

reportages

D'EUROPE

EDITORIAL

Oxford, Covent Garden, Buckingham Palace...
L'édition 2010 des *Reportages d'Europe* se met à l'heure anglaise.
Les élèves de la troisième B du collège Louise-Michel
de Paimboeuf nous proposent un numéro tout en anglais,
sur un voyage au pays du fish & chips, de la sauce
à la menthe, d'Harry Potter et du Red Nose Day !

Cette septième édition est également l'occasion du lancement
du blog « Reportages d'Europe », une version *on line* des éditions
précédentes et à venir des *Reportages*. Nous vous invitons à
les (re-)découvrir et à nous laisser vos impressions sur le site
www.reportagesdeurope.eu

Green Sauces, Strange Cats and Odd Families...

Strange, But Funny Cats

"Cats are strange animals, but British cats really are the strangest!, says Gaëlle. We were having dinner with our British host family when their cat came into the dining room and sat on the chair next to us. He stared at me and suddenly winked three times! It was really funny!"

Singing In The Shower...

"The woman who welcomed us in England went to the bathroom to have a shower one evening. Suddenly, we heard her singing, and she was singing opera songs! It was great, because she was singing very well."

Misunderstanding

Understanding his British family was less difficult for Thomas than making himself understood! "On the first morning, I asked for an orange juice for breakfast... When she gave me an orange, I thought this week was going to be a difficult experience!"

Water Fight In an English Family

"My friends and I were quietly having dinner with our host family when the dad came into the dining-room and suddenly threw the jug of water on the table. I did the same: we had a water fight! It was great fun, and it was really my best memory with this family!"

The Spying Cat

"Everybody knows that cats can sleep anywhere! So when you find a cat sleeping in the bathroom, you think "well, nothing special". But when he watches you having your shower... this is quite unusual! "I was having a shower when I looked at the other end of the bathroom. I saw the cat, and it was looking at me! I felt like being spied in the shower, it was a weird experience!"

What Is This Green Sauce?

When you say you go to England for a week, many French people tell you: "Poor you, you are not

Welcomed by British host families, the pupils of Louise-Michel College discovered the "British way of life". Here are their testimonies and some of the anecdotes which surprised them the most.

going to have a decent meal! They will make you eat peas with mint sauce!" Indeed, Abel and Yann had a surprising dinner one evening: "The family served us pasta with mint sauce! We were very surprised, but, honestly, it was quite good and we liked it!"

My Tea Was Not So Rich !

British people are famous in the world for drinking tea. But for Julie, Cassandre and Eva, tasting British tea wasn't a good experience at all: "it tasted like bleach! It was so bad we couldn't drink it! But we didn't dare tell them, so we poured it into the pot plants that were in the dining room instead!"

Most of us think the families who welcomed us were nice and friendly. Of course some were odd or behaved strangely. But, to be honest, there was certainly nothing strange in their behaviour : we were not in France, we were in England and people live differently. We have discovered that when you go abroad, you discover a country, but you also have to experience the customs of the country! It was a very good experience!

Gaëlle, Julie, Cassandre

EMBARK YOUR
FLYING BROOMS
AND COME
WITH US TO
EXPERIENCE THE
HARRY POTTER
ATMOSPHERE IN
A LIVE COLLEGE

THE PUPILS OF PAIMBOEUF AT HOGWARTS

At first, the visit of Christ Church College in Oxford didn't mean anything special. When we came into the college, went past the cloister and up the stairs, it immediately rang a bell: we were arriving at Hogwarts, following the most famous wizards in the world: Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley and Draco Malfoy! Was Professor MacGonogall going to welcome us upstairs, near the entrance of the dining hall? No, she wasn't, but we imagined her strict look upon us! It was very impressive, we felt like being actors playing a role in the film!

And then we came into the famous dining hall! At first, we were quite disappointed, because it looked quite small compared to the dining hall in the film. But we immediately had the feeling that we were being watched: were there ghosts in this dining hall too? Or were there cameras watching the visitors like everywhere in Oxford? We walked towards the end of the hall, as if Henry VII, the king of England who founded Christ Church college in 1529, was looking at us. But it seemed that all eyes were on us.



The famous dining hall in Christ Church College.

There were portraits on each side of the hall, they represent all the famous former students at Christ Church college. When we looked closer at the paintings, we discovered that it was as if their eyes were following us: but there was nothing magic in that, it was only a technique in painting! What brought us back to reality was the smell from the kitchen next to the dining hall: the students at Christ Church College had just left the dining hall and the tables were already laid for dinner! We finally realized that Christ Church was not only an impressive film set and a place to visit, it was above all a college where real students lived and studied! How lucky they are!

Lorile, Julie, Samantha

THE CITY THAT LOOKS LIKE A FILM SET

When you arrive in Oxford, the first thing you notice are the colleges: there are so many different colleges that you first think there is nothing else. And they are so old you feel like travelling in the past, or being on a film set, acting in a historic film! Merton, Balliol and University College were built between 1249 and 1280. The most recent colleges in Oxford, Hertford and Keble College, were built between 1870 and 1874! When you walk along these buildings in the small back streets, you feel confused

about the dates: you no longer know which century you are in! And then, you arrive in the High Street and you see all the modern shops, the shopping malls... and you feel even more confused: you are suddenly back in the 21st century. The second thing that strikes you are the CCTV cameras: they are watching over you in every street. In fact, you really feel like evolving on a set! And it changes at every corner of the street, depending on where you are. It was quite a strange experience, but we loved it!

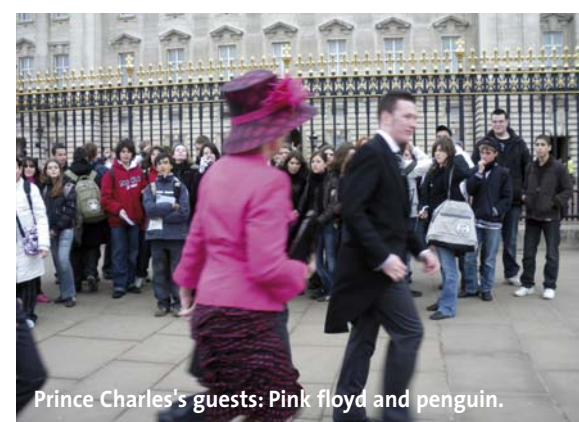


The first place where most people go when they visit London is Buckingham Palace. But have they ever noticed the monument and the statue right in front of the Queen's residence? And do they even know whose statue is it? We have met her, here is what we heard her saying!

GOD SAVES... THE STATUE



The guards dress up as bears.



Prince Charles's guests: Pink floyd and penguin.



After the wildlife here is flora of Buckingham Palace

Victoria is watching you

Amélia, Marine, Alan & Tony

Hello! I'm Queen Victoria. Well, I am the statue in front of Buckingham Palace, the one nobody notices, they are all more interested in what is going on behind me... you know, the Changing of the Guard! Today is wednesday, March 10th 2008, and like every day, the tourists are gathering around me to see it. Suddenly, I hear a voice yelling "*The changing of the Guard is beginning!*"

Quick! Hurry up!" I look down to see who is yelling and I notice a quite short woman, blond-haired and wearing glasses. She is running towards the roundabout, followed by a group of teenagers. She must be one of these English teachers who organize trips to England for French pupils... and of course they don't want to miss the ceremony! Luckily, today, they are going to see two changings of

2008

the Guard... Horse Guards have just left... They are all gathered behind the fence, taking photos... They must be impressed by the guards, their red jackets, their black trousers and of course their tall, furry hats... I don't understand these tourists... I am fed up with watching these guards marching in front of me every day, following their military music... It's always the same! [...]

A year has gone. We are on wednesday, March 11th 2009 and, as usual, tourists are gathering in front of Buckingham Palace and nobody looks at me! Hey, I think I know this blond-haired woman coming towards the Palace, followed by a group of teenagers... Yes, I remember her now! She was here last year, she is the English teacher... but the pupils are different. These ones are going to be

2009

disappointed, because they won't see any Changing of the Guard ceremony today, it has been cancelled. If only they knew! Another ceremony is taking place at the moment inside the Palace: Prince Charles is welcoming very important guests to reward them! The ceremony must be over because I can see the guests coming out of Buckingham Palace. Look at their clothes! What a change from the usual ceremony! No uniforms

today, but lovely dresses and smart suits. The teenagers look puzzled: it is certainly the first time they have seen such smart people! Especially this woman wearing this nice pink and black hat matching her skirt and her jacket! Maybe they won't be too disappointed at the end, this is something they will tell their friends back in France. They will be the only ones to have seen!

STREET ARTS

COVENT GARDEN has always been a market place full of animation and activity. We were very pleased to hear that we could have some free time in Covent Garden: it meant shopping for us!



When we arrived in La Piazza, a large square in front of the covered market, we were happy to see there was till a "market" full of people there. We couldn't believe that: it was like a paradise for a young tourist! There were many shops selling anything we would dream to buy (clothes, shoes...). But there was also a covered market called the "Jubilee Market" where you could buy all the typical English souvenirs a French teenager is looking for!

But what surprised us the most was the atmosphere in Covent Garden: some artists were performing in the streets! Some musicians were playing opera songs near the stairs, some magicians were performing in another street... We walked past a "living statue"... There were street shows nearly everywhere!

SUDDENLY, HE CAME TO US...

We felt we were very lucky to see that. So we stopped with some friends to see one artist performing in La Piazza. Suddenly, the artist came towards us and asked Méganne something. At first, she didn't understand what he was asking her. So he led her to the middle of the square and asked

PARADISE FOR YOUNG TOURISTS

her to become his "assistant". There were many spectators around, some of our friends stopped to see what was happening when they recognized Méganne. Indeed, she is usually rather shy, so it was unexpected to see her performing in the Piazza! We could imagine she was feeling ill at ease because of all the spectators looking at her! In fact, she didn't really understand what the street performer wanted her to do. But she tried her best and finally left when he asked for someone else in the audience.

This free time in Covent Garden was really the best afternoon of our trip! We enjoyed ourselves very much, being there with friends was great!

Marine, Laurine and Méganne

A LITTLE OF HISTORY

Covent Garden used to be a fruit and vegetable market situated in the district of Westminster in London. Why is it called Covent Garden? It was first a convent market. The monks from Westminster Abbey grew vegetables and sold some of them here, starting the first Covent Garden market. For hundreds of years, fruit, vegetables and flowers have been sold here. The Central Market was built in 1830. It housed the Covent Garden until it moved in the 1970's. But you can still shop in Covent Garden today! The old Central Market buildings were restored and today they are full of small shops and stalls selling crafts.



The stalls in the Covered Market

Covent Garden is also famous for its lively atmosphere, especially on the Piazza. It is where you can see all kinds of street performers (jugglers, musicians, mime artists and "living statues"). 30 millions tourists visit Covent Garden each year.

CRAZY SQUIRREL

The first thing we saw near the entrance of the park was a lawn full of crocus and daffodils. It was so beautiful! Then, we saw the squirrels. They were grey squirrels and they weren't shy at all: they were eating out of our hands.

We were then very surprised to see so many people in the park, and especially businessmen wearing suits, white shirts and

IT WAS LUNCH TIME, SO WE HEADED TOWARDS SAINT JAMES'S PARK TO HAVE PICNICK LIKE MANY LONDONERS AND TOURISTS. BUT SAINT JAMES'S PARK WAS DIFFERENT ON THAT DAY...

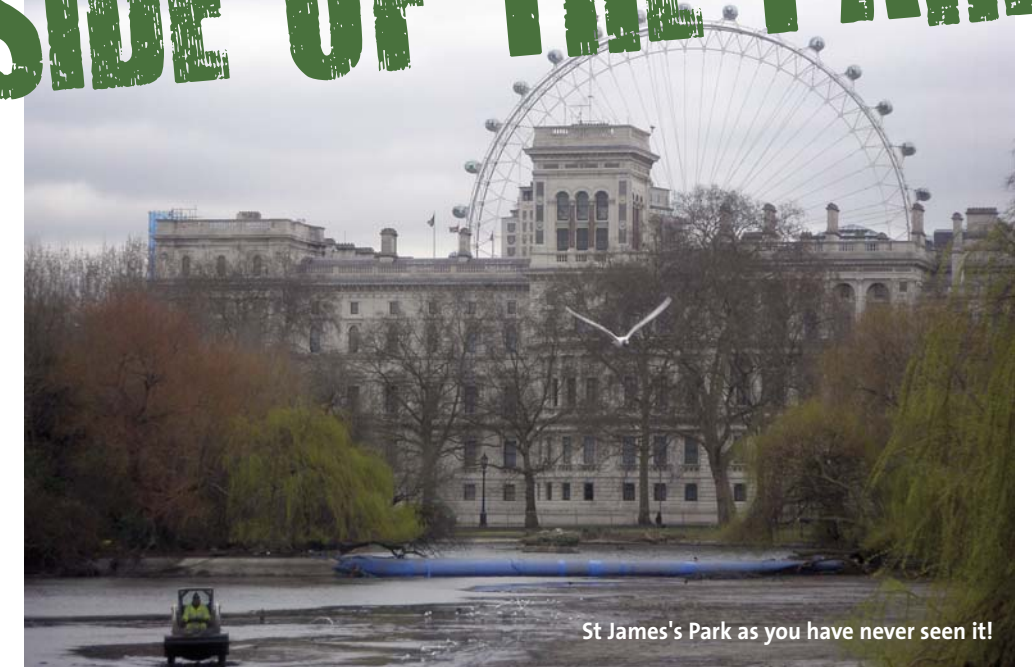


St James's Park as you usually see it...

DARK SIDE OF THE PARK

ties, seating on the benches or on the grass and eating sandwiches. It seemed very funny to us, we had never seen anything like that before!

The park was very clean too: there were no leaves on the grass, no paper anywhere. It was obvious that some gardeners were doing a good job in this park to keep it so nice and tidy. We went towards the lake in front of which we wanted to have our lunch break. And there, we had quite a shock! Where we should have seen the lake, there was no water, there were no ducks... there were engines instead! They had emptied the lake to clean it out! So all the animals (mute swans, geese, Mandarin ducks...) were gathered behind some fences. Saint James's Park had lost most of its beauty! But anyway, we ate our pack-lunch on the lawn, where everybody can walk, sit or even lie... not like in France! We had



St James's Park as you have never seen it!

great fun playing with the squirrels and giving them our food leftovers too. We even played soccer on the grass!

What surprised us is that we were in the heart of London, between Buckingham Palace and Whitehall, but we played with animals and it was really quiet and very relaxing. We could even have rented deckchairs. It was really amazing.

Shannon, Dimitri, Florian, Jesse

BRIGHT SIDE OF PARKS

London is one of the greenest capital city in the world. The Royal Parks are huge and situated in the heart of London. They belong to the Queen, but they are open to everyone during the day. Saint James's Park is one of the most central parks in London, situated just in front of Buckingham Palace and opposite Green Park. It has a large lake with an island in the middle.

When you look across the lake, you can see the government offices of Whitehall and even Big Ben in the distance. Many birds live on and around the lake.



RED IS BEAUTIFUL

Laughing day

It was Friday, March 13th, the last day of our trip to England so we were very sad, and it was raining! But when we arrived in Salisbury, we immediately felt that something odd was taking place...

It was incredible! Some people in the streets were dressed up, wearing red wig and a red noses, just like clowns. Some others were wearing red clothes, pyjamas, and they were all laughing. We wondered what was going on, because we had never seen that before! Were people in Salisbury particularly strange? Was all this happening because it was Friday the 13th? We went to the shopping mall to have lunch and there we saw a big poster that answered all our questions: it was in fact Red Nose Day.

WHY DO THESE PEOPLE BEHAVE SO STRANGELY?

Then we were told that on this special day, people are asked to raise money for Comic Relief, a charity which wants to fight against poverty in the world. The slogan of this day is "do something funny for money", but it can be "wear something funny

for money...", or "buy something funny for money..."

So we understood why these people in the streets behaved so strangely! People in Salisbury like anywhere else in England were doing many things to raise money. We were pleased to learn that we also took part: when we paid our admission charges to visit the cathedral of Salisbury, they told us that 20% of our donations would be given to Comic Relief. Our English teacher tried to buy some red noses for us, as a symbol of that very special day, but she couldn't find any, they were all sold out!

Anyway, seeing all this cheered us up and we forgot our bad mood, our sadness to leave England: we also did something funny, even not for money. We danced on the ferry on that night, sailing back to France!

Abel, Jules, Yann et Timothé

"Red Nose Day" is a very special day organised in the spring every other year by Comic Relief, a charity organisation which raises money to finance charitable projects in the United Kingdom and in Africa. On that day, people are asked to do whatever they can to raise money. Some do odd-jobs (dog walking, baby-sitting, gardening, etc) and give the money they earned to Comic Relief. Some others organize "red nose parties"... Some simply give cash donations or buy "red nose products" (official red nose, T-shirts, red wigs...). There is also a live telethon event on BBC1 and BBC2, an extraordinary night of TV entertainment. Last year, Red Nose Day raised £ 82.3 millions!

LES PHOTOGRAPHES

P.1 DR. P.2 Michael Lorenzo (PHILIPPINES). P.3 Mike Peel (UNITED KINGDOM). P.4-5-6 3^B Louise-Michel. P.7 Agata Urbaniak (SPAIN) / 3^B Louise-Michel / Joakim Syversen (SWEDEN). P.8 Comic Relief (UK).

LES JOURNALISTES

Les élèves de 3^B européenne du collège Louise-Michel de Paimbœuf: **Abel, Alan, Amélia, Cassandre, Dimitri, Florian, Gaëlle, Jesse, Jules, Julie, Julie, Laurine, Lorile, Marine, Marine, Méganne, Samantha, Shannon, Timothé, Tony, Yann...** et leur professeur d'anglais **Karine Chatelier**. Les «journalistes» ont eu pour mission de vérifier leurs informations. Si toutefois des erreurs ou imprécisions subsistaient, ils remercient les lecteurs de leur indulgence.

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