



NEWSLETTER

December 2021

European IFYE Alumni



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Greetings from the President

Hello!

For 2022 I wish you lots of happiness, health, peace, success, and love. Also, I look forward with confidence to seeing each of you again in Finland at the conference. Are you already registered?



Old, frail, flattened and with an overweight backpack on its back, the old year staggers to the calendar door and opens it with difficulty. Outside stands the

new year - young, dynamic, confident, and vigorous. It is startled when it sees the pathetic figure and asks cluelessly, "What happened to you, how can I help you?"

"Corona, lockdown, envy, resentment, violence and corruption broke me down," replies the old year. "The only way you can help me is by taking this burden off my shoulders, so I can go into well-deserved retirement." "I will do that with the best of intentions," replies the new year, slipping elegantly through the calendar door.

Now a few thoughts on the turn of the year:

At the turn of the year, for ritual reasons alone, the opportunity to reflect, pause and take stock is greater than on any other day of the year. A turn of the year reminds us that everything is temporary. So, let's take this opportunity to ask ourselves some questions about 2021:

- Who did I spend the most time with?
- Who did I spend my best time with?
- What were my three favorite events this year?
- What were my three favorite successes this year?
- What did I do particularly well in 2021?
- What new things did I learn?
- What was my most courageous undertaking?
- What gripped / touched me the most?
- What did I do for the first time in a while in 2021?
- What did I do for the first time in 2021?
- What was the best gift I gave someone?
- What was the most beautiful gift someone gave me?
- What were the most effective words I said to someone?
- What were the most effective words someone said to me?
- What was the most important thing I got up for every day in 2021?
- What do I wish I had done more often?
- What would I have liked to have done less of?
- What was my craziest action in 2021?
- Who was I at my best with in 2021?
- What metaphor represents my 2021?

Shortly, it's "Prosit New Year"!

Prosit comes from the Latin and comes from prodesse = to be useful, beneficial!

With this in mind, let's look ahead with the following possible questions:

- What do I want to have firmly established in my life by the end of 2022?
- What do I want to stand for with enthusiasm and discipline in the new year?
- What do I want to leave behind in the old year, what am I saying goodbye to?
- What do I long for, what do I want to invite into my life even more in the new year?
- What contribution will I make to peace in myself and in the world?
- What do I make inner peace with?
- What do I want others to say about me at the end of the year?
- What development am I actively pursuing?
- Which dreams do I want to fulfill in 2022?
- With whom do I want to spend more time?
- What do I want to spend more time with?
- How will I know at the end of 2022 that I was serious about my plans?

Happy New Year!.,

Andi

"A smoke blows away, a water trickles away, a time passes, a new one begins."
(Joachim Ringelnatz)

The secret IFYE-friend

The mystery continues

written by Nora Feyder (IFYE from Luxembourg to the USA, 2015)

For a long time, postcards and letters used to be one of the most cherished ways to communicate with friends and family while being away from home. With the development of new technologies and the digitalization, sending postcards has lost some of its popularity. Nevertheless, the joyous feeling and curiosity one gets when finding a handwritten card in the mailbox hasn't changed - maybe it has even become more precious with the limited number of cards being sent as compared to a few decades ago. While some keep them in a box and sort through them every now and then, others pin them to a wall to enjoy the landscapes and glimpses of cultures far away and others again are particularly interested in the stamps on the cards.

But not only the receiver, also for the sender mailing a postcard is tied to a certain emotional experience – more so than formulating a quick text message on the phone. First, one has to carefully choose a card. What would one like the recipient to see? Or what would the recipient like best? Maybe a specific card reminds you specifically of a certain person and you therefore decide to mail it? Then comes the second and just as difficult step: What to write on the card? Either there isn't really much to tell so you stick with the general 'I am fine, I enjoy my time here, I'll tell you all about it once I get back'. Or, there is simply too much to tell and you need to carefully decide what to squeeze into the small space available on the card. Thirdly, there is the issue about the handwriting. Do you take the time to use your best writing skills? Or are you kind of in a hurry and quickly write something before going on with your schedule?



So all in all, a postcard can be a deeply personal way of communication. Now, you certainly wonder why I tell you all this. Some of you might still remember the newsletter of a bit more than a year ago, where Mari Kindsbekken told us about the many postcards, she received from an anonymous IFYE friend. It was a prize that she had won in a conference tombola and over the following year, she received postcards from all over Europe from a mysterious IFYE

friend.

Personally, I never won such an amazing prize at a conference. Nevertheless, I found an anonymous postcard in my mailbox a few weeks ago. It had a stamp from Belgium and was signed by 'A secret IFYE-friend'. Intriguing, right? The picture on the card didn't give anything away, but it did clearly summon me to continue with the inquiry of the senders identity and suggested I contact Meg Findlay (Scotland) and Sam Hawkes (Northern Ireland) in the matter. You can probably imagine my surprise. My first reaction was: "Nice! This person clearly is reading the IFYE newsletter if he/she knows about Mari's article." But then I started wondering. I thought the aim was to stay anonymous and to draw as little attention as possible. Why would this mysterious postcard sender want the IFYE newsletter editor to dig around and look for clues about the sender's identity and to possibly transform it all into a collective mystery game through regular articles in the newsletter? Are you bored, secret friend? Are you looking for some entertainment? Still, my curiosity was ignited and I obeyed.



After contacting Meg and Sam, one thing became clear: the secret sender probably knew that he had nothing to fear. While both Meg and Sam have been receiving postcards, neither of them has figured out the sender's identity. Meg won the prize at the conference in Northern Ireland in 2018 and has received around 30 cards since then. They were sent from many countries "with postmarks such as Switzerland, Norway, Croatia, Austria, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, China, Dubai, Italy, USA and UK! It has been absolutely amazing!", Meg comments. While Meg is eager to find out who is sending them, Sam prefers to remain in the dark and to simply enjoy the game. He has gotten cards from only 3 countries so far but all of them arrived within just a week from each other. This is one of the interesting things. The many countries from which the cards are sent and the short time frame within which they are sent has led Meg to the following conclusion: "He/she seems to travel a fair bit (possibly with work?)". Further, both Meg and Sam agree on one point: The sender probably comes from the UK! And I agree. The text on the one card I received was written in perfect English... Meg has even more suspicions but I do not want to spoil the game for the future lucky tombola winners so let's keep it at this. One final thing I might say, though, is that I support Mari's conclusion about the sender being a man. The handwriting seems to be a male one and without being discriminative I still have to say that it took me some time to figure out all letters...

So I followed your request and inquired a bit further, oh secret IFYE-friend. I hope, I didn't scare you off with putting the findings in the newsletter. Just know that I am quite fond of postcards and would like to receive more in the future!

IFYE Christmas Party in Alkio-Opisto, Finland

written by Jenna Järvenpää (Contact member Finnish IFYE Association)

Little Christmas Elves, the Finnish IFYEs, gathered together in Alkio-opisto to bring up the Christmas spirit and make more marvelous plans to surprise you during the 2022 European IFYE Conference!

But what did the little elves do?

- The Bar: check
- Workshops: check
- Telephone connections: check
- Accommodation: check (very comfy pillows)
- Food: check
- Sauna: double-check

Even though there is a lot of talk around the world about one Greek letter, we are looking forward to 16th-23rd July 2022 to gather all the IFYEs together again after a far too long break. Upgrading IFYE 202.2 is about get-together, surrounding nature, beautiful landscapes, warm summer evenings, music, partying, sauna, good food and fun. The happy faces and all the laughter 15 Finnish IFYEs brought to Alkio during one weekend in November was hilarious - imagine what it would be, when there is about 200 of us from all around the world! Have you already packed your bags?

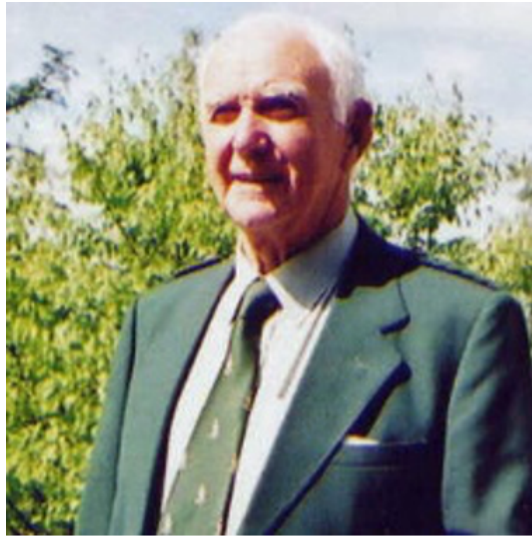
Happy New Year 2022 and see you soon!



In Memoriam

Sandy Stewart

Sandy Stewart from Scotland sadly passed away at the end of October. Sandy met his wife Kathleen Scott on their exchange to the States in 1951 and from 1982 to 2004, were very regular attenders of the European IFYE Conferences. In fact, Sandy was the Chairman for the Conference held in Scotland at Strathallan School in 1992. He was very well known to everyone who attended these events and indeed built up a great friendship with so many. Those of us who have attended the IFYE Conferences have warm and happy memories of Sandy.



Seppo Kanervisto

Our beloved IFYE-member Seppo Kanervisto (92) passed away on 17th December 2021. He was an IFYE to USA in 1954 and a baby IFYE in the 1977 IFYE conference in Switzerland. He was an active member in the Finnish IFYE Association for over 40 years. He will be sorely missed.



Congrats to...



Maria Hull

IFYE from Finland to Scotland 2009

&

David Hull

IFYE to Finland 2004

Maria and David
to their son Matthew Robert Hull,
born on 19th December 2021.

Deadline next issue: 30th March 2022

European IFYE Alumni Association

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - December 2021

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