

Ulster
Region

YFA newsletter

2nd Edition

Summer 2009

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Picnic at Oxford Island

The sun shone as over 80 members, friends and ex-changees descended on Oxford Island nature reserve on Sunday 2nd August for the annual picnic.

With all the sandwiches and goodies consumed the majority of participants set off on a 'Wandering Walk' organized by Mrs Fiona Cromie. This involved a wide range of activities including balancing cups of water while manouevring around an obstacle course, creating hats of greenery, dancing like woodland fairies, painting self portraits and solving clues to locate the treasure chest full of sweets.

13 of the more adventurous picnickers took part in an afternoon of water sports at Craigavon lakes, and with David Hull performing a very fine balancing they all returned none the worse for their banana boating.

To complete the day everyone retired to Portadown Rugby Club for refreshments and a BBQ.

This year's event was extra special as it is exactly 60 years since the first YFCU member, Mrs May McAdams, set off on exchange to the USA. We were delighted that she could join us to cut the anniversary cake and tell us a little about her trip. Our patron, Mr John Cromie,

then described how the YFA developed from a 'gather-up' of 1954 exchanges in 1955 and how the UK reunions have continued ever since.

Flowers were presented to Mrs McAdams and Mrs Cromie by Mrs Shirley Walker and Mrs Hazel Burton respectively.

Chairman, Philip Walker also welcomed the five incoming exchanges, who introduced themselves and then organized a most entertaining and educational quiz on their four

countries. After some dubious tactics by some of the teams the partnership of Thomas Lennox and Lottie Sinclair emerged the worthy winners.

Joe Graham then led the singing before his recitation of some of Conal Gallen's masterpieces.

The evening drew to a close with the draw for the fireside quiz. The results were as follows. 1st Place Beverley Henderson, Kesh, 2nd place Norman Bolton, Kilrea and 3rd place Sarah Reid, Crumlin.

Upcoming Events

Las Vegas Night

Saturday 17th Oct

Glenavon Hotel,
Cookstown

Further details inside
Tickets available from
YFCU HQ 90-370713

UK Reunion

Fri 23—Sun 26 Oct

Newcastle Marriott
Gosforth Park, Newcastle

Details on website

YFA Annual Dinner

Sat 30th Jan

Corick House



Our very own cover girl—Mrs May McAdams
First YFCU exchangee to USA 1949

International Lunch

On Sunday 24th May over 50 members, families and friends met at the Manor Hotel, Kilrea for the annual international lunch.

After a delicious meal everyone had

the chance to chat and catch up on each others news while future members took advantage of the weather to enjoy the outdoor play facilities.

European IFYE Conference 2009 - Isle of Man



Isle of Man hand over to Austria

Stepping off our (almost) personal jets into torrential rain we were expecting a home away from home on the Isle of Man, at least as far as the weather was concerned.

How wrong could we be—home was never like this! The sun shone almost every day and the only shower we had was at night when we were much too busy dancing the night away to care—but I digress.

After settling in to our dormitories we set off to explore the maze of corridors which was Hogwarts...I mean, King William College, a beautiful 19th century building, in the stunning seaside location of



Castle-town, which was our base for the week.

The Viking Fancy Dress

was our first introduction to Manx heritage as horrible Hagars and Helgas happily marauded into the wee small hours.

The official programme began on Sunday morning with some beautiful choral music in the college chapel before we donned our glad-rags and set off for the garden party. **This was the Isle of Man's** national day and we continued the celebrations that evening with entertainment from the young farmers who were taking full advantage of the fact that the next day was a public holiday.

The Tynwald ceremony and accompanying festivities made an extremely colourful spectacle on the Monday and we were blessed with tropical weather to enjoy them. Our chairman, Martyn Quayle looked resplendent in his top hat and tails and next day he treated us to a tour of his place of work, the Manx parliament.

There were plenty of other excursions throughout the week including flower festivals, vintage transport,



Fiona and John Cromie, YFA Patron, enjoy the official Tynwald garden party

scenic walks, castles and museums but the highlight for many was the tour of the famous TT course. Added to that there was plenty of time for shopping and socialising which made it a very relaxing week.

At every stop we received a warm reception from the Manx people themselves and none more so than the host families who welcomed participants into their homes and then joined us for a barbecue and dance on the Thursday evening.

The AGM took place on Friday morning with the afternoon free to explore, pack, or rest up for the final banquet. As the flag was handed over to Austria we reflected on a fantastic week and we look forward to Salzburg with anticipation—no pressure boys!

Austria begin to recruit willing participants



Viva Las Vegas

The credit crunch may be biting **but that's no reason to stay at home.** Break out your bling, splash a little bit of cash and become a high roller for the night at our Las Vegas Night, especially **designed for the 'more mature'** among us to help celebrate the 80th anniversary of the YFCU.

Enjoy a delicious 2-course meal while you catch up with old friends, dance the night away or try your luck on the roulette wheel without the risk of losing your shirt. You can cash in your **ticket for 'chips' and for those with the most left at the end of the night there will be a reward.**

Added to this you'll be helping to support the current exchange pro-

gram which has suffered in recent years from the downturn in business sponsorship.

So reunite your own 'rat pack' by making a date for the 17th. And you'd better be quick—tickets are limited. (Tickets available from YFCU HQ 90 370713)



YFA/YFCU Over 25s
 \$\$ Las Vegas Night \$\$
 Saturday 17th
 October
 Glenavon Hotel,
 Cookstown
 Tickets £25
 Includes supper
 Proceeds in aid of the
 2010
 exchange programme

Incoming Exchanges



This year the YFCU welcomed 6 exchangees from Australia, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Finland. Hosted by each county in turn they have traversed the length and breadth of the province making dozens of new friends along the way and each and every one agreed they would like to come back in the future.

YFCU members also seemed to enjoy their hosting experiences—judging by the comments on facebook!

More pictures of the picnic are available on the website.

Here Come the Girls!

5 of the incoming exchanges pictured at the YFA Barbecue.

Above: Sabine Kobler (Austria), Jasmine Terreni (Switzerland), and Sanna Maki (Finland)

Right:

Anne Kucher (Germany), Karen McCurdy (Host - Strabane YFC), Yvonne Schmidlin (Switzerland)





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If you wish to update your contact details or pass on some news for the next edition please post, text or e-mail me at the address above or check out the website.

YOUNG FARMERS AMBASSADORS

Promoting YFCU Exchanges

**We're on the
 web**
www.ifye.co.uk

Congratulations

Engagements:

Trevor Armstrong (USA 88) and Diane Little

Stephen Patton (Euro Rally) and Kathy

Martyn Blair (Euro Rally) & Barbara McFetridge (Euro Rally)

Roger Lyttle (Euro Rally) & Annie

Marriages:

John McCallister (Canada 98) and Jane McFetridge

Births:

Helen (Euro Rally 95) and Glenn Mayne (Euro Rally 97, Wales 96) a son, Thomas

Ann and Robert Reid (Canada 92), a daughter Ellie May
 Carol (Aus) & James McMullan, a boy Philip

If you have any other announcements please notify us and they will be posted on the website.

NEWSLETTERS

From January 2010 the IFYE Europe newsletter will be circulated by e-mail.

If you prefer to receive your copy by post please notify me and that will be arranged.

UK REUNIONS

23-26 Oct 2009 Newcastle Marriott, Gosforth Park, near Newcastle Airport

2010 SCOTLAND

2011 WALES

IFYE EUROPEAN REUNIONS

2010 AUSTRIA

2011 FINLAND

2011 SWEDEN

For more info check out the website

A Night of Christmas Craic

Thursday 3rd December
 Evening visit to Bushmills Distillery for a tour, a dram and a few yarns

Tour time to be confirmed
 Please book with Hazel by Fri 27th Nov.

You are invited to the *Wedding of the Year*

(aka the YFA Dinner)

Sat 30th January

Corick House

RSVP by Mon 25th Jan
and don't forget your button hole!

2010 AGM

8 pm Wed 24th Feb

Loughry College

+ the first ever Wii challenge

Spring Meeting

Friday 9th April

Murder Mystery

Venue to be confirmed

**FOR MORE DETAILS
 ON ANY OR ALL YFA
 EVENTS PLEASE**

CONTACT YFA

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