



Peace Camp Cheltenham 2023 Report

Total attendees: 29
Cheltenham: 7
Gottingen: 7
Wittenberg: 7
Torun: 8

SUMMARY

Between the 6th to the 13th of August, Springbank Community Group CiC, in partnership with the Cheltenham Twinning Association hosted Peace Camp 2023 at Cranham Scout Centre. 29 young people attended from Cheltenham, Gottingen, Wittenberg, and Torun. The week centred around a theme of Sustainability with young people going on trips, welcoming guest speakers, and engaging in a range of both formal and informal educational activities.

For the first day of our programme, young people met with the Deputy Mayor of Cheltenham - Councillor Paul Baker, the cabinet member for the climate emergency, and the council's twinning officer Annette Wight. Young people heard about what hosting this year's Peace Camp meant to Cheltenham and discussed sustainability projects in the area. They also asked the Deputy Mayor about his thoughts on the environment, education and youth projects in the UK and Cheltenham.

On Day 2 we welcomed several guest speakers who facilitated workshops for the group. Firstly, we heard from Sam who ran a session about renewable energy and the young people used smarties to represent how past and current generations have used a lot of renewable energy, so the future generations have less to use. They also took part in a challenge which made them realise their own contribution as "just one person" to remedying the climate crisis. Tolmeia, a climate justice activist ran a comic workshop about things that inspire the young people to fight for in light of climate change. Claudia, a climate change activist, speaker and winner of Young Changemaker Award 2023 ran a workshop to help young people to understand their place in the climate change movement and how it connects to the bigger picture. Young people listened to her climate story and thought about their own to then design and paint puzzle pieces to represent how they all fit into the climate change movement. In the evening, a representative from each country took leftover food items to the YMCA in Cheltenham to ensure there wasn't any wastage.

Day 3 saw our group engage in more talks from guest local guest speakers. The day started with a discussion about Twinning and its importance for young people, proudly presented by Carol and Inge. Councillor Richard Pineger spoke to the group about his experience with sustainability and what this meant for the company he works for and what they have done to promote it. Cal the site manager of Cranham Scouts spoke about the importance of balancing protecting the environment with running a busy activity centre, this included discussing conservation and the work they are undertaking to reintroduce an endangered species to the local area. In the afternoon young people visited allotments and worked with Cheltenham is Growing. They learnt about the importance of sustainable gardening, harvested produce for the Community Food Pantry, and constructed a bug hotel to help with pollination. Young people also visited Wholly Gelato where they not only all enjoyed a well earned ice cream, but some were also able to engage with the owners and hear about the sustainability of the business and the importance of this locally.

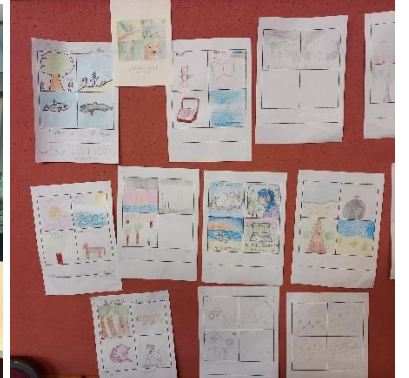
Young people had the opportunity to spend the day in London on Thursday, where they explored the capital city, visiting Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, St Pauls Cathedral, Tower Bridge, London Eye, The Shard, Hyde Park, Covent Garden, The Tower of London and rode on Red London buses and the Tube.

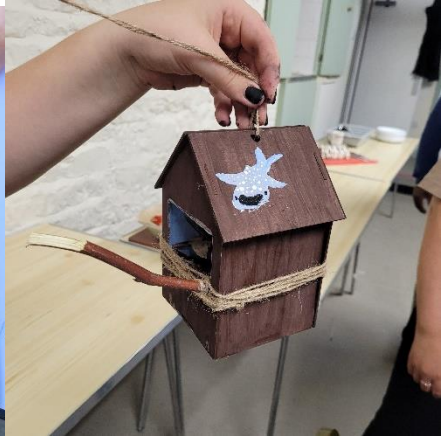
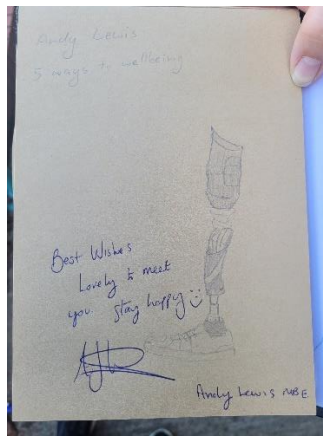
On Day 5 young people from Peace Camp joined the Brizen Summer Programme for a day of sports. They were joined by Paralympic triathlete and gold medallist Andy J Lewis MBE who spoke to the group about his journey not only in sport but also about the importance of looking after your own mental health. This was a talk which particularly moved the young people with one young man from Germany saying that the talk was "unreal, crazy. Really changed my mindset and something I will remember forever." We later found out after this talk, that after much uncertainty over his future this young man applied for a course to do paramedic medicine and was successful in his application all whilst participating in this programme.

On Saturday, young people visited Stroud Farmers market which has won awards for its sustainability. Young people enjoyed being in Gloucestershire with some of them saying that "the countryside here is so beautiful everyday when we are driving we are shocked by how beautiful it is", "the architecture and the houses are amazing", and that "life here seems so peaceful."

Each night, young people treated their peers to a meal from their home country. Evenings were spent making bird boxes which were donated to the site to encourage nesting birds, having campfires, making s'mores and popcorn, partying at discos, enjoying campfires and stargazing (something the young people particularly enjoyed as there is a lot of light pollution in Poland which makes it difficult to see the stars). The relaxed evenings really allowed for social interactions and the exploration of cultural differences, lots of learning went on here with young people sharing their own experiences with the group on a range of topics.

When the time came for our new friends to depart, it was clear that many friendships had been formed as they said their emotional goodbyes. Since leaving the young people have remained in contact with each other through group chats and social media, staying updated on each others lives with their daily 'BeReals', and we hope that they have taken what they experienced and have been able to implement into their own lives a culture of being more sustainable as a result of their participation here in Cheltenham this summer.







get to know other people + workshop with Andy Lewis & others

Seeing another country

Language

Friendship + Cultural Learning

What will you take away from this trip in terms of new insights, knowledge and skills?

Friends
News may be
type, success
Lives, success
enrichment

- how it is to live on land (Melina)
- New friends (Eva)
- understand British English more about the environment
- Be thankful of our world

Via our Snapchat group and Instagram - Run

Snapchat

Snapchat &

Snap

Our SnapGroup

Snap, insta, whatsapp, maybe meet again

Bereal (Eva)

social media

How do you plan to keep in touch with other participants?

Social Media + SNS.

Snapchat
Maralva

Insta, snap, whatsapp (Main)

Snapchat

Snap

Snap

Puzzle pieces + Bird houses

London

Talking to Andy Lewis

The stars

meeting Andy Lewis
The disco

Fire

London

Steak

London & the workshop with Andy Lewis

Andy Lewis

London and talking with Andy Lewis

relationships + situations

steak in London

What was the highlight?

London

Burger

Disco

evenings with the others / London

trip to London

Tolly and Claudia

Steak
leaves

Conversations

doing shift with the others & London

Trip to London, make friends

my roommates

Andy Lewis

trip to London
gossip

trying to find other countries

Have fun

get to know new people

I didn't know what to expect. I just wanted to have fun + make friends.

Survive.

What expectations did you have before the trip?

meet new people

Learning new team languages

new meet people - Run

Meet new people.

finding new friends

learn the language grammar

have the possibility to practice my English :)

Thought there would be more activities and not as much social time

was looking forward to making new friends

TALKS

😊 more storage in the rooms

Go on a Group Hike 😊

transport to leave at the same time

Are there any changes or improvements you would suggest for next time?

nah.

staying awake longer

later breakfasts

topics like interculturality, prejudices, stereotypes

able to do more group activities with people from other groups

↑ I agree

↗ yes!

a dishwasher :[