



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

December 2012



*Apparently Santa comes from the sea this year.....*

**From all of us to all of you...**

**IFYElife in Finland and Germany  
IFYE conference 2013**

**Busy IFYE goes Zambia  
Swedish IFYE anniversary**



# Greetings from the President – Martyn Quayle

Since the last Newsletter, along with around 150 other Young Farmers' Ambassadors from all parts of the UK, I attended the 54th Annual Reunion of the United Kingdom Young Farmers' Ambassadors which took place in Londonderry/Derry, Northern Ireland.

My original IFYE exchange was to Austria in 1985 and the first UK Reunion which I attended was in Northern Ireland in 1987. Although I have been back to Northern Ireland many times since, it was great to be back again this year to mark the 25th Anniversary of my first visit. It is a pleasure to say that the friends which I made 25 years ago, from all parts of the UK, are still some of my most special friends.

The weather for the weekend was superb, the hotel excellent and the programme organised for us by Chairman David Hull and his team was packed full of memorable and interesting visits and entertainment. One of the most interesting visits which I have ever experienced was to the Famine Farm in County Donegal.

Londonderry/Derry is designated as the European City of Culture for 2013 and is well worth a visit. As always, it was great to meet up with so many old friends from the UK as well as one or two from further afield.

In January, the IFYE Executive Committee will be meeting in Abergaveny, Wales, staying at the home of Alison Spencer and we look forward to making progress with the business to be considered.

After a lapse of 8 years since the major car accident in 2004, it was great to be back skiing for the first and second time, earlier this year in Zermatt, Switzerland and in France. In 2013, I have again arranged to go skiing for a week with some farming friends in Zermatt, Switzerland. We have skied there many times now and it's our favourite ski resort. (Sorry if you're from Austria, France, Norway or Sweden!)

The weather here in the Isle of Man has been quite mild and unusually sunny in recent weeks so we have made the most of it.

As our thoughts turn to the end of this year, and all that Christmas and the New Year means, may I take this opportunity to send best wishes to you, your family and friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)



**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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Deadline next issue:  
1. February 2013

# Greetings from the Editor

Here is your our Christmas gift to you this year!

We hope you enjoy it while reading about autumn meeting in Germany, Anniversary Celebration in Sweden or Christmas meeting in Finland. I'm happy to publish a report from UK member Joan Green have been a part of a Charity in Zambia and for those of you waiting for news on next summers European Conference in Wales, we can give you that too.

Thanks to the members and Contact members who have helped me out in making this edition! It is thanks to your help that we have a newsletter worth reading, and that we have enough stories to have four editions a year.

This is really the season for doing indoor activities as it is -16 outdoor, then it's better to make a newsletter while enjoying a glass of Gløgg (gluhwein/mulled wine) in between writing the seasonal Christmas card and doing other Christmas preparations. I will take the opportunity to wish you all a fantastic December and Christmas season. Lit a lot of candles and enjoy all what the season brings!

And as we say in Norway: God jul og godt nytt år alle sammen!

Hilde W. Riser (N)



## CONTACT MEMBERS 2012-2013

*(send us a mail (see page 2) if you need help with the Mail address or phone number)*

AUSTRIA	Norbert Winkler
BELGIUM	Françoise Tetelain
DENMARK	Helle Bonderup
ENGLAND/WALES	Mary Roberts
FINLAND	Marita Pynnönen
FRANCE	Damien de Fontaines
GERMANY	Edith Schröder
ISLE OF MAN	Martyn Quayle
LUXEMBOURG	Danielle Nesor
NORTHERN IRELAND	Linda Steele
NORWAY	Anette Paulsen
SCOTLAND	Sally Young
SWEDEN	Maria Mårdh
SWITZERLAND	Doris Mauer



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## Executive committee: 2012-2013

**President:** Martyn Quayle, Isle of Man  
**First Vice President** Gerhard Steinberger, Austria  
**Second Vice President** Alison Spencer, Wales

**Treasurer:** Norbert Winkler, Austria  
**Secretary:** Sally Young, Scotland  
**Newsletter editor:** Hilde W. Riser, Norway

# IFYE life in Finland

Darkness has been like a blanket over us all fall... Snow, if we had it, melted away, leaving all naked and muddy. In the middle of this darkness, Finnish IFYE's heard my call, and came, from all directions, near and far, navigator or no navigator.... so that we could have our fall meeting/ little Christmas party.

We started our day together, by gathering in front of an old barn, in a little distant village in Konnevesi, called Pyhålahti. There we met a young man, Matti Kakko, who with his friend Eemeli Mölsä, started a movie theatre called Navettakino there, 10 years ago. They were at that time 10 and 12 year old school boys. Their story and actions have inspired all people that have visited them, and after 10 years, it is still running, and was one of the first theatres that had 3D technology in all Finland. They are doing all work together, with help of their neighbour and as a hobby. People come from near and far to watch movies in this barn, unlike all expectations and adults calculations back then. It is to me, a living proof of how doing the things that you appreciate, value and love, should always be the first priority, when you are thinking, should I or shouldn't I do something....

We watched movie Brake of dawn II (without any problems, even if Susanna tried to make a deal with Matti, to stop the movie, when the ware wolf takes his shirt off.... :D )

After movie it was time to get to the other side of Konnevesi, to Sirkkamäki, where our meeting took place in an old schoolhouse. After the meeting it was time for a little post competition with hobbyhorses, and to test how polo could be played with them horses! It was already very dark, and in the middle of the game all lights went off... Guess what happens when IFYE's are in the middle of something so exiting? (Competition is the key word!) There were cellular phone, to light the ways so that game could be played to the end !

After all excitement and activity it was time to sit down and eat Christmas dinner- cooked by local catering Pappilan hätävara. Delicious food, and wonderful company ... and also one of Santa's helpers came to visit us...with gifts....that were surprisingly "handy".

It was great to see old friends, and we were especially happy to see some new participants also! We remembered our Conference in Metsäkartano, watched photos once again, and I got to tell about Kungälv, and tell greetings from the conference in Sweden!





As day turned into night, we had sauna, and talking, laughing and planning for the future meetings continued till 3am. There were wild ideas... so beware! :D (Best ideas popped up between 1:30 and 3! • )

I am happy to say, that team Finland is getting ready for Wales, we are trying to find our hidden talents, so that we can astonish you all when we meet in Monmouth! Finnish IFYE's loaded their batteries with laughter and relaxing with friends! Therefore darkness is no more an issue!

We also had our first taste of coming Christmas, and with that memory in my mind, I am wishing you exiting, tasty and wonderfully scented Christmas time, and send you all our warmest greetings !

HYVÄÄ JOULUA JA  
ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA 2013!

from Finnish IFYE's Contact member  
Marita Pynnönen (IFYE '92 , USA)



# 60 years of IFYE in Sweden

by Bibbi Anderson



One weekend at the end of October every year, the Swedish IFYE Club hold its annual meeting. We IFYEs meet, have fun and discover a new part of Sweden. So even this year, but this year, it was a little extra. This year we also celebrated our 60-year anniversary. We have found a note dated in December 1952. A group of IFYE's had met and had fun. They also decided that they shall continue to meet and the Swedish IFYE club was founded. Absolutely fantastic, sixty years back!



This year we were about 50 IFYE's gathered in Gislaved in Småland. Our IFYE's (Alf, Ruth, Birgitta, Lasse, Lennart and Helena) who live in Småland had planned a super program for us.

Friday evening we looked at pictures from last summer's big event when we hosted all of you, at the Conference in Kungälv. But we also viewed pictures from our 60-years of IFYE, Ingall and some of us had brought Conference reports, photo albums, newspaper articles, yes "you name it" from all our common IFYE meetings both in Sweden and abroad, from our IFYE stays and as host families. An incredibly fun and exciting reading. Many happy memories appeared in our minds and we told stories and laughed. "Is that you?", "But do you remember?", "Have you heard anything?", "Do you have contact with?", "Were you there?" etc. A great thank you to you Ingall who gathered all these memories.

The Saturday started with our annual meeting. An annual meeting as many others. Ann-Margreth Karlsson was elected the chair person for one more year and the main issue on the agenda was, as it certainly is for most of you; How do we get our 4H members to apply for the IFYE programme? How do we get them to come to our meetings/conferences?

Gislaved is known for its tires. (Gislaved is situated not very close from the Swedish "Monza race track", Anderstorp.) The production closed down some years ago, unfortunately but for us Swedes, the tires will always be there. We made a visit to the Industrial Museum and were told that to us more known articles were produced in Gislaved than tires, such as galoshes (overshoes) for both ladies and men, dolls, packages, glass, leather etc. After the visit to the Industrial Museum Alf took us to southern Sweden's largest and most visited ski resort; Isaberg. A winter weekend, thousands of Swedes and Danes visit the resort. Up on top, with a lovely view, we went and pretended that there was snow and we were whizzing down the slopes.



Our 60-years celebration festivities started in the evening with a glass of wine and then we had a very delicious dinner. Birgitta Sigfridsson, the hostess for the evening made us feel very special. She read poems and stories by authors from the neighbourhood in a Småland dialect (we who were not from the area did pretend we understood and clapped our hands and laughed as everyone else afterwards). We sang and there was also musical entertainment. Sven-Olof Birgersson made a speech to honour the IFYE club, We had a very pleasant time.

The Sunday we visited Alf and Ruth where Alf told us about his life story and amazing enterprises. It all started with a 4H project targeting of Swedish forest plants on a small scale to the existing teak plantations of 600ha in Panama. On the way the entrepreneurship has consisted of many carpets from rag-rugs to oriental rugs. Then we were treated a typical cheesecake from Småland with cherry jam and cream. The weekend ended with lunch at the High Chaparral, the wild, Wild West facility in Småland.

Many warm thanks to the organisers for a weekend of entrepreneurship, tires and many fantastic IFYE memories.

## Sad news from Switzerland

We have received the sad news of the death of Swiss IFYE member Iwan Biedermann, aged 50. Iwan passed away on 6. September 2012. He was an IFYE delegate to the Netherlands in 1984; a FFA delegate to the USA in 1985; Vice President of the Swiss IFYE-Swiss from 1991 to 1993 and; President from 1993 to 1998. He is sadly missed by all his fellow IFYE's.

## New arrivals

Ann Karin Aas (2004 IFYE from Norway to Costa Rica) and Rune Ravatsbakk with the arrival of their son, Ludvik on 25. October 2012.

YuHui Kao (2007 IFYE from Taiwan to Norway) and Arne Forbord (1998 IFYE from Norway to Switzerland) with the arrival of their daughter Liv on 1. December 2012.



# Aventure in Zambia



UK Member Joan Green – busy retirement life helping others.

*"My exchange visit was to Israel in 1970 where 2 of us worked on 2 Kibbutz and stayed with 3 families in different parts of Israel. I have since returned to Israel in 1982 at Christmas, which was a remarkable experience. I also was leader of a YFC Group to Finland in 1972.*

*I have been retired from teaching since July 2003. My first day of retirement was at the World Conference in Sweden. I was always busy, but only began with this Charity in 2007, when I heard a talk about its work and realised there was one of their Warehouses just down the road from where I lived."*

## Retirement;

Who said retirement was relaxation, a good book, cup of tea, perhaps a bit of gardening and Ladies who Lunch!!!! Forget it!!! I have never been busier, with Womens Institute, Ladies Probus, Countrywomen and Volunteer with the National Trust. This is not all, most of my time is spent as a volunteer for the National Police Aid Convoys. This Charity was set up almost 20 years ago to get aid to countries where there was a need, initionally in Eastern Europe.



We collect, sort, clean and pack a large number of items given to us to be sent either by lorry to Europe or by sea on a container further afield.

Our main aims are to support schools and hospital projects. Clothes, household items etc help to fill spaces. We don't buy anything, all has been given, school tables, chairs, books, stationery etc, hospital beds, cabinets, dressings, equipment etc. Lots of Ladies groups knit blankets and clothes too.



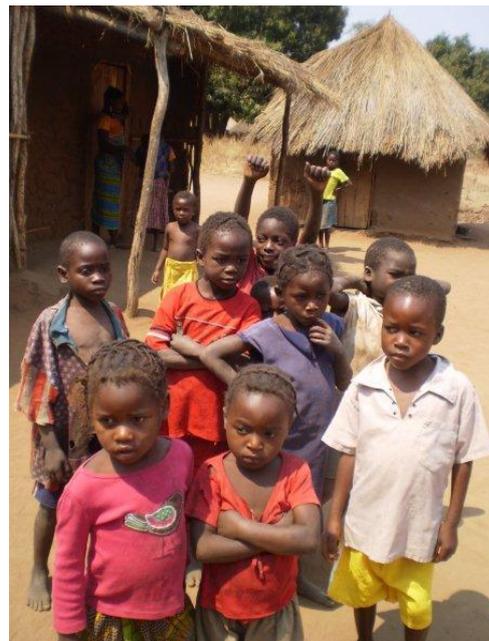
As a volunteer I have been to Albania 6 times, flying out to meet lorries, helping to unpack them and then distributing the goods. We also collect 'Wish Lists' of what else is needed. We all pay our own expenses and sometimes we are loaned lorries. My latest love is Zambia. A group of us first went out in 2010, visiting schools, hospitals and clinics we have been supporting for several years, to see how the things are being used and to collect more 'Wish Lists'. The need here is great, basic items pens, pencils, reading and exercise books, as well as tables and chairs, so the children do not have to sit

on the concrete floor for their lessons. In the hospitals patients were sharing beds, providing their own bedding, if they had any, families feeding them and equipment in short supply.

In August 2012, 3 weeks after IFYE Sweden, 12 of us returned, revisiting the projects we have been supporting. There were many tears when we could see the difference our contributions had made. We unloaded a container whilst we were there and managed to give out lots of items. One school received an organ and the following day we visited this school, on a Sunday morning and again more tears as we heard the organ being played beautifully by one of the pupils. We are helping this school become an area Music Centre and we saw how all the instruments we have sent were being used.

We travel hundreds of miles over bumpy roads in to the bush so we also see lots of the wild animals, giraffe are my favourite.

Our Charity supports other charities by helping to fill their containers from our huge stock. We have helped Rwanda, Ghana, Zanzibar, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Gambia and more are on the horizon, like Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Nicaragua, South Africa.



What makes me do all this??? Just to see or imagine all the smiles our efforts bring.

## Autumn meeting in Germany

*Text: Neele Heinemann, Photo: Edith Schröder*

Every fall the German IFYEs and the incoming IFYE's meet for a weekend. This year the meeting took place in the city of Bonn at the Rhein-river and was organized by Klaus Heitlinger (IFYE 1988).

Two incoming IFYE's participated this year, Devan, from Montana, was three months in Norway before spending her second half of the IFYE trip in Germany. Whitney, from Costa Rica, is in Germany for six months. Moreover we had another guest from Michigan, who is living with her former host brother in Germany now. So it was another interesting and fun weekend with much to laugh and less sleep.



On the way back some IFYE's stopped at the chicken-farm of Karl-Frieder Kottsieper (IFYE 1987) and his family. His son Robin was IFYE 2011. After having a short lunch (of course fried and scrambled eggs...;-)) Frieder and Robin gave us a tour on their farm. It was very interesting and we learned a lot about chicken-farming and about the eggs way from the barn to the grocery store.

# Welcome to Wales 2013

European Conference Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August

In Wales we love our national game of rugby and have been so proud of the wonderful achievements of our team in the 2011 World Cup and Grand Slam championships. Unfortunately we haven't been doing so well in the autumn internationals and sadly have failed to win a match against the southern hemisphere countries.

However, the first European Conference to be held in Wales next summer will definitely be a winner! Don't forget the date, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. We are very excited about our plans for the programme and looking forward to welcoming you all to our beautiful homeland. We can promise you a week to remember. Why not come early and visit the Royal Welsh Show from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, or stay on afterwards and experience the culture of the Welsh Eisteddfod in Denbigh.



50 places have already been booked and with only 150 places available, be sure to register early to avoid disappointment. The booking will close 31<sup>st</sup> March. Visit our website on <http://ifyeoscltd.co.uk> or via the IFYE website [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org) or follow us on Facebook.

Wishing you all seasons greetings and health and happiness in 2013

The Wales European IFYE Conference Committee

