

Binuri Wijesinghe
2A Roundwood Road
Amersham
Buckinghamshire
HP6 6NA
binuri@hotmail.co.uk

Buckinghamshire County Office
Unit 11 Pembroke Road
Stocklake Industrial Area
Aylesbury
HP20 1DB

Luxembourg Jamboree Report

Thursday, we woke early and drove to the airport since we needed to be there early. We went through border security quite quickly and before we knew it we were boarding the plane to Luxembourg. The Plane Journey did not take very long it was only 1 hour and a bit. I took some photos out of the plane window but I couldnt tell apart Germany, France and Luxembourg.

When we left the airport, it was boiling hot and unusual to our normal British weather. We took a coach ride to the camp. When arrived at the camp we had to make gruelling walk to the back of the field where we were situated with our back breaking ruck sacks. We were welcomed by the camp leader and given our bits and bobs from the camp, which was a cup, name tag, bracelet(ish), t-shirts and neckers (which we had to wear during the whole camp).

We soon set u our tents and were of to help our luxembourgish group construct our kitchen out of wood and rope. At the end of it there was not one person who has not been attacked by a wooden splinter. We had our first dinner of the camp to be fair was quite a disappointment, it was muchy pasta with a vegetable curry. No desert.

We all introduced our selves to our subcamp and prepared for the opening ceremony. The ceremony itslef was held in a big circus tent and everyone sat down on VERY DRY grass. The grass would painfully stab up our backsides. We had to sit through the opening ceremony until 11:00 p.m. It was mainly in Luxembourgish which was completely foriegn to us. They had a camp torch and unlike the olympic torch it didnt carry one burning throughout the whole camp.

The next day, we woke up as usual had a breakfast of bread or jam (nutella if your a fan) and some chocolate milk. We continued to construct our woodwork kitchen. The girls not doing much were given the task to socialize. Which meant walk into the Luxembourgish girls tent and make loom bands which was exactly what we did.

The kitchen did eventually construct itself so we could have dinner in time. This time it was a more appealing spaghetti bolegnese. After that we were driven of to watch a pantomine in the circus tent. It was all in Luxembourgish with english subtitles but when the actors stood up which was all the time, we couldnt read it. It was about food and spoons coming alive to create a scout group and they went looking for the great scout.

Bed again was at 11:00 so there was a big queue outside the toilets and very hard to see your way in the dark. I kept on getting lost, if it werent for the campfire ontop of a hill, i would have probably walked into another groups tent.

Saturday, was our trip to the city. We had the same breakfast as before and shortly boarded a bus reserved to the camp. When we arrived in the city we were given a map of check points to go around. There was an activity point for each check point, when we finished the tiring hike around the city we were allowed to go and have lunch.

Everyone was given €7 to go and eat from anywhere you wanted to. Our group decided to go McDonalds. I decided to buy a mayo chicken burger and a mcflurry. After that we headed of to the center of the city and did another activity which included the local tourists.

When we got back we all had dinner. There was another evening performance again but this time no of us bothered t go because they just seem to end to late so we went to be early.

Nothing much happened in the morning, we just lay of killing time. In the afternoon there was a whole load of activites. We were put into seperate groups in our subcamp. My grup did knots, knock the tin cans over and big snap.

The hike was the next day so we had to pack our bags. That day it was going to rain so we had to make our tents waterproof. Our tent was the messiest so there was alot of cleaning to do. We again missed the evening performance to get a early night. That day it did rain and in the middle of the night there was a lot of thunder, it was a good thing we made our tents water proof.

The hike started early in the morning, after eating breakfast we made our own lunch and then headed of. We went by coach to a remote area. We were split in three groups each containingv a group of guides, group of irish scouts and a groups of french speacking luxembourgish scouts. Our group was Group C we left last. We managed to not get lost for the first part but then we did happen to get lost on our ways to the second checkpoint.

We managed to make it to the camp site where we will be staying for the night. The leaders didnt arrive until quite late. We ate sweetcorn that we roasted over the campfire and for the main meal it was nachos with a chili curry. Some of our group stayed up until one at the campfire, but people like me decided to go and have a early night because we might need it.

Our breakfast was the same again since it is always the same. When we finished we set off on our journey back to the camp. This route was longer and much more effort was required. Our lunch was take away chicken cut in half which was pretty disgusting and most people just chucked theres away. When we did arrive at camp I was tagging along because I was way too exhausted.

Everyone was looking forward to go swimming that afternoon but when we found out we had to walk another 2k, I nearly decided to not go. I talked myself into going so we walked the painful 2k to the pool that was called the coque. It was a big swimming pool and when we dived into the water we all fogot about our painful journey.

We walked back to camp, since we needed to make our dinner. This was the time we go around and camps and eat food from theres. A small group of us wondered of and came to camp that was a making a pasta dish. It was delicious, many came back for seconds.

The next day our group split of for the day again, one group went somewhere completely different to where my group went. Our group went to the Tudor mueseum and shopping near germany. We were the second group, we looked around the shops in the small town. We went into a shop called kiosk which is a national newsagent, there we bought our postcards and stamps. For our lunch a small group of us decided to cross over a bridge into german territory. It was fun.

The next part of the day we learnt about how the rechargeable battery was made. It was a very interesting tour and in the end we got to make solar power chickens. They looked sooo cool. We went back to the camp, we realised we had travelled all the way down to Luxembourg and back up. We had dinner and went back to sleep.

Thursday was a very uneventful day we just lay around sunbathing and writing our postcards.

On Friday, our group was split even further, majority of us did different things. The group I was with did indoor climbing. It was very difficult when the slope bent back, no one successfully made the climb. After we had our lunch, everyone changed into their swimsuits and dived into the lake. It was a man-made lake but it was massive. And very deep! The water was also freezing cold. We had to dive in otherwise we would just be standing there freezing. We all had to go back when it started raining, we ended up getting changed in someone's tractor shed.

Later on we had the holi festival, everyone got changed into their white t-shirts. We all took a picture as a before shot. The holi festival was taking place on the street outside of the camp. Everyone was handed 4 packets of coloured powder. There was the countdown and everyone chucked their powder into the air. There was music playing in the background and everything was colourful. When the fun was over everyone started heading back. At the end of the street was a bunch of showers that no one could avoid. It managed to get rid of most of the colours on our t-shirts.

After that everyone was rushing to the showers. The lines grew super long. We ended up waiting about half an hour for the shower and the showers were super cold. I gave up in the end and just trudged back to the camp.

After dinner, it was the closing ceremony. Everyone gathered up in the circus tent for one last time. There were kind words from the camp leader some events presented from each camp. This went on for a long time, somewhere in it the campfire torch was blown out but I missed that part since I went back to bed before it finished.

The next day was our final breakfast with our subcamp, we had to pack our bags super quick. It was not a big struggle as I imagined and that made me suspicious that I had left something out. Packing the tents took way longer than necessary. Eventually when everything was packed up, we went to the Irish group, had our bits and bobs signed. There were a lot of hugs involved. Afterwards we went to give presents to our subcamp and said bye. It was sad to see all of it go.

We boarded our coach with our heavy rucksacks. It wasn't long before we reached the hostel. The hostel was very modern and looked all brand new. We left our rucksacks in a spare room and headed off with our swimming bags. We took two buses and one train to go to a swimming pool which was quite far away.

The pool had a main pool for swimming in and diving. There was a kids pool and a jacuzzi which the leaders were in the whole time. There was one flume so a group of us decided to get creative and go in different ways. Occasionally we went out to the outdoor swimming pool. It was freezing cold but we could adapt to its coldness. It had a wave generator and we played with that for a bit too.

When it was time to leave we had a quick shower, got changed and had an ice cream until our bus arrived. When it arrived we took only that one bus back saving us having to go on the train. That day we decided to go to the Luxembourg town and eat at a Mexican restaurant called Chi Chi's

I ordered a chicken burrito with chips and origami, the food was heaven. It was the best meal I had in ages. At the end of it I couldn't finish all of it which I was really sad about. When we went back to the hostel we finally realised how small the rooms were. It didn't take long before our room was cluttered with junk again. We all did a bit of washing up and the room was very stuffy that it took us ages to get back to bed. The next day, we

woke up early, had breakfast at the hostel which was nothing fancy and set of on our day of adventure again. This time we took bus train bus again. This time we rode the double decker trains and everyone was super excited. Obviously we took the top floor.

We then had to take a bus to vianden. When we reached vianden it was super pretty. We wasted no time at all. We went on the chair lift. It was scary at first and I clung onto my camera but thankfully it didn't fall out of my hands. When we reached the top we bought our pictures from our ride up. When we reached the top we had to take the walk down to the castle.

The castle had a medieval theme going, it was way more interesting. We spent more time buying things then actually reading the history of the castle. There was a variety of everything, in the end I ended up buying a small knight in arms, three necklaces and waffle with chocolate cream.

After that we took the 10 minutes walk to the indian jungle. Our group split of, we had a choice between high ropes and zip wire. Since I hate high ropes I chose zip wires. The zips wires where super amazing. Therecwas a section n which there was a bit of high ropes which I did not enjoy. We finished before the high ropes people so we got to chilax a bit and enjoy some snacks while we waited.

When everyone returned we raced down to the shops in the city. When we did arrive all the shops had closed which was sad. We ended up just buying some ice cream and eating that until the bus arrived. We caught the bus and went back to the Luxembourg city. There we ate at Pizza Express. I had some garlic bread and a small pizza with chicken and pineapple.

When we got back to the hostel we spent the night packing everything inot our bags. When the hassle was over we settled down and went to sleep.

We woke up early and had breakfast. Our bags were packed the night before so we were all set to go. We were driven to the airport by the hostel minibus. When we arrived we did some shopping at the airport. When everything was ready we went through all the procedures and finally boarded our plane. We waited half an hour to take off since their was some kind of delay. When we arrived in the UK our plane decided to do 3 laps of wembley before we headed of to Heathrow.

We were finally home!



Binuri Wijesinghe (Bino)