

My name is David Scott and I am an English teacher living in Plock. I come from Newcastle, a large city in the north-east of England, not far from Scotland. Newcastle is famous for its many bridges across the River Tyne, the best known being the Tyne Bridge which has become the main symbol of the city.

Newcastle is also famous for its football team, Newcastle United FC, and for its traditional industries of coal mining and shipbuilding, as well as its nightlife. Famous people to come from Newcastle include Charles Earl Grey, a former British Prime Minister and inventor of Earl Grey tea, the musician Sting and Alan Shearer, the ex-England and Newcastle United footballer.

The region of England where Newcastle is situated, Northumbria, is one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of Britain. To the north of Newcastle there are miles of stunning coastline and many Medieval castles. To the west of the city lies the beautiful Tyne valley, the Cheviot hills and one of the region's main tourist attractions—Hadrian's Wall. This wall was built by the Romans nearly 2000 years ago to protect Roman England from Scottish tribes. Some parts of the wall are still intact and visitors can see the impressive ruins of several forts.

Before coming to Poland I lived for 5 years in Manchester, the biggest city of northern England, where I studied Spanish at the University of Manchester. I have also lived in Spain, where I spent a year in Bilbao, in the north of the country. I came to Plock in September 2005, 3 months after qualifying as an English teacher. I had never been to Poland or Central Europe before so I didn't know what to expect. Fortunately, I settled in Plock very well and enjoyed a very good year working here. The biggest problem in the beginning was the Polish language, which is very difficult for English speakers. After 1 year in Poland I can just about get by but I'm still learning!

As well as Plock, I have been to Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Torun, Lodz and Chojnice. Poland is a very beautiful and interesting country which a lot of British people still do not know a lot about. This year I hope to visit the north coast of Poland including Malbork, Gdansk and Hel.