

**In order to get an insight into Irish history, politics and life we interviewed our host-family.**

Q: Why is the island still divided into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland?

A: The British Crown had ruled for hundreds of years over the island and when Ireland became independent in 1922, Britain did not want to give up 6 provinces in the North. In the "Good Friday Agreement" it was determined that the majority of the people of Northern Ireland wished to remain a part of the United Kingdom. This can be explained by the fact that there are fewer Catholics in Northern Ireland than Protestants, thus, Northern Ireland will stay under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom until the population of Catholics surpass that of Protestants which is estimated to happen in 40 to 50 years' time.

Q: What do you think about BREXIT?

A: It will cost Britain a lot of money and many companies have already confirmed that they will move to Dublin to be still in the EU. We, personally, can't understand why they voted for it. Most of them probably didn't even realise what they were voting for.

Q: When did you start being a host-family and why?

A: We love to meet people and when our sons were young we wanted them to interact with people from other countries. A lot of our neighbours were also host-families. We enjoy cooking for them, talking to them and learning about their lives. Since we decided to be a host-family we have had students from Austria, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany.

Q: Dublin is a very modern and cosmopolitan city. In which part of Ireland do the people still live very traditionally?

A: In the west, because that is the part where Oliver Cromwell banished them all when he came to Ireland in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Ireland was downtrodden by Britain and was a very poor country. There was the potato famine in the 1840s and half of the population died or emigrated. The emigrants' descendants live around the world and the people in Newfoundland still speak with an Irish accent. The former poverty makes Ireland today empathise with poor countries in the world.

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