

# Discovery 2010

Germany



Isobel Mogford  
Henley YFC  
Oxfordshire

# Where I Went



On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 I flew out to Germany, I stayed in 5 different areas of Lower Saxony with Niedersächsische Landjugend members. The red stars show the different locations I stayed in.

## Lower Saxony



# First Stop

Location: Thuste  
Host: Anina Gotte  
Duration: 1 week





Me next to a Water Tree. This was a tree that had been turned into a fountain so the Miller could see if his mill pond had water in it.

We went to Buckeburg a German town with a large palace. It also has the School of Baroque Equitation which presents the traditional art of Baroque riding



An outdoor swimming pool we went to. There were Newts living in it! Amazing



I went to a chicken farm. As well as this chicken shed they also had the new EU regulated chicken cages which are currently being introduced.

As you can see this cow has horns, the farmer was breeding them with a Hereford bull to selectively breed out the horns.



I got to drive a new John Deere that had only done 40hr – and I didn't crash it!





Just outside Thuste there was a biogas station which runs off maize. It smelt really bad but was very interesting to see having learn about them. It provides power for the village and the heat it produces is used to dry log off!



There were also little wind farms dotted all over the landscape and a nuclear power station. It was clear to see that Germany are embracing renewable energy.





I got to spend a day with a German farrier (Hufschmied), this was a highlight off my trip as I am doing a farrier apprenticeship in the UK.



It was interesting to see the differences in shoeing techniques. My main role was holding the foot for the farrier. And I got paid!!!

# Second Stop

Location: Hannover

Host: Dorothee Heinemann

Duration: 1 night



I visited the Herrenhausen Gardens, this a combination of 3 gardens. They are several centuries old and are still a popular attraction. They were amazingly well kept with huge open areas and tiny themed garden. I had great fun walking around them.



# Third Stop

Location: Bad Fallingbostenl  
Host: Dorothee Heinemann  
and her Landjugend (YFC)  
Duration: a weekend



# 60 Jahre Niedersächsische Landjugend



The cramped train carriage we travelled 2hrs in with no air-conditioning!

Sam and me at Hannover station.



Doro and her sister Karolin at Hannover station.



Doro teaching me German dancing.



The inside of our club tent.

# Cooking Course



On the Saturday everyone had activities. I got to do a cooking course. Here we made all the puddings for the ball that evening. It was a great laugh and we had some amazing puddings.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> night there was a ball to celebrate the 60 years of the Niedersächsische Landjugend, attending were past and present members as well as prominent figures from agriculture and the German government - and 2 rather overwhelmed English girls! Dinner and speeches were followed by a disco and music from a local German band.



Sam learning to dance



# Forth Stop

Location: Knesebeck  
Host: Anne-Sophie  
Gehrmann  
Duration: 1 week





We went to an otter sanctuary. It not only had otters but many wild animals local to the area off Germany we were staying in.

We went to school for 3 days. On one off the days was the last years final day (muck up day). All dressed as pirates they took over the school for a morning handing out cocktails and waffles playing loud music from an upstairs window!



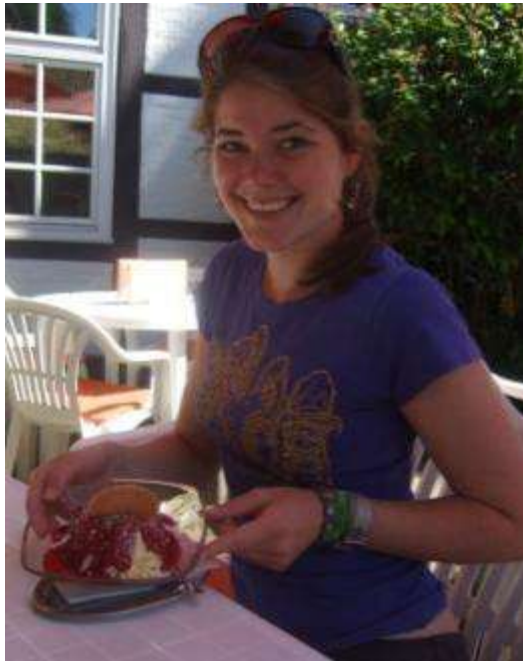


Anna was in a handball club, I joined them for an evening.



The most amazing contraption I have ever seen!

We watched Germany's first world cup game at a fire station with Anna's Landjugend.



Delicious Spaghetti Ice Cream





I saw a robotic milker for the first time. The farm only had 60 cows which is very different to the size of farm you would expect to have one of these in the UK. They had found that their milk yield had increased as well as the herds health.



# Fifth Stop

Location: Filsum

Host: Julia de Riese

Duration: a weekend





In Filsum I stayed on a dairy farm. They were also building a really large new chicken house as part of a new business venture. The building got blessed when I was there as the structure of it had been built, there was a large party for friends and family.





Driving  
across the  
narrowest  
bridge in  
Germany



We went on a bike ride which had a bridge or is it a boat crossing across the river. On the bike ride I got to see the local area and how flat the landscape is in Northern Germany.



We went to a Foal show as Julia's grandparents breed horses.

# Thank Yous

- National Young Farmers Club
- Niedersächsische Landjugend
- Marlborough Trust Fund
- Wallingford Book Shop
- Henley Young Farmers Club