

*Lycée Guillaume Apollinaire (Thiais) - Terminale L*

## **TRIP TO LONDON – 5-9 MAY 2014**

### **The group**



### **The teachers**





## MONDAY, MAY 5<sup>th</sup>

*Our first day in London started with a walk through Green Park and St James's Park. We saw Buckingham Palace, the Changing of the Guards, 10 Downing Street, Westminster Abbey and Big Ben. In the evening we met our host families.*



### London's architecture

Welcome to London, such a unique and charming city!

All there makes you feel excited and very joyful, to begin with this atypical aspect which Creates a real small paradise between the modern and the antique.

The originality present on this territory doesn't need to be proved,  
But we can admire the authenticity of some buildings and little colored houses,  
That splendid contrast with the contemporary look of others.

How can we pass in front of a museum such as the British Museum,  
Or the National Gallery without feeling this shiver of happiness?

So much beauty deserves that we pay attention to it,  
That would be a shame to ignore this point which is part of this city.  
These beams, these sculptured and cut stones, these pillars, these bricks, and these  
Traditional, old and refined structures dazzle and call out by so much  
Talent and height considering the means people had at the time.

All these cohabitations of recent and old monuments give a  
Delicious result for the view.

The architecture in thousand facets of London is exceptional, and you  
Cannot remain unmoved when you have all this delicate work of mixture of different  
materials

Under your eyes.

The country where the word "limit" has no sense whether it's a question of  
Street or interior decoration.

Always more personality to distinguish it from the others and seduce a lot of new visitors.  
That's their key of success and we already want to go back there!

Nina S.





## London, a green city

The city of London encourages the preservation of gardens and green places. When I visited London, there were often parks, gardens and green places, despite a lot of buildings and big towers. There was a contrast between greenery and buildings.

I think the environment plays a very important role in the heart of the city, maybe it reduces the risks of pollution, improves living conditions and also encourages people to walk more, ride a bike...

My favourite place is "Green Park" because it's very beautiful, there are a lot of flowers, lakes and animals. It's so soothing and calm.

What is impressive is that people respect these places and preserve them. So, nature is omnipresent in the city.

Sarahbie K.



## Our first contact with our host families

When we first met our family, we had mixed feeling about them. Indeed, when we saw the mother for the first time in the parking lot, she did not speak a word of French and she looked rather shy, so we told ourselves that this trip was going to be complicated.

Then we arrived in her small apartment that she quickly showed us, and she introduced us to her children: her 10-year-old son (not very talkative) and her 21-month-old girl. We played with the girl all evening and laughed a lot, which reassured us for the rest of the stay!

Elodie L.



### First impressions of London: just like we imagined it?

My first impression of London was surprising. I thought that London was like Paris, with unpleasant, sad and always stressed people. But actually, London is a pleasant city. There are a lot of green spaces, and the monuments with a splendid architecture. London is a city which moves. The population is happy. I was surprised by the respect that they give to the Queen. Everyone admires the Royal Family. London makes us want to visit the whole country.

Sophie B.



**TUESDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

*On our second day, we visited the Globe (Shakespeare's theater) and the Tower of London. Then, we walked in the Pakistani neighbourhood, Brick Lane.*

### **The Shakespeare Globe Theater**

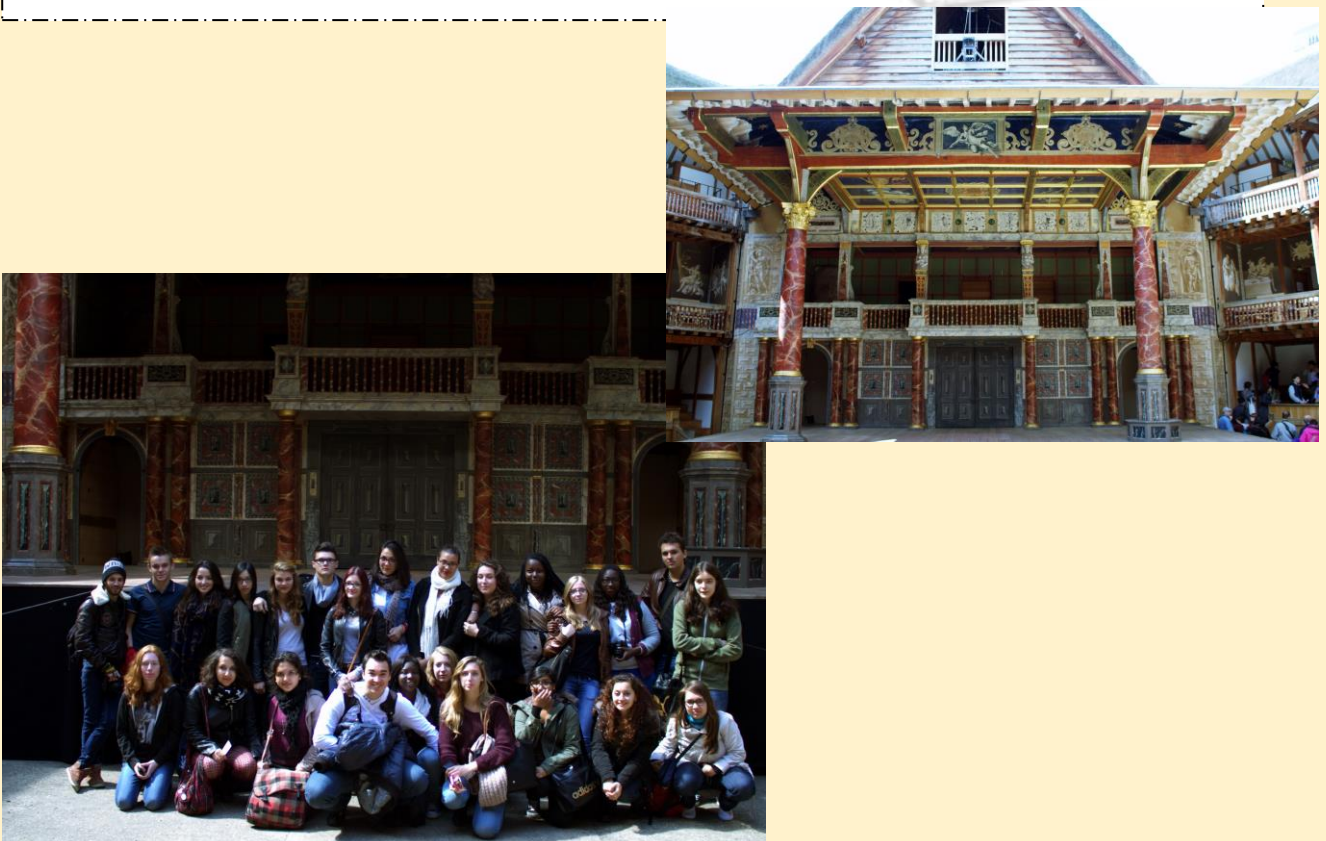
The Shakespeare Globe Theater is well-known because it has seen many performances of Shakespeare's plays like *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*... This theater wasn't in the City of London at the time of Shakespeare because all entertainment was prohibited in the city. Anyone who didn't matter could risk to be executed.

It is original by the material used to build it. If you sit in this theater, you would swear that there is marble, rock, gold ... but everything is just wood, and painted, to pretend those materials.

There are many anecdotes about this theater, and I'm going to tell you some: Shakespeare had the habit to use real blood (pork blood) and to project it on the audience. Because of all the violence represented, there were many people who fainted during the performances, but also because of the atmosphere IN the audience: men were drinking beer, shouting ... to imagine it, think about the atmosphere during a football match.

I know a lot of anecdotes about this theater but I don't really have the time to tell you more... Sorry! Just another one? Okay. The Globe caught fire several times. Maybe I could tell you about one time: during a play, a canon ball was drawn for the performance, touched the roof and set a fire which destroyed the whole theater.

Chanaëlle A.







### The Tower of London: The Queen's Jewels

Last week, I went to London with my class, and we went to the Tower of London, it was a free time so I went to see the Crown Jewels and it was really beautiful, so much gold, diamonds, sapphires, rubies or emeralds, I was mesmerized. On the first photo, there's a little part of the jewels, there is a sceptre, an orb "*globus cruciger*" in Latin and two crowns. Generally, they were used for the coronation or for major events. Nowadays the jewels are the property of the state and are just lent to the Royal Family.

On the second photo, there is the famous diamond "*koh-i-noor*" offered by the India Company to the Queen Victoria, it adorns the crown of Queen Elisabeth. "*Star of Africa*", 530 carats diamond is on the picture too. The collection has been here since the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Marion M.

### The Tower of London: the Ravens and the Beefeaters

The beefeaters's official name is "The Yeomen Warders of her Majesty's Royal Palace and fortress the Tower of London, and Members of the sovereign's Body guard of the Yeoman Extraordinary". They have to look after the prisoners of the Tower and guard the Crown jewels but now, they are more a touristic attraction because of their costumes and because there are no more prisoners. However, it is still an important role because you must have spent 22 years in the armed forces to be a Yeoman.

There is a beefeater called the Ravenmaster, he takes care of the Tower of London's ravens, he feeds and puts them in their cage during the night. Charles II's royal decree mentions that they must always be six ravens at the Tower of London and the legend says that if they leave, the Kingdom will fall, that's why the Ravenmaster cuts a part of their feathers.

I was very impressed by these elegant birds which are imposing and beautiful.

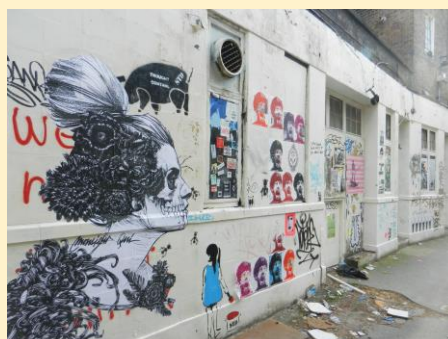
Nathalie C.

## The Tower of London: my impressions

I remember that the Tower of London was an incredible place, it was very big and so beautiful ! We visited the place where the Crown Jewels are, the museum was very dark and the gold inside the window was shining brightly. Security guards were very concentrated to protect the Crown Jewels.

We saw some of the torture instruments of the epoch, it was very horrible! But we also saw weapons, horse armors and paintings of important personalities.

Manon F.





## WEDNESDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>

*On our third day, we went shopping on Oxford Street, we saw the musical "The Lion King" and we went to Covent Garden.*

### "The Lion King musical": the costumes

The costumes were wonderful and impressive. They were very colourful and they reminded us of Africa which is the continent where the story happened.

At the beginning, we saw a lot of animals from the savanna: antelopes, cheetahs, leopards, zebras, hyenas, hippopotamus..., going on stage to applaud the prince's birth, the future king.

They were only colours like blue, yellow, green, orange..., they weren't sad colours and according to me those colours make us think of a rainbow.

Mufasa had a yellow/orange outfit with a lion face as a mask. He could take off the mask so we saw his face, such as when he spoke to Simba when he explained to him what the stars are.

The woman who played the cheetah was connected to her costume so we almost forgot she was an actress, we just saw the animal. When she moved her head the cheetah moved its head too, the same was true for Timon.

I think the costumes were the best part of this musical, except for the songs, they were brilliant.

Awa C.



### "The Lion King musical": just like the Disney movie?

In 1994, the animation *The Lion King* produced by Walt Disney was a fantastic success. The story takes place in Africa where Mufasa, the king reigns and lives in peace with all of the other African animals.

Three years later, this story is adapted in a musical of the same name, by Julie Taymor. They needed to adapt songs, costumes, sets, and they changed some details compared to the animation.

First about the characters, in the animation, Rafiki is a male but becomes a woman in the musical.

Then some scenes are added, for example the conversation between Mufasa and Zazu who talk about the education of Simba. Moreover there is an action scene where Timon falls into a river and Simba can't help him. Also the scenes where Scar wants to be with Nala, and when she sings with Rafiki before she goes hunting aren't in the animation.

About the songs, some are new like "He lives in you" or all of Rafiki's songs, however it's wonderful to hear the animation's songs! But I have to admit I prefer French songs over the English ones.

Above all, the musical is a great and right adaptation. I had the possibility to watch the musical in French and English and I was not disappointed at all. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it.

Camille P.



## Covent Garden

When you have a walk in the Covent Garden neighbourhood today, it's very hard to imagine that this cultural and commercial place was the most important market of the country just a few centuries ago, after the Great Fire of London destroyed the rival markets of the east of the city in 1666.

Built in 1631, as a city-market by Francis Russell, the place evolved from a small open-air fruit and vegetable market to a place where taverns, theatres, coffee-houses and brothels opened up. By the 18th century it had even become a well-known red-light district.

In 1974, the market moved to a new site in south-west London and the square languished until its central building re-opened as a shopping centre in 1980 and is now a tourist location containing cafes, pubs, small shops, and a craft market called the Apple Market, along with another market held in the Jubilee Hall.

The Covent Garden area has long been associated with both entertainment and shopping, and this continues. Covent Garden has 13 theatres, and over 60 pubs and bars. The Seven Dials area in the north of Covent Garden was home to the punk rock club "The Roxy" in 1977, and the area remains focused on young people with its trendy mid-market retail outlets. With everything housed in and around the historic Market Building and traffic free piazza, it is no wonder that Covent Garden is a much loved destination, attracting around 44 million worldwide visitors every year.

Amily B.





## THURSDAY, MAY 8<sup>th</sup>

*On our fourth day, we visited the National Gallery, then we went to Notting Hill. Finally, we had a look around the Victoria and Albert Museum and Harrods.*

### Notting Hill

On the fourth day of the trip, we went to the neighbourhood of Notting Hill, on Portobello Road. The road is known for its many antique dealers.

The architecture is so different from France: the houses are colourful and I have never seen that in Paris. Every shop has a different decoration.

This is a very nice place. We feel like we are in another world, like in "Alice in Wonderland". I think that all these colours give the joy of spring on this street.

Iris L.







# *The Victoria and Albert Museum*



**FRIDAY , MAY 9<sup>th</sup>**

*On our last day in London, we went to the British Museum and the Sherlock Holmes Museum.*



### **The British Museum, more impressive than the Louvre?**

The British Museum was founded in 1753 and holds a collection of art and antiquities from ancient and living cultures.

Housed in one of Britain's architectural landmarks, the collection is one of the finest in existence, spanning two million years of human history.

I believe that the British Museum is much more impressive than the "Musée du Louvre". It is more attractive and bigger. It possesses more collections: Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, Department of Greece and Rome, Department of the Middle East, Department of Prints and Drawings, Department of Prehistory and Europe, Department of Asia, Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Department of Coins and Medals, Department of Conservation and Scientific Research, Libraries and Archives.

The "Musée du Louvre" has only Paintings, Egyptian Antiquities, Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Near Eastern Antiquities, Sculptures, Decorative Arts, Islamic Art, Prints and Drawings.

Thanks to both its beauty and its culture, the British Museum is superior to the "Musée du Louvre".

Laura B.







**Our last hour in London: in Regent's park with some little friends...**



## And we did all of this thanks to the London Tube!

### Riding the "Tube" in London

Last week we went to London and we took the Tube. It's very different from the "métro parisien". Indeed it's easier thanks to the name of the lines and the colour code. The Tube is clean and the train station too. There are always employees at the station to help you if you have a problem with your ticket or your connection. The only inconvenient could be the width because when you take the Tube at rush hours you are squeezed, many people are present and the Tube is small so it's very uncomfortable. But generally it's a good experience and it's the best way to move in London.

Lila E.



### The "Tube" vs. the "métro"

Last week, we went to London. I had the chance to take the English tube, which is really well-known in the other European countries such as mine, France. I already took the Tube two years ago in a trip of my own. I was really surprised how much the Tube had changed in two years: I changed my mind. To me now, the French "métro" is better than the Tube and I'll explain why.

First, when I got to London, I was excited and really optimistic about the Tube! It was due to my good memories from my first trip. But soon, I noticed some details which irritated me a great deal and grew stronger than all the good points. As a French human being, I started to compare English and French public transports.

The infrastructures in England are cleaner than the French, and far more welcoming than our good old lines as the "métro 7" which is in a bad state and does not smell so good. Because yes, in the English Tube, odours aren't a problem: most of the time, they are clean of any of it.

Still, there is not so much space in the Tube. We are quickly squeezed, far more than in France where the "métro" is more comfortable at rush hour because it is larger and allows us to breathe a little; not like the English Tube. And the main detail that became a great deal to me is people. English people are far less polite and "gentlemen" than the legend says they are. They push, insult, steal your seat, don't care at all about you.

To conclude, to me, the French "métro" is better than the English Tube. Indeed, it has its faults that are really numerous, but it is ours, and its qualities exceed the English Tube, that has unfortunately lost what made it a better Tube.

Nora M.



