



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

February 2015



UK YFA Reunion 2014 - Irvine, Scotland

This year's UK reunion was held in the town of Irvine, just north of Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland and although the weather was cool and damp, as you might expect in October, the welcome was extremely warm. Friendly faces met us at the train station, thank goodness, as later it was hard to tell friend from foe, as zombies, vampires, ghosts and ghouls descended on the dining room. The Hallowe'en party stretched well past the witching hour, and there were still a few white faces on the bus next morning as we set off on the trips. This year we were again joined by some European delegates in the shape of Andreas 'Conchita Wurst' Langgartner and Sabine Kobler and as usual this only added to the fun.

There was a great array of outings to see farms, helicopters and the birthplace of Robbie Burns but we probably chose the most varied trip with a tour of a nuclear power station in the morning followed by ice-cream and chocolate tasting in the afternoon which was both educational and delicious!

More Scottish members joined us for the formal dinner that evening to mark their anniversaries, and our own John Cromie celebrated 60 years since his trip to the USA. Then there was a chance to try

your hand, or foot, at ceildhi dancing before a disco rounded off the evening for those who still had the energy.

Sunday was much more relaxed with country meetings and the National AGM in the morning and later, instead of the usual Grouse Shoot, we had a very civilised Pimms party in honour of Joan Green's birthday. Once again there was music, singing and dancing until the wee small hours and final farewells and heartfelt thanks were said on Monday morning before the long journey home. Roll on next year when we set sail for Wales!

Here's a report by **Andrew Baird on his first YFA reunion:**

The 2014 UK Reunion Weekend was held in Scotland at the Menzies Hotel, Irvine from 31 October to 3



Nov. I had never been to one before, I thought this would be an ideal time to go. I had heard good reviews from fellow Scottish YFA Members. I drove down with Anna Sloan, who is also from my YFC, and had been to Switzerland this year. On arrival, we were greeted by the Reunion Committee and handed our goodie bags, including a Scotch Beef T-shirt. That evening it was dinner followed by a fancy dress disco, which to keep it relevant to the date, was a Halloween theme. I was impressed with how many people had made the effort to dress up with all ages taking part.



After a lovely meal, there was the disco with prizes for the best fancy dress outfits. There were some great costumes and there were also some unusual ones with the winner of the female category being awarded to a guy called Andreas from Austria! It was great to see the kids taking part as well, and showing off their dance moves!

The next morning after breakfast, we were going on our chosen visits. There were 4 different ones to choose from: Albert Bartlett & Summerlee Museum; Dumfries House Estate & Sandyford Farm; Hunterston Power Station & Lime Tree Larder; HMS Gannet & Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. I chose the two farm visits, firstly to Dumfries House Farm. In 2009, Morrisons announced that there would be a joint venture with the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust to farm 700 acres at Dumfries House Estate. The farm researches how farming efficiency and sustainability can be further improved. Its aim is to become a leading centre of excellence for farming research. The farm rears traditional cattle breeds being mainly Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus and some arable crops which are grown for animal feed.

The second farm visit was to Gilmour Lawrie's Sandyford Farm. The Brieryside herd is a mixture of red and white and some pure Ayrshires. Sandyford milks twice a day and has a rapid exit milk parlour with heat detectors and other management aids to help improve herd fertility. The milk is sold at a premium to First Milk on a Nestle contract which goes to make chocolate crumbs to coat Kit Kat biscuits. We watched the afternoon milking from the viewing room which Gilmour set up to have school visits, and around the walls, facts are posted so that people can read about the business.



We had some time to relax before the Gala dinner. The evening started with a drinks reception and then a formal black tie dinner with guest speaker, Alex Ferguson MSP.

It was another lovely meal and Alex Ferguson gave an interesting and funny speech. Following on we had the Devas Ceilidh Band entertaining us until the early hours - they were a great band, and it was a good sign when the dance floor was always full!

Sunday morning, everyone was up bright and early for the Church service, and it was good to see such a good turnout considering how late most of us got to bed! The Regional meetings followed, where at the Scottish Meeting, we drew the raffle.

The UK YFA AGM took place, and each region gave a report on their year's activities, and the chairman and secretary were elected. Just before lunch, the group photo was taken, and then early afternoon, saw the departure of those heading home. Around 70 remained for a leisurely afternoon, before dinner and some live entertainment.

I really enjoyed my first UK YFA Reunion, and must thank the Scottish Reunion Committee for organising a great weekend. I made some new friends and hopefully will meet up with them at other YFA Reunions. I hope to go to Wales in 2015, and if you haven't attended a YFA reunion, you should give it a go, it's a lot of fun!

Andrew Baird - European Rally 2014



Reunion Committee:

Chairman – Mary Gemmell, **Secretary** – Caroline Robertson, **Treasurer** – Robin Blair
Committee – Mary Turner, Elaine Meikle, Harold Greer

MORE ON THE UK YFA REUNION IN IRVINE

As we don't have these kinds of get-togethers in **Austria**, Andi and I decided to take the opportunity and join you in Scotland for this renowned weekend!! Welcomed from the moment we arrived until we said our last goodbyes on Sunday, we really enjoyed every minute of our stay and hope we didn't scare you off the Austrians with Andi's choice of fancy dress! Friday night was so much fun and great for getting to know everyone although it was quite challenging to recognise people the next day without their costumes! I found the trip to the Power Station insightful as we don't have any at home, and tasting chocolate is always a highlight. Saturday night brought yet more culture from the Haggis Ceremony to the energetic Ceilidh

dancing! Thank you so much for letting Andi and I join you for this weekend which we experienced as a mini IFYE Conference. As usual, one arrives with a few old friends and leaves with lots of new ones! **Andi & Sabine**

Thanks to the Reunion committee for a great weekend!

Greetings from the President

Since our last newsletter was published lots of things had changed. Our organisation received very sad news. Sally Young (Scotland) our former secretary and Pieter Dijkhuis (The Netherlands) 1st President of the European IFYE Alumni Association (1958) past away this fall. Let us remember them with grateful thanks for their hard work and for happy memories of fun and friendship we enjoyed together. Such moments always shows us how short life can be and what should be important. Lots of us are driven by work, voluntary services, social obligations and more but often we have too little time for the really important things such as family and friendship.

What happened in Paris a couple weeks ago shows us, how important it is to work on relations between countries, cultures and religions to create a better understanding and tolerance and be clear that violence is never tolerated! Europe has had lots of conflicts over the last centuries. But as we know the IFYE program is the best example how intercultural life could work and improve mutual understanding.

I hope you all had a good start to 2015 and you are still keeping your New Year's resolutions for this year, eg be a host family or meet lots of old / new friends this August in Scotland.

Here in Austria we are still waiting for an normal winter - but it looks like the last year - not really cold and not much snow, so from a farming point of view, a shortage of water/snow for the ground - but we are still hoping for more. Skiing is possible but it makes more fun if you are in a winter wonderland!

Once again I wish IFYE's all over Europe and beyond a fantastic 2015 and do not forget the next conference in Scotland 2015 and keep the IFYE-Spirit alive!

GST

Wanted!



Here in the UK we get together at this time of the year to fill the posts on the YFA committee. So just as a reminder you need to be looking for an IFYE newsletter editor.

Could it be you?

If you have any information for the next edition of the newsletter I hope to start putting it together in May/June so if you can send me any information by 31st May to

avrilherdman@outlook.com

Thank you to everyone who has in any way contributed to this and our last newsletter it would be impossible to do this job with-out your help. Avril x

What makes us come back?

In 2018 we can celebrate our 60 year anniversary with European IFYE conferences. Back when it all started in 1958 in Brussel - Belgium, only a few brave IFYE's turned up, trying to start a tradition. The idea was for European IFYE's to gather once a year somewhere in Europe, and get to know each other, exchange ideas and off cause to meet new friends.

Going to the conferences has given us the opportunity to meet new friends and keep the friendships that were established when on the exchange, from all over Europe and the rest of the World.

Many years later we are still meeting up somewhere in Europe, so their wish to start a tradition has succeeded.

A conference has at least two sides as it can be viewed from behind the scene as an organizer as well as a participant. Many of us have tried both views, and can appreciate all the hard work the organizers put into organizing a conference.

Each conference is both a unique and "the same as always" event. We have certain traditions, but with those, the organizers always manage to put in something interesting, funny and new every year.

But what makes us come back? The sub-committee is in the process of investigating that, and is interviewing a variety of IFYE's and spouses, and trying to get their input.

To give you an idea of why some of our fellow IFYE's say they come back here is some of the answers they have given;

- **Joelle Seyler:-** *"Meeting friends - getting to know a country and celebrating in the bar."*
- **Lucas Helfenstein;** - *"Always an awesome week with great people, good to see them all again."*
- **Anne Brødsgaard;** - *"The very special IFYE feeling and attachment with people from other countries, regardless of age - politics and religion."*
- **Anita Eckerstorfer;** - *"The unique experience of different cultures, and seeing the "home" of others from a non-touristy perspective with the mix of happiness! Everybody is open-minded. It does not matter which profession you have, who you are and how you are. You can be whoever you are and want to be. But the most important is that you can forget all your worries. The whole week is about being happy and enjoying the time being!"*
- **Trevor Woods;** - *"The community spirit shared with all the participants is just the best thing ever. I only wish I could share that with others who do not know this organization."*

We still have some years left to get as much inputs as possible, so if we haven't contacted you, and you feel that you have a story to tell, long or short, please let us know, and we will contact you.

Helle Bonderup helleb@teliamail.dk

(Snow)fun -Ski weekend in Switzerland

Lack of snow but not lack of fun - that was the result of this year's IFYE ski weekend in Switzerland (ski region Klewenalp) where nearly 50 IFYEs including family and friends participated.



As every year, the Swiss IFYEs were organizing a ski weekend. They offered the possibility to sleep in the mountain hut (1500 m) already on Friday, due to the fact that more and more international visitors are coming. About a dozen IFYEs used the chance this year. The hut is very nice,

comfortable and perfectly situated on the top of the mountain.

Unfortunately, because of lot of wind and too high temperatures it was impossible to ski which didn't stop people from coming. The first IFYEs were already up on the mountain on Friday when the ski lift operator was thinking about closing down the cable car for safety reasons because of the upcoming storm. But there was still no food in the hut. Luckily they succeeded and Marc-André could bring the food for the already hungry IFYEs.

This year, most of the visitors didn't even bring the skis. Instead of skiing, we enjoyed the wonderful sunny weather, the amazing view during a walk and played various games.



The Swiss cheese fondue on Saturday was the start in a cozy and funny evening with many games and conversations. Usually, people who are coming too late from the Après-Ski have to do the dishes but this time the bar was not open due to the lack of snow. Regardless, it was no issue to find volunteers for that job. Later on there was a rich dessert buffet available with many international contributions.

Sunday morning, the weather suddenly changed and we could experience an incredible view with approximately 15 cm fresh snow. It was very quiet on the mountain because the lifts still didn't operate which made it even more a beautiful winter wonderland. The breakfast was also rather a brunch and soon the IFYEs were again playing, laughing and discussing. Gradually, all left after lunch back home or to continue their journey.

A big thank you to Marc-André Zuber and Annika Sonderegger, who have succeeded in spite of difficult conditions to organize a perfect and very nice weekend!



Obituary

This is an appropriate time to pay tribute to **Sally Young (Scotland)** and **Pieter Rijpko Dijkuis (The Netherlands)** - who, as you would have read, sadly passed away recently.



Sally was an Exchangee to Canada in 1990, and since then had been a valued member of YFA, having held the posts of Secretary & Newsletter Editor. Sally was passionate about YFA and worked tirelessly to encourage people to join and keep YFA going. She attended most YFA Reunions, had been Reunion Secretary and more recently she held the post of Secretary at UK level. Sally was hooked and started to attend the European IFYE Conferences, popular with everyone she met, Sally served as European Secretary from 2010 to 2013. Never seeking to be the centre of attention, Sally enjoyed meeting new people and having fun. Sally was to have been our Chairman for Gordonstoun, and had already been an enthusiastic member of the team. She was a ray of sunshine and will be sorely missed.

(Extract taken from the Scottish YFA newsletter)

I was fortunate to attend a celebration of Sally's life in November when Brechin Cathedral was packed with friends and family which showed how many people's lives Sally had been part of. Whether you were

a phone friend letter friend or just met up at reunions and conferences together with family workmates guides and the farming community neighbours all were represented.

Her aunt gave a summary of Sally young life and her close friend Jennifer Jackson filled in the adult years. We laughed and cried at the shared memories.

Sally was a private person she had a great dislike of social media ie photos posted on Facebook and when she knew she was losing her battle she didn't want anyone to know she didn't want pity or her illness to dampen any activities or celebrations.

She had a zest for living life to the full was a talented seamstress and cook adored her dogs Smudge and Pipa and of course her partner Graham.

She was caring and considerate and full of fun and she instigated the invitation for Scotland to host the 2015 Conference in fact she was our Chairwoman however she resigned last year and I stepped in on the understanding I would keep her seat warm until she was better sadly she knew that was not going to happen.

Sally was a past European Secretary and made herself known to everyone especially our Baby If yes and looked forward to making new friends and catching up with old ones on the Conference .

We all share many happy memories and I shall treasure her letters always. When you come to Scotland this year her spirit will be with us

Sally we miss you but our lives are richer for having known you as a friend.

Nan McLachlan



Pieter Rijpko Dijkhuis

First President IFYE Alumni Europe

1931 – 2014

'Our courageous, resilient father, father-in-law and grandfather took leave after an eventful life.'

These were the words on the mourning card of Piet Dijkhuis. He passed away on 17 November 2014, in between his three children and their husband and wives. The week before, his nine grandchildren had come to say goodbye, all of them together.

Piet was born and raised on an arable farm in the most north eastern province of The Netherlands, Groningen. At 18, he left home to go and study in the town of Wageningen, at the agricultural university. Due to backaches, from which Piet was suffering since childhood, he could not complete his studies. Piet liked to relate about his departure from Wageningen: he left stylish, in a limousine with driver!

Piet returned to the family farm in Warfhuizen, which he later on took over from his father. Piet was especially interested in potato breeding.

Another 'hobby' of Piet, as he put it himself, was to bring rural youth together. However, there was no department of the Dutch rural youth association in his village, at the time when Piet might have joined in. He found out about the IFYE programme all the same. At the time, membership of the rural youth association was a prerequisite for joining the programme. Since Piet was no member, he was invited to come to the Ministry of Agriculture in The Hague for an assessment. Of course, Piet was selected for participation in the programme.

So Piet went to the United States as an IFYE, in 1956. From the Netherlands, Lana (Pheyyffer-)de Jong and Piet Hooyman joined him on the boat. Because of strikes in an Irish harbour, the trip took three days extra, but the locks of Washington were reached. The experience of going through those locks became symbolic to Piet. His states were Wyoming and Indiana. The experiences were unforgettable, and led to a full IFYE life.

In 1958 the World Exhibition was held in Brussels. Piet took the initiative to invite the other former participants in the programme to meet up, to bring back memories and share the experiences of life after the IFYE programme. 15 IFYE's representing seven European countries and including two representatives from the USA, came to this first meeting. It was decided to try to get a similar meeting organised every year and for 1959, the Netherlands would be the country to go to.

It pleased Piet very much to find that every year since then, another venue could be decided upon and another conference was organised, with ever increasing numbers of participants getting every opportunity to enjoy interesting activities and make valuable contacts.

Piet also played an important role in the Dutch IFYE Club. When he himself grew older and younger generations of IFYE's were on the board of the Dutch club, they got more responsibility for running the programme, because the professional exchange organisation withdrew itself from it. When asked, Piet was available for advice, in which he would always show his liberal mind and wisdom.

A group of 20 to 30 Dutch IFYE Alumni still meets up annually, every time in another part of the Netherlands. Piet's deteriorating health stopped him from going there a few years ago. He is being missed, and Piet missed being there.

Piet married Willemien Harrenstein, who came to many a conference with him.

After their eldest son took over the farm in Warfhuizen, Piet and Willemien moved to a house in Winsum, close to a train station. This was an important condition to make another house acceptable: Piet and Willemien wanted to travel independently as long as possible.

The 50th IFYE Conference of 2008 was the last conference Piet attended. A special conference of course, where proper attention was given to the 50th anniversary. When Piet returned to the Netherlands after that conference, he decided time had come again to consult a doctor. The diagnoses of Parkinson's was the result of this. In spite of his own worsening physical condition, Piet was able to take care of Willemien in their beloved house in Winsum until her death in May 2013. Piet was grateful for everything and everybody making it possible for him to do this for his wife.

One of Piet's sons started his speech at the funeral ceremony for his father by telling that recently, they had 'celebrated' an anniversary. Piet had visited the hospital in the town of Groningen for seventy years. For the backaches Piet had found a special clinic in Germany which helped him to stay able to walk.

He was already around eighty years of age, when Piet needed cancer treatment twice. This he survived, but Parkinson's disease became too much for him. It was also harming the muscles in the mouth and throat, which made it impossible to eat in the natural way and difficult to speak.

In September 2014 Piet's health began to fail rapidly. He could not communicate by phone anymore as he wished that he could and his fingers began to fail him so much that typing became impracticable. Thus few ways of staying in contact with the world were left. Too few for Piet, who was such a sociable person.

Piet chose to play a part in the preparation of his own funeral. We heard the instrumental IFYE song when we entered the hall, and a version sang beautifully by a Finnish male choir, when we left it. In between the children and grandchildren spoke and one granddaughter played the guitar for 'Opa', like she had done when Opa was still alive. Piet's daughter told the story of a long car trip Piet made to visit his Norwegian IFYE friend Johannes Sollid. They went wandering in the Norwegian forests together, and Piet wished he would return to earth one day being an elk, with those forests as its home.

We were there with quite a group of IFYE's, also from Germany. Piet had been an active member of the German IFYE Alumni Association as well. At the end of one of the two IFYE speeches we all stood up and spoke the words of the IFYE pledge together:

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
and my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

In honour of Pieter Rijpko Dijkhuis, and of everything he meant for IFYE and for us. By Sandra Lont

Anna's trip to Switzerland

I set off for Switzerland on 28 June from Edinburgh Airport. My flights were running to time and I was relieved that I just managed to make the quick connection in Paris. However, even although I successfully made it to Zurich, my luggage did not, so I spent the first 5 days luggage-less!



When I arrived at Zurich Airport, the IFYE Swiss co-ordinator met me and helped me get on the right train to my host family, who I stayed with for the full 3 weeks of my trip. My host mother picked me up from the station and we had a very interesting car journey home, as she couldn't speak English and I could not speak German! Thankfully, my host father could speak English and my host sister (15 years) and my host brother (13 years) both learnt English at school. I was amazed how over the 3 weeks I was there, I spent a large amount of my time

with my host mum and we managed to create our own way of not only understanding each other, but also having conversations!

The family farm is on the edge of a very small village called Liebensberg, north east of Zurich, heading towards the German border. Their farm was mainly a dairy and apple farm spread over forty hectares. My family milk around 80 cows twice a day in a milking parlour that had 5 milking units down each side. The majority of the cows were Brown Swiss, with a few black and white Holsteins and a couple of red Holsteins. They had around eight thousand apple trees, spread over ten hectares, ranging from baby trees right through to adult trees. On top of this they had cherry and apricot trees and flower bushes; chickens, two dogs, two rabbits, four sheep and a goat, which we milked by hand! In addition, they also made their own hay, apple juice, schnapps, grew some cereals and had a function room between the house and the barn which they let out for events, meetings and parties. There was never a quiet moment!

I landed exceptionally lucky with my host family as they were very keen to make sure I experienced their work, culture and as much of Switzerland as I could. One of my first trips was taking two milking cows up to the Alps on the border with Austria for the summer. This was a six hour round trip in the car and trailer, which seemed a crazy idea to me, since the cows were due to come home again in September! From the bottom of the mountain, it took one hour and fifteen minutes to slowly snake our way back and forth across the face of the mountain to reach the alpine farm. This was a very scary trip as it was extremely steep and when I looked out the car windows, all I saw was a massive drop down the side of the mountain! There was a very relaxed atmosphere once we reached the farm as most of the men were sitting out in the sunshine at 4pm enjoying a beer before starting the milking! They lived up there all summer - living and breathing to milk the cows day in and day out. I was astounded to hear that since the mountain is too steep to get a milk lorry up, they run the milk down a pipeline to a cheese factory at the bottom of the mountain! I could not understand why they would bring two cows all this way when they couldn't even get a milk lorry near the milking shed. However, it is because at one time they didn't have enough grazing in the summer for their cows at home, but nowadays it is more because they love doing it and also for the free cheese and butter from the cheese factory!

Another highlight was the incoming weekend for all seventeen exchangees who were currently in Switzerland. The event was held in a house in the mountains near Thun, which was 2.5 hours south west by train. There was a real mix of people from countries such as Norway, Sweden, Austria, Azerbaijan, Taiwan, Estonia, South Korea, Latvia and, of course, not forgetting Northern Ireland and England.

There was a great atmosphere throughout the weekend, playing team games to get to know each other as well as giving presentations about our home countries; visiting a bakery and learning how to BBQ in true Swiss style! A Swiss BBQ involved finding a suitable stick, creating a point on the end of the stick to put your sausage on, and then wrapping bread dough around the stick to bake your bread above the open fire, and also cooking your sausage. Everything we did or ate throughout the weekend was supposed to highlight typical Swiss culture, so they even organised a traditional Swiss band to play for us.

In between lots of different exciting trips, I helped out with the day-to-day work on the farm. A particular favourite was cherry picking, but I also spent a lot of time sorting and delivering apples, pruning apple trees and helping to look after and milk the cows. One of the apple deliveries we made was to Zurich University that had recently had a new kitchen fitted. When the head chef heard that I was from Scotland, he invited me in to have a tour around.

That particular day, they were making a huge stew in one of their many 3,000 litre pots; I have never seen so much stew before! They had 3 kitchens - hot and cold kitchens and even a patisserie kitchen with a designated patisserie chef! Lunch is the main meal of the day for most Swiss, which explained why the kitchen at the university was so big. In the evening most Swiss generally eat bread, cheese, cold meats and yoghurts, which is virtually the same as breakfast!

Not only was my host father a farmer, but also a teacher at Strickhof Agricultural School. They were having a Swiss Skills competition at Strickhof, so my host dad took me along to help out and see what was going on. The competition involved the competitors taking part in around seven challenges where they were scored on their performance and then scores added up to find an overall winner. Some of the challenges involved naming different weeds and plants, setting up a market stall, milking cows, strapping a trailer of bales and then reversing it into a bay and many more.

Another memorable trip I will never forget is when we visited my host grandad and granny at their holiday home

in the Alps. This was a surprise visit for granny's 82nd birthday. You could not access the holiday house by car, so we parked at the bottom of the Alp and got into a tiny cable car up to the top. I was delighted to see the grandad and granny were still fit and able to take themselves on holiday here, as well as carry all their supplies for the week by backpack. The holiday home was not just next to the cable car station, it was a 15 min walk along a rough stony/grass cut path! The next thing I could not get over, is that granny instantly produced 3 full homemade cakes and she didn't even know we were coming! Once we had our first feed, they took me on a walk to a viewpoint on the mountain to the valley below, where we sat on their family bench. Then it was back to the house for yet more food, bread, cheese, cold meats and cherries! Finally, we weren't allowed to leave before a walk to the lake where we bumped into some local farmers who were out milking the cows on the mountain, and, of course, our trip wasn't complete without more food...but this time in one of two restaurants they have up at the Alp!



Lastly, my trip to Switzerland would not have been complete without trying cheese fondue, so on one of my last nights my host mum bought cheese fondue. It was a lovely way to end my trip as we all sat outside enjoying the evening sun having fondue and Swiss wine. We were joined by Claudia their farm worker and Tobias their apprentice, with whom I had also spent a lot of time during my stay.

I was very sad when it was time to leave and wished I had been staying longer, as I was definitely not ready to come home! My SAYFC International exchange totally exceeded my expectations, I never could have imagined that I would have such a welcoming and enjoyable

experience and meet so many kind and generous people. I would like to thank the SAYFC International Trust and the YFA for kindly helping to fund my trip; I greatly appreciate all your support. My exchange has been a once in a lifetime opportunity, an experience I will never forget and has created new friendships which hopefully will be life-long.

Anna Sloan - Switzerland 2014



Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Scotland - 2015



From 15 - 22 August - only 6 months to go until we welcome members to the 57th European IFYE Conference! Registrations opened early December and since then, there has been a very good response. The Conference Fee of £420 Sterling represents real value for money! We have a full and varied programme lined up, which will include Farm and Whisky Tours, Castles and a Cruise on Loch Ness and lots more besides. Evenings will be filled with fun and laughter, Fancy Dress Party, BBQ, Ceilidhs, Burns Night and Farewell Party. Don't worry, there will still be plenty of time to relax and enjoy the company of more than 17 nations!

Go on to our **website** at www.ifyescotland.co.uk to find more details on the programme, location and more importantly how to register! Closing Date for registrations is **15 May, 2015**, but we would happy to receive your **registration before that**. Further details can also be had by emailing Marion at ifyescotland2015@yahoo.co.uk or Mary at mary.turner2@btinternet.com For those not on email, we can also post information - call Marion on 00441236 760068/00447974 778063 or Mary on 00441505 614718/00447817 166637.

Facebook site for the Conference is as follows <https://www.facebook.com/ifye2015scotland>

Greetings from Finland:



Finnish IFYE's celebrated their 50th Anniversary on 6th of December 2014.



The date was not the official day when our organisation was founded, but was to many of us the most appropriate day to celebrate. Not only being Finland's independence but also celebrating our organisation that has been formed by people who have each been representing their home country in a most positive way.

We found a special location from west coast of Finland, Salo. There in a manor called Wiurila, we gathered together during the day and got a tour of the museums which were an excellent home-museum and a very interesting museum of horse carriages.

In the evening 75 Finnish IFYE's including founding members and a few dear friends from Canada, USA and Switzerland came together and had a memorable evening eating fantastic food, listening to beautiful music, sharing stories and memories of IFYE's.

We all agreed that these IFYE- pioneers who saw the importance of keeping IFYE-life alive and keeping contacts to other IFYE's have given us a great gift. A forum where we have been able to connect and share the good experiences with this great group of people.

The evening continued with a dance-IFYE-style. We danced as long as someone was playing! The rest of the evening included sauna, with even more talking and laughing....

Thank you for everyone who remembered us, especially our friends that came from far to celebrate with us. With greetings and wishes to see you again this year,

Marita Pynnönen

