



YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

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CLUB: Stone YFC
DESTINATION: Scotland
TYPE OF TRIP: European Rally
DURATION: 1 week
DATES OF TRAVEL: 2005



DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

My Rally experience began with meeting up with the rest of the England team about one month before the European Rally week. At this meeting we had to decide how we were getting to the Rally site, what we were going to wear as our National dress, and the equipment we needed for our presentations.

A month went by and the day came round when we were going to set off for our destination, Strathallan School in Perth, Scotland. The whole team met up at our team leader's house, which was Caroline, Chairperson of Derbyshire YFC. The other members of the team were Katie who is Oxford's County Chairperson, Ibbey from Nottinghamshire YFC and Andy from Buckinghamshire YFC.

After a few cups of tea and getting to know each other a bit more, we all loaded our stuff into the back of Andy's crew cab pick-up and we were off to Scotland. The journey up went well with a few stops and a brilliant pub lunch somewhere in Yorkshire. The trip went well with me being in charge of the radio with my selections of CDs for the journey.

After the 4 ½ hour trip, we arrived to a warm welcome where we were then shown to our rooms and also the bar. After a few drinks and some socialising, we then put up our National display, which is like the displays we have at our County Show.

The Sunday of the week was the opening ceremonies where we wore our National dress, which was cricket whites for the boys, and tennis clothes for the girls. This was really good because we had chance to see the National dress of other countries and how proud they were of their country.

That night, we then put on a display buffet of all our English produce, which consisted of Jams, Pork Pies, Cakes, Cheeses, Strawberries and Cream, Old English Ales and Pimms. After setting up our display we were then allowed to go and try foods from other countries. This was great fun and was funny to watch people trying the spirits from other countries.

On the Monday we started with team building games and also got to have a go at a downsized Highland Games, which was good fun. That evening, we were then very privileged to go round the new Scottish Parliament building. Here we saw architecture at its very best with a building that had no window or door the same size and much different design features which blended in with the surroundings and utilising Scottish history.

On Tuesday, there were more fun and games, with us having to learn different communication skills like Morse code and sign language. This was brilliant and at the same time, useful.

We also had chance to do more team building games, which gave us an insight about each other. But the biggest opportunity to learn about other cultures was that evening, where we had chance to do small plays or sing songs from our country of origin. Seeing the Austrian's do their umpah dance, learning that the Ukraine words for "I love you" is "Yellow Blue Bus" and we the English team, doing a panto and news sketch. Then that evening there was a fancy dress Hawaiian night.

Wednesday came and we were split up into groups and sent off to different corners of Perth. Some of us got to see whisky distilleries, organic farming, the Murreyfield National Sports Complex, Wiseman's Dairies, St Andrews Golf Course and many other fascinating sites.

That evening I met my host family for the following night and day. I stayed with a family who lived in Glanmoy in Angus County, which was one of the first glens of the highlands. The Smith family were hill farmers who had 1,400 North Country Cheviots and 200 Angus and Blue Grey Suckler cows on 1,200 acres of hill land. Later that evening, at the local pub, we had our meal and we retired back to the farm for a much needed early night.

On Thursday I had the chance to take in the sites of the local area such as the birthplace of Mr Barry, who wrote Peter Pan, the Smith family farm and the cricket ground.

We were then taken back to the Strathallan School and had a hog roast with all the other delegates and hosts and then said our goodbyes and thank you to our host families.

Friday came and the first task was for groups to construct a bridge. However, this wasn't as easy as it sounds, communication between the groups building the bridge was very limited and the end results were amusing.

That afternoon, we got back together with our Rally Teams to produce a pictorial display of the weeks proceedings. This was then put on show at the final dinner, which was held that evening at Perth City Hall.

We were given a grand display of Scottish hospitality with the addressing of the haggis, Scottish music from the Kinross Pipe Band and presentation of awards. All of this was a breathtaking sight to see.

After dinner we were then treated to a master class in Ceilidh dancing where not to be beaten, I gave it my best to make sure the Scots didn't show us up.

We then departed back to Strathallan where we had the rest of the evening to enjoy each other's company and say fond farewells.

On Saturday, we packed our gear and set off for a long and tiring journey home after a week of adventure, excitement, meeting new friends for life and seeing a country of outstanding natural beauty and learning other countries ways of life from all around Europe.

I would like to thank the Young Farmers of Scotland, Rural Youth Europe, the YFC Discovery Programme and YFA for an excellent and unforgettable experience.

Bryce Mackellar