



YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

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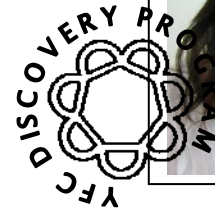
CLUB: Uttoxeter JNFU

DESTINATION: Scotland

TYPE OF TRIP: Homestay

DURATION: 2 weeks

DATES OF TRAVEL: 13th to 28th June 2009



DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

After being greeted at Edinburgh airport by Kat from the Scottish Federation, we started chatting I realised immediately that all young farmers clubs were the same, with one main purpose, no, not a dating agency, but a way to meet some life-long friends.

Over the next couple of days, we went to the Albert Bartlett Potato factory and an old Clay Mine, with a picnic lunch, organised by the YFA, did some shopping in Edinburgh and sightseeing, including the Scottish Parliament. We were invited to the International Meal which was such a fantastic evening, meeting lots of people who had been on exchanges before, and also a chance to really get to know about the home-lives of the other exchangees; Susan and Will (N.Ireland), Del and Sara (Wales), Satu and Maria (Finland), Sybille (Switzerland), Sana (Norway), and Izzy (Australia).



One of the families I stayed with was Heather and Fiona Shanks, who were both lovely girls. We headed off to Glasgow with some of Heather's friends and met up with Susan and her host John. This was followed by a treasure hunt and a boogie-in-a-barn style disco.

We went bowling and off to the pub the next day, with a meal afterwards and an YFA dance. This was such a fun day and met so many more of the people from the Ayrshire district.

Sunday soon arrived and we went off cycling around Millport for the day, a chance to burn off some of the calories from those soft drinks the night before. This was a brilliant activity to do as it was leisurely, so could chat along the way.

The next day, Susan, Del and I met up with Lorna Bennett and her friend Rachel and jumped on the ferry (and had a wee dram of whiskey, to check it hadn't gone off) to the Isle of Arran for some cheese, beer and aromatics experiences! I watched the girls' tug-of-war practise that night and arrived back at Lorna's very impressed by their efforts, especially when I watched them take the winning trophy at the Royal Highland Show.



Some of us went whisky tasting the next day, and arrived back at only just in time for our farewell meal because we had been on a mammoth bar crawl around Edinburgh and due to my poor reading skills (ahem, possibly under the influence of alcohol) we accidentally were looking at the arrivals train times board rather than the departures. Never to worry though as in true YF style, many of them turned up half an hour later than us anyway!

The Royal Highland Show was absolutely brilliant. In short, we shopped and ate all day and drank and danced all night! Over those last four days I mostly lived off whisky, cheese and whisky flavoured cheese. There was so much to see and do at the Show, including a competition seeing farriers shoe horses, whilst having to make the shoes from scratch. The YF stockjudging was also interesting, as were the Horse and Pony classes, and particularly the Bull classes...I don't think I've ever seen such superb beasts.

Overall, my discovery trip was as expensive as I wanted it to be. I was chuffed when I was awarded with a Scholarship of £100 from the NFYFC which paid for my flights with a bit left over, and had been kindly awarded £30 by Staffordshire YFA to go with. My hotel was paid for and even bus tickets/taxis to and from the Royal Highland were reimbursed by the Scottish federation. Nearly all of the meals out were paid for, which was just so generous. We stayed at a lovely 4* hotel in Edinburgh called The Beverly which the Scottish FYFC paid for.



Upon my return, I have produced a scrapbook and an A1 poster for promotion. I wrote a thank-you letter to the National YFA, which has been published in the YFA newsletter for England and Wales which is also great for promotion of the Discovery Programme. I have given a talk to both my own club, Uttoxeter, and one for Staffordshire YFA at their Quiz night. Being Chairman for Uttoxeter this year I have been putting a mini chairman's report on each monthly programme and have used this for promotion of the Discovery Programme and details of people to contact and YFA advice nights.

Katie Winfield

