



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

December 2016



Fancy Dress Party at the Reunion in Northern Ireland

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Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYE-friends,

25 years ago I was an IFYE. 25 years! It's 25 years since I packed my bags and went to Scotland for three months. I didn't know then how much that summer would mean to me. That is still the best summer of my life. One of the best decisions I ever made. The exchange and the IFYE alumni life have helped me grow as a person. It has let me meet so many fantastic people, see so many beautiful places and experience so many different activities.

What are my top experiences?

1. The whole summer 1991, so hard to take out a thing of that summer.
2. Morris dancing in Wales (see picture)
3. Looking after wild horses in Estonia
4. Seeing the sun go up in Germany



What are your favorite experiences? Was it when you met the love of your life, when you ate haggis or when you were royal in Sweden? Please put your three top experiences in an email and send it to our editor Anita, so we can put it in the next Newsletter.

The work in the board have start, and we have our midterm-meeting the last weekend in January. If you have any question or suggestion just send me or any in the board a letter.

I will wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year and looking forward to see you all in Switzerland.

All the best

Your president,

Anna Persson

IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991



European IFYE Alumni Association

Web address: www.ifye.org

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

Deadline next issue:

15th February 2017

European IFYE Conference in Switzerland (15-22 July 2017)

Registration is open now!



You're very welcome to visit us in Switzerland and enjoy a wonderful and interesting week in the french part of Switzerland.

We're working all the time for a perfect program, so there will be something to do for everybody!

Do you want to taste swiss chocolate or have a look in a tobacco industry? Learn to play "Alphorn" or cook some special swiss food?

European IFYE Conference 2017, Switzerland Like to see the powerful nature during a hiking trip or just relax by the lake? There will also be a lot of fun in our bar - "Rock around the clock"

Or just enjoy an traditional and cozy evening in our "Kaffe-Stube" with swiss music and Schnaps!

Check out our website www.conference2017.ifye.ch and sign in.

We hope to see you next year at the swiss conference and want to meet a lot of new IFYE-friends too.



Lovely greetings
Nadia, Doris, Sonja
IFYE-Swiss

Greetings from France

written by Damien de Fontaines (IFYE from France to The Netherlands 1987)

In 2015 we had one candidate for the USA, it was my son Côme. He was under 18 years old, that was the first time we tried to have an outgoing IFYE as young. Of course it was a success like all the IFYE experience. In 2016 there were two outgoing IFYE, my daughter Laure and another Girl: Mathilde (both under 18 years old) to the USA like my son, a great success also!!

I hope that these young IFYEs will participate in an IFYE conference, you will never know.

We have no more french meetings, we just have some news with email or by phone.

I wish all my IFYE friends all the best and hope to see you at an IFYE Conference

Best wishes,

Damien

cdefontaines@netcourrier.com

written by Laure de Fontaines (French IFYE to Montana 2016)

Hello,

my name is Laure de Fontaines and I'm french but this last summer I was american during one month in a very great family who lives in Montana. I was in their family to discover the beautiful country of the United State of America. I was really enjoy to see another country than France and enjoy to discover other cultures and other lifestyle. My family's name was Fullbright. Carol, Jesse, Martin (11 years) and Trent (8 years) was their names. During this travel,



Carol and Jesse ask me what I want to do. So Carol and Jesse immediately found occupations for me to discover the country, the region around. It is through museums, amusement and entertainment I could discover the beautiful state of Montana.

UK Reunion

written by Alison Roberts (IFYE from Wales to Slovakia 2015)

Some 160 members from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland gathered in Cookstown, Ulster at the end of October to enjoy the 60th reunion weekend and we were thrilled to welcome our IFYE friends from Austria, Sweden and Norway too.

'Carnival' was the title of the fancy dress theme for the opening night but eat your heart out Rio, we saw some of the best costumes and colour ever. The carnival atmosphere continued for the next three nights as the Irish know how to throw a good party. Dancing competitions and games set the scene for what was to continue in the splendour of the Glenavon Hotel where we had an abundance of good food as well as a late late bar!!!



An early start Saturday for the group photograph was followed by a variety of visits that showcased some of the best that the area had to offer including history, industry and agriculture. I enjoyed a trip to the Ulster American folk park, an open air museum which featured many traditional buildings exploring the story of Irish



emigration during the 18th and 19th Century to the USA. As it was Halloween weekend, costumed guides shared many stories adding to the experience. Saturday evening we had a drinks reception followed by our formal dinner when the guest speaker was Robin Swann, Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly Government also a YFA member who gave a very lively and entertaining talk. A celebration cake made by our YFA bakers was cut by Donald Spencer, Wales (USA 1950) and Matthew Patterson, Ulster (USA 2016). More entertainment was to follow thanks to Linda Steele and her team who brought a few well known IFYEs onto the stage to join in. Dancing continued late into the night.

Sunday morning was church service with some memorable poems and singing. Our regional meetings and AGM followed where we paid tribute to our friends Martyn Quayle, Adrian Francis and Rob Amos who are sadly missed but warmly remembered. Trevor Woods staged a craft fayre afterwards bringing along a selection of his handmade ceramic crafts and jewellery and invited other local traditional craftsmen to bring their works of art for us to buy. We were presented with beautiful handmade coasters as a gift from the Reunion.

The afternoon offered the chance to visit Killymoon Castle which is still a family home set in magnificent gardens where, having only just finished lunch, we were invited to afternoon tea! Some of the best scones and Victoria sandwich couldn't be missed and would have been worthy of a Bake off final.



Entertainment is usually the highlight of the Sunday evening but this year we were treated to entertainment every night. The best is always left till last as they say and Sunday gave us a variety of talent from country dancing, musical and singing talents with team games which every country joined in. It even involved the barmen, one being thrown over Alison Hollinshead's shoulder in an attempt to win her team the points. The evening finished with a traditional sing song and Adam Ringrose, on his first reunion, led us with Danny Boy. The star of the evening was Isla, only 10 years old from England who gave us a solo and a great performance. A future member I'm sure.

All too soon it was Monday morning and time to say farewell. A huge thank you to Tam, Claire and all the team who worked so hard to ensure we had a fantastic weekend of fun, laughter and friendship. I look forward to seeing you all again next year at the IFYE reunion in Switzerland or the YFA in Taunton, England



Alison Roberts, Wales

Swedish IFYE-meeting of 2016

written by Kerstin Karlsson (IFYE from Sweden to Scotland in 1969)

The first weekend in October some twenty Swedish IFYEs met in the deep forests of Bergslagen to spend some time together in the small village Ängelsberg with its surroundings. There, Mona Bodin had taken on to arrange a nice and varied programme for the weekend.



Friday evening we gathered by the old blast furnace at Engelsberg ironworks and was given an expert guided tour through the area which is a World Heritage Site since 1993. Engelsberg ironworks was founded in 1681 and developed to be one of the most modern ones at the time. Here you can still find buildings and technical equipment from activities through the years.

Next day we defied icy winds and headed for a tour through Hälleskogsbrännan, an area of 150km² mostly forest, which was totally burned down in 2014. With Karin Haulin as our guide we could see how nature slowly recover from total devastation. A cup of coffee was exactly what frozen IFYEs needed when stopping in the middle of the fire area where all what was seen was black, sooty remnants of trees.



At lunch time we ended up at Västervad, the farm which Mona and Carina took over a few years ago. After a delicious lunch we took turns to sit in the warmth of the house discussing the future of the IFYE programme or walk around on the premises listening to what experiences and visions Mona and Carina have for their farm.

Sunday morning the annual meeting was held where Marianne Revai-Karlsson was re-elected as a chairman and finally, after lunch, we said goodbye, entered cars and trains and turned homeward after a weekend in the company of old and new friends. Of course we will meet again next year!

Approaching 60 - and still thriving!

written by Dorothy Wilson (IFYE from England to the USA in 1967)

As we approach the 60th Anniversary of European IFYE isn't it time to give ourselves a pat on the back? From the small get-together in Brussels in 1958 our meetings now attract around 200 people each year.

Along the way we have climbed a Swiss mountain in the snow, been sea sick in Sweden and "enjoyed" a sled ride in Estonia. We have seen Martyn, our then President, "arrested" in Finland, been honoured by a President of Germany and invited to the Governor's Garden Party in the Isle of Man.

We have enjoyed tasting different foods ranging from Rømmegrøt to oysters and haggis and drunk beer, wine, whisky and whiskey, and schnapps.

And our Conferences have provided a match-making service for a many romances.

Throughout it all, we have reinforced our roots with trips to farms in areas from the far North to the Mediterranean and enjoyed visits to host families.

And, most importantly, we have developed our understanding of each other's countries and forged many deep and lasting friendships.

Bringing all those together in the success story that is the European IFYE Alumni Association has proved to be a fascinating, but challenging, task for the small sub-committee working to produce the 60th Anniversary Booklet.

In the next few months we'll be endeavouring to tie all the threads together to present to you at the 2018 meeting in Northern Ireland.

As we do so we are hoping the story we tell will bring back some very happy memories for our senior members and provide a reminder to our younger IFYEs of the precious heritage we are passing on to them.

Exchange to Finland

written by Wienke Müller (IFYE from Germany to Finland 2016)



Hey, I am Wienke and I am 19 years old. After graduating from Highschool in Germany I have been in Finland for 3 month with the IFYE program.

Last year in December I was applying as an IFYE. I knew basically nothing about it and I have never heard neither the name 4H nor IFYE before (a huge mistake I know). I found the IFYE Germany page serendipitous on the internet and thought “hem that might sound interesting, let’s try it” and I applied. And now here I am, already completed the program with success, made new friends and had a lot of positive experiences with the people, culture and the forest. During my time in Finland I lived in 5 (completely) different host families in the south of the long country. I was traveling through my families from east to west and back close to Helsinki. My families lived in the countryside or in a town, were working all day or staying at home with their kids. I would like to tell you more about my 3rd family, who lives in the west.

I arrived in Seinäjoki on the 3rd of August and my host father Riku and the 3 Children picked me up from the train. At home, 40 minutes later I met the two German Shepherds and my host mother Sanna. First of all my host sister Milja asked me, if it would be okay for me, when her boyfriend stays overnight. Shocked by that question I started laughing, not even at home my brothers asked me that, but it



was fine with me. With my host parents I spend a lot of time outside, we were watching out for the local beavers (haven’t found them) or walking with the dogs. Once we tried to find an abandoned mine, and spot that not even GoogleMaps knows everything. After we walked a lot of paths in the forest we found it (it was the 4th way on the left). I learned that it doesn’t matter what you are doing and how special it is, when you do it with the right persons. This family was awesome! Even if we only did normal stuff, like going to swim, bowling or walking in the forest, it was a lot fun for me, because we were joking around all the time. In the afternoon, when my host parents came back from work, we just did those things or we watched the “bad news” and complained about it. Even walking with the dogs in the evening was always interesting, because I got used to



the surrounding and my family told me something about the history of the town and about Finland. My family arranged some farmers meetings for me so I could talk to local farmers which was a great opportunity, even if they were no farmers, my parents were very interested and I really liked it. Especially in this family I learned what it means to be an IFYE and to be part of a family, which contains not only one family, but the whole attitude to life.

Congrats to...



Jonna Mönkkönen

IFYE from Finland to Northern Ireland 2003

Their baby boy was born 28th September



Stefan Starlinger

IFYE from Austria to Virginia 2003 and Luxembourg 2005

Stefan and Claudia to their first son, Alexander.

He was born on 25th October 2016



R.I.P dear IFYE friends

Adrian Francis

IFYE from Wales to the USA in 1962

