



Songs in Europe

Cumbria, 15th – 20th July 2014

United Kingdom



15th July 2014-Arrivals

This day we arrived in the morning at the Edinburgh airport to be greeted by Joanne, our English hostess who was picking along with the Slovak group. Then, we were taken to the “Big Pink House”, in the town of Mealgaste, where we stayed the first days. The remaining groups were coming along the day.

16th July 2015-Carlisle

Our first activity was a cultural visit to the city of **Carlisle**, accompanied by a tour guide. It was a grey and cloudy day, which did not stop to see the beauty of this town near the Scottish border, next to the River Eden.



It is a city with about one hundred thousand inhabitants, which is an important tourist and industrial center of the northwest.

In Roman times it was known by the name of Luguvalium. It is the only city attached to England from the Norman Conquest (1066).

We saw the Market Square (the market cross was erected on the spot where the Roman Forum had stood). The City rebuilt in 1717 for council meetings is now a center for Information and Tourism.



The **Castle**, rises on the northern edge of the medieval city. Under the reign of Edward I Carlisle I became a major military center.

Citadel Station this station was inaugurated in 1847; the building was later expanded and became the terminus of seven railroad companies.

Carlisle Cathedral was built as Augustinian Prioira. It is one of the smallest cathedrals in England. After the Civil War, most of the nave and cloisters was demolished and the stone used to build forts for soldiers and repair the castle. Today it is open daily, where you can see details of a great artistic value.



In the afternoon, after a break for lunch and free time, we attended a concert of choral music and organ at the Cathedral, a sight of voices and sounds within those ancient walls.

17th July 2014-Keswick, Castlerigg stone circle and Rydal caves

The second day in Cumbria, surprised us with a sunny day, perfect for enjoying nature and several musical performances in the Lake District, considered one of the most beautiful areas and the largest national park in the U.K.



The artistic and cultural environment initiated by authors like William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter continues to thrive, with a program that takes all year and includes literature, art and heritage events, as well as, museums, galleries and auditoriums.

After visiting the Lake District, we had free time to visit Keswick, with a lovely market town.



In the afternoon we visit Castlerigg stone circle near Keswick, one of the biggest cromlech in the UK and the largest settlement. From inside the circle it is possible to see some of the highest peaks in Cumbria.

Within this lovely framework, we had a session of singing and dancing with different instruments.



After that, we went to Rydal to meet with Lynda and Jan. On the way, we stopped at one of the lakes to eat, tasting the Spanish omelettes that Julia, one of the Spanish participants, had prepared the day before. After this break, we continued our way to one of the caves of Rydal. We enjoyed traditional songs from a variety of countries with an impressive acoustics. Among the songs rise to "Rose, Rose."

A Selection of Cumbrian Songs: compiled and arranged by DaveCamlin.



18th July 2014-Kirkgate Center

The next morning we went to Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth where we met David Camlin and some members of the choir SingOwt community. This day was devoted to the workshop of traditional songs of the region of Cumbria. During the workshop, Slovak and Turkish groups participated with songs and dances of their countries. Together, we create a song based on a traditional song of Cumbria ('The Land Is Your Land') in which each country was represented.



After the workshop, we moved and stayed in Workington. After dinner, we went to a local pub where we met with participants of the workshop participants and other members of the community. We spent a relaxing evening by singing the songs we had learned, as well as, others. The Turkish group entertained us with new melodies.

Anecdotally, we were asked to sing "Happy Birthday" to a regular who was celebrating his birthday at the bar.



19th July 2014- Sealy Spyatstock Festival

This was the last day of the action. After breakfast at the hotel, the Turkish group left and the rest went to a local festival of music: Sealy Spyatstock, where we could hear superb performances of vocal soloist and current groups, like Baby Blues, Cinnarron, Jamie Bosanco, Bobby Hollard, Sara Dockeray, The Rucksacks... who played different kinds of music: folk, country, metal, rock.



20th July 2014- Departure

This day the different groups we were leaving the hotel. For our part, we were taken to Edinburgh.

End of coexistence in the United Kingdom and memory of the activities that have been developed in the action, with cultural exchanges that allowed us to meet new people and meet with other partners who had participated in previous actions and with we hope to meet again all in the future.

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