



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

July 2015



## Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Scotland – 2015

**From 15 – 22 August** - we are in the final countdown to the Conference and we are pleased to say we have over 180 people registered. We have been working on this project for 3 years now and we have been able to put together a programme which we feel represents Scotland, showing off our fantastic scenery, industry and showcasing our fine food and drink. There is something for everyone and although the official closing date has now passed, we are still open for registrations. We are hugely indebted to Gordonstoun School, and our many sponsors and funders that have helped us produce such an event at a very affordable Conference Fee of £420 Sterling. Go to our **website** at [www.ifyescotland.co.uk](http://www.ifyescotland.co.uk) to find more details on the programme and how to register, but to avoid disappointment, don't delay! The **Facebook site for the Conference** is: <https://www.facebook.com/ifye2015scotland>.

To those who have already registered, we will be sending out further important information in July.

Looking forward to welcoming everyone to Scotland in August ☺



IFYE Scotland 2015

Organising Team

## Greetings from the President

I hope you have enjoyed some good spring and beginning summer weather as we have here in Austria. The time is running so fast, it feels like some weeks after Easter but now we are in July. I am sure lots of you are ready for the first hay cut or full in harvest. But also aside from the agricultural business, people are looking forward to the summer break - I have an idea for a perfect week! There is a fantastic event coming up soon - the forthcoming **'IFYE Reunion'** to be hosted by Scotland from 15th August to 22nd August.

I know that the Scottish team have been working tirelessly to ensure we all have a great time. 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 so I hope you will familiarise yourselves with the Agenda ahead of the AGM.

But there will also be some changes - over the last year lots of things had happened in my life and so I had to make some new directions & decisions. Last August the birth of our lovely son, then moving back to my home place, rework our house a little bit to be prepared for a baby and getting a new job ( with much more work as I expected ) lead to the situation that I was not able to do all things I wanted to do. Therefore I have to consolidate my actual life & will not stand for another term as the President.

It has been an enormous honour, privilege and pleasure to have served as board member over 3 years and especially the last 2 years as your President.

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 am sure the next Board will do a fantastic job and so I wish you all a nice July - looking forward to see old friends and some new ones in Scotland.

Gerhard Steinberger (Aus) President

## Looking for Nessie!

**"Sometimes you will never know ..."** One of my favourite quotes by Dr. Seuss is *"sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."* I think of this quote every time I have experienced a life-changing moment.

I've always had a love for travel. For me, it's the excitement I get by stepping out of my comfort zone and learning about another culture. I've found that the best ways to get the most out of an exchange are by being open to trying a different way of life, meeting new people, enjoying beautiful scenery, and finding a deeper appreciation for

one's own country and culture.

I arrived in Scotland on June 9th after a 20-hour-long journey from Boise, Idaho to Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon arrival, I was greeted by the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC) National Chief Executive, Penny Montgomerie, who whisked three other exchangees and me away to the heart of Edinburgh where we would be staying for the next two nights in the Budget Backpackers Hostel. In the beginning, there were 12 exchangees from all over the world including Austria, England, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Tasmania, Wales, and the United States. We spent two full days learning about each other during activities planned by the SAYFC and the Young Farmers Ambassadors of the Scottish Region. Some of the things planned for us were: Craigies Farm, Edinburgh Zoo, the Annual Reception & Dinner for Overseas Delegates, The Kelpies, Falkirk Wheel, and the Glasgow Museum of Transport. In just two days, we were well on our way to becoming good friends. One of my favourite bonding moments happened when we were all eating breakfast together at the hostel on the first morning after we arrived. For breakfast, we had a traditional Scottish "fry-up" that included several new food(s) for many of us. ("Fry-up" = contains a mixture of fried or cooked foods, such as sausages, eggs, bacon and tomatoes.) Talking about food and the differences in our diets snowballed into more conversation topics that brought all of us closer.



On Wednesday June 11th, after spending our day with two representatives of the Young Farmers Ambassadors, we met our first host families. For the first week, all 12 exchangees were spread out in the Lanarkshire District; I was hosted by the Stewart family who are part of the Lesmehagow Young Farmers Club. Laura and Anna Stewart



taught me a lot about the Young Farmers program, introduced me to several Scottish traditions, icons and words, helped me meet new people, and most of all they made me feel comfortable and at home. Laura and Anna had a lot of excellent plans for my stay: Lanark's Lanimars Day, Lanark's market, dairy stock judging, farm tours, shopping in Glasgow, a 21st birthday celebration, a dodge ball tournament and dance, a car treasure hunt, castle tours, sheep shearing and lots of sunbathing thanks to the good weather. It was with Laura and Anna that I was pushed out of my comfort zone and put into a different way of life that was faster, impromptu and more sleep-deprived than mine. Some of the events were coordinated with the other clubs hosting exchangees, so all 12 of us were able to spend more time together during our stay in Lanarkshire.

On Wednesday June 18th we found ourselves back in Edinburgh at the Budget Backpackers Hostel. We spent the evening in anticipation of what the next four days would be like at the Royal Highland Show, and let me tell you I don't think any of us came close to the reality. We each had our own interests at the show; some of us wanted to spend more time in the livestock and agricultural areas, others wanted to see the arts, crafts and shopping marquees, and others fancied socializing with other young people more than anything. I set a personal goal to attend more of the educational and cultural elements of the show such as the sheep showing and shearing, the Grand Parade, the Grand Prix, the Red Hot Chilli Piper's concert and the after-the-show dance. Also during the show, the exchangees were invited to attend the Young Farmers Chairman's reception and the Young Farmers Alumni reception - both of which offered excellent networking opportunities.



Me - Milking

After attending the Royal Highland Show, I think many of us, myself included, thought "what can top that?" Well, I think Dumfries and Galloway will be pleased to hear that my week with them was just as good, if not better than my week at the Highland Show. Again, all of the exchangees were split up throughout the district, but this time there weren't any events planned for all of us to see each other again. I was hosted by three different families with members in the Thornhill Young Farmers Club. All of my hosts did an excellent job of taking into consideration my interests when planning activities for me to attend during the week.

Some of my favourites included: Drumlanrig Castle, handicrafts night, sheep shedding, sheep shearing, Dumfries market, Jersey cattle farm tour, Dumfries car rally, and a movie night with the girls. One priceless moment that I will cherish

forever, is when Gillian, my host, showed me the view from the top of her farm. When I looked out over the valley and took in the beautiful scenery, I had a moment where I felt like my grandfather, who recently passed away, was with me holding my hand. From Dumfries and Galloway, Andrew Wiffin (New Zealand) and I travelled up to the Ross Nairn and Inverness (RNI) district to meet our next host. Upon arrival, we were greeted by our first host out of four for the week. The MacArthur family are members of the Nairn Young Farmers Club, and they did an excellent job planning experiences for Andrew and me. We were able to participate in a sheep and beef stock judging contest at their home, see a cheese factory, a whisky factory and Cawdor Castle, cruise around Loch Ness in search of Nessie, and visit the Cairngorm National Park.

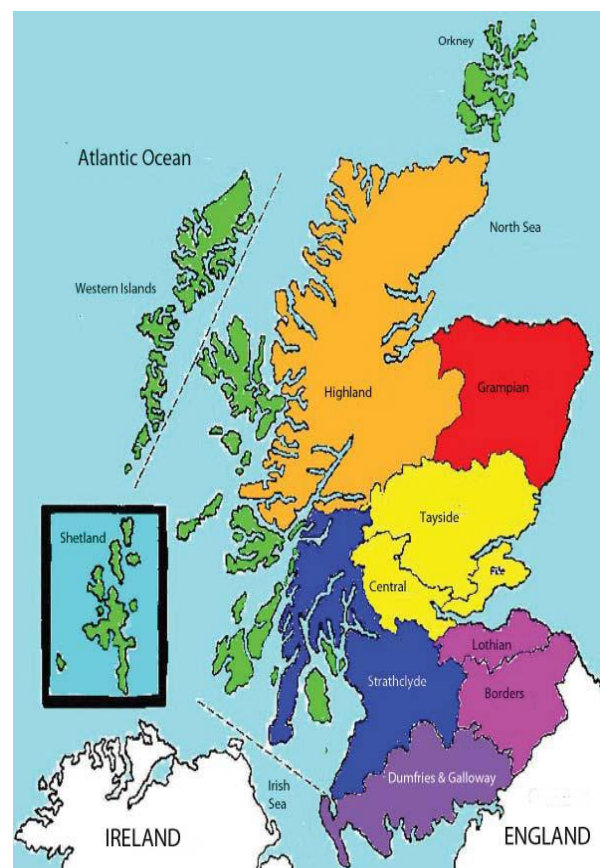


Our next host(s) had other things planned including sheep shearing, a fruit farm tour, shopping, an organic carrot and chicken farm tour, and a local show dance. It was in this district that I developed a deeper appreciation for my own culture. One of my host families was extremely knowledgeable about Scottish history, so when learning about the Wars of Independence in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, I came to realize how fortunate I am to have been raised in such a strong, proud, independent country that is known for its leadership and diversity.

Andrew and I travelled together to East Aberdeenshire on the Sunday going into the fifth week of our exchange; we stayed in separate homes, but spent all seven days together participating in the same activities our hosts had planned. My host, Amy Reid, is a member of the Belhelvie Young Farmers Club. She coordinated the following during my stay: a day with the British Grassland Society, Balmoral Castle, and a day out in Aberdeen, Slains Castle, sheep stock judging, a lighthouse museum tour, a hike up Bennachie, deep fried Mars Bars in Stonehaven, Echt tug-of-war competition, Red Hot Chilli Pipers concert, and Echt Show Dance. It was refreshing to be hosted by someone so close in personality to me; Amy and I had some great conversations that helped me confirm some of my observations about the differences between the young people I've met in Scotland and the young people in my community. During my last

week in Scotland, I was hosted by the Lothian and Peebles district who placed me in three different homes throughout the week. For the first night in the district, I stayed in a flat in Edinburgh with a member of the Edinburgh Young Farmers Club; I used my time with her resting and catching up on life back home. After Edinburgh, I stayed on a dairy farm owned by a family with three daughters in the Bathgate Young Farmers Club. With this family, I was able to help out on two different farms with basic farm tasks and milking cows. My host family also took me on a car treasure hunt hosted by their club. For the rest of the week, I stayed with another member of the Bathgate Young Farmers Club. The Purdon family was extremely generous and took me to so many popular attractions Scotland is known for: Edinburgh Castle, Wallace Monument, and Loch Lomond. We also went to Go Ape!, Edinburgh for bowling, and to the Biggar Show Dance. It was with this family that I started feeling a little homesick because my host's parents reminded me a lot of my own parents, and I felt like I fit in really well with their lifestyle.

Looking back on the past six weeks, I feel confident saying that I followed my own advice well, and did indeed get the most out of my exchange. I was able to meet new people, see new places, try new ways of life, and develop a deeper sense of my own culture. I'd like to say that my favourite thing about my exchange, with the Scottish Young Farmers, was how hospitable all of my host families were; to let a complete stranger in their homes for a few days, and sacrifice their time to help give that stranger an unbelievable experience, was something I will be forever grateful for. I learned a lot about Scotland's history, agriculture and young people--what more could a 21-year-old Agricultural Education student from the University of Idaho want? I only hope that in the future I will be able to host an exchangee, and give them just as good of a time as my host families did for me. I had several great moments that turned into priceless memories and I will cherish them forever! For fun, I will include a few of my favourites from Scotland: word: bonnie animal: Highland Cow tourist attraction: Loch Ness cultural bits: kilts, bagpipes, cèilidh (pronounced "Kayleigh" (cèilidh rhymes with 'bee') - traditional Gaelic social gathering, which usually involves playing Gaelic folk music and dancing food: Lorne Sausage







# European IFYE Alumni

## International Farm/4H Youth Exchange

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### AGENDA

57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the European IFYE Alumni

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Elgin, Scotland

1. Welcome and Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Apologies for Absence
5. Appointment of the Counters and the Establishment of the number of eligible voters
6. Approval of the Minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
7. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
8. Reports on Past IFYE Activities
  - 8.1 Report on the IFYE Conference in Germany, 2014
  - 8.2 Executive Committee Report
  - 8.3 Country Reports on Special or New Programmes
  - 8.4 Report on the European Rally held in Port Talbot, Wales, 2014
9. Financial Matters
  - 9.1 Main Report
  - 9.2 Lifetime Members' Fund Report
  - 9.3 Development Fund Report
  - 9.4 Auditor's Report
10. Applications to the Development Fund
11. Budget 2015/16
  - 11.1 Annual Budget
  - 11.2 Membership Fees
  - 11.3 Development Fund
12. Future IFYE Conferences
  - 12.1 Estonia 2016
  - 12.2 Switzerland 2017 / Northern Ireland 2018
  - 12.3 Invitations for 2019 and beyond
13. IFYE 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2018: Subcommittee Update
14. Election of Office Bearers

President: Gerhard Steinberger (Aut): Elected in 2013 for a two-year term. Election required.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Anna Persson (Swe): Elected in 2014 for a two-year term.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: A representative from Estonia to be elected for a one-year term, to be nominated by the Estonian IFYEs.

Secretary: Linda Steele (NI): Elected in 2013 for a two-year term. Election required.

Treasurer: Ursula Spillman (Swi): Elected in 2014 for a two-year term.

Newsletter Editor: Avril Herdman (NI): Elected in 2014 for a one-year term, election required.

Auditor: Two Auditors are required, to be nominated by Estonia for a one-year term.
15. Any Other Business

## 1st CALL FOR IFYE MEMORIES

For most of us our IFYE exchange was one of the key experiences of our lives. In European IFYE we are fortunate to be able to share that experience and renew the IFYE spirit at our annual conferences.

Now, almost unbelievably, our European IFYE Alumni Association is approaching its 60th anniversary, which will be 2018. That is quite something for an international association organised on a voluntary basis. And, of course, over the years European IFYE has been the catalyst for so many special friendships and even marriages.

To celebrate what we have achieved the 60th Anniversary Project sub-committee has begun to collect memories so that we can publish a commemorative booklet in time for the 2018 meeting.

Already some interesting stories have emerged. There seems to be a possible link between our inaugural meeting and the CIA. And Rudi and Vrenny Mummenthaler arrived at the hotel where that first meeting was held. Unfortunately, nobody on the reception desk knew anything about it so they went away. Fortunately, they came back.

Fiona Cromie reports that the 1961 meeting Ireland was held in a monastery – complete with monks! Then there is story an IFYE told of his “uncle” who was executed. And we should not forget the acrobatic pet flea.

More seriously a key aim of the 2018 booklet will be to say thank you to all those people who worked so hard to make European IFYE so unique, not forgetting those who beaver away quietly in the background. Another aim will be to bring together some of the memories that make up the fabric of our association before those memories are dimmed by the passage of time.

It is perhaps particularly appropriate that we think about this just now as we have recently lost Piet Dijkhuis who, along with Marianne Geluk, was a driving forces in setting up our association and our first President.

Obviously, collecting 60 years’ worth of memories is no small task. Thus, to make it manageable, we are dividing that task into segments. So, this is a request for those of our members who attended the conferences between 1958 and 1969 to get in touch. Once we have that period sorted out, we can move on to the later years.

If you were at these early conferences and can help us please let us know by e-mailing [ifyememories@outlook.com](mailto:ifyememories@outlook.com). At a later stage, we’ll be asking you for some notes of your memories and, particularly, any interesting stories and any photographs you may have.

With your help we hope to put together a souvenir publication that will be a worthy tribute to all that IFYE has meant to us.

Thank you.

Inga-Lill, Katharina and Dorothy [with support from Birgitta]





## Executive Committee Report 2015

The 56th European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Hesselberg, Germany from 19th July - 26th July, 2014. It was a wonderful week, with a welcome as warm as the weather, and, once again, we had the opportunity to make many new memories along with both old and new friends. Our thanks and appreciation to our German hosts who provided an excellent programme, and gave us the opportunity to learn about the beauty, history and marvels of their country and Weißwurst!

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Dublin in February and amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

- Country Reports for 2014 will be available on [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org).
- A Letter of Introduction was sent out to last year's European IFYEs via e-mail, with links to the Scottish IFYE Conference website, fb page and the promotional video.
- IFYE Conference Promotion of Attendance - In addition to the six minute 'teaser' on Youtube a flyer is available which you can use at a local level or customise to suit yourself.
- The outcomes of last year's workshops were discussed at length and a compilation of useful ideas is attached.
- Lukas Helfenstein (Swi) represented EIFYEA at the European Rally, held in Port Talbot, Wales in 2014 and Mary Roberts and Alison Spencer also attended to promote future IFYE reunions.
- Newsletter - This has been produced 3 times during the last year and emailed to recipients.
- Website - The Executive Committee is looking at how this might be developed, perhaps to include more photographs or reports on conferences and would welcome comments, expertise or advice from interested members.
- 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.
- 60th Anniversary of IFYE European Conferences in 2018 - This was discussed at the mid-term meeting and ideas forwarded to the sub-committee which will give an update of its work, ahead of the 2015 AGM.
- Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences - Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in Estonia (2016), Switzerland (2017) and Northern Ireland (2018). If your country is interested in hosting a conference in 2019 or beyond we would be grateful if you could discuss this prior to the conference.
- Short workshops will again be included in the conference programme to allow members to contribute ideas or expertise on a range of issues.

We look forward to seeing you all in Elgin in August. On behalf of the Executive Committee

Gerhard Steinberger (Aus) President

## **Appendix**

Conference Workshops - It was agreed that the short workshops had been useful and had prompted some interesting discussions. It was decided that these should be included again in 2015 to allow members to contribute their ideas and expertise.

### **Promotion of IFYE and newcomer IFYEs**

- \* Consider the idea of a mini-conference or meeting within your own country to introduce the idea and provide information, online or in leaflet form.
- \* Use the title 'Reunion' rather than 'Conference' to make it sound less intimidating.
- \* Offer a range of price levels or accommodation.
- \* Be flexible about the length of their participation.
- \* Members should be vigilant at the start of the conference to ensure newcomers are included and made welcome.

### **Website and Publicity**

- \* Use facebook more effectively by having one reunion page which passes to each country in turn, hence building up the members and creating photo albums for each one.
- \* Investigate the possibility of adding links to our website to photo galleries or a blog.
- \* Advertise in as many ways as possible.

### **Future Conferences - new ideas?**

The following ideas are something for future hosts to consider.

- \* Certain elements need to be maintained i.e. board, country and Annual General meetings but these should be kept short and informative.
- \* Be careful not to overload the programme and allow time for relaxation and informal contact. Different age groups should also be considered when designing the activities to keep the programme balanced with something of interest to each.
- \* Stress the individuality of the country you are in by keeping visits local, showing how people actually live. This should also help keep the price down.
- \* If possible offer different accommodation options and different prices i.e. single, double or group rooms.
- \* The timing has to suit the hosts and there is no perfect solution as different countries have different summer timetables.
- \* People who wish to bring children should be considered but each host country has to decide what is feasible for them.
- \* When choosing a venue hosts should remember the importance of social areas and seek somewhere with room for music and dancing alongside quieter seated areas.

## 60th Anniversary Booklet 2018

It was agreed that the production of a large book was physically and financially unfeasible and of limited appeal to members but that it was important to conserve the history of the organisation. This could be done in several ways.

- \* The information which is being collected and compiled by the group should be correlated and made available online, in digital form. They should also outline what they already have and what else they need so members can help collect the information.
- \* The minutes and newsletters which are archived could be scanned and also made available digitally. This would involve someone volunteering a lot of time.
- \* The host country for 2018 could investigate the possibility of producing a souvenir anniversary booklet, at minimal cost, which would contain a small selection of photographs and limited text for distribution at the anniversary.

### Skye - through the eyes of Lyn Scott de Carvalho



The drive through Scotland along the lochs is mystical. Keep an eye out for Nessie too. Caroline in the tourist office can orient anyone--no GPS necessary. And for those looking for the "pot o'gold" at the end of the rainbow, this might be the place to find it! My visit to Alan's croft was courtesy of "Turner Tours" out of Bridge of Weir in Renfrewshire. You will not find it on Facebook or in the directory and booking well in advance is advised. You will not be disappointed. Alan mentioned that he sees many rainbows and quite a few double rainbows. He has even seen a double rainbow with the start of a triple. Happy travels!

Lyn Scott de Carvalho China & Taiwan 1986-87 from Kansas