



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

September 2015



Newcomers at the IFYE Conference in Scotland

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The European IFYE Newsletter

Hello dear reader,

This is my very first IFYE Newsletter and I am already very excited when it comes to publishing. It contains information about the IFYE conference in Scotland. You are able to read very interesting stories from different writers and to enjoy many pictures. Furthermore, you will also find the introduction of the latest committee with a picture puzzle ☺.

An outlook for the next Newsletter is the exciting IFYE summer reported by a Swiss IFYE and another one from a Wales IFYE who went to Africa.

The Newsletter has also space for new ideas, please share some and things you would like to read, e.g.

- looking for old IFYE friends
- invitation to national events
- ...

The committee is already working hard on many old and new issues. One of them is the homepage. We have several ideas what we would like to have and might need in the future but ...

**Please also send us your ideas and locals needs
for the new homepage!**

Now enjoy reading all the stories...

Regards,
Anita



European IFYE Alumni Association

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Greetings from the Executive Committee



Anita Eckerstorfer, Anna Persson, Ursula Spillmann, Andreas Pözl, Reelika Rütli, Linda Steele

President:

Anna Persson (Sweden)

This is the first greetings from the new president. I usually don't take that position, but when Linda promised to stay as secretary for another two years I thought we could be a good team with Ursula, Andi, Anita and Reelika.

I'm Anna, a swedish girl or what you say at my age, who went to Scotland as IFYE 1991 and had my best summer ever. The last years have I start to go to European conferences again and that have enriched my life a lot. New friends and the possibility see and learn about parts in the world I never been to.

I work and live in Jönköping, I work as a library developer and for the moment in Sweden it's about open up libraries even then the staff go home for the day. My free time goes to be a delegate in Swedish football, reading, family and friends.

I look forward to see what we can do in the board the coming years, one of the thing we have to work with are how to attract new conference participants. And I don't only look for young ones, I also think people who have been attending as young but been off because of family.

All the best,
Anna
Your president

I'm glad that I'm able to tell you quickly who I am.

I'm not a person that talks a lot, but...

here are my statistics and technical data: ☺

Height:	0,00184km
Mass:	0,109t
Circumference:	$2 * 0,25m * \pi$
Headlights:	blue
Roof:	larger windscreen with dark blonde top and slightly grey designer stripes on the sides
Tyre measurement:	44
Grill:	slightly curvaceous as well as raised in Z Y and X
Production year:	1971
Launch:	on the 127th day of 1972
Mileage in hours:	$43*365 + (43/4) * 24 + (263-126)$

In the meantime I'm happily married with Sabine and have two wonderful children.

My son Lukas is 6 years old and has just started school a few days ago. My daughter Laura has already 3 years of life experience and started Kindergarten a few days ago.

I'm travelling a lot for work and have already visited several places on this earth. I'm working for the Mercedes G-Class in Graz, Austria and I am responsible for the quality of purchased parts in series production and in new constructions. I have just completed a project near Stuttgart for two OEM and begin in October with my work on a new vehicle for Daimler AG. My job is called Supply Chain Management or SCM abbreviated.

In the year 2000 I had the big luck to visit the USA (Colorado) during an IFYE exchange.

By now you should know who I am.

I'm???

...and I'm looking forward to a great time in Estonia next year.

I work as a youth leader in a local small school. Also I'm a volunteer in 4H board and as an IFYE coordinator. I have done IFYE work over 10 years. Before that I was just a host family :)

At home i have 2 small kids, 5 years old princess and 2,5 years old little farmer. I dont have a big house hold, just a small garden around the house a half hectare strawberry filed :)

Treasurer

Ursula Spillmann (Switzerland)

Last year the Annual General Assembly of the European IFYE Alumni Assoc. in Hesselberg, Germany, elected me as the new treasurer. This year I could present for the first time the actual and budget to the AGM in Gordonstoun, Elgin, Scotland. It is a pleasure for me to support the IFYE organisation that way.

In 2003 I was on exchange to Northern Ireland and could enjoy 6 great weeks there. As I was an IFYE quite late, it was very special for me. Back home I became member of the Swiss IFYE board and was secretary and coordinator to 7 countries behalf of the exchange programme during 6 years. It was a very good experience for me and I liked very much, to stay in touch with that many people from all over the world. Beside of IFYE I'm working voluntary for other organisations and my passion is discovering our beautiful world by traveling around.

For making all this affordable I work part-time (80%) as leader of the financial department of a middle-size-town (11'500 inhabitants) close to my home. Numbers play quite a big part in my life at the moment, what I like very much. What's left from my time, I spend in my garden or are relaxing in my little house.

Secretary

Linda Steele (Northern Ireland)

For those of you who already know me you'll know here's not much to tell. For those who don't I'm a primary school teacher who lives and works in the small village of Kilrea in Northern Ireland. Outside work my interests revolve around theatre, music and dance, although these days it's more watching than performing.

My Ifye life began in 1994 when the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster awarded me a trip to Germany. It was a great experience and I learned a lot although my German didn't improve much. For the next few years I was heavily involved in Young Farmers and Rural Youth Europe, and it was when I represented RYE at the World Conference in Sigtuna, Sweden in 2003 that I got my next taste of Ifye life. There I made a lot of new friends and, I'm glad to say, over the last few years the list grows ever longer.

Two years ago I had the dubious honour of being elected Ifye Secretary which has allowed me to give just a little bit back to this unique organisation which has given me so much. Apart from the excuse to travel to some wild and wonderful places, to meet some wild and wonderful people, and to indulge my love of dancing and partying into the wee small hours, at long last I have the chance to improve my German.....natürlich!

My IFYE experience started back in 2007. Due to the recommendation of Stefan I applied for an exchange and I went for 6 weeks to Scotland. It was a great summer and experience.

Last year at the conference in Germany, there was big discussion about who should be our next Newsletter Editor. I was already thinking about it but due to too many upcoming changes I didn't want to disappoint the board and also you, the reader of this Newsletter. The year past and many changes happened. Now I live in North-Germany and study Industrial Engineering whilst working part-time (50%) for Grundfos, a Danish pump producer. My main responsibility is the SAP Master Data of all European Sales companies. The job requires a lot of international background where I can only say "Thank you IFYE for giving me that know-how."

The job and the study are in some periods already very demanding but I also like to support the IFYE association. It is a way of saying thank you for all nice moments I had and for sure will have due to IFYE.

The committee some years ago... Can you figure out who is who?

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4



5



6



You can find the solution on the last page!

Goodbye Dear President

After a couple of weeks of retirement from the board I got asked for a few words for this newspaper; Just starting with a look back to Scotland would be too easy – so think back to the fantastic moments over the last couple of years we all had, starting eg on the Isle of Man where I was a baby/newcomer and got into that lovely-crazy IFYE community;

Then had that workintens conference in Austria where we hardly survived an almost sleepless week. The Finland trip was really holiday for me – beside my broken toe in the first night, but I had some nice „nurses“ with lots of medicine around, so also the swamp soccer game was possible.

The following year in Sweden with the nice midsummer & special fancy dress party and the mideveal castle next to our home was very special.

As we all know Wales is different and so it was to me - by thinking back on my bags and my lost passport, may I had to stay in the big Pit if I wouldn't got the right papers...

Germany was more easier for me, just come over by car.. and my car was always full of fuel for a fast escape – we were waiting for our first child, but all official parts of the conference were possible to attend.

Regards,

Gerhard Steinberger and Family (Austria)

This year in Elgin was a mixture of feelings, enjoying the conference, trying to run the conference with a little bit of routine and also the knowing of the near retirement.



I am really happy that I had the opportunity to be part of the board over a couple of years but life is going on and often there is another plan coming up – and so it was to me.

I really appreciate the last conferences and it would be wrong to name one for the best, lots of newcomers will agree and come again year by year.

Many thanks for that beautiful time and I am looking forward to the next conferences.

The Scottish Conference 2015

The date 15-8-15 has been etched in my mind for three years now and when it arrived we were ready to welcome 196 people to the 57th European IFYE Conference at Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Scotland. Three years in the planning had gone in 7 days, but what a week it turned out to be, it left the organising team and all the Scots very proud to have been a part of it all. The week was bursting with energy, fun and friendship and the programme showcased the many aspects of life in Moray, including the wonderful scenery, produce, drink and culture.



So what did we do - here's a summary:

Saturday - Skip2thebeat showed us what you can do with skipping ropes and left us all wishing we were that fit; photo presentation from Germany reminded us of the wonderful time we had in Bavaria last year; photo presentation from the previous 3 Scottish IFYE Conferences brought back many happy memories of how we used to look! A few birthdays to celebrate and the birthday boys and girls offered wine for all – catching up with old and new friends in the bar. The week got off to a great start!

Sunday – sun is shining brightly as we watched, listened and followed the Strathisla Pipe Band to St Christopher's Chapel. Church Service taken by Willie Marwick and his family providing the lovely music and David Paterson with a fitting tribute to Sally. Opening Ceremony with several local welcoming words and Gerhard introducing IFYEs from 19 different countries. Drinks on the South Lawn in such beautiful surroundings. Afternoon of local crafts, music, singing and dance showed off the talent we IFYEs have – the performances that evening can testify to that! Fancy Dress party with a “touch of tartan” really got the party started, with some really creative outfits.

Monday – everyone had a chance to visit either Glenlivet or Glenfiddich Whisky Distilleries, where we learned a little bit more about the art of making two of Whisky's best known brands. Other choices on the day included Speyside Cooperage where the barrels are made and repaired to store the whisky. Findhorn Foundation gave an insight into eco living, whilst Knockando Woollen Mill gave a glimpse into how wool has been woven for hundreds of years. Farming being at the heart of Moray, visits to two outstanding enterprises were on offer. For the more energetic, a visit to Glenlivet Estates to either walk or bike the mountain trails there in stunning scenery. Fochabers Fiddlers entertained in the evening with their fantastic music.

Tuesday – not dampened by the rain, the host family day really went with a swing with 58 families taking IFYEs to their homes and surrounding area. The evening Hog Roast was moved to the Refectory and with the host families joining us it was a night to remember, dancing to the Hoolichan Ceilidh Band.

Wednesday – sun is shining once more, and trips to Cawdor Castle with its beautiful gardens or Ft George, a working army barracks, were on offer as well as two other farms. All buses arrived in Inverness and allowed us to have some retail therapy or just relax in a café. Looking for Nessie on the evening cruise on Loch Ness, but maybe Martyn’s yodelling scared him away!

Thursday – General Assembly in the morning and in the afternoon “Games people play”, allowed us to use both our brain and our sporting skills - from guessing tartans, indoor curling, throwing the basketball and wellie and ending with a tug of war - it really got everyone in the mood. Evening was a traditional Burns Supper to celebrate Scotland’s National Poet, Robert Burns - piping in the haggis and speeches with some music and song. Ollie’s disco was back to end the evening.

Friday – Royal Air Force Lossiemouth proved a popular choice, and those going there could get a glimpse into workings of this vital service. Johnston Woollen Mills were also on offer, giving an insight into this very long established firm; Pluscarden Abbey, to see around the only Benedictine Monastery in Britain still inhabited by monks; a gentle walk on the Moray Coastal Path with beautiful scenery and even some dolphins performing. The lawn was the perfect setting for the drinks reception to start off the Farewell Party – with a piper playing, it really was a spectacular sight – friends laughing and chatting enjoying each others company, not wanting it to end. The IFYE Flag was handed over to the Estonians and now the countdown was on until the end of the Conference. Following the meal, Silver Pins and Golden Certificates were awarded and Nan gave her thanks to all the Scots, including the staff at Gordonstoun School. The evening finished with Mairi Marwick’s Ceilidh Band, a great way to end such a week.

Many, many thanks to everyone who came and helped us celebrate what it means to be an **IFYE** - Interesting, Friendly, Young at heart and Energetic! It was a privilege and pleasure hosting and sharing a small part of Scotland with so many friends old and new, and we now look forward to Estonia :)

Caroline, Marion, Meg, Nan and Mary



European IFYE Conference 2015 – A Newcomer's Experience

The conference is already weeks away, and my memories are far too many to be told here, yet am I gonna give it a try. I did as a newcomer have some expectations ahead, like that I would get to meet some new people and maybe make some new friends, but I couldn't in any way have imagined that I would be introduced to those people within the first hour of my arrival.

The IFYE community being such a loving and including bunch of completely different people, and everybody talking to everybody was really relaxing for a nervous girl. I therefore want to share some of my memories with you.

The tartan we touched, the kilts we all watched and the bagpipes' fine sound, made me love the scottish ground.

A host family home, some farms we were shown and the Games People Played, were some fun things I tried.

Looked for Nessie in the fog, the RAF planes flew above and the tombola I sold, how nice to meet all young and old.

The Ceilidh we danced, the wiskey we drank and the Haggis we ate, made this conference so great.



And finally, some lessen learned:

- Take an average looking scot and add a kilt, then he'll magically transforms into prince charming...
- If I wanted to follow the conversations and songs on the late-nigth-after-parties I should've read up on my nonexisting (swiss-)german language.



Love you all and see you
sometimes :)

- Tone Margaret Ødegård -
- Norway -





Aussie's joining the Conference in Scotland

The Australian IFYEs would like to express their appreciation to the Scottish team for putting on a great week. All eight of us had a great time. We loved the opportunity to meet lots of people and catch up with old friends, get to experience your culture which is familiar to us as most of us have some Scottish heritage. Nothing like bagpipes, kilts & scotch whiskey to compliment every occasion.

Gordonstoun, such a beautiful location to stay for a whole week, great facilities and beautifully kept grounds.

We would like to thank all the European IFYE's for welcoming the Australian's (or Austrian's with kangaroos) to the conference and making it such fun for all of us.

Margaret Hutchesson







Silver Pins and Golden Certificates 2015



Silver Pins

Country	Name	IFYE to
Isle of Man	Gill Gelling	1985 Hungary
Norway	Oystein Andersen	1979 USA
Scotland	Margaret Hyland	1975 New Zealand
Scotland	Margaret Khnichich	1984 Australia
Scotland	Sandra Maciver	1977 Sweden
Scotland	Elaine Meikle	1990 USA
Scotland	William Marwick	1976 Australia
Switzerland	Heidi Binggeli	1990 Sweden
Switzerland	Susanne Haemmerli	1988 USA
Switzerland	Karin Jakob	1990 USA/1996 Costa Rica
Switzerland	Marc-Andre Zuber	1985 Finland/1986/87 USA/1991 Australia
The Netherlands	Lucie Verstijnen-Muskens	1981 Switzerland
The Netherlands	Iny Wiertsema-Verboon	1966 USA

Golden Certificates

Country	Name	IFYE to
Germany	Annemarie Von Reden-Luetcken	1965 USA
Sweden	Sven-Olaf Birgersson	1963 USA
Sweden	Ann-Marie Tegeborn	1965 USA
The Netherlands	Laura Van Gulp	1965 USA
Wales	Donald Spencer	1950 USA

Invitation to the European IFYE Conference in Estonia



Estonian 4H and Estonian IFYE committee are happy to welcome you to the 58th of European IFYE conference in Jõulumäe. Conference takes place **23rd – 30th of July 2016** in Estonia, Pärnumaa, Jõulumäe (<http://www.joulumae.ee/index.php?id=34>).

It's a first time when we have an honor to make IFYE conference. During the week we try to let you taste the culture, language and our untouched nature. Of course there will be local delicious food and drinks. You will have wonderful chances to catch up with your IFYE friends during the different activities like dancing, hiking, meeting new people, team work, laughing, sweating in a sauna.

To make sure that you have a place to sleep, hurry up with booking by visiting page <http://ifye2016.wix.com/ifye2016> and make your registration

If you would like to stay longer in Estonia or come earlier look at this <http://www.visitestonia.com/en/> or don't hesitate to ask [reelika.ryytli \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:reelika.ryytli@gmail.com) or [kadritoomingas \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:kadritoomingas@gmail.com)

See you in Estonia 2016!

Congratulations to



Susanna Palkkimäki (IFYE to Austria 2001 and chairman of Finnish IFYEs) and **Tuomo Ala-Viuhkola**, Finland on their wedding in August.

Ville Isoniemi (IFYE to Austria 2009) and his wife Soile, Finland on the birth of their son Matias born on 17.3.2015.



Solution for the committee pictures “Who is who?”

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Anna Persson | 2) Ursula Spillmann |
| 3) Reelika Rütli | 4) Linda Steele |
| 5) Andreas Pölzl | 6) Anita Eckerstorfer |