



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

October 2014



Bavaria – Germany's number one holiday region

Small medieval towns and vibrant cities Bavarian traditions and warm hospitality can be found all over the south east corner of Germany. Bavaria is one of the most popular – and most scenic – travel destinations in Germany. For many, Bavaria means sausage, beer, and lederhosen, and although you'll find all of that, Bavaria has much more to offer. Munich, the regional capital, and its picture-perfect countryside, unspoilt natural surroundings, healthy air, a wealth of culture and the proverbially laid-back attitude to life. Medieval castles and small towns, magnificent palaces and baroque churches, can be found all over the state providing the perfect setting for everything from traditional festivals to high flying hand gliders. This brings a harmonious blend of both the traditional and modern.

But it takes more than just scenery and cultural attractions to attract such a huge number of visitors. This year a 6 strong committee of German IFYE's provided us with a fun packed week of friendship, culture, adventure and fun.



Eva Singer, Johannes Wening, Katharina Steinrücke, Anne Wiegand, Peggy Rostin and Hilke Solterbeck.

Approximately 180 enthusiastic participants of the 56th European Conference IFYE, which took place in Hesselberg - Northern Bavaria (Germany), on the southern slope of the Hessel Mountain, at the Conference and Education centre, 200 meters above the valley, provide the perfect blend of buildings for our get together. After our arrival on the first evening we had the chance to relive the highlights of the 55th conference in Monmouth Wales. These slides helped to bring together the joy of our reunion by reveling in old memories and anticipation for what is to come over the next week.

Sunday the church service – As the weather was kind the service was held outdoors, the band from the local church played the music and the local villagers joined in our service. After the service the group and country photos were taken. The new comers and contact members meetings were held, everyone else had an endless supply of ice cream from a local young farmer. In the evening we were shown the famous Oktoberfest, with great live music and traditional food, drinks and entertainment until the early hours.



Monday trip to Kinderzeche Dinkelsbühl – During the 30 Years War (1618 - 1648) broad parts of Germany were destroyed, while the medieval city of Dinkelsbühl was spared. This is because of the children of Dinkelsbühl begged favour with the Swedish colonel. For the past 100 years or so Dinkelsbühl has celebrated its delivery with a festival where the whole story is performed again. Even today the city continues to show its grateful appreciation for their help by giving coloured bags of sweets to all the children taking part in the procession.



The Dinkelsbühl boys' band has been performing in their famous Rococo uniforms since 1897. The 75-piece band, which is famous the world over.

Tuesday Workshop/ host family/ craft and cookery

The workshops looked at the ifye conferences past present and future.

Craft Class were run under the guidance of Eva and Hilke and many of us produced linen trimmed file covers with a variety of uses. At the cookery class several members under the guidance of two top IFYE chefs' prepared regional dishes in the school kitchen, which they presented a tasting menu to some of the Ifye's not visiting host families

In the evening at dinner we were joined by many of the host families, they had the chance to listen to many IFYE stories and join in many IFYE songs, one memory that I think will stay with us for a long time is Rachel from England acting a turkey.

On Wednesday we took different tours through the region. Some trips went to look at agriculture in the area some went to visit Nuremberg and learn more about its history. Some

of us went to learn more about the humble pencil with a visit to Faber-Castell. Lunch was Nuremberg sausage and sauerkraut under a bridge at the side of a river.



Followed by a visit to the castle in Nuremberg with beautiful views down over the town. On returning to the conference site we had dinner, country meetings and a talk about the special orchards of this region. This was followed by a fashion show showing us how a designer is changing the dirndl dress to suit the modern wardrobe.



As it was a little wet and there was a bit of mist on Tuesday morning the hike to the top of the Hesselburg for the sunrise was postponed to Thursday. IFYE's who took part in the hike said to experience the sunrise at the top of the Hesselburg was indescribably beautiful. Accompanied by two trumpets, the sun was welcomed at a simple breakfast.

Thursday morning was dedicated to our General Assembly and tombola. President Gerhard Steinberger, Austria, introduced members of the board. First Vice President Anna Persson, Sweden, Second Vice President Katharina Steinrücke, Germany, Secretary Linda Steele, Northern Ireland, Treasurer Norbert Winkler, Austria, Newsletter Editor (not in attendance) Hilde W. Riser, Norway.

Gerhard invited Dorothy Wilson to talk about the work being done by the sub-committee who has started work gathering material for the commemorative report celebrating 60 years of IFYE conferences. Dorothy asked if anyone has any knowledge or skills and would like to lend us a hand, please contact one of us from the sub-committee:

Helle Bonderup (DK) (chairman) helleb@teliamail.dk,
Sirku Laurila (Fin) giasas.ifye@gmail.com,
Katharina Steinrücke (D) ifyekatharina@t-online.de,
Inga-lill Eriksson (S) inga-lill.eriksson.sfr@folkbildning.net,
Dorothy Wilson (Eng) dorothy@wilsonwilloughby.plus.com.



Alison Spencer gave a report on the 55th conference in Monmouth Wales. Members were shown the report and asked if they had enjoyed reading it. Most members had received their reports about a week before going to Germany.

Norbert gave an overview of the accounts and budgets for the up and coming year. He explained that the board had bought new silver pins this year and they hope they now have enough for the next few years. Gerhard thanked both Norbert and Hilda for all their work on the board

and wished them all the best in the future.

In the afternoon you could explore the nature around our location by joining in several walks and hikes with a guide, or you could join several workshops which were prepared and also implemented the IFYEs themselves. Others took the chance to lounge in the pool or a coffee and cake in the IFYE cafe.

Later that night we were surprised with a "Spiritueller Abend" this turned out to be an evening of tasting local spirits. 4 snaps, 4 whiskeys and 4 fruit flavoured liquors. With rhubarb being the surprising favourite, in fact the supplier had to make several trips home to keep up with demand.

Friday morning dawned and once again we found ourselves on buses taking in the sights one of the tours was to the Nördlinger Ries or another to the most well-known town of Rothenburg. Rothenburg is well known for its famous Christmas shops.



Snowball cakes (Rothenburger Schneeballen)

- 20 egg yolks
- 7 dssp icing sugar
- 7 dssp cream
- 4 dssp damson schnapps
- and 500 g flour
- Butter oil to deep fry
- Icing sugar to drench



Mix all ingredients to a dough and roll out into

circles approximately dessert plate sized and 3mm thick. Leave to rest briefly. Using a pastry wheel cut strips 1-1.5 cm wide but not right to the edges of the circle. Using the handle of a wooden spoon lift

every second strip. Lift the pastry circle and put it into a utensil made especially for this purpose known as a Schneeballeisen. Bake the cakes in hot fat until they are golden brown.

In the afternoon the buses returned to conference site and we had time to relax, pack, swim or hike before we started the Farewell Party and the closing ceremony at midnight.

The menu for the evening started with three bruschetta main course included among other things Bavarian pork loin, chicken breast in almond crust or Hoki (fish) on spinach, accompanied by tagliatelle, tarragon potatoes, fries and salad, dessert was a moose topped with three options.

People remember with whom you talked, danced and laughed. At a conference IFYE people of all ages & countries grow together regardless of their origin to a fascinating community in which you simply feel comfortable. On Saturday was the departure of this unique event, but it was not goodbye with sadness, but with anticipation for 2015 in Scotland.

Greetings from the President

May I say what a pleasure it was to have been with so many of you at the 56th European International Farm Youth Exchange Alumni Conference, held in Hesselberg, Germany from 19.07 - 26.07, 2014. We all enjoyed a fantastic week of catching up with old and not so old friends, and making new ones. We were blessed with warm weather, a stunning location on the Hesselberg near Nürnberg, and a wide ranging, packed and interesting programme which also allowed us to enjoy some of Bavarian/Frankens magnificent countryside.

A conference report is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter and on behalf of you all, I express sincere appreciation to Eva Singer, Bettina Heinemann & Katharina Steinrücke and the whole German team that hosted the conference for their outstanding hard work (day & night) in hosting us on the Hesselberg - I am sure they spend afterwards lots of hours in bed; I just will remind you on the „Oktoberfest“, that fantastic day in Dinkelsbühl and also in Nürnberg for example - thanks ones again for that memorable week!

At the Annual General Meeting, there were a number of changes to the Executive Committee and we expressed appreciation to Hilde Riser (Norway) who did a brilliant job as Secretary & newsletter editor over the last years and to Norbert Winkler (Austria) who retired as Treasurer, for his fantastic work over the last 4 years. I was most grateful for your support to stay as President for the actual term, Anna Person (Sweden) & Linda Steele (Northern Ireland) will also stay in their function as 1st Vice President & Secretary for that periode.

We welcomed Ursula Spillmann (Switzerland) to the Executive Committee as Treasurer and Nan McLachlan (Scotland) as 2nd Vice President. Avril Herdman (Northern Ireland) will support us as our Newsletter Editor only for the next year - so keep in mind we will have to vote on that position next year ones again - meanwhile thank you Avril. I believe it's a great team to take IFYE forward into the future.

The conference in Germany will always stay in my mind - for sure of the fantastic location, program & team but also of my personal situation - waiting for the birth of my first child and be ready to leave if it had been early. In August our son Markus was born & so our life changed a little bit and runs very fast- he keeps us busy.

I wish you all a fantastic fall and do not forget there is the next conference in Scotland 2015 and keep the IFYE-Spirit alive!

Gerhard Steinberger (Austria)



My Journey in Alaska

My journey in Alaska has been amazing and full of surprises. Surprises have come from gorgeous nature, amazing people, and opportunities I have had. I didn't have any expectations about what the IFYE program was except that it was a cultural exchange which involved living with host families. I have lived with four different host families and every time it has been nice to meet all new people and be part of their family. Being a part of a different culture is eye-opening and every day I learned something new. Three of my families have farms and I have helped them with planting, fertilizing, picking, and selling. I have learned so much about peonies and vegetable farming. I'm definitely a city girl and I've lived always in downtown areas so farming has been a new thing for me. But, I'm positive and motivated!



My 21st birthday - August 12 - with Henna seated in center. L to R: Wayne and Patricia Floyd, Katie Beck, Ray and Sue Tauriainen.

I have also experienced 4-H in different ways. I had an opportunity to go 4-H camp with amazing kids and youth. Everyone got so excited about Finnish culture that I decided to teach them how to bake traditional Finnish desserts in their 4-H club. One camper said that baking traditional Finnish desserts was so much fun since they got to mix ingredients with their hands.

I visited the Eureka Homestead 4-H. The kids were so excited to meet me and learn things I wanted to teach them about Finland. I taught them games and gave some of them traditional Finnish candy. Others received photos and we baked cinnamon buns together. I don't think I have ever used such fresh eggs and goat's milk when I baked before. I love baking so it has been natural to bake with host families, too. I'm glad that my families have had time to take me to see what Alaska has to offer. While staying in the Fairbanks region, we made a trip to Denali National Park and we saw all kind of animals like caribou, bears, moose, and Dall sheep. The day was clear so we got to see Mt. McKinley. I have taken a bath at Manley Hot Springs while watching grapes hanging from the roof.

See more about Dall Sheep at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheephunting.main>



Moose on the road to Kenai River

After leaving Fairbanks, I traveled down to the Kenai Peninsula region. I had the pleasure of experiencing a

traditional American wedding, several birthday parties, and a boat float trip in the Kenai River. In addition, I was a volunteer judge at the Kenai Peninsula Fair in Ninilchik and I was able to watch the 4-Hers auction off their animals at the Junior Market Livestock (JML) Auction. I like being in a different culture and using English. All kind of new habits bring a smile to my face. In Finland, we usually don't compliment total strangers' clothes or hair so it was very nice to hear compliments on my dress by total strangers.

The IFYE program has given me so many new experiences and I'm so glad for spending my summer in "The Last Frontier". I could have never imagined how much I would learn about Alaskan culture. Weather isn't always the best but always being around new things and amazing people warms me so much that I will return one day.

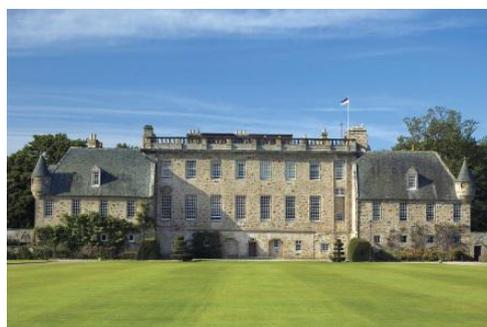


Float trip on Kenai River - Counterclockwise: Wayne Floyd, Henna, Julia and Liam Floyd and Anna Beale.

Henna Korhonen (Finland to Alaska)



57th Annual European IFYE Conference
15th – 22nd August 2015
Gordonstoun School,
Elgin



We are at the final stages of programme planning for this major even in the Scottish calendar. From farm and whisky tours, to castles and cruises and much more, there is something to suit all tastes. Evenings will be filled with fun and laughter, ceilidhs and enjoying the company of more than 17 Nations with a wee glass of your favourite tippie! To Those not sure what it's like to go to an IFYE conference, please re- read Neil's Report

- His enthusiasm says it all
- Come on, come and join us! We would be more than happy to have your help during the week
- What a great way to meet new friends. Contact details: ifyescotland2015@yahoo.co.uk and www.ifyescotland.co.uk or contact Mary @ mary.turner2@btinternet.com

Message from Marita Pynnönen Finland

Dear IFYE's and IFYE-friends!



**You are all cordially invited to the
50th Anniversary of The Finnish IFYE Association,
"The castle to the party",
6th December 2014,
Saloon Wiurila Manor, Kartanoon, Finland,
European IFYE Association members 50 / 75 euros, including food and wines.
Non-members the price is 75 / 95 euros.**

News from Northern Ireland by Linda Steel

Since the European reunion the IFYEs in Northern Ireland have had the chance to meet a couple of times already. First there was the picnic in Ballycastle on the north coast, on one of the worst days of the year. Torrential rain meant the tea and sandwiches had to be eaten in a sheep shearing shed but it also gave us an excuse to drink hot whiskeys in the bar that evening; purely medicinal of course.

Last weekend we had a 'Back to School, St Trinian's reunion'. For those who don't know, the name St Trinian's comes from a series of British comedy movies from the 50s and 60s about a very wild girl's school, and in the past the Young Farmer's St Trinians parties were pretty wild too. Nowadays IFYEs are much more mature and sensible....but there were some very tight uniforms, a lot of dancing and plenty of craic nevertheless.

Other plans include cruising the Irish sea in October, to attend the Scottish Reunion and a YFA meeting in November to welcome the most recently returned exchangees. Roll on 2015 and even more IFYE adventures.



Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to this newsletter any information for the next addition should be sent to avrilherdman@outlook.com by the 31st Jan. 2015.