

## Day Two in Ireland

### IRELAND TRIP FARMHOUSE

The day started off as usual, with a warm welcome from M.Borgi calling our room phone to wake us up. The ordinary breakfast was once again saved by the delicious apple juice and fresh made croissants, which helped us to gather our strengths for the upcoming visit of Causey Farm.

Upon arrival, the farm's country smell instantly hit our nose and the activities began with our group baking a loaf of bread, which was extraordinary to bake and eat. After finishing our baking session, our leader took us to a different room where we practiced national Irish dance, where even the most lazy and unwilling started having pleasant fun. The dance was divided into four parts, which



everyone instantly picked up and we ended up perfectly dancing in sync to traditional Irish music. Afterwards, we practiced playing the Irish drum, a big drum that is only made from goat leather and wood. The drumsticks had weird appearance, being smaller than the normal kind and having the little ball coming out both sides, which is said to be used for playing the drum from both sides of the stick. The playing itself was very educational, but mainly fun, where I thought that I couldn't play the drums, I found out that I was in reality quite good.



After the drum playing, our group drove out of the farm in the back of a tractor on a horse carriage, where after a very comforting and joyous drive, accompanied by the occasional bump on the road that made us jump and sticks scratching our fingers, we arrived in the outskirts of a forest, where we went to see the infamous "Bog", water that transformed itself into mud, that the daring of the group stood on with their bare feet. Walking in the bog was the equivalent of getting a foot massage from one of the Chinese foot

massage shops in Prague, so in other words a relaxing experience. The leader of the farm gave us plenty of important information regarding the bog, such as that no biological creature can decompose and that the bog was used in the place of coal to warm up houses.

After washing off our dirty bog stained feet, we went on to have lunch and taste the bread that we made, both being delicious. And so after petting the local farm dog one last time, we went on to continue our Irish journey, traveling by bus to Northern Ireland and taking a quick stop on the Hill of Tara, which had an absolutely astonishing view of the green countryside. To conclude, today's day was wonderful, experiencing Ireland's beautiful countryside, meeting the local farmers, which were both kind and funny, and just admiring Ireland's beauty, I now know that this is not the last time that I will be visiting Ireland.

M. Pelan

## Day at the farm

The third day of our stay in Ireland began with a plate of traditional English breakfast, after which we proceeded to pack up our baggage and get on the coach headed to Causey farm. Upon arrival, we were kindly greeted by our 2 guides who divided us into two groups. Our first activity which we attended was a bread-making class. We were instructed on the preparation of a typical Irish type of bread called Soda bread.



It was nice to learn some traditional Irish recipes, which we can, thanks to the simplicity of the recipe, easily use at home. Next up was dancing class. for which we got together with the second group and met in an old barn. It was quite an amusing activity, because none of us had really any experience with traditional Irish dances, but it didn't take long and the group managed to learn a whole variety of dances, which impressed our guides. Typical Irish music played in the background, which helped us

immerse ourselves in the dance and it all seemed quite authentic.

We then split up again and got on with learning some basic drumming patterns on the Irish drum, which was also quite entertaining, and then we proceeded to attend the main attraction of the visit: going up the hill to the bog. We were transported by a trailer connected to a tractor, which was in itself quite eventful. When we got up the hill, our guide told us in detail about the origin of the bog and the interesting phenomena linked to it. After that, the part of the group with a more adventurous spirit got up and plunged into the bog, which during the whole year has a temperature of about 4 degrees Celsius. Since we were a bit short on time, we couldn't fully experience all the wonderful things that the bog had to offer, so we got out and headed back to the farm. After the fans of nature got their feet clean, we spend some time petting puppies and ended our enriching experience at the farm with a bowl of delicious beef stew and a nice cup of coffee.



S. Oswald