

Thur 4 June

## Barbeque/Hills/Park

A big part of Broxburns history is that it was a thriving shale mining village from the 1860's and today the children explored part of what makes the Broxburn area fairly unique. We have huge pink hills on the outskirts of the town which were created by dumping the shale once it had been mined and the oil etc removed from it.

Our day started with a change of plan. We had hoped to go to the beach for a barbeque. Unfortunately our minibus was in getting serviced and some parts fitted yesterday and we weren't guaranteed of getting it back today, so we needed to spend the day in Broxburn. With the weather uncertain anyway, we decided to stay indoors in the morning and Luda and Tania arranged some games, music and some concert preparations and just as we thought about getting the barbeques out, it tried hard to start raining. So we changed to plan B and cooked burgers and potato wedges in the oven in the hall kitchen. Then as usual the Scottish weather cleared ☺ Luda and Tania took the children to the park to burn off some energy while lunch was being prepared. On their return they were given burgers, potato wedges followed by fruit, frubes then biscuits, crisps all washed down by juice. Children were full of food and stored up energy. Thanks to the provisions team for supplying the food.

After lunch we headed off to climb Broxburns shale bings to burn off that energy. A nice leisurely walk along the canal banks soon changed as the children saw the challenge ahead. They were off up to the highest point whilst leaving some of the not so young helpers lagging well behind. It was great and unusual for the children to climb these hills as Belarus has no hills. Its very flat. From the top of the bings we could see all over Broxburn and for many miles beyond to the Pentland Hills in the south and all the way to Edinburgh in the east.

On the way back to the hall we stopped off at the " flying fox " and the children loved it, especially with Andrew having to do most of the

pushing or pulling of the children while the interpreters and some children had a well-earned rest. (as you will see in the pictures)  
When we got back to the hall the children were more than ready for a snack and some juice.

A good day was had by all, making the most of our change of plan.



