



YFA Discovery 2011

Germany

Jeff Goodwin



The Behrens Family



- The Behrens: Laura and Heinz



Hockey the terrier

Heinz Jr. and Coleen

Anna Hendrik Lisa



The Behrens live in the village of Ahnsen, in the town of Liedeberger, in the northern region of Niedersachsen.

The Niedersachsen emblem.



Helen, from Cornwall, my fellow YFA traveller to Germany.



The vast amount of farming land is committed to arable production. In July, the crops were more forward than they were in England.



Rural Niedersachsen

Due to the flat topography of the land, livestock production of any kind is uncommon. The average herd has 20 cows.



The vast amount of forest in the area is made up of Keefen trees.

200,000 wind turbines in Germany with around 20,000 in this area.



Schützenfest



A view of the street in Hillerse, Hannover, during Schützenfest.

A German tradition involving shooting, marching and drinking!

The festival provides an opportunity for marksmen to fight it out for the title of King of the Schützenfest.

I was lucky enough to witness and take part in the festival first hand, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Whilst with the Behrens I also visited a bakery in Ahnsen which is very famous for their bread, as it is sold at Hannover airport, a slaughter house and a chocolate shop and an ice cream dairy.

The Loock family

Erika and Hermann

Reinhold and Karin

Imke Therese

The family used to milk 20 cows but due to its unprofitably, they now grow potatoes and asparagus on 500 hectares/1,250 acres and Karin works as a secretary for VW.





Whilst staying with the Loock family, I helped the 2 polish builders who were working at the Loocks.





- I visited the biogas plant where all the sewage from Wolfsburg and all the surrounding towns and villages is pumped.
- It is pumped here and used to generate electricity via anaerobic digestion. The components are then recycled i.e. water for irrigation of local crops, sludge for fertilisation and purified water for drinking.
- This is another example of Germany's continual effort to achieve sustainable living.



- On Wednesday I had the chance to work on a local dairy farm where they milked 76 cows. As well as milk, some of their income came from exporting their fresh heifers to other countries in Europe and bull beef.
- They have a Westfailure 12/12 parlour.
- They receive 35 cents (31p) per litre of milk!





On Wednesday night, the two farm workers and I went to see the 'Fire water show' at the Autostadt (Car city) in Wolfsburg.



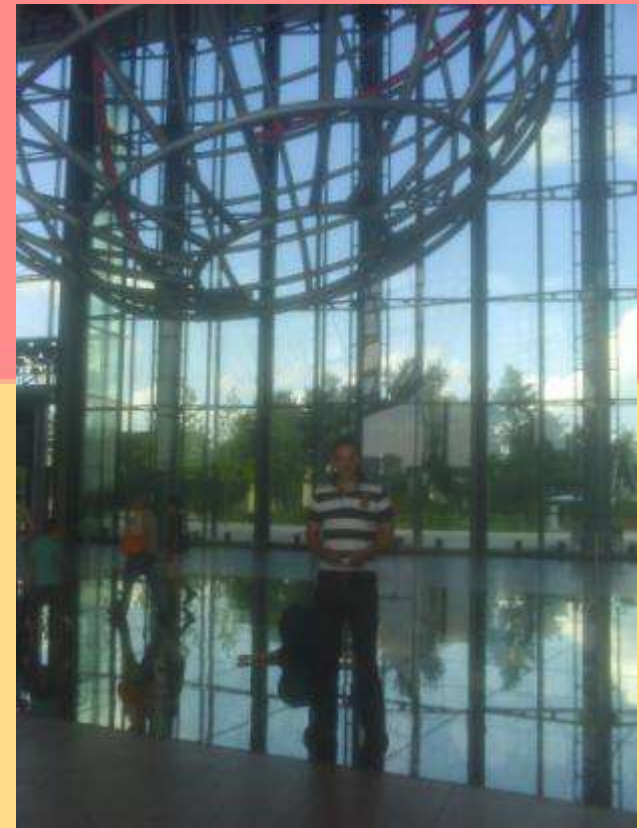
- On the final day the Loock family and I returned to the Autostadt, where I went for a tour of the Volkswagon factory.
- This is the biggest car factory under one roof in the world and has 48,000 workers making 3,400 cars a day.

The Autostadt



The two towers
hold 400 cars each.

The Autostadt globe
weighs 4.5 tonnes.



The Bugatti
building in
which I
viewed the
Veron.

- All in all, I had a fantastic time. I was allowed to immerse myself in the culture of the area as a citizen rather than as a tourist.
- I was also able to learn about the agricultural industry, among other things, something which is very close to my heart.
- I am very grateful to the YFA for giving me this opportunity and look forward greatly to experiencing another discovery trip in a different country.
- I would encourage anyone thinking of applying for a discovery trip to do it because it is an experience you will never forget!

Thank you for watching!