



December is already over now and I really enjoyed the months I spent in Ireland before I went home to Germany to celebrate Christmas with my family for two weeks. I had a nice time with my friends and family and was happy to see everyone again after I haven't seen them for nearly 4 months. But before I left Ireland I also had a lot of fun there. On the first of December I went with my host family to pick out a Christmas tree. It was a really big one but it fit in the sitting room. After it was set up we started decorating it with different balls and lights. The tree looked very good after we

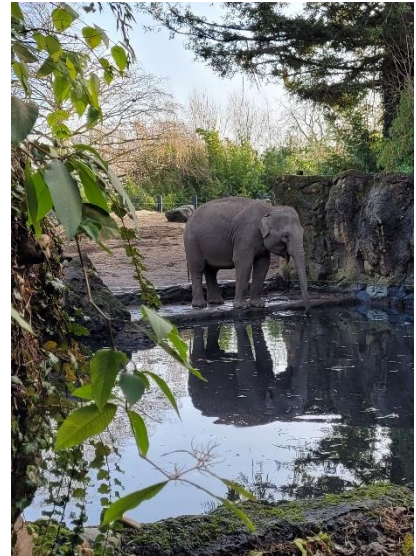
finished decorating it and I really loved the smell of it every time I entered the room. We also went to a Christmas Market in Wicklow, walked around and tried some food. It was a nice little market but not as big as the Christmas Markets I'm used to in Germany.



On one weekend my host family took me and my Spanish host sister to the zoo in Dublin and we saw many different animals like



elephants, gorillas, hippos and seals which were my favourite by far. The zoo was decorated with many lights and figures which looked very nice. We all had a great day. I also really enjoyed the Carol service of my host sister because the songs they were singing there were all in Irish.



In school we also did some Christmassy things. For example one day we spent a few hours making Christmas wreaths and we were allowed to take them home where my host parents put it up on the kitchen door. The school also had a Christmas tree which was decorated. There was a Christmas Carol where one of my friends was taking part in and so I went with her host sister to watch it. It was great to listen to all of them singing lovely Christmas songs. In the last week of school we went ice skating with all the transition year students. We took the bus to Dun Laoghaire and there everyone got their shoes and we started skating. At the beginning it was a little bit tough for me to skate because the last time I did

it was in primary school but after a while I really had fun doing it. In addition we had a debate in school and because I'm in the debating class I took part in it. Not as a speaker but I read the opening and it was interesting to listen to how a debate works.



One day I went to watch a hockey match of a friend and after that we went to Dublin with a small group to see all the Christmas lights which was beautiful. My favourite was temple bar. It always looks very nice but with all the Christmas lights it looked even better. It was very windy and cold on that day but we still enjoyed it. After that we went back to my friends house and had a sleepover there. We decorated gingerbread cookies and watched a movie afterwards.

Even if I'll miss my family and friends in Germany, I'll be looking forward to going back to Ireland to have a great time there for the next few months with all the nice people I met.