

NFYFC Discovery 2010

Germany June 10th - 17th

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On Thursday June 10th 2010, I travelled to Lower Saxony in Germany on a Homestay. Here I met Isobel Mogford from Henley YFC who had flown out the previous Saturday.



This is the flag of
Lower Saxony.

On my arrival I was given one, so that I could get it signed by everyone I met as a memento of my trip.

Here is a picture of
myself (left) and
Isobel (right)





This is a map of Lower Saxony. During my stay I stayed in Hannover, near Hamburg & Bad Fallingbostel.



On the Thursday night I stayed with Doro (left) in her student flat in Hannover.

Her sister Karolin is on the right.

On the Thursday night we went out with Doro and her friends to their student bar.

Doro is studying Biochemistry. This is their course logo.



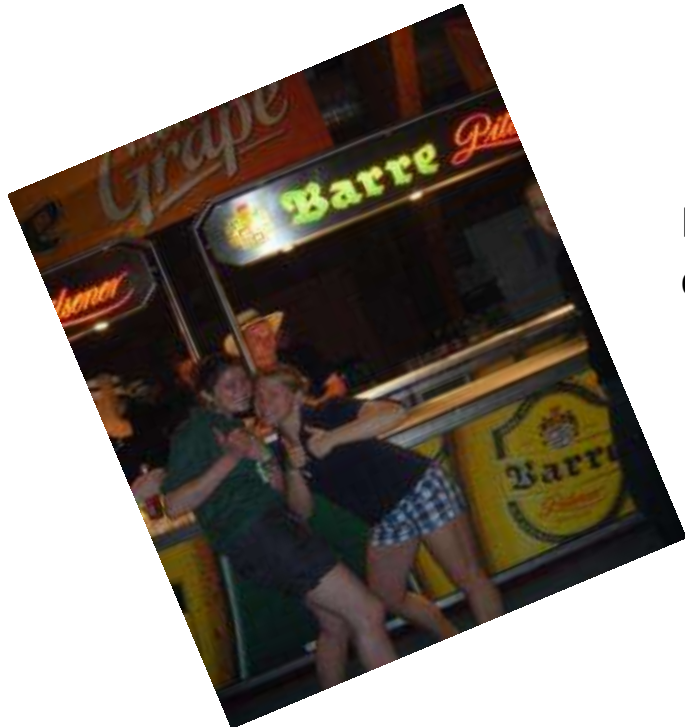
On Friday afternoon we met with other Landjugend (German equivalent of YFC) at Hannover train station for a 2 hour journey to go to Bad Fallingbostal, here we attended something similar to our National Convention.





On our 1.7km walk to the venue we passed this English shop.

We spent Friday and Saturday night in a tent which despite being June was cold. On our 1.7km walk to the venue we passed this English shop.



Friday night was club shirt night.



On the Saturday Isobel and myself took part in a cooking workshop. We made all the desserts for the anniversary celebration that evening. Not many of the group could speak English; however we still managed to have a good time.



Isobel's map of the UK and where we live.



All the desserts set out for the evening.



The evening began with dancing a small production showing Landjugend through its 60 years. Unfortunately this was all in German so we couldn't really understand it. After we had eaten a band called Vis a Vis played they are a very popular band with Landjugend.

Dancing is very popular in Germany and many Germans learn from the age of 13.

A well known dance is called 'The Disco Fox'. It is basically the foxtrot but speeded up or slowed down depending on the song.



Harry teaching me how to dance 'The Disco Fox'

On Sunday there was a church service.

Then it was time to say goodbye to Doro
and Karolin.

That's when I met Anika
who I was to spend the next 3 nights with.



This is the people I shared a
tent with.



Anika is on the left.

Anika lived in a village called
Erpensen,
which is near the town of
Wittingen.
Erpensen had about 200
people living there.



Monday through to my last
day on Thursday was spent
in secondary school, I didn't
actually do very much for
the second half of my week.



Anne-Sophie, Isobel, Me and Anika
With the flag of Lower Saxony.

Isobel stayed
with Anne-Sophie.

Anne –Sophie lives in
Knesebeck.





We went into Wittingen and had a walk around the town. They were celebrating the last day of a summer festival so there were lots of market stalls and a farmers market.





- Outside a wildlife park that we visited



We visited a robotic parlour.
There was 60 cows and 1 robot.
The average yield per day is 40 litres.
The cows live in all year round and they are
all year round calving.



These pictures are of Anika's neighbours farm.



Anne-Sophie and Anika had Handball practice, which Isobel took part in.

On the Wednesday night I also stayed at Anne-Sophie's as I had to be at the airport Just after lunch and Anika had school all Day.



Moving cows.

Spaghetti Ice



Thank You!

- I would like to thank NFYFC Discovery Programme for giving me the opportunity to travel to Germany. Although the trip didn't quite go as I expected, I did get the chance to experience another culture. The biggest difference I noticed was that the villages had several small farms instead of 1 or 2 large ones. I also thought that the small area of Germany that I did see was a very pretty country. I haven't spoken German for 11 years since I left school. So I think the best bit for me was getting to actually try and speak the language and I think over the week it came back to me and even improved. I did also meet many really nice people, one of whom Doreen (who I met in school) came to England in July. 1 of her weeks was spent in Devon so I got the chance to spend a couple of days with her and show her my way of life.
- Despite my experience I would recommend the Discovery programme to every YFC member, as you get to experience a country in a different way than if you were to go on a normal holiday.