

## June Report

Name: Brittany Bickford

Sponsor club: West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook

Host club: Hellerup, Denmark

Current Host Family: The Snedker's

Email: [steen-snedker@jyskebank.dk](mailto:steen-snedker@jyskebank.dk)

Host Club Counsellor's name: Christen Rindorf

Email: [cr22@rindorf.dk](mailto:cr22@rindorf.dk)

### Activities:

15<sup>th</sup> May: Today my host mum and I went to an English Anglican Church in Copenhagen. Afterwards we went to the Museum of Danish Resistance. It was a little museum with some information and objects from the Danish attempt to resist the Germans during World War Two. Apparently the Danish were the only people who, as a country, tried and succeeded in moving many of the Jews to safe, neutral land, which was Sweden at the time. Once we got home, we took the boat out for its first ride in the water for 2011.

16<sup>th</sup> May: Today was the last day for the seniors at school so, in the morning, school was a little crazy with the seniors running around with water pistols and candy and attacking classes. People also got taken outside to the oval where there was a baby pool full of water, and they got thrown in.

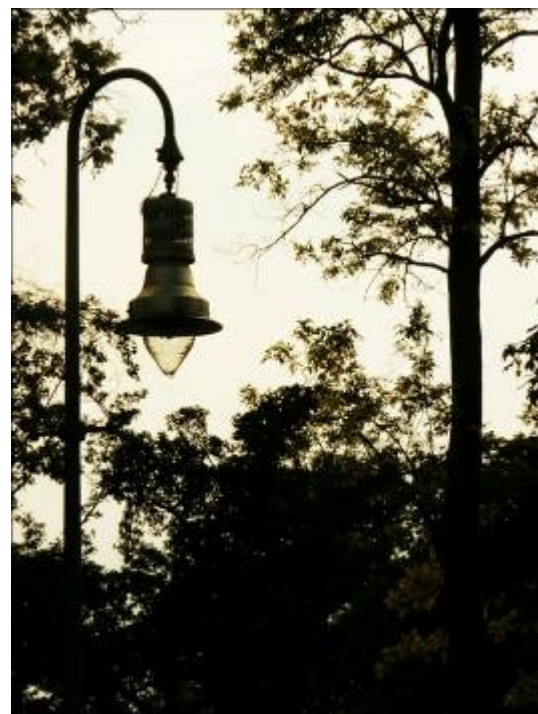
18<sup>th</sup> May: After school I went to one of the Aussie's places with some other Aussies and we watched movies, including Tomorrow When The War Began, and had a good Australian time eating a whole pavlova between four of us. We then went to the shops and had ice cream. I then left for Rotary and the meeting was on cell regeneration. It was really interesting even though I couldn't quite follow it.

19<sup>th</sup> May: Packed my bag for the Eurotour which starts tomorrow. Excited!

20<sup>th</sup> May: Eurotour started. A long day it was to start off the tour. At 6:50am I left the house with my host Dad who dropped me off at Høje Taastrup station at 7:20am. Most of the other exchange students who were on bus 3 were there as well except for the few we had to pick up at other spots. At 7:40 we headed

off, stopping twice on Sjælland and once on Fyn to pick up more people. Eventually we caught the ferry over to Germany, which took an hour and 45 minutes. At 3pm the ferry arrived in Germany and we continued on our way until we were a little outside Berlin, when we then stopped for lunch. After lunch we continued on driving for 2 hours until we arrived at our youth hostel. After dinner some of the other exchange students and I went for a walk around the area we were in, and we caught the tram for a few stops just so we could say we had been on a German tram.

21<sup>st</sup> May: Day two of the Eurotour. We went sightseeing in the morning and the first stop was Siegesgötta Viktoria, a tall structure with a golden angel on the top. Next stop was Checkpoint Charlie where we stopped for a bit and took photos. We then continued on our sightseeing tour and went to the Berlin wall, which was really nice to see as there was so much art work along the wall. The remainder of



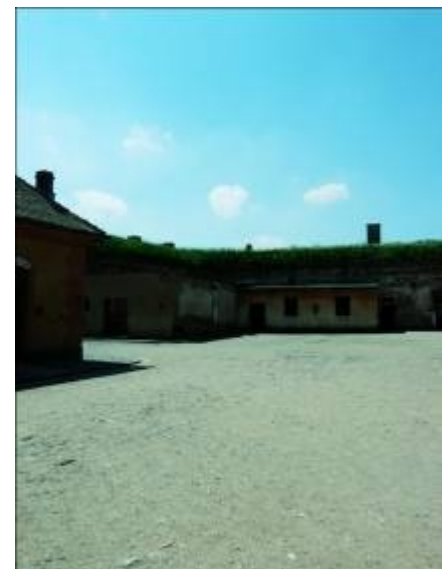
the wall had been painted by artists after the wall had fallen, some about the Berlin wall and others weren't. We then had lunch at the park next across from the Berlin wall and then we got on the bus again and travelled to the Brandenburg Gate where we got dropped off and given free time till 11pm. After seeing the gate and taking photos we walked down the street looking at all the buildings along the way until we arrived at the Berlin Cathedral. It is so big and I was gob-smacked at how gorgeous it looked. We wandered more through Berlin and saw the Neptune fountain. Eventually we caught the train back and walked back to the hostel.



22<sup>nd</sup> May: Day three and the marker of four months in Denmark, however I wasn't actually in Denmark. Today we travelled from Berlin to Prague, stopping at the Theresienstadt concentration camp on the way. In all honestly, I didn't like the place at all but it is easy to understand why. The place had a feeling of death and terror to it. We then walked back to the bus and had lunch and then headed on to Prague. We stayed in a 4 star hotel as it was actually rather cheap. After we had found our room and had dinner we went for a little walk around the area we were in.



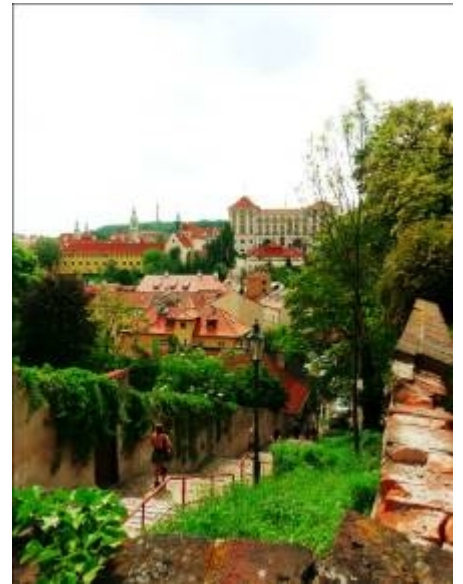
23<sup>rd</sup> May: Today we were in the city and what an absolutely beautiful city it is. Although Berlin was not what I had expected it to be as quite a lot had been destroyed during the war, Prague was more than I had expected and I instantly fell in love. We took the train to the city and then the tram up to Prague Castle. Prague Castle is full of so many other buildings which we saw, including St. Vitus Cathedral which was a wonderful





hotel.

gothic church. We then all made our way back down the hill in our own time and once we had all met up again, we went to the Charles Bridge where we were then let off until curfew. We walked around and saw many little churches and also the black light theatre which is the most famous one in Prague, we didn't see anything there though. We then headed back to the



24<sup>th</sup> May: Day five and we left Prague and headed off to Vienna. After a few hours of driving we arrived in Vienna and at our first sightseeing place, Schönbrunn and Gloriette. I also went to the Labyrinth there as well for a little fun. We then headed back to the bus and to our hotel which was up at the top of a hill about one hour from Vienna main city. Our curfew was later than usual as there wasn't anywhere for us to go anyway and we all stayed near the hostel.



25<sup>th</sup> May: Today we did some more sightseeing, some on the bus and some walking. We saw the Spanish riding school during our walking tour and then soon got let off for the rest of the day to do as we wished. During our own free time I saw St. Peter's Church, which was an amazing church with so many paintings on the walls and also on the ceiling. We also saw Mozart's house but we didn't go in as it cost quite a bit, but we went and saw the Statue of Mozart which also had a treble clef made out of flowers in front of it. While we were there we met an old Australian couple who were

travelling so we had a bit of a chat with them about what we were doing and what they were up to. I then took the bus back to our hostel for dinner and to give my feet a bit of a break from walking but then we came back in later when the bus left again to take people to the concert in the city. Not everyone went to the concert but we were allowed to just walk around the city. Two oldies, one from USA and one from Canada, and I walked around together and we went on the Wiener Riesenrad, which is the famous ferris wheel in Vienna. We went up at sundown so the view was wonderful and I took many photos from different views of Vienna. We then headed back to the bus and headed back to the hotel where I hung out with some of the other exchange students.



26<sup>th</sup> May: Today we headed to Italy, Lido de Jesolo to be specific. It was a long drive and by the time we arrived it was almost time for dinner, we had about an hour before hand though so the two previously mentioned oldies and I went for a short walk down one of the street of Jesolo. After dinner we all got ready to go to the Discotek which was just down the road from the hotel, and the leaders let us go till 1am. We all had a fun evening.

27<sup>th</sup> May: Today was a day of resting and to ourselves, so almost everyone went to the beach as it was just across the road. I slept in a bit and then went to the beach for a few hours, sunbathing and swimming. It wasn't like an Australian beach at all, not many waves but it was fun to go anyway. I then went for a walk through Jesolo, just looking at everything along the way. I made my way back to the hotel and grabbed a pizza on the way as I hadn't eaten anything yet. After dinner we hung out at the beach for a bit and then went to the discotek again as we were allowed to again and tonight was free for us.

28<sup>th</sup> May: Today we went to Venice and, just like with Prague, I fell in love. We took a bus to the harbour and then a boat over to Venice. Once we arrived in Venice we walked to where the gondolas were and we went on a gondola ride around Venice. It was really nice to see Venice from the canals. I then had lunch with two of the oldies and then we went walking through Venice and did some souvenir shopping and I bought a small mask as, being in Venice, I had to. After walking around for a bit longer, we headed back to

the boat and we all took the boat back to the harbour and then the bus back to the hotel. Once we got back, quite a lot of us went to the beach again and swam around, the water was a little dirty though and sticky once you got out. Just before dinner started a whole bunch of American cars came past the hotel as apparently they were having a fundraising night right next to the hotel. After dinner, a group of the oldies and I went and got gelato and then walked along the beach. Eventually we came back in time for curfew.



29<sup>th</sup> May: Today we left Jesolo and headed towards France, but as it is quite a drive, we stayed the night in San Remo. We stopped in Verona on our way to San Remo and we saw Juliet's balcony. While we were at the balcony, we wrote on the wall that lead into the area as so many people had written on it before and we wanted to leave our mark. We then grabbed lunch and headed back to bus when we then continued onto San Remo. I went for a walk around the area both before dinner and after but there wasn't much to do.

30<sup>th</sup> May: Today we headed off to Avignon, stopping at Nice along the way. We were suppose to stop in Monaco but as it was only one day after the grand prix, we were unable to park the bus anywhere so we just kept driving. After Monaco we went to a perfume factory where we were told how they made the perfume and how they came up with the new scents. We were allowed to buy some as well and I did as it was a lot cheaper than buying it normally. After that we continued to Nice, where we then stopped for lunch and were picked up again at 3. I grabbed a gelato while I was in Nice and when they scooped it out, they made it in the shape of a rose. We then continued on and arrived in Avignon and at our B&B's. We then had dinner in an American 50's style diner called Tommy's.



31<sup>st</sup> May: Today we did sightseeing around Avignon and the surrounding areas. First stop was in the surrounding area in a place called Pont du Gard which is an ancient aquaduck used by the Romans and Greeks to supply their towns with water. We were there for a bit and then we got back on the bus and headed back to Avignon where we then got dropped off and went and saw the Palace of the Popes while they were in France. After the Pope's Palace, we were allowed free time until the evening, and some of the other exchange students and I wandered around for a bit and then we stopped for lunch at a restaurant as it was one of the girls

birthdays. The waiter we had was very nice and funny and he brought out some small cakes for us after we had eaten as a birthday present for the birthday girl and he also let her keep the plate which they were on. We then walked for a bit more and I then made my way back to the bus as I wasn't feeling well. I slept till about 10pm and then got up and went over to the diner to get some food to eat and I was rather hungry.



01<sup>st</sup> June: Today I did not feel well at all and I woke up at 3am with a high fever and swollen tonsils but I went back to bed anyway. When I woke up later I still didn't feel very well but we had to leave for Paris, which was a long drive. I slept almost the whole time on the bus and then when we arrived in Paris, we went for dinner but I couldn't eat anything. Afterwards one of the leaders then took me to the hospital so that we could find out what was wrong and get me some medication to help. I was in the hospital till 3am the next morning when we then caught a taxi back to the hostel.

02<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June: I didn't do anything these two days as I was still feeling very sick so I just stayed in the hostel room sleeping. Some girls got me some souvenirs while they were out for me though. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> I was sick again in the evening and a doctor came to the hostel and told me that it was the antibiotics that the hospital had prescribed me that were making me sick so I should stop taking them. Once he left I fell asleep again.

4<sup>th</sup> June: When I woke up I was feeling better and we headed off to Brussels. I started feeling a little sick on the bus though so I moved to the bottom of the bus where it was a lot cooler and, after a break, I stayed down there and slept for a bit, feeling better when I woke up. We then arrived in Brussels and we went to see the little peeing boy. It really is rather small, it took me a while to realise we had actually arrived at it instead of just stopping. We had a little free time after that and then headed back to the bus and back to our hostel. By now I was feeling a lot better as I had been eating. There was a band playing at the hostel so we stayed there and listened to them, I also played table tennis. We didn't do much else as everyone was rather tired.

5<sup>th</sup> June: Today we left Brussels and Belgium and headed to Holland and Amsterdam. When we arrived in Amsterdam, we went on a boat ride through the canals which was really nice, and then we got some time off, but not too long. When we got off the boat, some of the oldies and I had lunch and then one of them and I went next door to the Sex Museum, which was interesting to say the least. We then got souvenirs and walked around for a bit. We never got to the red light district but we were heading in the right direction. Amsterdam is actually a rather wonderful looking place. We then headed back to the bus and headed on to our hotel, which was two hours out of Amsterdam in a town called Arnhem. We were given permission by our leaders to do as we pleased as it was our last night on eurotour, so most of us went into town for the night.





6<sup>th</sup> June: The last day of Eurotour, which wasn't very interesting as it was just all spent on the bus heading back to Denmark, with a lot of tears as it was the last time we would be seeing quite a lot of them. So after 18 days, 13 cities, 7 countries, hundreds of photos, a thousand memories and friendships that won't be forgotten, Eurotour came to an end, but it was the most memorable time I have had so far.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June: Just relaxed, caught up on sleep, unpacked, washed clothes and worked on my blazer. I also went to Rotary on the 8<sup>th</sup> where there was a presentation on Water and Sanitation.

9<sup>th</sup> June: This evening I went to Tivoli with one of the exchange students and her friends as it was her birthday celebration. Tivoli is one of the famous amusement parks in Copenhagen. We went on a few rides and then went to the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner. We then went back to Tivoli again until it closed at 10pm. It was a good evening.

10<sup>th</sup> June: Went to a dinner with my host family to one of their family friend's places. It was a good evening

11<sup>th</sup> June: Today we went to Jylland to a town called Silkeborg to celebrate my host mum grandmother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the celebration we went on the oldest steam paddle boat in Denmark called Hjejlen. We took to boat the highest point in Denmark: Himmelbjerget, which is so high with its highest point at a massive 147m above sea level. There was a tower on top of the hill which I climbed and had a view of the surrounding area. On the way home we stopped at the Jelling Stone which is the 'birth certificate' of Denmark, then we continued home.

12<sup>th</sup> June: Today I went with my host family on their boat and we rode through the harbours of Copenhagen and they took me on a tour of Copenhagen by the water. We went through Christiania, Christiansborg, Christianhavn, and Copenhagen Harbour. I saw the little mermaid, the replica little mermaid, the naval base, some of the forts, Mary's apartment before she was engaged to Frederick, the royal boat, the original bridge of Chritiansborg as the rest was all burnt down, and many other things. They then dropped me off at the docks near the acting theatre and I headed toward





Nørreport to meet one of my friends from school. We then went to the festival that was going on in Copenhagen this weekend. When we arrived though, instead of being Brazilian dancing like there is at night, there was a lot of African dancing and reggae music. Eventually I went home and had dinner and then I went back into town again and hung out with some of the exchange students and it was the last night for some of them. I then stayed the night with one of the exchange student.

13<sup>th</sup> June: Today I hung out with one of the exchange students as I had stayed at her place the night before. We went and saw Pirates of the Caribbean 4 at the local cinema and then I headed home again.

#### Rotary Meetings Attended:

18<sup>th</sup> May 8<sup>th</sup> June      Was on Eurotour for the other meetings

Public speaking:      Didn't speak at all

#### Language Proficiency:

Froze for a bit as I was on Eurotour and everyone was speaking English but my host mum is helping me now with my language. While on tour, we would say things to each other in Danish every now and then.

#### Social and Sporting activities:

Eurotour was a major social activity and I made many friendships with the exchange students, and walking everywhere on Eurotour can count as sporting.

