

Our Excursion to Scotland

Dear Reader,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who made this trip possible for us. I have never thought that I will have the opportunity to visit Scotland, this fascinating country. From the famous Scottish films I knew that Scotland's landscape is breathtaking so I looked forward to enjoying the view myself. I can tell you, there was no disappointment. Another thing I was truly amazed by was the kindness of the Scottish people.

I was a bit frustrated when I got to know that I will be the only girl participant among the three students but the boys turned out to be really friendly, helpful and cheerful so we made friends easily.

Pam Mitchell, our host in Dunscore, is a warmhearted, energetic woman who I loved to have nice chats with. She showed me their lovely caravan and let me sit in its nice comfortable spot when I needed some privacy from the boys. Her husband, Colin is really hardworking and a true cycling champion. We spent 5 days with this fantastic couple in their Cluden Cottage in Dunscore.

Of course, the real aim of the whole competition and excursion was to study Jane Haining's life. During our trip we visited lots of Jane Haining memorials, for example her primary and secondary school, Lochenhead farm, where she was born, her memorial stone next to Dunscore church, Irongray Kirk where Jane's family are buried and so on. We watched the Hungarian and also the English Jane Haining movie and had the possibility to meet the director personally. I learnt so many things about this incredible woman.

In Glasgow we went sightseeing. The buildings were really nice but the weather was quite windy and rainy. In the end, we kind of got used to Scottish weather.

In my opinion the best thing about the trip was the dinners we were invited to in different family homes in Dunscore. We always had a really nice

conversation with those amazing, talkative people. Even Scottish dogs are talkative, I can tell you!

I loved that people in Scotland keep so many animals. There are a lot of farms in Dunscore and during our trip we managed to make friends with cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and so many more...

Anna



Jane Haining Scottish Trip

2016!

Dear Reader!

Our trip began on the 28 of June at 2a.m.

We arrived at the airport at around 4 a.m. and our plane left at about 6 o'clock, so we had a bit of time to relax.

We got on the plane safely and had a non-eventful flight. We arrived in Glasgow two hours after our departure as planned.

We collected our luggage and then met up with Pam Mitchell, our wonderful host in Dunscore. When we arrived we quickly found our rooms and rested a bit.

An hour or so later we got to our morning program, learning about Jane Haining and walking through the beautiful village of Dunscore. That day we still had delicious lunch and dinner as well. The next day we participated in church. I helped Colin with electronics and to set projectors up. During the service we had to introduce ourselves to the amazing community of Dunscore. After the service we went to Mary. She also was a wonderful host. Later that day we had a huge barbecue and a lot of rest. On Monday we woke up early to attend school at Dumfries Academy. The school programs were a lot of fun, we attended three lessons including art, physical education, and last but not least food technology. During arts we drew still lifes, and we noticed that the teacher loves the word "wee".

On P.E we played softball. I have never played this game before, so we were a bit scared, but we did quite well. On food technology we made raspberry cranachan that didn't look the best but was delicious.

On Tuesday we went to Rockcliff and Kipford by the coast. In the afternoon/evening we had dinner at John's house. We got a fabulous dinner and some knowledge about submarines and hydro energy. On Wednesday we went to the lead mines of Wanlockhead, and in the afternoon to Kath's farm. There we saw the cows, and also the hydro mill but now from a bit closer. Thursday we moved to Glasgow, where we were met by another great community. They showed us around a bit and took us to the seaside and then later took us to Mike and Mary's house. On Friday we went to Glasgow inner city. There we visited a Cathedral and the oldest house in Glasgow. In the afternoon we shopped and went back to the church (we spent a lot of time in this church during our stay, it was quite fun). We watched a great documentary about Jane, and were able to meet the director and talked with him about the film. Saturday we went to a huge, beautiful lake called Lochlemond, where we had a

wonderful picnic and some free time also. We spent the evening with Mike and Mary at home playing risk and having a fantastic time.

We received wonderful gifts from Pam and from everyone else.

On Sunday, we left for home at around 9 in the morning. Our plane got delayed a bit but we got to Cologne fine. In Cologne we got the message that our connecting flight had been cancelled but luckily after some stress and combined efforts of teachers, students and parents we got a flight from Dusseldorf, which was due to depart one hour later. So we really needed to rush to the other airport. We left all our checked-in luggage behind but caught the flight to Budapest. We arrived safely, followed by our luggage a day or two later.

I also liked my fellow students who are really intelligent, friendly and wonderful people. I hope I can stay in touch and meet them again some time.

I will also cherish what I learned about the life of Jane Haining, especially her reaching out to people in need, her kindness and her standing up for her convictions even in times of danger.

Altogether this trip was wonderful, fun, and also really useful.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it possible. I am very grateful that I got this opportunity.

Thank you all!

Peter Van Assche

Budapest, 24th July 2016

Travelogue of the 2016 Jane Haining visit to Scotland from 25 June to 3 July

25 June, Saturday

In the morning, we met at the airport, and said goodbye to parents. We passed through check in and security. We explored the airport together, while we were waiting for the plane to take off. It happened around 6.00 AM. We arrived at Glasgow at 8.00 AM. Pam, our host in Dunscore, was already waiting there. We met her, and she gave us a lift to Cluden Cottage, Dunscore, a small village in Dumfries and Galloway. There, we met Collin, Pam's husband and ate a nice cold lunch with them. In the afternoon, we went to the church, and watched a presentation made by Pam about Jane Haining. Then we visited the Jane Haining memorial stone next to the church. There is a marble book on the top describing the main events of Jane's life. Later, a woman from Dunscore community, Susan invited us for juice and cakes. In the evening, we ate a fantastic dinner, cooked by Pam's husband, Colin.



26 June, Sunday

At noon, we introduced ourselves in the church, this was our first programme. After the church, Mary invited us for lunch. It was so delicious! In the afternoon, we played bagatelle, and had a short walk in the rain to the nearby playground. In the evening, we went to Sheila and Archie for a great BBQ. It was raining, but pavilions protected us. Pam got awarded by a chocolate medal and a plate as she has hosted 25 Jane Haining groups so far. After we finished our great day, we watched the Hungary vs. Belgium EU championship football match. Sadly, Belgium won the match.

27 June, Monday

On Monday, we visited Dumfries Academy, Jane's secondary school. We've just got to the entrance, when Pam's car broke down. She called Colin, and he helped her out. As we went up on the stairs, there was an oval memorial board at the main entrance, with the names of nine notable students, including Jane M. Haining. In Minerva Hall there was a board of outstanding students, the Modern Dux with Jane's name (Jane M. Haining, 1915). We saw the new Jane Haining memorial mosaic (guided by Mr. Mohan). It was so special seeing that her school kept her name for almost 100 years. After this little tour, we went to three lessons: P.E., Art, and Health and Food Technology. On art, we draw still



life. After art, we got escorted to P.E., where we played softball. I've never play this game before, but it was fun. When we finished our game, we didn't have much time to rest, we went to Health and Food Technology. We made Cranachan, a typical Scottish dessert. After the lessons, we had lunch in the school café. After lunch, we wrote a tiny report of our visit to the Academy. On our way back, we visited Irongray Kirk, where Jane's family are buried in the graveyard with her name on the tombstone as well saying she died in Auschwitz in 1944. In the evening, we had dinner on Ellisland farm. It is a museum, dedicated to Robert Burns, a Scottish poet. Our host, Stuart guided us through the museum, and cooked haggis for us. After this great dinner, we played outdoor games, like throwing horseshoes. We finished our evening with feeding and guarding sheep, as they were removed to another place for the night.

28 June, Tuesday

In the morning, we had to get up early, because we visited the seaside. On the way, we had coffee at New Abbey, a small but friendly cafe. After we arrived in Rockcliff, we took the Jubilee path to Kippford with John. Pam, Ray and Maggie were already waiting for us there, prepared with a picnic for us. The tide was out, so we didn't see too much of the sea. We had a short walk on the seaside. On our way, we saw the Silly Garden. It is built by a man, who lives there. He built it from trash. We spent our evening with John and Vari Drabble. They have a cute dog, called Tinker. Before dinner, we played a game called Snatch. The dinner was chicken and



fruit cake. It was so good. We had a nice chat, funny stories after dinner.

29 June, Wednesday

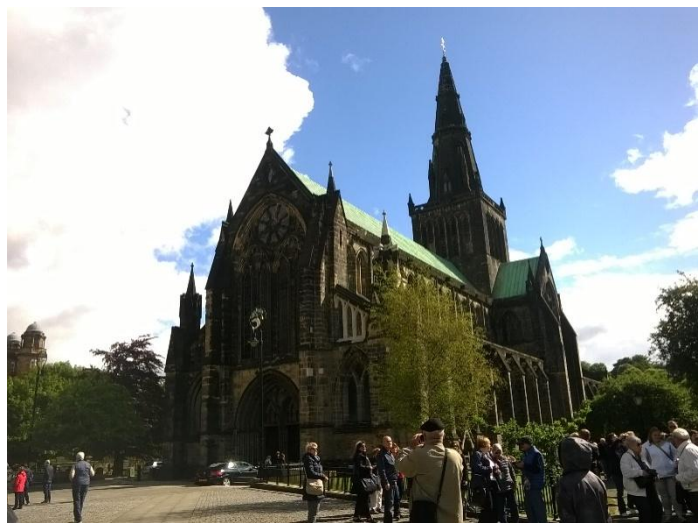
We planned to visit Drumlanrig Castle as an outdoor programme, but we decided not to do this, because of the rain. Instead, we visited Wanlockhead, the highest Scottish village (1531 feet). In Lochnell, we went to the old miner's library, the mine, and the museum. We had lunch in the local cafe. We spent our evening on the Aitken farm, where we had a nice walk in the forest to see the farm's water system. On our way back, we spent some time with their cattle. The dinner was great, we ate beef stew with Scottish crumble and custard.

30 June, Thursday

In the morning, we said goodbye to the wonderful people of Dunscore. Afterwards, Pam took us to Dumfries for one-hour sightseeing. At noon, we took our train to Glasgow Central. We were supposed to meet Mike, our awesome host in Glasgow, but we met Lexa and Ruby first. They took us to Morag, who cooked lunch for us. In the afternoon, we had a trip to the seaside, to Largs with Duncan (driver of the minibus) and his wife Brenda, Lexa and Morag. We faced rain and hard wind, so we had ice cream and coffee at a famous Italian café, Nardini's. After Nardini's we walked back to the minibus on the seafront. In the evening, we met Mike's wonderful wife Mary, and Archie, their dog. We had a nice chat and dinner.

1 July, Friday

We visited the Glasgow Cathedral, St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art and Provand's Lordship, the oldest house in Glasgow from the 15th century with Lexa, Morag, Brenda, Duncan. We had lunch in the museum's café. In the afternoon, we had two free shopping hours. Back in Queen's Park church, we had dinner and met Anikó Szilágyi from Hungary, a former Jane Haining winner (17 years ago), now PHD at Glasgow University. In the evening, we met minister Rev. Dr. Elijah Smith, who introduced us to the people of the church. We gave him our Jane Haining wreath with a memorial ribbon. We watched the Jane Haining BBC film with the director, Norman Stone. We got a DVD from him after the film.



2 July, Saturday

We had a trip to Loch Lomond with Lexa, Morag, Ruby, Brenda, and Duncan. It was a windy, rainy morning but cleared out during the day. We had our picnic there. In the afternoon, we said goodbye to Lexa, Ruby and Morag. Back at Mike's, we had dinner and played a board game called Risk.

3 July, Sunday

Brenda and Duncan picked us up in the morning, and took us to the coach station, where we took the airport bus to Edinburgh airport. We got there before ten, got through security and check-in. Later, we got an SMS from Germanwings, saying our flight to Budapest got cancelled. With the big help of

the parent's, we got to know that we were rebooked onto another flight from Dusseldorf leaving at 6:05 pm. We got to Cologne-Bonn later than scheduled. We couldn't find our luggage, because we were supposed to change flights. So we had a little more than 1 hour to get to Dusseldorf. We went by taxi. In Dusseldorf airport, we discovered that our flight is rescheduled for 7:25 instead of 6:05, otherwise we couldn't have managed even by taxi. The plane took off at 8:05, delayed again. When we arrived in Budapest, we reported our lost luggage and met up with the parents. Our luggage arrived on the following day, and got delivered to our homes in the evening.

Altogether, this trip was wonderful. I liked every single person who participated in it. It was really interesting for me. I could learn English, and discover the life of the amazing and strong woman, Jane Haining. I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped make our wonderful trip possible. Behind this trip, there was a very strong message, tolled by these wonderful people. I am very lucky that I got this opportunity, and I hope that I see these great people again.

Balazs Virag,

Budapest 30th August 2016