



Newsletter
English workshop
N°2 – May, 2022



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Hello, readers! We are very happy to present the work written by the two groups of the English workshop 2021-2022!



By Anna Maria

On 6th February 2022 Her Majesty The Queen Elisabeth II became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, for 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary many events will take place throughout the year, especially in a four bank holiday weekend from 2nd and 5th June 2022.

Over the course of these 70 years, Elisabeth II has been witness and has shaped the history of the United Kingdom.

There are at least 7 defining landmarks in the Queen's historic reign:

1/ Coronation: the death of Elisabeth's father on 6th February 1952

Princess Elisabeth was 25 years old and was crowned in **Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953.**

2/ The Aberfan disaster: on 21st October 1966

In the mining village Aberfan (South Wales), after a heavy rain, a suddenly slide down of a colliery spoil tip over a junior school and houses killed 116 children and 28 adults.

3/ The Silver Jubilee: on 6th February 1977

Elisabeth II celebrated 25 years on the British Throne.

4/ The Royal Wedding: on 29th July 1981

The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana was a fairy tale.

5/ Princess Diana's death: on 31st August 1997

Princess Diana died in a tragic car accident in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris.

6/ The Golden Jubilee: on 6th February 2002

Elisabeth II celebrated 50 years on the British Throne.

7/ The Queen's Coronavirus broadcast BBC: on 5th April 2020

Elisabeth II said her faith for the present and for the future: **"We will meet again"**.



Do you like spring? By Anne Marie

Spring is my favorite season. I'm lucky because I have a garden, and in spring it goes out winter. Many flowers grow every year in March and April. First, snowdrops and crocuses, then primroses and daffodils follow with fragile violets. The grass becomes green and the insects visit all this flowers by wheeling.
The cherry tree blossoms with a thousand white flowers, which will be replaced by fruit.
The new leaves will come later.
The sun is more present in the sky, temperatures are mild.
My big pleasure is reading on the bench on the terrace, when the sun shines.
In April, I think about preparing Easter.
My granddaughter looks for chocolate eggs hidden in the garden.
She enjoys it so much and runs around cherry tree, magnolia and laurel.
Her older cousin, also helps to find sweet things.
All the family is happy if the weather is nice.
If it's raining, the eggs will be hidden into the house, what a shame!
A good meal rewards the hunters; we can taste the first asparagus.
Where is happiness? It is with the family reunited together during a beautiful spring day.



Do you like to go hiking in the spring? By Jacqueline



*To me spring is the best season for hiking.
The sky is blue, different birds sing in the forest.
There are still some patches of snow and despite this, some flowers are blooming.
We can see yellow and purple crocuses, primroses,
orchids and many different flowers whose name I don't know!
If we are Lucky, we can also see marmots, squirrels, foxes, does, deers.
Trees have new leaves and buds; there are also the first butterflies.
Finally, it's not too hot to walk and I can admire nature emerging from its winter slumber.
And it is possible to have a picnic.*

Do you know the origin of waterproof boots? By Anna Maria

The Wellington boot was originally a type of leather boot adapted from a style of military riding boot.
These boots were worn and popularised by Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington.
In the early 19th century, Arthur Wellesley asked to his shoemaker from London to make a leather boot easier to wear for riding.
The shoemaker made more comfortable boots which were also very smart!
Even before his great victory over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Wellington became a fashion icon with his boots!
The "Wellington boots" were worn by all the British aristocracy and middle class.
Then the name "wellington" or "wellies" was given to waterproof boots made of rubber or modern polyurethane.
They are now used by anyone for agricultural work or for walking on wet or muddy ground outside.



Above all don't forget your wellies for spring showers!!

ARTS

Photos and poems

By Paule

*Clear sky, sun rays
A great mirror, Sphere standing on a terrace,
The reflections
The buildings on the left side, straight lines
The trees in the back, their crown in roundness
People make photos,
They stay
A child watches, dumbfounded, a young black (or African)
He wears a skirt in tulle
He is dancing and his skirt twirls
His arms are spreaded, a golden strand (or snap bracelet) on the wrist,
He is smiling
A beautiful smile divides his face
Leaving slots for his eyes
He savours his well-being
In his head, in his body, in his heart
Him, he knows that, he is happy
The rhythm is sugary
His body deploys
He draws arabesques
The ruffles of his skirt follow them
The movements flow smoothly
The gesture wraps up the space
This belongs to him
He is free
His liberty is contagious*



Picture : Wendy Fisher Hartman Chicago – Illinois

A collective work



A cold atmosphere
I cannot stay frozen here
Desert tells "come here"!

Ice shines on the sun
Artists draw skating figures
Open fire warms me

Snow across green trees
Fog, rain, cold wind in dark light
Drinking hot cocoa

All is calm and white
Snow blanket on grass and streets
A small robin flies

The frost on the trees
Gives a beautiful white colour
On the sleeping land

In winter we have
Cold brother and sister
Warming together

The lake was frosty
It was raining snowflakes
I dreamt of a fire

Painting

By Christine

In face of war, art can be a real weapon! Indeed, art makes possible to denounce the horrors of war towards peoples, art allows us to remember the sufferings of women and men and children. All forms of art can play these roles. I chose painting.

First, I would like to remind you 2 Spanish painters, Goya who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries and Picasso who lived in the 20th century.

Goya denounced the invasion of Spain by Napoleon's army in a painting called « El dos de mayo 1808 ». This painting shows the executions of Spanish rebels shot by French soldiers.



Francisco GOYA « El dos de Mayo 1808 en Madrid



Pablo PICASSO – Guernica 1937

In his painting « Guernica » Picasso wanted to denounce the destruction of this city by the German and Italian aviation at the request of Franco, in 1937 during the Spanish civil war. The painting shows people suffering, animals and buildings destroyed by the violence of war.

And finally, I would like to finish with a great painter of street art that I like very much: BANSKY. It's hard to choose an example of Banksy painting. In the current situation, I have chosen this one showing that, after war, hope is allowed to live in peace and hope is carried by children, by youth.



BANSKY



Eating at the fast food, 'it's not my cup of tea.'

I prefer cooking delicious meals for my family.

Sometimes with my friends Canan, Malika and Christine, we invite ourselves to our homes.

Recently, I made a couscous and unfortunately Canan couldn't come because her mother was sick.

I hope, I will do it again another time. Canan, Malika and Christine are very good cooks too.

Frequently with other girl-friends, once a month, we each prepare a dish and we meet in a house.

Also, in spring and summer we have a picnic.

Before I didn't really know how to cook, thanks to YouTube I discovered a lot of recipes, especially small oriental biscuits.

Sometimes when I'm working and when I don't have time, I like cooking quick recipes.

Thanks to recipes, I always share with my friends.

By Djemila



Writing is not my cup of tea

By Rosanna



Writing is not my cup of tea. Writing is arduous for me.

A white page is terrifying and I am perplexed in finding a phrase and petrified for many minutes.

At last, I write a tiny text and I am desolate not to be able to express what I want to say. Sometimes I have a luminous idea and I write quickly an exceptional letter but when I have finished, I am very tired!

French is not my native language. When I was young, I preferred mathematics lesson at French

Spelling. At summer I used to send postcards to my friends. I wrote these postcards one day before

departure and only three lines. Presently I use e-mail or message only if necessary and I restrict the letter to the point such as greetings, administration, so letters that do not reveal, if possible, any feelings. I

*prefer to express myself by drawing. **But perhaps one day I will write a book of my life!!!***

STEP BY STEP

IRELAND, my favorite country



By Christine

I like to travel and I like one country above all: Republic of Ireland. It's the same thing for Peter.

20 years ago, Peter and I, we travelled for the first time in Republic of Ireland.

Step by step, we prepared the trip and after, we visited various counties. For example, in the South of Ireland we discovered counties of Wexford, Waterford and Cork. In the West, we travelled in counties of Kerry, Clare, Galway and Mayo. In the East, we discovered Dublin.

At each step, we found bed and breakfast. It's the best way to discover a country and its people.

And step by step, we discovered amazing landscapes: exotic trees in Kerry, moors and lakes in Connemara, cliffs of Moher in county of Clare...

All these steps showed us that Republic of Ireland is a wonderful country. But on this trip, we realized that Irish people suffered a lot for centuries and centuries! Perhaps this idea could be the subject of another text?

Apprentice technician

By Peter



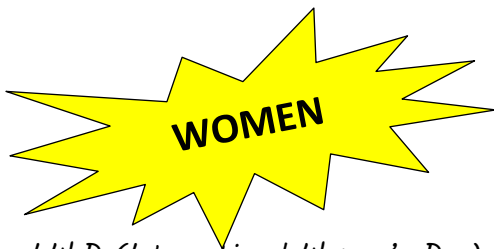
One day, my washing machine broke down. I decided to repair it. In a first time, I downloaded an instruction manual on the web. Then I was looking for tools. And I began to disassemble my washing machine.

I had a little notebook where I wrote all what I was doing. And I put each machine part in a plastic bag.

Disassemble the washing machine was easy. But I didn't find the origin of the breakdown. So, I decided to reassemble the washing machine.

But it was an impossible task despite all my precaution. In one case I had too many parts, or it was missing.

***Now, when my washing machine is out of order
I call a technician!***



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By Anna-Maria

The I-W-D (International Women's Day) on 8th March is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

This day also marks a call to action for celebrating women's equality.

IWD celebration is more than 100 years old with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million of people.

Women and men came together to support women's rights.

Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere in the world.

For 2022, the IWD theme is "BREAK THE BIAS"

Imagine a gender equal world:

A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination

A world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive

A world where difference is valued and celebrated

Together we can forge women's equality

Together we can all break the bias, on IWD and beyond



FRIDA KAHLO

By Anna-Maria



Born 6th July 1907
Dead 13th July 1954



Frida Kahlo is a Mexican painter best known for her bold, vibrant, self-portraits painted with pain and passion.

She is often identified as a surrealist painter but above all she is the mother of our modern "selfies"!

Feminists celebrate her in Mexico for her attention to Mexican culture and also for her depiction of the female experience.

She painted many topics related to women including abortion and miscarriage. She defied society's beauty standards and gave us a lesson in resilience, by painting her injuries and disabilities.

When she was 8 years old, she contracted polio. At the age of 18 she had a very serious accident with a tram. She required several surgeries and she had to stay in her hospital bed for many months. During this period, she began to paint especially self-portraits.

Then she fell in love with a famous Mexican painter Diego Riviera, 20 years older, and she had with him a turbulent marriage. They married, then they divorced and then they remarried!!

Very ill, she died 47 years old in Mexico after a passionate and painful life.

She said: "**I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best**"

FEELINGS

Life is beautiful with children

By Malika

*Life is beautiful with children.
So, when we think about them, we think always with love,
protection, happiness, smiles...etc.
There is also another side, for example cry, fight, nerves...*



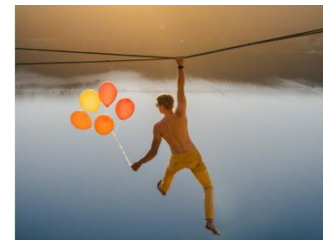
Fear

By Paule

Antoine Mesnage, 26, is a walker on slackline and highline. A slackline is a wire that is stretched between trees. This line is one meter above the ground. He has just to be focused on the state of flow without any physical effort. Finally, it's a meditative state walking in equilibrium on a wire.

His first crossing on a highline was over 8 meters. He had to manage to disconnect totally his brain when he got up. And he travelled without falling. It was the first time, he was hooked. After, there is an outmatching of your physique and especially your mental to convince your brain that you can get up on a wire and walk over nothing without fear. There is something especially very strong mentally. The fear, you can handle it completely.

We have to be serene in our life to walk on a wire. Life is a question of equilibrium.



Up to the moon

By Canan

If I had the chance to meet Neil Armstrong, I would ask him this question, around a cup of tea:

« How did you feel about setting a foot on the moon? I'm curious to know if you were scared or anxious? I think this was a risky mission. There was a risk not to return to Earth, a risk to never see your family again. How did you feel about to be far, very far from the Earth, from your family? »

Because the first idea that comes to my mind is this one, the idea to be far from the Earth and family makes me anxious. So, I want to ask all of you « How do you feel about this? »