



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni Association

Spring 2009



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Dear Member,

Well, it seems after a number of mild winters and seasons becoming more alike, here on the Isle of Man, we have experienced a traditional, relatively cold and wet winter, and have been enjoying a reasonable mild spring with the nights stretching with a lot more daylight into the evening. Easter is around the corner and we're fast approaching one of the highlights of the Manx Calendar, sorry, before I mention, the European IFYE Conference to be held here on the Isle of Man from 4th July to 11th July, 2009 - look up the details on the web at www.ifye.co.uk - bookings still being taken up to a maximum number of 150 people, I need to mention that the Isle of Man is the motorcycle 'Road Racing Capital of the World'. From 30th May to Saturday 13th June, the Isle of Man will welcome around 30,000 fans to the TT Motorcycle Races. Have a look at the website www.visitisleofman.com and learn a little more about this fantastic event or have a look at www.iomtt.com

It was a great pleasure to welcome the Members of the European IFYE Board to the Isle of Man and to host them in my home from 9th to 11th January, 2009 for the Mid-term Board Meeting. . Happily, we were able to complete all of the work that we needed to do on your behalf, and will be able to give you a full update at this year's conference, but it was a pleasure to have a little bit of time to show Members of the Board, something of the Island and its traditions. I learnt a little bit more about the Island that weekend too! No doubt, the memories of the weekend will live on in those who attended the weekend, and who will write their memoirs. Just ask Anette, Hilde and Danielle about the traditional Manx Evening at the Braaid Hall. For the Manx IFYE Conference, we aim to give you a flavour of the traditions of the Isle of Man.

Arrangements for this year's conference are coming together well, and I am so pleased that you will be visiting us for the most important week in the Manx Calendar - Manx National Week. A tremendous, varied and interesting programme awaits you, even though I say it myself, and we know it is a great privilege for us to host the conference, but it has to be understood that it is a 'one-off' IFYE conference for the Island, which is why I urge you to make your mind up if you haven't yet booked and get a booking in soon to avoid disappointment.

Whilst the World has suffered financial turmoil in recent months, with the substantial reduction in value of the Pound Sterling, for those of you visiting us from



the Euro zone, you will find it far cheaper than this time last year, and as we are part of the Sterling area, albeit with our own Manx Sterling Currency, those from the United Kingdom, will find their Pounds will go a long way on the Isle of Man. For all attending the conference in the Isle of Man, we take British Pounds or Manx Pounds which are identical in value. For those intending to stay after the conference, car hire is reasonable and there is a wide range of accommodation to suit every pocket and choice.

Well, the count down has begun, the conference is not far away and we all look forward to giving you a Warm Manx Welcome on 4th July. See you soon.
Kindest regards,

Martyn

IFYE - Isle of Man 4 -11th July 2009

Just a reminder if you have not booked for the Isle of Man and you intend going can I ask you do so within the next few weeks. We are looking to close bookings at 31st March. As at the beginning of February we were nearing the 100 mark. Can I ask that also those who have already booked but not yet paid, please also can we have your money by the end of March. For those of you who do not wish to pay by cheque or credit card, please contact Ruth Watterson directly on 00441624820470 or by e-mail Ruth.Watterson@KWC.sch.im and she will give you the college account details to make a bank transfer.

We have a great programme laid on for you and the only thing left for me to arrange is the good weather.

See you in July

Angela Southern

News from the Executive committee

Country reports

For the last years the country reports has not been published in the Conference reports and earlier the content of country reports has not been comparable. As we now have an updated web site we will for the future try to publish the country reports here. There will also be made a template to be filed in electronically. That later will be published. The Contact members will be informed by e-mail about the new template and the finale date for responding (1. June).



Updating list of lifetime members who will continue to receive the conference report in the future

To maybe save some costs the Conference report from the European conference in 2007 (Norway) was the last one every lifetime member who not attended the conference received automatically. Every lifetime member has received a letter (enclosed the report) to tell about this, with an invitation to subscribe for receiving future reports. Since this about 170 has responded, this means a reduction of about 100 reports to be sent out.

All lifetime members will still receive the newsletters and it's always possible to re-subscribe for receiving the conference reports. This must be done to ifye_europe@hotmail.com or by contacting the treasurer.

Development fund

There has been made a template to be used for every application for the development fund. This will be possible to download from www.ifye.org Applications for the fund should be raised three months before AGM, which this year means 10. April



Updating Contact members

For efficient updating when changing Contact members please use the e-mail address: ifye_europe@hotmail.com

Cow Economic Metaphors

SOCIALISM

You have 2 cows.
You give one to your neighbour.

COMMUNISM

You have 2 cows.
The State takes both and gives you some milk.

FASCISM

You have 2 cows.
The State takes both and sells you some milk.

NAZISM

You have 2 cows.
The State takes both and shoots you.

Birth, Wedding, etc.

SCOTTISH IFYE [YFA]

are running a Fundraising Event

a 'BARN DANCE'

on Saturday 18th July

at MOSSBLOWN FARM, AYR

[right next to Ryanair glasgow
Prestwick airport]
SCOTLAND

Ceilidh Band & DJ

free BBQ with entry

tickets £9.99

Contact - steedsy@steedsy.com
0044 7789 441 420
ALL WELCOME

**thanks in advance
cheers Steedsy

10. Dezember 2008

Maj

Katrin and Torbjörn Lyrén with
Elin

Wuhrmattstrasse 16

CH-4800 Zofingen

(Katrin Sweden 1992

Torbjörn Switzerland 1992

Congratulations to Ann-
Karin Aas (Costa Rica
2004) from Normay and her
partner with the birth of their
daughter
Aurora.

Congratulations to Signe Nyland
Ilnér (Netherland 1995) from
Norway and her husband Kristian
with the birth of a son,
Jens
in august 2008.

Wedding, Birth, Anniversary

I need help

please mail me dates and news and
facts.

E mail: res72@bluewin.ch

Thank you.

The Newsletter Editor Andreas
Lehmann

Travel to China

In the end of 2007 I took five weeks off work, and travelled to China, to visit my brother who was stationed there at the time. He lived in Louyang in the province of Henan with 5 mio. Inhabitants, just as many as in all of Denmark.

In those five weeks I had the opportunity to be both a tourist and to live everyday life.

Chinese lifestyle is very different from mine. I spend quite some time studying their way of living, and I found that the Chinese are really good at using and re-using things. They find ways to make a living, by collecting and repair what I would consider garbage, and they find small pieces of land where they grow vegetables both in the city and in the countryside.

After reading up on Chinese history I now understand better, why they live and eat the way they do. They have learned to use whatever they had.

In the following I have tried to describe some of the experiences that has stuck to my memory.

When coming from a fairly organised country it took me a while to adjust to the Chinese way of thinking and organising. I'm not entirely sure I have understood it all, but if you look at it as an experience maybe understanding is not all that important, as long as you accept their choices.

When staying in Louyang we did our own cooking, and therefore also our own shopping. That was a whole new experience for me. The local supermarket looked at firsthand the same as at home, but in the rear of the shop all the "fun" began. Here they had big boxes on the floor filled with rice - beans ect. and people (without protection gloves) were standing shovelling and sorting the rice into the bags. The eggs you had to put into a plastic bag, and have them weight. Meat was so expensive that the Chinese hardly bought any. When we were there a big sort of turnip were on sale, and they practically fought over them. And if you were in their way you would be pushed aside.

The hardest part of the shopping was to have everything weight before you could pay. It was not the actually weighing that was a problem, but standing in line was. The Chinese are not really good at waiting in line, so they form their own, you may think that there is only room for two lines, but suddenly there is three or more, and everybody is pushing and trying to get in front of you. As Dane I'm not used to push and using my body to mark my spot in a line, so thank god I have a body-weight that could stand up against these small Chinese ladies otherwise I would

have been left with broken eggs and squeezed vegetables.

I also had the opportunity to meet the bureaucracy. I had decided to send my Christmas cards, written from home only missing a stamp (so I thought) So I went to the post office asking for stamps. Here they informed me that my choice of envelope didn't meet with their requirements. So I had to buy new ones, and go home and rewrite all the addresses. When returning to the same post office, they wouldn't accept the new envelopes, and the cashier had to call his boss, and the boss had to call his boss before they accepted to send the letters. I'm brought up with the expectation to think for myself and make decisions on my own. In China you are not expected to do so, and there is a clear chain of command that has to be followed.

One of the more horrific experiences was being out in the traffic. The Chinese don't have respect for pedestrians so you really had to be careful when crossing the road. Most days we would hire a taxi to bring us to our destination. Even that was not a pleasant experience. Most drivers would have their hand on the horn all the way. In rush hour roads with three lanes would suddenly have five rows of cars. If a car needed to stop it did so, without considering that they stop all other traffic.

Many times during the trip, Chinese who wanted to talk to us or to have their picture taken with us stopped us. Most Chinese unfortunately only know the word Hello in English, so when responding hoping for a conversation, they quickly ran off. I often wondered why they wanted a picture taken with me, but guess I should be honoured to be in several family albums around China now.

During the stay, I also had the opportunity to taste some Chinese cuisine, but only when having Chinese people to translate the menu. One evening we were invited to dinner at The Peking Duck restaurant in Beijing. Our host wanted to let us taste everything from the duck, so he ordered all sorts of dishes and we tasted them all. One of the dishes looked a little peculiar, but we took a bite. It turned out to be the "rubber" on top of the ducks feet, and even with the mustard sauce it was hard to swallow.

One of the more pleasant experiences was their massage. For hardly any money you would feel like in heaven maybe not during, but afterwards. I had several massages during my stay. I specially remember one session where I had booked a full body massage. When arriving I was striped of my clothes and put into a pyjamas. As most Chinese are rather small and I'm not, my pyjamas were very very tight. Then I was placed on a mattress on the floor, and a tiny Chinese girl

started massaging me. She used hands, feet, elbows and knees, with the result that several uhs and ahs leaped out of my mouth. Her most ambitious attempt was to try to throw my legs over my head. As people who know me, know I'm not a small size girl, so that was a very ambitious especially with the tight pyjamas. The pour girl really had her work cut out for her. I can highly recommend you to try, if you should go to China.

Off cause I also saw some of the sights you have to see when in China, the Great wall - The Terracotta worriers in Xian, a cruise on the Yangtzekiang river, Tian'anmen square, the Forbidden city, the Longmen grottoes with more than 2800 Buddhist statues carved into the rock, the Silk market with all their yelling "what you want beautiful lady" and a walk down The Bond in Shanghai. But all of that was just a spice to a trip, which was long enough for me to get a feeling of China and the Chinese.

Helle Bonderup
Denmark

Cow Economic Metaphors

BUREAUCRATISM

You have 2 cows.

The State takes both, shoots one, milks the other, and then throws the milk away...

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM

You have two cows.

You sell one and buy a bull.

Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows.

You sell them and retire on the income.

AN AMERICAN CORPORATION

You have two cows.

You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. Later, you hire a consultant to analyse why the cow has dropped dead.

Young Farmers' Ambassador's Conference

Saturday 4th July 2009

3.00pm	Commence arrivals
4.00pm	Board Meeting
6.30pm	Meal & Bar open – Chilli & Rice or Shepherd's pie – dessert. Veg option
7.00pm	DVD of Island and Photos of 2008 Reunion – continually running
9.00pm	Viking Fancy Dress Evening in Barrovian Hall

Sunday 5th July 2009

9.30-10.45am	Chapel and Opening Service
11.15 -12.15am	Photos
12.30pm	Sunday Lunch - Roast Beef or chicken with dessert Veg option
2.00pm	Coach to Tynwald Garden Party – National Dress
9.00pm	Young Farmers Entertainment

Monday 6th July 2009

10.00am	Tynwald Ceremony
PM Coach trips:	-Cronk-e-Voddy sports -Isle of Man Churches Flower festival -Visit to Peel
9.30pm	Depart Peel for the "Beat the Retreat" and fire works

Tuesday 7th July 2009

9.15am	Manx Museum
12.00	Lunch on Barrool Suite, Tynwald/Legislative Buildings
1.00pm	Tour around Tynwald or leisure in Douglas
8.30pm – 10.00pm	Manx cultural evening

Wednesday 8th July 2009

9.30am	Coaches depart for	-TT Course Visit with Bike Museum & Farm tour -Cregneash/Sound for walking option around the Chasms (Port St Mary/Port Erin -Vintage transport- Laxey, Ramsey Trip
8.30pm	Tombola draw followed by Austrian Presentation – half an hour Games night/Song Book	

Thursday 9th July 2009

18.00pm	Host Day with Farming Community Bar open BBQ in Grounds of King William's College with Calor Gas Ceilidh Band
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Friday 10th July 2009

9.45am	General Assembly in Big School Leisure afternoon (No Swimming pool) Gala Dinner in KWC with Cahoots (Soup, Manx lamb, sweet, tea/coffee £18.50)
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Saturday 11th July 2009

Depart

Our Executive Committee members 2008 - 2009



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WEB-ADDRESSES:

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Official deadline
for the Automne 09 Newsletter
1st August 2009



Of course, articles which arrive at
any date will be published as well!