



SHOUT OUT – Cardiff Youth Council



Special Edition



Cardiff – Stuttgart 60th Twinning Anniversary Special

Welcome to our Twinning Special; it has been 60 years since the twinning arrangement between are two great cities began. To celebrate this occasion a delegation of Politicians, Council Officers and Young People travelled from Stuttgart to Cardiff for a 4 day programme.

The youth delegation was made up of 10 representatives from Stuttgart Youth Council and they were hosted by Cardiff Youth Council as part of their summer programme.

Young people from the 2 cities have been taking part in educational and cultural exchanges since 1981. Hundreds of young people have taken up the opportunity to learn about each others cultures, develop skills and meet new friends.

The programme included a tour of the National Assembly, cultural workshops, discussions around the issues affecting young people and a speedboat ride!

Participants also took part in a team challenge, visited the Food and Drink Festival and made a short animated film to celebrate the 60th Anniversary.

CYC Chair Maegan Davies John said 'We have worked really hard to pull together a programme that would be fun and informative and it's paid off! We took our youth council guests to meet with the adults who were also visiting it was wicked'

The city of Stuttgart have invited Cardiff Youth Council to take part in a similar programme in October to carry on the great work.



Main delegation meeting with youth representatives



@CardiffYC



CardiffYouthCouncil



The Challenge

International teams of 4 people took part in a Cultural Challenge across the city centre that included some fun activities such as giving a piggy back to a member of the public and visiting the Dinosaur at the Museum! As well as this they researched key topics such as Transport, Education, Health, Sport and Economics. Below you will find a series of articles written by the young people as part of Challenge.

Team #1

Topic: Education

After spending time together, we discovered that there are some significant differences between our education systems, from the age we start primary school to the amount we pay for university.

While Welsh children generally begin school at the age of 4, German children begin at the age of 6 or 7 after attending preschool when they are 5. Today In Wales it is rare that a young person will attend grammar school and most attend state comprehensive schools beginning at the age of 11. Meanwhile, young people in Germany only stay at primary school for 4 years and then there are assessments that determine which 1 of 3 high schools they can attend.

This is determined by their level of skill and intelligence and later decides how early they can sit their equivalent of A levels. In Cardiff, after finishing our GCSEs at the age of 16 pupils can stay on at school or attend a sixth form college for another 2 years to study 3 or 4 subjects at A level. However they also have the option to follow other paths such as apprenticeships, vocational courses and work. Compulsory education in Germany is compulsory for young people until the age of 18. This is followed by professional training or university which is free, contrasting from the high cost of university courses in the UK. It was interesting to find out how people of a similar age experience education.



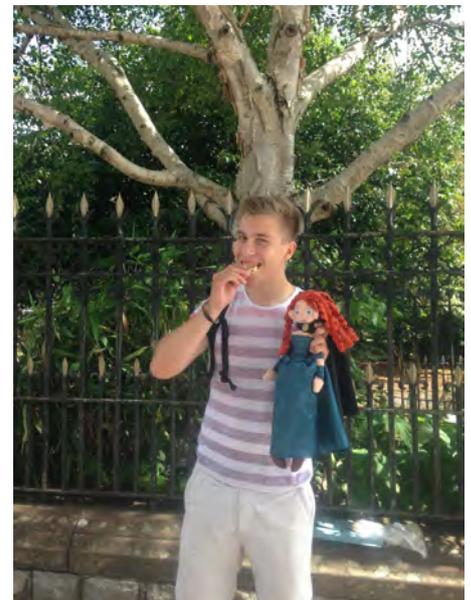
Team #2 Topic: Transport

Stuttgart has an extensive public transport system. The bus arrives on time and often the trains are clean. The only big downside is the price. For example, there is a "School -Abo" for a pupil, trainee or student meaning that they can go to their school, work or university for a set price of 60 € a month, which is very expensive for those still in education. In addition, the city centre of Stuttgart is currently a huge construction site due to new main railway station being built. After a long and heated debate it was decided by popular vote that construction would go underway. Demonstrations started in protest of the new station and at its peak there were of up to 100,000 protestors. The 6 billion euro construction project began in 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Transport throughout Cardiff's Centre is provided mainly by Cardiff bus and Arriva Trains Wales, These services are used by people of all ages. For an average young person to travel throughout the city for a month via train there would be one up-front payment of £31, making six journeys from one side of Cardiff to the other would cost around £14.80. Although buses are notorious for being unreliable local services have improved drastically over the last five years,

Buses are now typically punctual, as a result of these improvements service use has increased drastically. Despite this Cardiff Bus propose several cuts to services and an average increase of £0.10 per ticket. This increase is being blamed on a reduction in Welsh Government funding who are currently making reductions to its three year funding package of £213.3M.

The Arriva Trains Wales services are also seeing drastic changes with its current re-signalling plans. The re-signalling itself is estimated to cost £450M with a grant of £17M from the Welsh Government. The work is estimated to be completed by 2017 and aims to modernise all stations by improving disabled access at all stations and supporting the growth of the Local Economy.

The logo for Stuttgart, featuring the word "STUTTGART" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "U" is stylized with a colorful rainbow-like gradient.

Team challenge

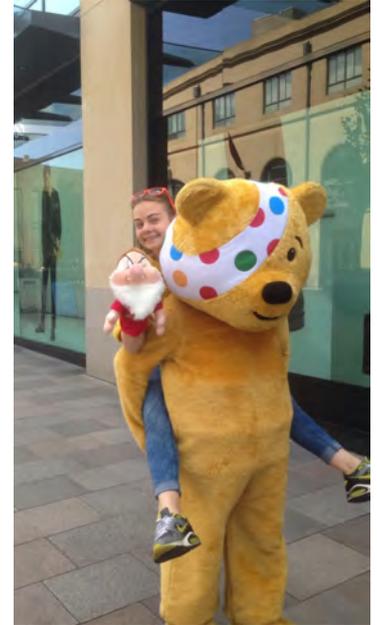


Team #3 Topic: Sport

Snow White and the One Dwarf

The Welsh national sport is Rugby, Germany isn't a very big Rugby country however Germany's national sport is Football. The biggest sports stadium in Cardiff is the Millennium Stadium which holds around 75,000 people. The biggest stadium in Stuttgart is the Mercedes-Benz Stadium which holds 62,000 people. Wales most famous sports person is Gareth Bale who was the most expensive player in history of professional football. Stuttgart most popular player is Sami Khedira who plays for the German national team and won the World Cup.

We took two pictures. One was of the Millennium Stadium, in the old picture was the Empire Pool which was knocked down to make way for this. Also now is the spot for a multi use building including a gym and cinema and soon a German themed Beer Keller! The other picture was of the old stadium which was also knocked down to make way for the Millennium Stadium.



Reproducing historical photographs as part of challenge



Team #4 Topic: Health

There are many differences between Cardiff and Stuttgart Health Service such as Cardiff's health service is free whereas Stuttgart pays insurance. Cardiff is run on a national basis whereas the state has control of the health service in Stuttgart. The health service in Cardiff is known as the NHS and the health service in Stuttgart is called: "Krankenkasse".

The number to call the emergency health service in Cardiff is 999 and in Stuttgart 112. Generally in Stuttgart you have to pay for medical fees whereas in Cardiff medical fees are free. In Cardiff you can buy some tablets such as paracetamol in shops but in Germany all prescriptions are received by the pharmacy (Apotheke). Younger people in Germany pay for the system through democratic change that allows older people receive the service free of charge.



German guest doing the Welshcake task

The similarities between both cities are;

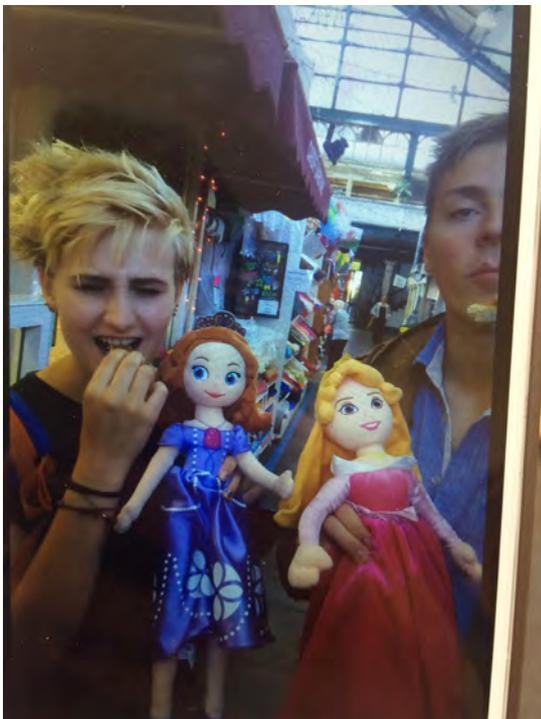
Both have A+E for patients at need, both have doctors, private options to receive health care and both have waiting lists!

Stuttgart Youth Council and Cardiff Youth Council both agree that everyone should have the right to access good medical services wherever they live and their personal financial circumstances should not impact on their health!

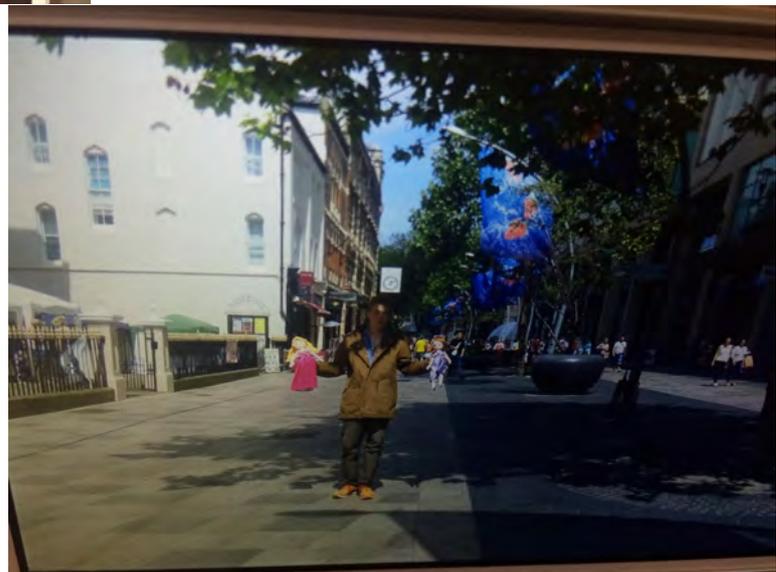


Team #5 Topic: Economy

In Stuttgart and Cardiff there are many similarities and differences in their economies. Bosch, Porche and Daimler who make Mercedes are two large companies that are the major driving forces in Stuttgart's economy; offering jobs to a large percentage of the population and promising high living standards for their workers. Stuttgart is very notorious for it's automotive industry and gets most of its income from this business sector.



Cardiff however was once known for its association with the mining industry, which made the city what it is today. Unfortunately, since the mines were close in the 80's by Margaret Thatcher, Cardiff has become a place that is now known more for it's retail, recreational activities and it's sheep. Cardiff brings in revenue from all aspects of the city including it's very active sports and music scene.



Animated Short Film Coming Your Way!!

Our international youth council team have been busy producing a short animated film that tells the story of this 4 day programme.

Keep an eye on the Cardiff Youth Council You Tube Channel for it's release!!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Join in the conversation with both Cardiff and Stuttgart Youth Councils on their social media channels



@CardiffYC



CardiffYouthCouncil

