



NEWSLETTER

September 2018

European IFYE Alumni



IFYE Conference in Northern Ireland 2018

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Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYE-friends,

Lately we have celebrated our 60th anniversary. Thank you all and especially the Northern Ireland team for setting up the party. The Anniversary group has given us a booklet to enjoy with lots of memories and history, thank you all for a fantastic work. Now it's up to all of us members to continue the spirit of IFYE for many years to go.



One of the most important things for us is to remember why the IFYE program started: for a world better understanding. Never forget that! The board is looking for new countries to invite to the European IFYE-family, so who knows what cultures we might have the possibility to discover together in the future...

Next weekend I start my next IFYE-travel to join the World IFYE conference on a ship sailing along the coast of Alaska. It's nice to see that we are at least 25 people from Europe who attend the conference. I hope we will be able to spread some European IFYE spirit on the tour.

On August 27 we had the first meeting with the new board, lots to discuss. We say a big thank you to Anita for her work as newsletter editor and member at the board and are looking forward to Nora's work. We also say thank you to Pauline and welcome Anette in the board. It's easy to be president when you have so competent board members as I have.

I also want to take the opportunity to say thank you to the Northern Ireland IFYEs for a splendid conference, we enjoyed it so much. Thank you for the good work.

All the best,

Anna Persson
President of European IFYE Alumni Association
IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

European IFYE Conference 2018

A Newcomer's Experience



written by Celine Mauron

(IFYE from Switzerland to the USA 2017)

Before I started the trip to my first conference, I was nervous - I didn't know what to expect and there still were many open questions. However, as soon as I arrived at the Greenmount Campus, all my fears were gone because I was greeted by friendly IFYEs.

During the week I not only got to know the culture of Northern Ireland, I also lived that culture. That is what it means to be an IFYE and what makes the difference to "conventional" travel. We had the opportunity to take part in many different workshops. I tried out Irish dancing – as I mentioned it was just a try. I also visited some attractions like the Giant's Causeway, an old prison, the Bushmills Whiskey Distillery and many more.

As baby IFYEs, all the newcomers had a very special task during this week. We had to protect Andy (from Austria), so he wouldn't get hurt like last year in Switzerland. Therefore, we wore yellow high-visibility vests so everyone could recognize us as Andy's security team. It was funny and thereby I had the chance to get in touch with IFYEs from many different backgrounds.

When I got back home I was tired but more than happy and I'm thankful to be a part of the European IFYE-Family.

Hopefully, we'll see each other again next year in Norway!



*written by Gunvor Guttormsen
(IFYE from Norway to England
written by Gunvor Guttormsen
(IFYE from Norway to England
and Wales 2014)*

Ever since I went to an IFYE-exchange to England and Wales in 2014, I have always wanted to go to a European IFYE-conference. At several seminars and European Rallies with Rural Youth Europe, Lukas Helfenstein from Switzerland has been telling me about this great event and urged me to go.

After four years, I finally found place in my summer holiday to go to my first IFYE-conference, and I am so glad I did!

During the week at the conference in Northern Ireland I got to see beautiful landscapes, taste interesting food, experience new games, got to know some extraordinary people (even a three-legged man), listen to wonderful Irish music, try Irish dancing (not easy for a girl with two left feet...) and got to know new cultures. It was great to experience the 60th anniversary of the IFYE-conference, and during the week I came to realize how small the world really is. Everybody seemed to be like a part of a big big family that I am glad to now be a part of as well.

I am looking forward to being part of the hosting team for next year, and if anybody would like to go to the south coast of Norway, don't hesitate to contact me!



*written by Michael Huber
(IFYE from Switzerland to
Norway 2016)*

For 60 years the European IFYE Conference takes place every summer in another country. From the 21st to 28th of July this year, I joined the IFYE-family for the first time at the conference in Northern Ireland. The 60th anniversary was also a special year for me. This was my first European IFYE conference abroad after the previous one in my home country Switzerland. This week was packed with a lot of new experiences, physical activities and interesting conversations with many people I've never met before. Every day at "nine-ish", different trips and workshops took place.



One of the most interesting trips for me was the farm walk at the Greenmount College dairy farm. The farm manager explained a lot about the Northern Irish milk production and I've seen a completely different way of farming to what Swiss farming is like.

My most favourite trip was to the beach in Portrush. In this town, I tried something what I've never done before. A whole bunch of IFYEs went surfing. The first try was on the beach without water. This was not too difficult.



But by the time we had water instead of sand under our boards, it became really challenging to stand on the surfboard. How good I always knew, that I would be able to catch up some sleep the next morning in the bus. Not even the high temperatures due to the not working air-conditioning could keep me back from taking pownaps. All these experiences made my first European IFYE conference in a foreign country unforgettable and I am already curious about the next one.



A 4H-Coordinator's Experience

written by Susanné Nilsson (4H coordinator from Sweden)

I really liked and enjoyed the Conference in NI. It was great to see the friendly family feeling between you all. I made many new friends from all over the World and I hope I will see you all again, maybe in Norway? Even though I haven't been an IFYE, I felt very welcome and many of you shared your stories with me.

So for me this Conference was a reel eye-opener to the IFYE program. And I realized that the program needs to follow 4H members more in Sweden. By that I mean that the 4H head office, the IFYE coordinator and the Swedish IFYE board need a better understanding for each other. The IFYE program is a part of 4H in Sweden now, but the cooperation still needs some improvement. I hope I can be a part of this and I will do my best to help it succeed.



Experiences from members of the 60th Anniversary Group

written by Tomas Gunnerson (IFYE from Sweden to the USA 1977)

A scanner put the IFYE material to digitized format, it needs some processing before everyone is able to view it on the internet. It is what it is, and should be – just an archive of old stuff, easily accessible at: <https://archive.ifye.eu/>
(Approximately 13 000 pictures/images and 350 PDF_files. In total 13 861 266 471 936 bits, if anyone cares about such unnecessary knowledge)

The IFYE_archives are still not complete, more about that in IFYE Newsletters to come. The compilation of the material for the IFYE 60 Booklet was the main focus of the group. What was important to include and for whom (old and/or young) and why?

For pictures and events from past ('very past!') Conferences the Scrap Books were the best source for the "Conference by Conferences" 1958 to the middle 90's. So what happened on the Conferences in the early days? The printed Booklets from 25th and 30th anniversary of IFYE gave the base for the text associated to each Conference up to the late 80's. From late 60's printed report began to be sent out to all participants.

For the proofreading we had to rely on several IFYE's from UK. Pauline Armstrong, NI, also took help of her librarian colleagues for the longer text blocks.



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

List of Conferences

My duty from the beginning was to go on with my list of all the European and World IFYE conferences. This list record lists the place, the country, number of participants, theme and small glimpses from each conference. I got good help from Lennart Lindquist former President of our organization and Eva Oittila and Raija Ellä IFYEs from Finland. I borrowed reports I did not have from other IFYEs and tried to find out all important information. In some reports you find names to the photos some not. This list has been an important help in our work with the Anniversary Booklet. You will find a shortened example of the list in the Booklet.

Interviews

We decided also to send out some simpler forms with queries about members' memories from IFYE conferences. We sent this to some IFYEs from each decade and different countries, to Spouses, mothers and daughters...

The questions on the form were:

- * How many times have you been to a conference
- * What makes you come back
- * Something you remember especially
- * Stories you want to share.



The result of the paper based "interviews" you can find here:

https://archive.ifye.eu/10_Questionnaire/IFYE60_Generel_Interviews-ILE2017-03-18.pdf

Some more deep interviewers you also find in the Booklet.

Some of the answers you can find in the section "What the IFYEs say".

"IFYE love stories"

Going through a lot of IFYE material I found, as curiosity, 52 IFYE love stories that have resulted in marriages.

written by Katharina Steinrücke (IFYE from Germany to the USA, 1982)

My main job at the beginning was to collect as many documents as possible to scan them. We agreed on the old address lists, the program and the minutes of the General Assembly. We noticed that these things were almost complete from the years since 1958. The finding of the reports on the conferences however, was more complicated, many telephone conversation took place across national borders. This was also true for the newsletters. I had set up my workstation for scanning in the billiard room in front of a television - I had only a

semi-professional scanner at my disposal. Thus, my husband could not play billiard for months, constantly I had to repeat: just leave everything there just the same! Of course, I got opportunities to read and enjoy many of the texts, amazing, funny and

serious stories, even from today's perspective incomprehensible. The development of these conferences can now be read and understood. Maybe you have to reach a certain "age" to appreciate this kind of information.

When the group started to work, I informed Piet D about our plan, and he very much supports it. We could have all his documents and we wanted to meet soon. Unfortunately, that did not happen. Through contact with Sandra Lont I got all the materials. Well, it may be hard to imagine, but we got almost two carloads full of so much information, from almost every archive! Fortunately, a lot of things belonged to the Dutch people, because they were about their exchange programs, so I could just give them back. Nevertheless, all sorts of things remained. Personally, I was also very much hoping to find more photos. Piet's interest, however, was obviously more in the agricultural field, tractors, agricultural machines, fields with all sorts of crops, etc. - but only quite a few shots of IFYE activities.



The 60th Anniversary Group

Stories from the first European IFYE-Conference in 1958



IFYE-meeting in Brussels 1958

written by Johannes Sollid (IFYE from Norway to the USA in 1954 and 1958)

I had been an IFYE to USA in 1954, and in 1958. The IFYE's in Norway got an Invitation to attend a European Youth Conference in Namur in Belgium. Ingeborg Lervang (IFYE USA 1957) and I went from Norway, and attended the Conference in Namur. I think it was financed through the European Coal and Steel Union. It was a new experience. All speeches and discussions was in French, and I remember we had professional interpreters through headphones. We were there nearly a week, and we had various programs at night. One evening, after a hot day, I went down to the Meuse River for a swim and a wash, as I was used to from home. I put on a white nylon shirt and went out. I have never seen such a dirty shirt as that one. On the river there was traffic by boats, leaving a layer of oil and exhaust.

At night we showed various dances and folklore from our country. Ingeborg and I decided to dance the Old Norwegian Shotich. We did not have any music and I sang as I danced. I have never been so exhausted after a dance before. After the conference many of us went to the World Exhibition in Brussels, and we decided to meet there. We had a meeting and decided to have a European IFYE-Alumni Council, and to arrange an IFYE conference every year in various countries.



Peter, Lucie and Johannes 2008

Peter Dijkhuis from the Netherlands was the first President, and he did a remarkable job for 7 years. He made the foundation that made it possible for us to meet in Ireland earlier this summer. We owe him great thanks.

Greetings from Johannes Sollid.

Silver Pin and Golden Certificate

Silver Pins

Hinderk Damm (Germany, IFYE in 1975)
 Mares Lendway (Sweden, IFYE in 1980)
 Jan Jansen (Netherlands, IFYE in 1981)
 Els Sliepen (Netherlands, IFYE in 1981)
 Sandra Lont (Netherlands, IFYE in 1984 and 1991)
 Barry Barr (Northern Ireland, IFYE in 1984)
 Lorna Graham (Northern Ireland, IFYE in 1986)
 David Neill (Northern Ireland, IFYE in 1989)
 Joe Graham (Northern Ireland, IFYE in 1990)
 Sabine Tonglet (Belgium, IFYE in 1991)
 Helen Ervin (Northern Ireland, IFYE in 1993)

Golden Certificates

Thekla Bauer (Germany, IFYE in 1967)

Brigitta Sigfridsson (Sweden, IFYE in 1967)

Dorothy Wilson (England, IFYE in 1967)



Volunteering in Africa



*written by Joan Green
(IFYE from England to Israel, 1970))*

I am a volunteer with The National Police Aid Convoys Charity. We collect, sort, pack and send out items mainly to schools, clinics and hospitals that we have been given.

For schools this is Chairs, Tables, cupboards, stationery, books, uniform, sports equipment etc. For hospitals we receive beds, furniture, dressings, equipment etc.

Our projects are mainly to Zambia and Malawi, but we do help other charities fill their containers. Each year we visit the projects we support to check that everything has arrived and that it is appropriate, and to collect lists for future containers. I have visited Zambia 7 times since 2010. This year I was honoured by having a new three classroom block named after me, The Joan Green Block. This was at Kaseba School, Kafue near Lusaka.

I am a retired school teacher and spend a lot of time preparing and packing school items. As I pack I imagine the smiles on the faces of the teachers and children as they open the boxes.



This year we went to a new area and some of the schools we visited had no furniture at all.

The children were sitting on the floor or on stones. We have promised that next year they will be sitting on chairs, at tables and hopefully wearing school uniform.

Retirement is busier than work at times!!



Have a look at the new IFYE Museum!

Display_room Success at the NI Conference

Inga-Lill Eriksson, Tomas Gunnarsson, Birgitta Sigfridsson – “Display_room group”

Items from “60 years of IFYE Conferences” were showed. Meg Findlay (SCO) initiated the idea and many items and photo albums were brought by participants to this year’s Celebration Conference. If you want to explore a little bit more about past IFYE Conferences, please visit the ‘IFYE-archives museum” at <https://archive.ifye.eu/>





Invitation to Norway 2019



IFYE CONFERENCE

HAMAR, NORWAY

12.-18. August 2019

We would like to invite you to the 61th European IFYE Conference. The Conference will be at Tonheim Folkehøyskole, situated just outside Hamar, 120km north of Oslo.

The date for the Conference is 12th to 18th of August 2019.

We will have a week full of exiting trips and activities. For example Climbing in trees, Swimming in Mjøsa, Visiting Hilde Hjelt's dantastic garden and learn to make and eat Norwegian food.

Registation will begin 15th of November for the European IFYEs, and in January for the IFYEs from the rest of the world.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact

Anette: [anettep76\(a\)hotmail.com](mailto:anettep76(a)hotmail.com) or

Kirsti: [kirsti.ro\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:kirsti.ro(a)gmail.com)

Hope to see you all in Norway next year.



Invitation to Swiss Ski Weekend

ifye swiss winterweekend

04.-06.01.2019



Klewenalp NW

More information:

<http://www.ifye.ch/aktuell/agenda>

or

zuberei@bluewin.ch

Registration until 28. December 18

at Marc-André Zuber:

zuberei@bluewin.ch +41 79 962 11 32



Congrats to...



Gerhard Steinberger

IFYE from Austria to the USA 2001

Gerhard and Anita married on 2nd June 2018.

Adam Ervin

IFYE from Northern Ireland to New Zealand 1999

Adam and Jane married on 16th August 2018.





Anita Eckerstorfer

IFYE from Austria to Scotland 2007

&

Jens Huntemann

IFYE from Germany to Finland 2011

Anita and Jens to their son
Felix, born 3rd June 2018

Deadline next issue: 30th November 2018

European IFYE Alumni Association

web address: www.ifye.eu

e-mail: newsletter@ifye.eu

IFYE Europe Newsletter - September 2018

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