

Ulster Region

YFA newsletter

1st Edition

Spring 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AGM	2
World Reunion	2
UK Reunion	3
2009 Dinner	3
Exchangee sponsors	3
Reunion Calendar	4
Future Events	4

Upcoming Events

International Lunch

Sunday 24th May

Manor House, Kilrea

Book with Hazel by Thursday

21st May

Adults £12.50

Children £6.50 or £3.50

Summer Outing

Sunday 2nd August

2 p.m. Oxford Island

(Optional - Water Sports £17)

Evening BBQ

Portadown Rugby Club

Adults £10, Children £4.50

Book with Hazel by Thursday

30th July

Hazel: 028 816 48936

Congratulations and Celebrations

For those of you not in the know the YFCU eightieth anniversary celebrations have officially begun.

The Arts Festival Gala in the Waterfront was the launchpad for a series of exciting events which will take place over the next twelve months, culminating in an **Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 6th March 2010 in the Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena**. For more information on central, county and

club events contact YFCU headquarters.

By coincidence it is also the 60th anniversary of the YFCU exchange programme.

When Mae McAdams was awarded the first exchange trip to the USA in 1949 little did she know what kind of precedent she was setting. Sixty years later literally hundreds of YFCU members have had the opportunity to travel the

world and experience aspects of countries to which the ordinary tourist is completely oblivious.

Today the YFCU programme includes short and long term exchanges, Junior exchanges and the European Rally. If you are an Associate Member you can catch up on all the latest exchange news in Rural Dispatch or keep an eye on your local press.

2009 Exchangees

Congratulations to all those who have been awarded YFCU exchanges for 2009.

European Rally

To be announced.

Short Term

Scotland Susan Christie (Glarryford), William Hazlett (Garvagh)

Wales Philip Richardson (Cookstown)

Long Term

Canada David McNaughner (Garvagh)

New Zealand William Cochrane

(Coleraine)

Finland Fiona Lee (Seskinore)

Sweden Donna Garrett (Killinchy)

Switzerland

Andrew Torrens (Garvagh), Kathryn Smyth (Coleraine)

Germany Jonathan Connolly (Moneyrea)

Many thanks to Rosemary and Adrian Cooper who hosted the 2009 barbecue for incoming UK exchangees and those NI members preparing to head off.



Incoming UK exchangees 2009

All Change

The 2009 AGM was held on Wednesday 25th February in Loughry College, Cookstown and was well attended by a number of old and new faces. Congratulations were extended to the organising committee and volunteers who made the recent UK reunion, in Belfast such a success, before attention turned to the focus of the evening.

Special thanks were conveyed to the outgoing Chairman Mr Willie Annett and Secretary, Miss Helen Ervin, for their hard work over the last number of years before all our Patron, Mr John Cromie, took the chair.

Following the reading of the reports a short election resulted in the following people taking office for the forthcoming year.

Chairman Mr Philip Walker

Asst Chairman Mr David Hull

Secretary Mrs Hazel Burton

Asst Sec Mrs Shirley Walker

Treasurer Mrs Margaret Hemphill

Asst Treasurer

Mr Clarence Calderwood

PRO Miss Linda Steele

IFYE Rep Mr Derek Quinton

Auditor Miss Hilary Taggart

Committee Members:

Mr Ian Dunlop

(YFCU Exchange Coordinator)

Mrs Rosemary Cooper, Mr Richard Alcorn, Miss Janette Stirling, Miss Stephanie Fulton, Miss Susan Christie, Miss Helen Ervin and Mr Willie Annett.

Following the business Mr Richard Alcorn gave an extremely interesting talk comparing his 2 exchange trips to the USA and Switzerland and the evening came to a close with supper.

World IFYE Conference 2008 - Pauline Armstrong



The Davis Family make a new friend

450 people, an enthusiastic committee and accommodation all over the city- the essential ingredients for the 2008 World IFYE Conference in Adelaide Australia. Arriving via Sydney Melbourne and the Great Ocean Road how surreal to meet 200 IFYE and YFA friends- just 250 to get to know in a week!

We travelled in a fleet of buses, by private train and tram, by boat and on foot and ate in a 'sheepshed', at the zoo, in a sportshall, in the railway museum surrounded by trains, at the racecourse and had the final dinner at the Adelaide Oval. And we talked and talked and talked!

From arrival and friendly faces at every turn, through the multi faith service and opening ceremony in brilliant sunshine - our Norn Ireland flag flying high in Sam's capable

hands! -the week flew by in a whirl of new faces, fantastic costumes, Australian culture, entertainment and food. The only thing I didn't see much of was the Adelaide shops!

Fantastic to see kangaroos and koalas up close - although the Tasmanian devil was a little shyer! I had a very interesting host family day - travelling north on dirt roads to find farms totally dependant on rain for all their water and a drought in progress. Plenty of water in the Hudson River as we cruised along in a boat once used by Charles and Diana! In the fascinating and historic surroundings of the Adelaide Masonic Hall we heard inspiring and moving lectures about the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the success story of Vietnamese boat people for whom Australia really was the land of education and opportunity. We were also most impressed by the efforts of Banrock Station winery in promoting conservation all over the world - read the labels as you drink the wine next time!

And some unexpected

meetings - David West visited Trillick in 1980 and is still as nice as ever! And my brother's brother-in-laws neighbours - even though Tasmania is a big place and I only know one family there!

The NI group treated the gathering to an enthusiastic and fairly tuneful rendering of 'My Bonnie lies over the Ocean' on the talent night and we held our own with the Swedes Santa Maria procession by candlelight, the Indian demonstration of Turban tying, the paper -kilted Scottish Pipe Band and Richard Siphthorp singing for England! - and much more

After a sumptuous final dinner we said a fond farewell to the by now exhausted Australian committee. They did such a good job shepherding us around - they even helped us across the road! Everyone set off in different directions - I was in a multinational group who went to Kangaroo Island and celebrated a couple of birthdays with dinner in a local hotel. We didn't see many kangaroos but a magical moment was a baby koala waving from its mother's pouch! From there we travelled to Cairns and our Great Barrier Reef experience. Australia was spectacular and huge and memorable and, like all the best adventures, better enjoyed with friends. Thailand in 2013

UK Reunion - 2008 - Belfast

The reunion began in fine style as witches and wizards, of all ages, turned out in force for the Hexan Spree on Friday 31st October at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast.

Although a few didn't see their beds until dawn most people were up bright and early for the trips. The afternoon was spent ambushing an unsuspecting stag party at the paintballing, shopping in the city centre or taking advantage of the hotel facilities before preparations began for the formal dinner on Saturday night. Mr Rory Best, Ireland Hooker, answered questions on his career in rugby, agriculture and many other topics before the participants danced until the wee small hours.

The Sunday morning craft fair was followed by the Church service which was in aid of Fields of Life and following

the country meetings the AGM took place. The bright and sunny weather meant the city bus tour was full to capacity despite the bracing sub-zero temperatures and the weekend came to a close with the traditional Smite tournament, a ceili and a late night sing-song. The hoarse and tired revellers left Belfast after another great weekend with promises to meet again next year, in Newcastle.

Members and friends enjoy the view from the balcony of Parliament buildings, Stormont.



Rabbie Who?

The annual dinner was a very select gathering with around 40 members meeting in Ballymoney Rugby Club on Saturday 31st January for an evening of food and frolics. An excellent meal was provided by Iris's Farmhouse Cuisine, complete with haggis, for those who were under the impression they were coming to a Burns Night. Helen and Willie

toasted the haggis with the help of a 'virtual' Scotsman (on the ipod) and after dinner some merry revellers took to the floor for the Gay Gordons and a Strip the Willow just to compete the picture.

The more enthusiastic dancers then made it a truly international evening by taking a crash course in ceroc and the night ended with a Spanish jive.

YFA/YFCU Associates
Date for your diary
Las Vegas Night
Saturday 17th October
Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
Proceeds in aid of the 2010
exchange programme

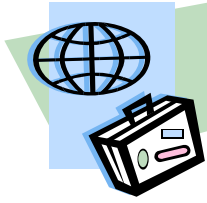
YFA sponsor 2009 exchange programme



Treasurer Margaret Hemphill presents a cheque for £200 to David McNaughter. Also pictured are YFCU President, Adrian Cooper and YFA Chairman, Philip Walker.

In these times of financial crisis taking time out of work to go on exchange and finding sponsorship is becoming more and more difficult and so YFA is delighted to help support two of the 2009 exchanges.

This year's sponsorship is going to David McNaughter, Garvagh (Canada) and William Cochrane, Coleraine (New Zealand). YFA are also holding an autumn event in conjunction with the YFCU, for those slightly more mature 'young' farmers' Proceeds from this event will help support the 2010 exchange programme.



Editor Linda Steele
4 Lisnagrot Road, Kilrea, Coleraine
BT51 5SE
Tel: 07710-123874
lsteelkilrea@yahoo.co.uk

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 hope to hold a special
anniversary event for YFA
members, incoming exchanges
and hosts in July.
Details to be confirmed.

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

Congratulations

**On their election to YFCU
office:**

President: Thoburn McCaughey
(Euro Rally 03)

Deputy President: William
Wilson (Euro Rally 06)

Vice Presidents: Martyn Blair
(Euro Rally 04, Scotland 08),
James Taylor (Norway 07),
Frances George (Canada 06),
William Gilpin



UK REUNIONS

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

2010 SCOTLAND

2011 WALES

IFYE EUROPEAN REUNIONS

2009 4th-11th July, ISLE OF MAN

2010 AUSTRIA

2011 FINLAND

For more information check out the website

www.ifye.co.uk

**Annual Dinner
2010
Sat 30th January
Corick House**

**2010 AGM
Wed 24th Feb
Loughry College**