

## EUFED Bulletin



Starting from today you will be receiving the relaunched EUFED E-Bulletin. We plan to go back to issuing it regularly, interspersed with the newstickers from Constanze Adolf our Operating Director. We hope that you agree that these tools of exchange and information make EUFED an even more valuable source for information. Please, whenever you have any comments, let us know; thoughts, and ideas, and suggestions, and wishes, all are extremely valuable to us. Feedback is very welcome, both directly to the office and when in November we have our meeting in Dusseldorf.

Given the newsletter's electronic format, I hope that our member associations will be willing to give the newsletter wide circulation to their board members and staff. We can do it from the EUFED office (as we already do for FUAJ in France, who have supplied a full circulation list) or you can do it yourself by forwarding the newsletter internally.

Right at the start, let me publicly congratulate Constanze on completing successfully the defence of her PhD thesis and so achieving her degree. Well done, Dr Adolf!

You will notice that we are giving significance to the idea of sustainability in our youth hostelling world. This is a big and important issue for us all, which is one of the reasons why we have chosen to emphasise it. But, just because it is a "big issue", it is very easy to think there is nothing each of us can do at a local level, that what we need is a "big solution".

That is not true.

It may be true that each of us may only be able to take small steps, to make small changes within our associations; but those small steps build together. For example, in Germany (and, yes, I know, several other countries too) it has long been the practice to segregate several different types of waste for effective recycling: DJH youth hostels provide for that. In other countries that is not the case, often because there is no national system which allows such separation - of batteries, perhaps - to be effective. But if the bins are there, at a small cost in money and space used, then we help the process of educating our visitors, both young and old. And that education for the future is a part of what youth hostelling is about.

On the bigger scale, think about what can be achieved when a hostel has to be renewed. Not only must the quality be enhanced for our members, but so must the physical standards be driven by sustainability. Hostelling International started an organised move in that direction, oh, twenty years ago, and many of our associations signed up to a commitment to work to make youth hostels more environmentally friendly. That process too is educational, as well as ultimately being cost effective for our associations.

Both examples are small steps in the big scheme of things. Taken together, all those small steps lead us to a solution to the "big issue". Acting for sustainability matters. And so does taking the steps which help educate our members and visitors, both young and old.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Goldfinch".

Paul Goldfinch  
EUFED President