

Verslag bezoek aan Sherborne

Narrow medieval streets, drizzle and nostalgic specialist shops. That was my first encounter with beautiful town of Sherborne. A beautiful town that has all elements to be in a detective novel, but we didn't come to Sherborne to solve a mystery behind a murder. Not at all, an eight hours' drive brought us to the location of the Sustainable Development workshops organised by the Sherborne Douzelage committee. For two days we participated in this conference and exchanged ideas with people from all over Europe. It was a great opportunity to meet people and make friends, but it means also thinking and talking about environmental issues. The nice mix of age groups and nationalities made that issues related to Sustainable Development and how to deal with them was discussed in many different ways. It showed that we can really benefit from international collaboration and that Europe is not only about money and politics. Above all, Europe is about people.

During our visit to Sherborne we stayed at Sue and her terrier Suki. We have had a great time together, Sue is such a nice and friendly person. Every morning she prepared a real English breakfast for us, however, she was a little bit disappointed that we preferred coffee to tea. We have become real fans of her amazing stories and we have become fans of her as a person. We have made so many friends during our stay; if it was during the interesting workshops, while playing card games in the pub or when taking a small walk.

The Sustainable Development workshops have made a big impact on me. Sustainability is alive, but the most people are not being aware of their role when it comes down to this subject. Local sustainable initiatives should benefit from a border breaking exchange of ideas and get the support of international associations like the Douzelage. Thereby it is very important that fire starters have a stage to inspire others, by sharing their ideas they can make a difference. We should pay more attention to sustainability; at home, at work and in school. As a student, I cannot ignore the fact that the world and our society is changing. Our worlds are becoming smaller, our problems are becoming bigger. Thinking about the Town of Tomorrow is a challenge we should take. In the Town of Tomorrow green ideas will become reality and will a great variety in people unite. The Town of Tomorrow, that is you and I. Because we should not forget: Tomorrow is the future, but also the day after today.

Job Zomerplaag