

Ulster  
Region

# YFA newsletter

5h Edition

Spring 2011

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## You Take the High Road

**Hoots man, it's a long time since I've been in Aviemore. Twenty years in fact, and I couldn't have picked a better weekend to reacquaint myself with this jewel of the highlands.** The weather was glorious as we headed north to the Hilton hotel and started the weekend with a relaxing dip in the pool. The official part of the weekend began with a fancy dress party, on a Highland theme, which saw everything from grouse shooters and Highland cows to Royal visitors dancing alongside some very strange clansmen.

The next morning dawned bright and clear as everyone set off on their respective trips which took them to see Highland cattle, views from mountain-tops, and steam trains, to 'cultural tours' of the town itself. The day finished with the usual gala dinner where both the haggis and the beef were piped in, whereupon the lone piper was joined by his whole band in our own mini-tattoo. The revelers then danced into the wee small hours to an excellent mixture of dance and ceildhi music.

On Sunday morning friends and family had a relaxing lie-in or took advantage of the leisure facilities while members attended their country meetings and the AGM where our very own Derek Quinton was re-elected as National Chairman for another year. In the afternoon some participants headed home whilst others went to the Highland Wildlife Park or had a 'jamming session' (sing-a-long) in the woodshed bar. On the final evening we were entertained with songs and music from the accordion orchestra and had a last catch up before setting off on the long road home on Monday morning. The Scottish committee are to be congratulated for organising a fabulous weekend and we look forward to doing it all again in Wales in 2011.

## Upcoming Events

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### Summer Outing

Sun 7th August 2011

Meet at Carnfunnock  
Country Park, Larne

Bring your own picnic

Book high tea with  
Shirley

\*\*\*\*

Recapture your youth at  
a **'Not So Young' Farmers  
Night**

Saturday 17th Sept.

Manor House, Kilrea

Tickets on sale in the  
summer

\*\*\*\*



Fiona Cromie and Billy Martin celebrate the 50th anniversary of their exchanges.



Old Friends and new enjoy Aviemore hospitality

## YFCU Conference

The Annual General Meeting of the YFCU was held on Saturday 15th April 2011 in Armagh City Hotel. Thoburn McCaughey, (Lisnamurrigan) stepped down after two exciting years as President and handed the reins to William Wilson (Cappagh) The new Deputy President is Martyn Blair (Finvoy) and the four Vice-Presidents are Trevor Wilson (Lisbellaw), James Taylor (Coleraine), Roberta Simmons (Rathfriland) and Colin Smyth (Straid) We wish them all the best in their new positions and look forward to meeting them out and about in the year ahead.

If you have any ideas for outings or events which you think would appeal to members please contact any member of the committee and we will do our best to include them in our programme.

## Exchange Applications

With the current economic climate people have been more cautious about taking time off their jobs for an exchange trip and so YFA members have been promoting the programme with flyers and by talking to members about the costs and practicalities of travel through the IFYE programme. We also hope to attend some county meetings in the autumn to continue our advertising campaign. If you know of anyone who may be interested in finding out more about current exchange opportunities please refer them to the committee or directly to YFCU HQ.



## YFA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd February at Loughry College and the meeting began with three very interesting talks on the adventures of our most recently returned travellers. Tanya Johnston (Curragh) took us on a tour of the fjords, Jennifer McMordie (Moneyrea) showed us what New Zealand has to offer and Fiona Lee (Seskinore) traversed Austria. Following any business the meeting was handed over to Chairman Gordon Marshall who thanked the outgoing office bearers for all their hard work before declaring all offices vacant and electing the new committee for 2011 as follows.

Patron: John Cromie (USA 1954)

Chairman: David Hull (Finland 2004, Euro Rally 2005) Vice Chairman: Sam Hawkes (Australia 1995)

Secretary: Shirley Walker (Sweden 1994) Asst Secretary: Stephanie Fulton (Canada 2007)

Treasurer: Thomas Lennox (Finland 2008) Asst Treasurer: Jane Kilpatrick (Scotland 2010)

PRO: Linda Steele (Germany 1994) Web Manager: Derek Quinton (Canada 1977)

IFYE Rep: Linda Steele

Committee Members: Janette Stirling (Canada 2006), Eric Crozier (Switzerland 2008), Susan Christie (Scotland 2009), Wesley Henderson (Scotland 2003, Euro Rally 2004), Jennifer McMordie (New Zealand 2010), Fiona Lee (Finland 2009, Austria 2010) and Tanya Johnston (Norway 2010). Outgoing office bearers and past reunion chair and secretary were co-opted onto the committee: Clarence Calderwood (Euro Rally 1996, Scotland 1998), Hazel Burton (Finland 1991), Philip Walker (Norway 1994), Helen Ervin (Australia 1993) and Willie Annett (Netherlands 1997) The meeting ended with a delicious supper provided by Hazel and Shirley.

## PADDY POWERS R.I.P.

The Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 26th February in the Templeton Hotel in Templepatrick. **Following last January's mock wedding there was another drama this year in the form of the reading of the will of Mr Paddy Powers.**

Among the hopeful beneficiaries were wives No 1 & 2, his son, his best friend and business associate, his solicitor and his undertaker. Unfortunately during **Paddy's video testimony they discovered they were mostly to be disappointed when he left his business assets to his only son and took all his cash with him.**

The cast were joined by approximately 60 YFA friends and family who all enjoyed a delicious meal and took the chance to catch up on all the latest news. We also managed to raise approximately £200 for the forthcoming reunion through our quizzes and games. Thanks to all who contributed.

## Regional Meetings

This year we decided to hold some regional meetings to encourage more members to stay in touch. These began with a Chinese Banquet in the Happy Villa, Galgorm on Wednesday 30th March when around 60 members and friends turned up to enjoy an excellent meal. There were spot prizes of **Easter eggs and a round of 'Heads and Tails' saw Paul Hanson walk off with a voucher for a more intimate meal at the same restaurant.** Outgoing exchangee to Canada, Hilary Cameron from Coleraine, was presented with a cheque for £100 and we wished her well for her forthcoming trip.

This event was followed with a Table Quiz and Irish Stew night in Seskinore YFC Club Hall on Saturday 2nd April. Although some teams seemed to have **more 'help' than others the eventual winners were the Graham Boys and the Co. Down Blow-ins.** Cheques for £100 were also presented to Ruth Blackburn, Seskinore (Oz) and Alice Cunningham, Cookstown (USA).

**The third and final spring meeting was a 'Plant a Pot Curry Night at Trevor Woods' Mount Ida Pottery Studio.** All those present explored their artistic sides by producing clay 'creations' and planting seeds before feasting on a delicious curry banquet.

Thanks to all those who organised, hosted or provided food for these events. All the proceeds will go towards continuing support of the exchange programme and the 2012 reunion. Additional thanks to those who sent baby clothes to Claire Wood, and before the rumours start spreading, can I add they will be gratefully received at the Romanian orphanage she is supporting.

## The bereaved relatives



Sam presents a cheque to Ruth Blackburn, Seskinore (Oz 2011)

## Ulster Events

### 'NOT SO YOUNG' FARMERS NIGHT

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER  
MANOR HOUSE, KILREA  
DOORS OPEN 8.30 P.M.



Book the baby-sitter, get your glad-rags on and recapture your lost youth by catching up with a few old faces.

Tickets £10. Proceeds in aid of the exchange programme and the 2012 reunion.



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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 visit the website.

## YOUNG FARMERS' AMBASSADORS

*Promoting YFCU Exchanges*

**We're on the  
web**  
[www.ifye.co.uk](http://www.ifye.co.uk)

**Congratulations**

### Births:

John McCallister (Euro Rally 95, Canada 98) and Jane, a daughter, Molly

### Engagements:

David Hull (Finland 2004) to Maria Taala

Eric Crozier (Switzerland 2008) to Rachel

Roger King (Netherlands 1992) to Jennifer A. Agustin

Charlotte Barr (USA 2003, Euro Rally 2005) to Ian Dunlop (Australia 2005)

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

To keep you informed with the  
most efficiency and minimal cost  
we will post up to date information  
on the web and circulate  
forms and details by e-mail.

If we do not have your current e-  
mail address please contact  
D.Quinton@o2.co.uk and you  
will be added to the mailing list.

Please help us by passing on in-  
formation to any interested par-  
ties or if you do not have e-mail  
let us know and we can make  
other arrangements.

## UK REUNIONS

*28th—31st Oct 2011 North Wales*

*2012 Northern Ireland*

*2013 England*

## IFYE EUROPEAN REUNIONS

*July 2011 FINLAND*

*July 2012 SWEDEN*

*2013 WALES*

## WORLD REUNION

*Thailand 2013*

*For more info check out the website [www.ifye.co.uk](http://www.ifye.co.uk)*

## Summer Outing

Sunday 7th August 2011

Meet at Carnfunnock Country Park

High Tea in Golf Club

Book with Shirley by Monday 1st August

FOR MORE DETAILS  
ON ANY OR ALL YFA  
EVENTS PLEASE

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SECRETARY

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