



NEWSLETTER

December 2019

European IFYE Alumni



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Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

For European IFYE Alumni, 2019 was a dynamic and successful year. Together with the attending members we all had a wonderful conference in Norway. Moreover, we got a new country involved into the European IFYE family and we had 32 newcomers at this year's conference.



Also, the upcoming conferences, up to 2026 are already placed and in 2023 we will have the next IFYE world conference in Europe. It will then be 75 years of existence of the IFYE programs. All these points are showing me, that our efforts over the recent years, have proven successful. All of this was only possible together with you. Therefore, I, in the name of the European board, would like to use the beginning of this new year to express our thanks.

We will go ahead and try to increase the European family. If any of you know someone from a country, which is running an international exchange program, member of European rally or European 4H-Club, but not yet involved in the European IFYE family, then please hand over some contact details to the European Board. We will try to get in touch with them.

Next year in August we will have our 62nd European Conference and it will be held in Preston, England. In March we will have our midterm meeting there and we will get a first impression of the conference location and surroundings. I'm looking forward to welcoming you in England from 8th to 15th of August 2020.

Hopefully each of you had also a great year 2019. For me, 2019 was also a successful year despite its somewhat rough start. Now I will settle down with my family and spend some time with them. I'm planning to go skiing with my kids. It would be the first time on skies after my little mishap in Switzerland 2017. Hopefully, you could also find enough time and have some rest with your loved ones over the holidays. Time passes quickly and life goes on. There were and are changes for everyone. Some are positive while others might not be so positive. However, we shouldn't forget that we have friends and family on our side, at any given time.

Happy new year

Your president,
Andreas Poelzl
IFYE from Austria to the USA, 2000

The board presents itself

Since the conference in Norway 2019, a new committee, combining new and some already more experienced members, is working on European IFYE Alumni matters. To give everyone the chance to briefly meet with the board, despite the great geographical distances between many of us, the board members have come up with some facts about themselves, which they would like to share. Part of these profiles might seem a little unconventional but sometimes that is exactly what it takes to get to know someone better.

President

Statistics and technical data:

- **Height:** 0,00184km
- **Mass:** 0,106t
- **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** $((5^2 * 2 - 3) * 365 + (366 - 228)) * 24 = \text{my age in hours.}$



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

My son Lukas is 10 years old and is in his last year of primary school. My daughter Laura has already 7 years of life experience and is in her 2nd year of primary school. I'm traveling a lot for work and have already visited several places on this planet. I'm working for automotive Industries in Graz, Austria. Some years ago I had a not so funny experience during a Conference. I like to hike and love to have fun. In the year 2000 I had the big luck to visit the USA (Colorado) during an IFYE exchange. By now you should have recognized me even if you got confused by all the raw data at the beginning.

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

Andreas Poelzl

(IFYE from Austria to the USA, 2000)

Treasurer



As a child my favorite hobbies were playing/training with young heifers and cats. It happened often, that I was walking with 2 or 3 heifers on the roads around my parents farm. "My" calves obeyed better to me than other people's dog to them.

Later, traveling became a big passion to me. The IFYE-Exchange I did in 2003 to Northern Ireland connected this two themes, animals and traveling. Beside that, I met many great people. Participate the European IFYE-Conferences was the natural continuation.

At the Conference 2014 in Hesselberg, Germany, I was elected as treasurer. I enjoyed this last five years in the European IFYE-Board very much. Especially the Midterm-meetings were always very interesting. I wish to the new treasurer, which should be elected next summer, as a good time in the board as I had and still having.

Ursula Spillmann

(IFYE from Switzerland to Northern Ireland, 2003)

First Vice President

- **Name:** Sam Hawks
- **Height:** 6ft 2 ins
- **Favorite travel:** Safari in Africa
- **Favorite food:** Thai
- **Favorite drink:** Gin and Tonic
- **First IFYE Conference:**
Northern Ireland 2007



I live 40 miles west of Belfast on a 20 hectare farm outside Dungannon along with my husband Adrian. We keep 30 breeding cows for producing beef cattle and 40 breeding sheep for fat lamb production.

I work fulltime for Moy Park LTD who are one of the largest chicken producing companies within the UK, processing 6 million chicken per week as their Agricultural Training and Development Manager for our 300 chicken producing farmers.

My interests involve travelling (lots, lots and lots more) and working on the farm. I am also partial to a wee gin and tonic too and have an extensive collection of Gins from all over the world.

I joined my local YFC club, Seskinore when i was 11 years old and was a very active member holding all of the officer roles over the following 15 years. I have to thank one very special lady who got me back into YFC when I returned from Harper Adams University in England, who strongly encouraged me to get back involved within YFC at the age of 22 - Pauline Armstrong, so thank you Pauline for the encouragement all those years ago... I became Chairman of my County and then was elected Vice President of YFCU which I held for a 4 year period.

I was lucky to be selected and attended the European Rally in 1994 in Southern Ireland, then followed by my long term exchange trip to Australia in 1995 spending 3 months in Western Australia and 4 months in Tasmania.

My first IFYE conference was in 2007 in N Ireland, where I got hooked on a week of making amazing new friends, having lots of fun and have attended another 8 IFYE conferences and 3 World Conferences over the past few years.

Sam Hawkes,
(IFYE from Northern Ireland to Australia, 1995)

Second Vice President

- **Name:** Christine Cooper
- **Born:** 1960s
- **Country of Origin:** England
- **Relationship Status:** Married to Brian since 1995
- **Child Status:** 2 (Ben, 21 and Ruth, 16)
- **Occupation:** College Lecturer-Education
- **Travelled on Exchange:** Finland 1983
- **First IFYE Conference:** Northern Ireland 2018
- **Plans for 2020:** Organising IFYE 2020 in Lancashire, England



Hi, my name is Christine Cooper. I am the 2nd Vice President for 2019/2020 and one of the organizers of the IFYE conference 2020 in England. I live on a farm with my husband Brian, son Ben and daughter Ruth. Together with Brian's family we farm over 300 dairy cows, 400 beef cattle, 500 sheep and a small flock of hens (just 9). We also grow wheat, barely, maize and potatoes. I work in a local university as a lecturer in Children and Young Peoples Services. I travelled on exchange to Finland over 30 years ago with Helen Ramsay, who is also organizing the IFYE conference 2020 and everyone in the team is looking forward to meeting you all next August.

Christine Cooper
(IFYE from England to Finland, 1983)

Secretary



My name is Mari Kindsbekken and I'm the new secretary of the European IFYE Alumni association.

I was born in Norway, a few years ago... I didn't grow up on a farm myself, but there were many farms in the area.

In 2001, I went on exchange for 3 months to Northern Ireland. After my return back home, I always planned to go to the European conferences, but didn't get there the first years after my exchange. My first conference was in Norway in 2007 and I have been to every conference since 2010.

I love to travel and I'm always looking forward to my next trip. Every year, I try to see some new places. Often, I'm traveling with friends I've met at IFYE conferences. But to pay for all my travels I have to work. At the moment I work in an office. dealing with the import of mainly cakes and filled bread products, from Europe and US to the nordic countries and UK.

I'm looking forward to see as many as possible of you in England next summer!

Mari Kindsbekken,
(IFYE from Norway to Northern Ireland, 2001)

Newsletter and Web Editor



- **Age in IFYE-years:** 4
- **Home Country:** Luxembourg
- **Need of sleep:** 9 hours at the best
- **Favorite Author:** Andreas Eschbach
- **Flaw:** always pack too much
- **On my longterm to-do list:** learning archery, how to play the guitar and how to fence; once traveling to the Macchu Picchu; once standing in a desert

I am the youngest member of the current board (not only in IFYE years). After my exchange to the US in 2015, I started attending the European conferences in 2016. Since 2018 I try my best to fulfill my duties as Newsletter and Web Editor. I got involved with IFYE as I graduated from high school and was unsure about what my plans for the future should look like. Having grown up on a farm and with my dad being a former IFYE himself, I decided to launch myself into the adventure. The result: I never really put an end to it.

Besides trying to find people to write reports for the newsletter, I am studying plant science in the Netherlands. Someone once told me that there are essentially 3 types of people: animal people, plant people and people people. I am not quite sure the reality is as simple as that. Clearly, I prefer gardening over worrying about the wellbeing of animals. But then, I have a dog and 3 cats, which I love very much and being an enthusiastic IFYE indicates that I do enjoy interacting with people. Also, I am not quite sure where this division leaves the book-lovers or the art-people. Personally, I have been playing the clarinet for many many years, I enjoy snuggling under a blanket with nothing than a good book as company while it is pouring outside, I love dancing and I have a secret passion for historic- and musical-costume design. So, I think that the separation between different types of people needs some revision. Especially as it does not take into account at all the impact of intercultural exchanges on the development of new personality characteristics.

Nora Feyder,
(IFYE from Luxembourg to the USA, 2015)

Fancy a dram? - YFA Scottish Region Drinks Reception

written by Elaine Meikle (IFYE from Scotland to the USA, 1990)



If your travel plans include a visit to Scotland in June this year, YFA Scottish Region would love to welcome you to our annual drinks reception which is being held at the Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh on Friday 19th June 2020.

This annual event is the biggest in the Scottish YFA calendar and while the reception is open to any past or present member of the YFA / IFYE family, I will admit that we do make a bit of a fuss over the specially invited anniversary guests - those who travelled on their exchange 60, 50, 40, 25, 10 & 5 years previously! We also enjoy meeting the current year's exchangees to Scotland who attend and we're reminded how small this world we live in is, when we meet an IFYE that's from an area we visited or, more scarily for some of us of a certain age, is the daughter or son of one of our fellow exchangees from yesteryear.

It's a very informal night where the biggest priority is for folks to relax after a busy day at the show and enjoy themselves catching up with old friends. In 2019, we had two exchangees meet up that hadn't seen each other since 1973! We've been delighted in the past few years to have been joined by some of our IFYE friends from New Zealand, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as the home crowd. It would be great to see you there too!



IFYE 30 year's reunion in Uppsala, Sweden

written by Inga-Lill Eriksson (IFYE from Sweden to the USA, 1961)

It started with a message from my daughter Liselott Webster (Eriksson) now living in Middle Tarwin, a small village in south Victoria, Australia. She had been an IFYE to Australia 1989/90 and she met Gary Webster, a dairy farmer, her husband to be. Liselott and their two children came in December to visit us and the old friends for Christmas. Gary stayed home making hay. As Liselott had been an IFYE 30 years ago she wanted me to arrange a reunion for her and her Swedish 4H-friends who had been IFYEs the same year. I was an IFYE to USA 1961 and I knew how important and nice it is to keep up. Liselott started a Facebook group to help and find out their addresses. It was very close to Christmas and the busy days around the holiday. The answers were yes, yes we will come for the afternoon and evening.



Liselott Webster (Eriksson) and Pernilla Pettersson Hjelm were the first IFYEs from Sweden to go to Australia. Anita Andersson and Lena Nilsson (Holmberg) went to USA, Jonas Hallsten (Eriksson) went to England/Wales, Helena Kåring(Olsson) to Luxembourg, Marie Johansson (Jacobsson) to The Netherlands (not attending), Åsa Andersson (Henningsson) to Northern Ireland (not attending), Carina Persson to Switzerland (not attending), Susanne Nilsson to Scotland, Carina Nolander (Andersson) to Island (not attending). IFYEs from other years that came along were Anett Hallsten (Nilsson) to Australia 1997, Peter Bodin 1988 to USA. Malin Eriksson to Switzerland 1990. Birgitta Titti Ihrsen 1984 USA, Fia Ihrfors 1988 to England/Wales. Karin Haulin (1983 to USA) Helper Sixten Eriksson father to Malin and Liselott.



On December 21 we gathered in Uppsala (not too far from Stockholm). I asked everybody to bring some food for a small lunch buffet. It tasted so good with some vegetable soup, pies and bread of different kinds, ice cream, cheeses, cookies, marmalades, chocolates and so much more. So you can imagine how nice it looked. There was so much to talk about - so many memories that came up. The time just flew past. Liselott and her Children Annika 16 and Erik 13 showed us some pictures and told us about their dairy farm and the area around in the southern part of Victoria. People were very interested and asked many questions

After this intensive afternoon we went downtown for more talk (also about the upcoming conference in Sweden in 2021) and a beer!



Thinking about the day on my way home made my heart warm up. It was so cosy. It was wonderful to meet again; it felt like yesterday or only a few years ago since we had met the last time. We have to meet more often. It can give you so much energy. We all share the same fantastic experience and got friends for life all around the globe.

News about the conference 2020



EUROPEAN IFYE CONFERENCE

LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND

8th – 15th August 2020

As most surely know, the next European IFYE Conference is going to be held in Lancashire, England. Places are filling up fast and are expected to be filled before the registration deadline on 29th February. So if you are planning on participating and have not yet registered, it is highly recommended that you do so fast! Registration forms as well as more detailed info about the conference can be found on the website IFYE2020.com.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact the organising team by email: info@IFYE2020.com

We look forward to seeing you in England next year.

Congrats to...



Gunvor Guttormsen

*IFYE from Norway to England and Wales,
2014*

&

Bård Founger Andersen

Gunvor and Bård to their son,
Isak,
born on 26th September 2019

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European IFYE Alumni Association

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