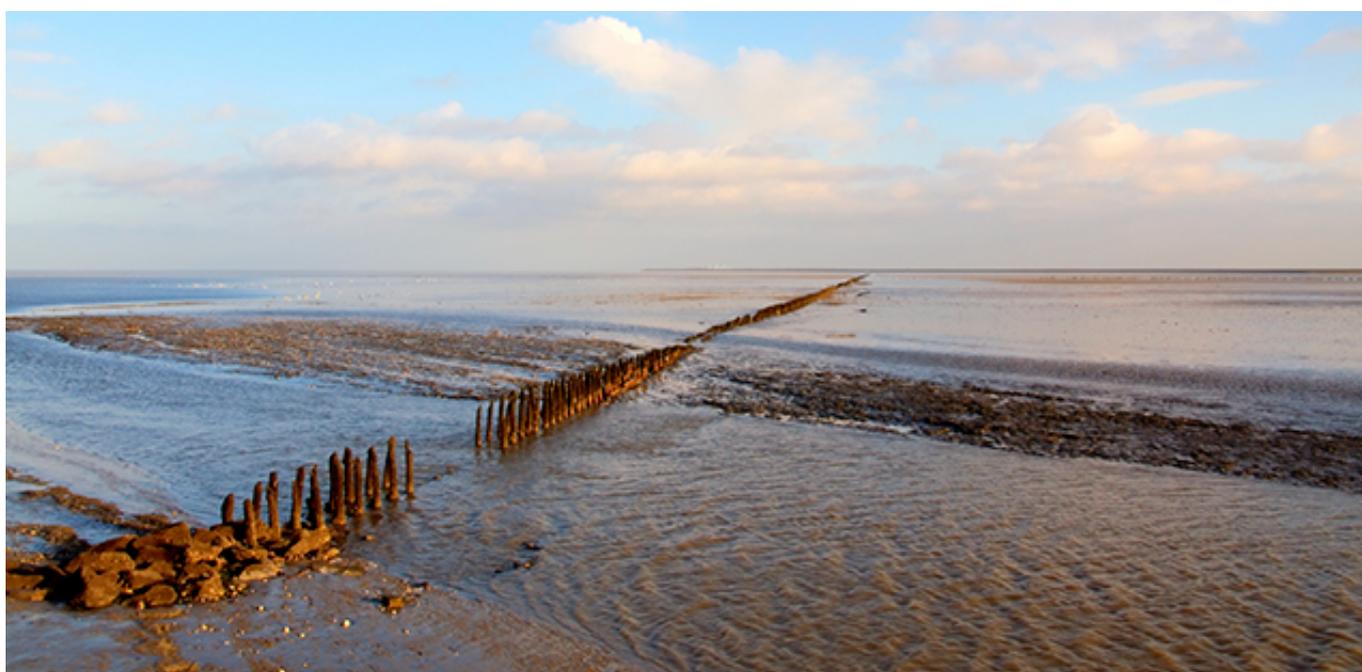




# NEWSLETTER

July 2020

European IFYE Alumni



*Wadden Sea – Northern Germany*

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## Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYEs,

Usually, this time of the year I am full of joy, preparing for the next conference and am looking forward to seeing my friends again. Currently, I really miss this tingling and joy as, unfortunately, there will not be a European IFYE conference this year.



For me personally, however, the postponement of the conference to 2021 is secondary. To me it is more important that you are all healthy, that you have well survived the last highly demanding months and that we will meet again next year at the latest.

Nevertheless, there have still been some events in recent months that have delighted us. I would like to briefly mention one special event. Alan Duncan turned 70. Alan - also in this way, Happy 70th birthday. I hope you got our greeting card. I look forward to toasting your birthday with you personally next year.

Unfortunately, there was also not such good news. David Hill passed away in mid-June. I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to his family.

We are all restricted and affected by a global pandemic. Life during the last few months has been subjected to many restrictions, but there have certainly been many positive things too. Personally, I had for once the chance to come down from all the stress of work and could stay at home. In the beginning it was unusual, but after 4 - 5 days it already felt better. When it came to taking care of the children and home schooling, it was almost relaxing. I was able to do all my professional activities via home office, found more time for my family. Indeed, I didn't ever feel bored.

The time at home with my children and wife, was wonderful. Once the borders opened again in mid-June, my first business trip took me to the Czech Republic and with the beginning of July I also returned to the office. Slowly but surely, we are returning to what we were used to, even though it may never be entirely the same again as before the pandemic. Overall, for me personally, I also took some positive things with me. Do you feel the same way?

Due to different circumstances, things do not progress in the same way in every country. Some countries, have had to fight a little harder, some are still in the middle of it, in some countries the restrictions are just being phased out again while other regions already prepare for a second wave of infections, which also brings fear.

Despite all the restrictions we had to and still must go through, we can consider ourselves lucky to live in the present time. It is less than three generations ago that our planet was affected by far greater suffering and misery. I am thankful that I can live here and now, in peace, with friends and family, a great wife and two wonderful children. Thus, I look joyfully into the future and I am convinced that people will also master this crisis together.

Since we aren't having a conference this year and therefore can't hold a proper AGM, the board had to think about how to handle this new situation. There were no rules for how to proceed in a situation like the one we are facing this year. After intensive discussions we worked out a proposal and decided on the following procedure: IFYEs registered for the 2020 conference, which would have been eligible to vote at the AGM 2020, were contacted and were able to vote online on our proposal. The exact wording of the proposal, the question and the result can be found in the 'News' section further below. Just so much, up front, our proposal was accepted by a large majority. So, we assume that we have made a decision that suits everyone and with this precedent, a rule can be deduced how to proceed in, hopefully never again, similar situation.

I would also like to thank Sweden. Indeed, only the offer of Sweden to renounce the 2021 conference in favor of England made it possible to postpone the conference. Thus, high cancellation costs could be avoided, and the hard work already done by England can be implemented next year. With pleasure I can already tell you the date of the conference 2021, which will take place from 07.08 to 14.08.2021. All further dates after 2021 will not change. Therefore, we unfortunately must wait a little longer for a conference in Sweden. Many thanks again to Sweden!

For the summer I wish you all a good time and I hope that everyone stays healthy! Maybe we will see or hear from each other again soon, probably at an online quiz, organized by YFA....

Until the next newsletter.

Best regards

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

## Short notice from Alan Duncan

*written by Alan Duncan (IFYE from Scotland to Finland, 1977)*



From the Isle of Skye, I want to record my sincere appreciation to all IFYEs who either wrote or texted me over the last months on my 3 score and 1 decade of life on this earth! I have been very humbled by all contacts, and while the 6th June was not to be, the "Gathering of the Clans" will be happening on 12th June, 2021, trusting no further World lockdowns!

So as was, I give this very open invitation to all my friends, the offer to attend next June.

Most sincerely, Alan J Duncan

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## IFYE Mudflat hiking tour

*written by Anita Huntemann (IFYE from Austria to Scotland, 2007)*



Last year in June, Robin and Anna Kottsieper got married. Robin is a 2nd generation IFYE and as you can imagine some IFYEs were invited to the wedding, too. Unfortunately, Jens and I couldn't take part. Nevertheless, the present given to them was a mudflat hiking tour (Wattwanderung) to one of the East Frisian Islands in the North of Germany. The plans had to be slightly adapted due to Covid-19 but in the end IFYEs never give up. The restrictions are due to the stable situation in Germany quite relaxed at the moment.

Neele Hays organised the trip and chose the Island Baltrum as destination. About every 12.5 hours the water between the mainland and the island disappears as if by magic, then the sea releases its soil, the Wadden Sea. Basically, you have to wait till the water is gone because of tide and then you have the possibility to walk from the mainland to the island.

At times it was a bit muddy and sometimes also very wet but it was a great tour which took about three hours (6,5 km). During this time, we got to know the worldwide unique natural area with its mysterious flora and fauna could enjoy the endless expanse of the Wadden Sea! We were very lucky as the weather was quite acceptable despite the very bad weather forecast.





Some also enjoyed a refreshing swim in the Northern Sea. After a nice break on the island and fish for lunch we went back with a ferry to the mainland and enjoyed a BBQ at Bettina Heinemann's place. The next morning Jens and I invited everyone to a breakfast at ours and afterwards all of them drove back home.



In total, we had a really good weekend together as a group. Especially in a difficult period as it is now it is good to have every now and then some good company.

Keep well and all the best!

Anita Huntemann

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## A taste of elegance

*written by Harlen Persinger (IFYE from USA to Norway, 1970)*

It has been 50 years since I was selected as an (IFYE) International 4-H Youth Exchange delegate from Iowa to Norway. Having the opportunity to participate in this six-month program was the spark that launched my career in photojournalism. During that time frame, April through October, I lived and worked with five farm families in three different counties. My second home was with Aud Tonstad, a widow who had six children, four girls and twin boys, ages 24 to 18. Their cousin, Svein Sturla Tonstad, lived down the street and was always part of each day's activities.

The past summer I returned to the community of Tonstad for the third time since 1970 and was able to meet the entire family again, except for dear Mom, who passed away in 1997. My two host brothers, Olav Magne and Tor Auden still live there, while Sturla, his wife and their children, continue to operate his parent's 84-year old bakery. After hanging out in that quaint shop for a few hours, it's quite evident that his enthusiasm and Norwegian hospitality remain a genuine calling card for this quaint town.



As the first rays of morning light creep across the quaint village of Tonstad, Norway, a faint, but distinct rhythm can be heard coming from the back room of a small business venue along Main Street. A peek inside, reveals the synchronized “pat, pat” of creamed colored soft dough being rolled, shaped, weighed and delicately placed into tins or on various size trays before entering a multi-chambered pizza oven set at 350 degrees F.



Prior to dawn, Svein Sturla Tonstad, and a couple of co-workers have already begun their seven-hour stint at the Tonstad Bakeri. Their active day starts by kneading flour or meal, milk and other ingredients together. While each person uses their hands and fingers to make different items along the spongy assembly line, Sturla concentrates on preparing 100 Danish sweet rolls, 100 to 200, 14- and 18- inch loaves of bread, plus 300 to 600 smaller bread loaves, fancy cakes and several batches of sandwich buns.



“The daily routine of making an assortment of tasty goodies for folks in this valley started with my father, Peder, and his bride, Dagny, 84 years ago. After serving as an apprentice in Egersund, an hour away, they managed to save 3,000 krone (\$328) and open their own shop in a basement near his home,” Sturla says. “At that time, he made four or five different kinds of bread along with cinnamon and other sweet rolls and baked everything on a wood fire oven.”

Sturla began learning the trade in 1975 and two years later took over the business. Later he moved to the present location that contained a hotel garden, an old barn and a small parking lot. To reduce labor requirements, boost efficiency and improve the overall working environment, there was an extensive remodeling project. Everyone is now able to function on one floor and there’s also adequate space for 100 customers to remain inside or munch on a pastry in the open air patio. And a couple years ago, Sturla arranged for his daughter, Dagny Irene, to open a clothing/knick-knack shop, named ‘Bittellille’, on the edge of the property.



“Although I have slowed down, I still enjoy the challenges associated with this profession,” Sturla says.” The most satisfying aspect is sharing a lifelong camaraderie with everyone who has been a part of the bakeri. It’s also gratifying to have customers relate how fortunate they are that Tonstad has a merchant like this.

“We have a tremendous staff, so I’m now able to relax and take off some afternoons and evenings,” he adds. “However, every morning I always put aside a little time for coffee (an inherited tradition among Norwegians), and sample one of my favorite pastries, made to perfection and warm, right out of the oven.”

## News: AGM 2020 and future conferences

### **AGM 2020: Proposal from the board**

As the European IFYE Conference 2020 in England had to be cancelled for security reasons in the context of COVID-19, no proper AGM can be held this year. As no precedent and no rules exist for similar situations, especially for the elections of board members, the committee decided on the following proposal, which was sent out to all IFYEs registered for the conference 2020:

*"Due to COVID-19 this year's conference had to be postponed to 2021. For this reason we have no AGM 2020.*

*You were registered for the conference as a voting member of the European IFYE Association and would therefore be entitled to vote at the AGM. The situation is new and there are, up to now, no rules how to proceed. So we have thought about how we can cope with this situation. We would like to ask you to vote on our proposal online, via Doodle. Thank you.*

*We have come to a conclusion and would like to suggest the following: Since it is not possible to hold a proper AGM and thus conduct proper elections and votes according to the IFYE rules, we propose to extend the term of office of the individual Board members by 1 year. That means:*

- *President Andreas Poelzl, elected 2019 for 2 years - next election after 3 years, 2022*
- *First Vice President Sam Hawkes, elected 2019 for 1 year - next election after 2 years, 2021*
- *Second Vice President Christine Cooper, elected 2019 for 1 year - next election after 2 years, 2021*
- *Secretary Mari Kindsbekken, elected 2019 for 2 years - next election after 3 years, 2022 Treasurer,*
- *Ursula Spillmann, elected 2018 for 2 years - next election after 3 years, 2021*
- *Newsletter Editor, Nora Feyder, elected 2018 for 2 years, next election after 3 years, 2021*

*The vote runs until 21.06.2020:*

*If you agree with our proposal, please vote 'ye'.*

*If you do not agree with our proposal, please vote 'no'. "*

The results from this online voting show a strong agreement among participating IFYEs: From all IFYEs registered for the conference 2020, 133 took part in the online voting. 76.11% expressed their agreement with the proposal, while 23.89% abstained. No one from the participating members voted with "no".

### **Future conferences**

As Sweden offered to renounce hosting next year's conference in order to give England a second chance at hosting, the conference 2021 will be held in Lancashire, England from 07.08.2021 to 14.08.2021. As for the years 2022-2026, the order of the conferences will be as follows:

2022: Finland

2023: Austria (IFYE World Conference)

2024: Germany

2025: Wales

2026: Estonia

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**Deadline next issue: 30th September 2020**

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**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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IFYE Europe Newsletter – July 2020

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