **Golden certificates 2013**

Hans Toppius, Germany, William King, Northern Ireland, Fiona Cromie, Northern Ireland, Irmgard Wiegand, Germany



County hall – blue plaque trail



Blue plaque trail

## 55<sup>th</sup> European IFYE Conference Wales 25<sup>th</sup> July- 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013



Chepstow Male Voice Choir

For the first time the European IFYE Conference took place in Wales in the historical town of Mounmouth. More than 150 IFYEs were ready to tame the dragon and to learn more about a new corner of the world. The Welsh committee had planned a great week for us and gave us a taste of Welsh culture with i.e Male Voice Choir, Eisteddfod competitions and welsh cake making.



Treated with Pims

The day of local trips had main focus on "Made in Monmouthshire" and "Sustainability visits." We had the chance to visit a variety of local farms, vineyards and a brewery. To many it was a surprise to find vineyards in this part of Europe. The farms where great examples of diversification of the business to meet future challenges.

During the week we also visited the world heritage site of Blaenavon and the Big pit that earlier was an essential part of Welsh industrial/mining history.



Lunch time



Nail in a log competition



Dragon race

This year there were a Mad hatters party and there have never been seen such a wonderful collection of hats (Sorry traditional Ascot) and for the first time in (IFYE) history we could take part in a dragon race!

One day was an Eisteddfod competition day. This is a traditional Welsh song- and poetry competition/ festival. For the occasion it was a wide range of competitions and then the countries should form choirs for the final part of the festival and perform a song or five. Then a poem should be read out in welsh by a representative from each country! Unforgettable entertainment!



Mad hatters party

At the AGM the President for the six last years, Martyn Quayle from Isle of Man stepped down and new elected President was Gerhard Steinberger from Austria!

Before leaving the conference the German Committee for next years conference gave a taste of what there is to expect! We are already looking forward to Bavaria 2014!

Thanks to the Welsh committee and their families for their hospitality and hard work to make it an unforgettable IFYE week!



Mad hatters party dinner



Ladies with hats



Parva Farmhouse Vineyard



Going down the Big Pit



Farm visit



Blaenavon



Pictures by: Mary Turner, Peter Jimmefors, Anita Eckerstorfer, Sabine Kobler, Sonja Siegwart, Hilde W. Riser and Anna Moxnes

# Conference traveler from over sea

- Matti Kuykendall, Kansas USA



Hello all!

My first European IFYE Conference was last year in Sweden; while I was at the start of my exchange in Northern Ireland (Thomas Lennox was nice enough to help me get from N. Ireland to Sweden and back unscathed). My good friend Amy Sents (2010 Kansas IFYE to Germany & Switzerland) had recommended that I travel to Kungälv after her positive experience at the conference hosted in Austria. There were only four of us Americans present at the conference in Sweden, but we all felt very welcome among our fellow IFYEs from all over the world. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to see a country that I might not have gotten the chance to visit otherwise, plus learning about Sweden's culture and customs- as is the IFYE way. However, it was the new friendships and camaraderie with other IFYEs that encouraged me to travel "across the pond" again this summer to Wales.

At the Royal Welsh Show and in Monmouth I was able to reunite with several of my hosts from last year's exchange. It is great keeping in touch with them via Facebook and email, but nothing can replace seeing them again in person. I was also fortunate enough to be reunited with Sabine Wegmann and other exchangees from last year, catching up on memories we shared and what's happened since we've been apart. My highlights from this year's conference include: the overflowing IFYE caravan at the Royal Welsh Show, the talented Chepstow Male Voice Choir, an entertaining IFYE Eisteddfod, the very mad Mad Hatter's party, journeying down into the Big Pit, exceptional food and drink, and of course- seeing old friends and making new ones.



These conferences provide a unique opportunity for us all to add another week to an IFYE exchange that has had a tremendous effect on many of our lives. Being on exchange again, even for a short time, is something we can all find joy in. This, surrounded by people who can fully understand your experiences, is a great reason to travel near or far to an IFYE conference.

I hope to see you all again next year in Germany.... and Scotland and Estonia after that!

IFYE love,

Matti Kuykendall  
2012 IFYE from Kansas, USA to  
Scotland, N. Ireland, Wales & Switzerland





# Away on exchange just now

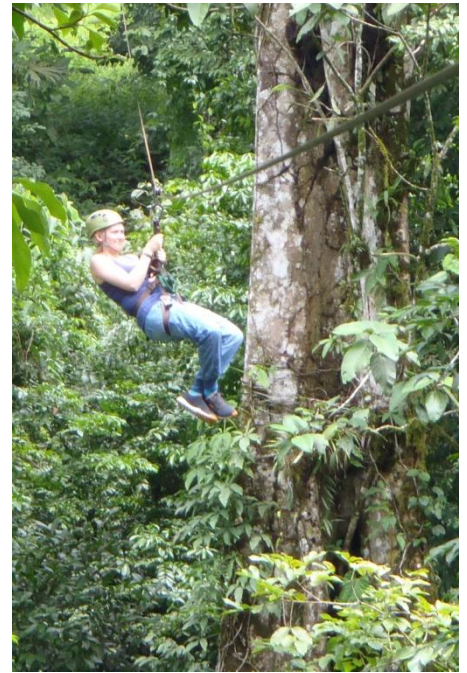
- Costa Rica

Hello!

My name is Kirsten Grythe and I am a Norwegian IFYE in Costa Rica this year. I am halfway through my three months here and have already seen and experienced a lot! I have lived with two different families, repelled and ziplined in the rainforest, seen Sea Turtles lay eggs, seen volcanoes, learned to surf, got eaten by bugs, sunburned twice and seen a lot of different animals and plants.

Costa Rica is a really nice country; everyone is friendly and wants to get to know you. The language is Spanish, but luckily a lot of people know English as well. My Spanish vocabulary is tiny and my first family spoke hardly any English, so there were a few confusing moments and a lot of headshaking, hand movements and laughing. Being an IFYE is truly an adventure and I highly recommend it.

Regards Kirsten Johanne Grythe



## Congratulations

Lyndsey (IFYE to US 2008) and Rob Galway (IFYE to Canada 1994), Northern Ireland with a baby girl born in early September 2013

Bodil Pedersen (IFYE to US 2003) and Gunnleif Muren, Norway with a baby boy; Birger born 9 July 2013

Kari Syverstuen (IFYE to US 1998) and Kai Arild Holt, Norway with a baby boy; Sindre born 30 August 2013

Jonna Otava (Northern Ireland 2003) and Anti Mönkkönen on their wedding 14. September 2013



# Mini IFYE Conference in Finland



## Development find project

The Finnish IFYE's applied for development money from the European IFYE Alumni in 2012 to activate the younger IFYE's to the IFYE activities in Finland, Europe and the World level by creating a new brochure, a tutor system and by organizing an activating event for IFYE's who have been in exchange between 2000-2013.

Mini IFYE conference was held in Pori on 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The mini IFYE conference gathered 19 IFYE's, their spouses and one SIRYE (Wales exchange) who is also a potential IFYE. He is originally from Pori so he helped in organizing the event.



The Mini IFYE conference followed the main themes of the conference, such as getting to know each other, experiencing culture and visiting places and areas that you might not find as a regular tourist, having to choose trips from the list of options and of course a farewell dinner. In this way we tried to give a good idea on what the European conferences really are about and to show what the participation fee actually includes.

In Finland 20 people participating in an IFYE happening is already a good result but it was definitely great to see that many of the participants were new faces, so for us this made the happening really successful and it served the purpose it was originally planned for.

The new mini-IFYE's got really excited of the IFYE activities and since the event was targeted to younger IFYE's it lowered the barrier of coming to take part. We hope that we are now able to keep the new faces in our activities and also encourage them to participate in the European activities. Many of them said that they had not realised before what the IFYE life could be like after the exchange.

We hope that during this event they got a better understanding of what IFYE life can offer and in general that IFYE life does continue as long as one wants it to, well beyond the "young 4H and club activity years".

We feel that all the activities so far have been successful and all the goals set in our support application have been reached. We hope that this report will also give ideas to other IFYE associations on what could be done to engage their younger IFYE's who are not participating in activities.



# Welcome to Germany

## Preview to the European Conference 2014

At the last IFYE-Conference in Wales the German delegation, wearing traditional Bavarian costumes, presented the invitation for the next European conference in 2014. It will be held in the north of Bavaria at the Hesselberg from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> of July. The place is in the countryside on a small hill near the medieval town named Dinkelsbühl.

A short insight in the program was given accompanied by Bavarian music. There will be a traditional Bavarian Oktoberfest, trips to Nürnberg, a medieval festival ("Kinderzeche" in Dinkelsbühl) and much more activities.

After the official part everybody was invited to have a small taste of what will take place in 2014: Bavarian music was playing, Bavarian beer was served accompanied by warm pretzels, fresh from the oven. We hope everybody enjoyed the small outlook and look forward to meet you all in Bavaria next year.

Please use our homepage for your registration: [www.ifye.de](http://www.ifye.de) or send your registration by E-Mail to: [registration@ifye.de](mailto:registration@ifye.de).

Welcome!



German organizing committee:

Eva Singer, Johannes Wening, Katharina Steinrücke, Anne Wiegand, Peggy Rostin and Hilke Solterbeck.