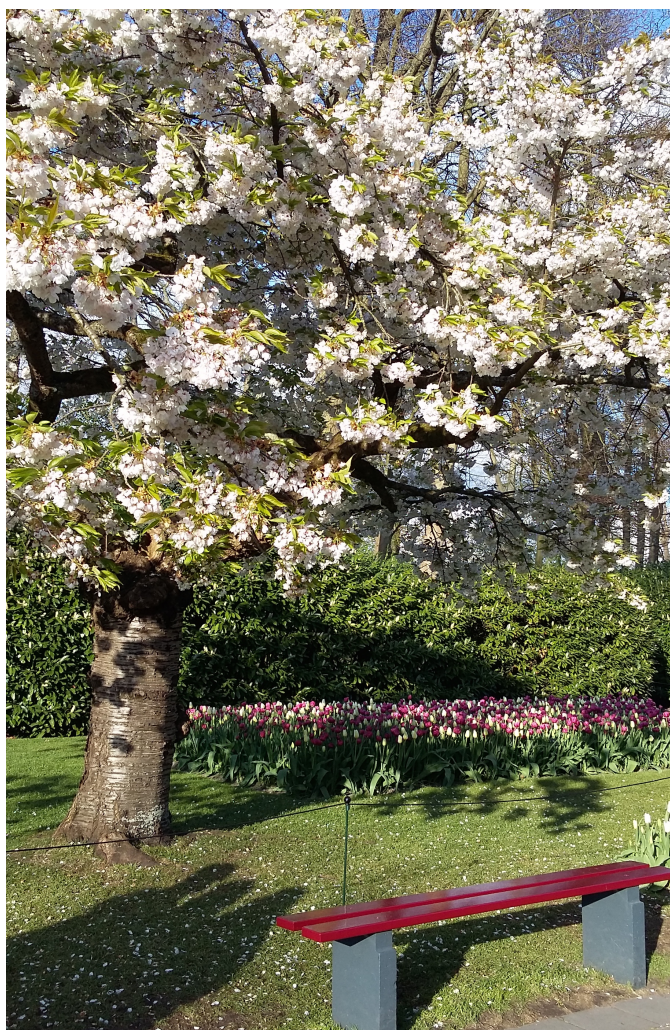




NEWSLETTER

March 2020

European IFYE Alumni



Content of the Newsletter

- Greetings from the Board
- Life in the South – Neil Brims' adventures in Antarctica
- IFYE Homecoming event in Finland
- IFYE from Taiwan 'back home' in Switzerland
- **IMPORTANT** - Update about the conference 2020
- Congrats to...

Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYEs,

Today I send you greetings for the third time and it is my pleasure to do so. The winter is definitely over, and spring has already started, where everything is blooming again, and the fauna is awaking from hibernation. In the south of Austria, for the first time since records have been kept, there has not been a full snow cover in winter. Climate change has obviously reached us, too.



In mid-February we received the news that Fiona Cromie is in hospital and seriously ill. At the midterm meeting we learned that she is already getting better. I would like to use this opportunity to wish Fiona a speedy recovery and hope to see her again soon at one of the next meetings.



On the first weekend of March the board had its midterm meeting in Bilsborrow, very close to Myerscough College where this year's conference will be held. We were not only able to test traveling to and from Preston, we also had the chance to visit the college. Of course, we also explored the surroundings and there are some interesting places around. I don't want to reveal too much about it, but it's worth a walk

The Myerscough College is very well located, and it is optimally equipped for our conference. The arrival was without problems from Manchester Airport to Preston train station. From the arrival and departure areas, at the Manchester Airport terminals, the train station is about 5 to maximum 15 minutes' walk away. Everything is well signposted and easy to find. Even I managed to find the right way without any problems. When leaving from Manchester airport, time to get from through security can take up to 180 minutes depending on the day and the amount of luggage you need to check in. Please plan for enough time. More information will be available soon on the conference homepage: <https://www.ifye2020.com/>



We are currently going through a difficult time and it is only about 5 months until the next European conference, which I am already looking forward to very much. All over the world we are confronted with the Corona - Virus (COVID-19), which already leads to considerable restrictions in our daily life.

A friend of mine has been in China since the beginning of January. He was locked in his hotel room for three weeks. It was and still is a difficult time for him. He hasn't lost courage, though, and has found the strength to get through this rough time. Meanwhile he can visit parks, shopping malls and restaurants again. Of course, there are constant controls and his body temperature is checked at least 5 times a day. This week I talked to him on the phone and he is doing well. He encouraged me and mentioned that Europe is on a better way than China in the fight against the Covid-19 virus. I also wish you all enough energy to overcome these difficult days with joy and hope. Hopefully by August the situation will have normalized enough, to hold our conference in Lancaster, England, without any restrictions.

However, it could also be that the conference in England this year must be cancelled. This is just one possibility that could happen. Now, we expect to have a fantastic conference in August.

Until August, I wish you all a good time and hope to see you all healthy at the conference. A varied and interesting program awaits us all in England this summer. More information about will be published on the conference homepage at the end of April. I am already looking forward to the conversations with you and the wonderful time we will spend together. If you have any questions, complaints or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at <https://www.ifye.eu/committee/>.

I wish you all the best and stay healthy!

Kind regards.

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

Life in the South - Nearly as far south as you can go!

written by Neil Brims (IFYE from Scotland to USA 2013)



I could talk for hours about this, so I'll try and not go on too much and let the pictures tell the other few thousand words I could say about it. Antarctica: one of the last wildernesses that hasn't been totally plundered by mankind, and the only continent that the majority of countries get along with relatively well and for the good of everyone else on the planet – thankfully! Whether anyone listens, that's another matter altogether.



Little did I know that a random trip to a local supermarket in February last year, for a Farmers Weekly magazine, would result in a trip and experience of a lifetime. This was not the first time that I had applied for a job with British Antarctic Survey. It's been something I had wanted to do for a very long time. After seeing the advert in the magazine, I thought why not, I'll give the dice another roll and see what happens. When I got the call to tell me, I had the job, I was ecstatic! Life continued as normal for the next few months until October, when I had to complete various job specific training courses. The majority were in the midlands of England and if you know where I live, that was an expedition in itself to organise! Luckily, I still managed to attend the YFA reunion in Wales.



We set off from London Heathrow on the 28th of November on an over-night flight direct to Cape Town, South Africa. The weather change was a bit of a shock, going from a few degrees and overcast rainy London to 25-degree Celsius bright sunshine and blue skies.

We were due to then take a 5 hour flight from Cape Town to the Norwegian base on Antarctica and then another 4 hour flight onto Halley Station on the Brunt Ice-shelf, my new home for the next 2.5 months.

This was pretty much the same route out when I came back. Weather issues further south meant we were delayed for several days in sunny South Africa. There were no complaints from any of the team that I was travelling with. Finally, we got the shout that we were heading south. The excitement of the others who, like myself, hadn't been before was very obvious! After many hours in the air, we arrived at the Station. The whole thing felt so surreal, it was as though we had landed in another



One of my main jobs of the trip was to upgrade the electrical system so that it could be controlled more easily remotely. This took nearly a month to complete. The rest of the time was spent carrying out electrical maintenance and repairs on existing systems. As there were only 28 people on the station, we all helped each other out as much as possible. The other main job which I assisted with was prepping the station for winter 2020, which isn't far away.



As the base is located on an ice-shelf everything is on sledges or movable legs, even the 100 ton accommodation building. Everything gets repositioned every year to account for snow accumulation. It's surprising how many people you need just to run the place and that's before any Scientists do their thing.

A typical day looked like this: we officially started work at 08:30 and finished at a 18:00 with 3 breaks throughout the day and dinner at 18:30. We worked for 5.5 days and had the rest of the week to ourselves. One of the jobs that everyone had to do, with no exceptions, was to make sure the melt tank was full of water for drinking and washing. I think I have earned a degree in snow shovelling whilst being there, too. Having time off is very important down there as its not healthy to work in that environment all the time.



Finally, I better also tell a bit about the science as it was the main reason why we were all there. Halley Station is world renowned for the study of glaciers, solar weather, air quality, temperature measurement and the study of the World's atmosphere. It was where the hole in the ozone was confirmed to exist. I found this all incredibly interesting to learn about and the next time I see you, if you are interested, I can tell you an awful lot more detailed information about how the data is measured and how it affects us all, both in the long term and our everyday lives. Although the pictures I have, make the whole trip look like a holiday, I can assure you it wasn't. I would go south again tomorrow if asked. The job satisfaction I experienced there was unbelievable, and I hope to keep in touch with as many of the people I worked with for as long as possible. Apart from the place, which was incredible to see and experience, it was the people that made the trip awesome!



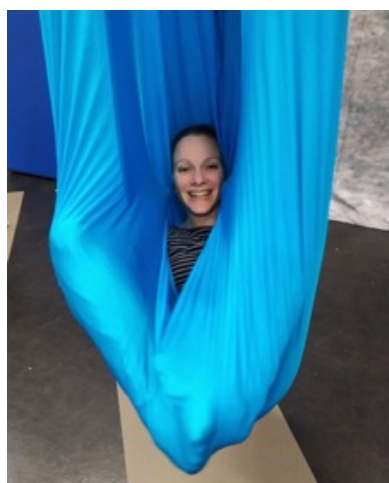
IFYE homecoming event in Finland Meeting in Tampere

written by Jenna Järvenpää (IFYE from Finland to Taiwan, 2018)



“When there are more than 18 Finnish IFYEs from different ages and genders together, traditional Finnish sweet buns with strawberry jam and whipped cream, an exciting car museum and mysterious air yoga and lots of joy and laugh, what else could an IFYE need?”

This warm and welcoming IFYE meeting was held in Tampere, from February 1 to 2. We started our journey with these delicious buns and coffee/tea, after which we headed to Mobilia. This is a small car village and museum, where we saw old cars, some of which were familiar to our older IFYEs while the baby IFYEs had never seen anything like them before. Then it was time for a mysterious, hilarious and stretching yoga, which was instructed by a former IFYE, Piiia Eveliina. She encouraged us to test our limits and trust ourselves. We sure happily did it, as you can see from the pictures!



After air yoga we headed back to Tampere and our hostel to freshen up a bit and change into nice clothes for dinner. How happy and joyful we were to see more IFYEs and their families joining us for the dinner in a nice sushi restaurant. There we discussed about the coming European IFYE Conference 2022 in Finland and brainstormed with innovative ideas from our baby IFYEs. You'll see how these ideas evolved, during our conference.



Our meeting ended the next day with warm hugs and enjoyable memories. Some of us even were brave enough to visit the glorious Moomin museum near the hostel. What a fun and welcoming weekend, indeed.

IFYE from Taiwan 'back home' in Switzerland

written by Marc André Zuber (IFYE from Switzerland to Finland, USA & Australia, 1985, 1986 & 1991)

Joy was with us as an IFYE in 2018 and when she went home she said, that she wanted to experience a Swiss winter and come back to visit January 2019 to participate in the Swiss IFYE Winter Weekend. Unfortunately, this was not possible. Since we have regular contact, I let her know in May about the rented ski hut for the winter vacation 2020. She then asked, if she could with her boyfriend and stay with us from 15th January to 15th February. I told her again that the ski trip was only planned during the first week of February, but that the house is big enough and both of them would of course be welcome to stay and use our home as a base for their excursions for the rest of the time.

Eventually, we accommodated them from 28th January to 15th February. One week of their time, they spent with us in a ski lodge Valais at 1700m, in the ski area of Anzère. Although we had a bit of bad luck with the weather (we were cut off for two days) we had a great time together building snowmen (4m Olaf), skiing, playing, discussing, but also shopping and sightseeing. Joy and Ying-Yang have not just now, but now for sure, really become family members. Here is their report:

Back home in Switzerland

written by Chieh-Ying, Hsu 'Joy' (IFYE from Taiwan to Switzerland, 2018)

My mane is Chieh-Ying,Hsu (Joy). I have been an IFYE from Taiwan to Switzerland in 2018. It was a pleasure that the Zuber family invited me to participate in their skiing vacation with their family. So my journey begins! Start from 15th of January to 16th of February. I was so happy that I was also able to bring my partner Ying-Yang,Hung along with me back to Switzerland.



We really enjoyed the time we spent with the Hostettler family in Sissach, my first host family in 2018. We went hiking, shopping, cooked, made bread and talked a lot. Indeed, we were never short of things to talk about! We also played with the children. Even though language was a challenge, we were still able to communicate through body language and I think we had great chemistry.

Then we moved on to the Zuber family in Laupersdorf. Durig my exchange, they had been my fourth host family. This time we joined their family ski vacation, in Anzère, about a 3 hours drive up the mountain.



In the beginning, I really couldn't imagine how to "live in the forest", but we really did. There was no other house in the area, but I wasn't worried because I had my Swiss family with me and they are a strong backing! Although, it was raining during the first two days we didn't get bored. We talked, played and sang.

On the third day, it started snowing heavily and we all went outside build a giant Olaf snowman. At night we set up a challenge: run out to Olaf and back on bare feet. When I ran out, the only thoughts in my head were "Cold! Cold! Cold! I'm gonna freeze!". It was really crazy but still a lot of fun. The next day we learned how to turn with skis, before we actually went skiing. It was not the easiest thing for me to learn and I was dead on my feet after practicing. But we really had lots of fun while skiing.



For me, they are family. We frequently write each other and talk about everything. I'm really happy and thankful that I had the chance to visit and stay with my Swiss families again. Not only for fun, I also learned a lot this time. Thanks a lot and I wait for my Swiss family members to visit me in Taiwan one day.

IMPORTANT: COVID - 19 **Update on the conference 2020**



EUROPEAN IFYE CONFERENCE

LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND

8th – 15th August 2020

The committee of volunteers organising this year's conference sincerely hopes that it will be able to continue as normal. We are working towards that and have everything in place. It is hoped that the worst of Coronavirus will be over in August and that you will all want to come and join us and have a good time.

We will however follow the advice of our government and if we do have to cancel the Conference, we want you to know that we will do our utmost to return as much of your money as possible. We have taken out Event insurance, though the cancellation element is very limited. The Venue has been paid substantial deposits as have coach companies etc. and we have already made a number of purchases for the Conference.

For most delegates, along with your Conference fee, you have paid a subscription, which European IFYE relies upon to exist. It is proposed that we still pay over that element to IFYE rather than refund to you. If you disagree then you will have the opportunity to ask for us to refund it to you. If we have to make the decision to cancel, it may take several weeks for us to get back any monies that are owed back to us.

Please rest assured that we will endeavour to keep you informed at all times and refund equally to everybody when the accounts are finalised. We will not make refunds before that time. Please be patient in these difficult times. Remember that we are volunteers and are doing this in our spare time. It is important for us to be as fair as possible to everybody.

Until we have any further news we hope you all stay safe and sound!

The organising committee of the European IFYE Conference 2020

Congrats to...



Eveline

IFYE from Switzerland to Northern Ireland, 2010

& Adrian Liechti

together with Luc

Eveline and Adrian to their daughter,
Vivienne,
born on 9th January 2020

Ida Kristin

IFYE from Norway to Austria, 2013

&

Thor Grosås

Ida Kristin and Thor to their daughter,

born on 10th March 2020



Deadline next issue: 30th June 2020

European IFYE Alumni Association

web address: www.ifye.eu

e-mail: newsletter@ifye.eu

IFYE Europe Newsletter – March 2020

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