



CIR Mariko's

Global Café



Mariko Knight
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November Report
Presentation for *Shimin Net*
Tea Time with Mariko



I was invited to give a presentation by the local citizen group *Shimin Net* at one of their meetings held on the 22nd November. After introducing myself and talking a bit about my home country of England, we had a tea break before finally moving on to a discussion on Brexit (Britain's withdrawal from the European Union following the EU referendum of 23rd June 2016).

When one thinks of the Britain, tea is usually one of the first things that come to mind. Tea has indeed long been a national favourite, I myself am among the vast number of tea lovers. With this in mind, I wanted the participants to experience a good cup of tea, whilst sharing my views on British culture, history and lifestyle.

I taught everyone the best way to make tea, using English brand tea, "Yorkshire Tea" and had everyone try English style biscuits "Churchill biscuits". We also compared the taste of drinking tea straight and tea with milk and I introduced tea-related phrases such as the concept of "dunking" and "builder's tea".

Many people were surprised by how strong the tea tasted compared to the tea sold in Japan, and there were comments on how the biscuits made a great accompaniment.

Finally we exchanged opinions on the topical subject of Brexit. It was very interesting for me to hear different takes on the matter and deepen my understanding of how Japan views the rest of the world.

I hope to hold more events like this in the future, so watch this space!



November Report
Doshisha Clover Festival
SIED World Crafts Event

On the 6th November, I as part of the Doshisha University Clover Festival, I helped out a "World Crafts Event" put on by SIED Atelier. The event, sponsored by the international students division of Doshisha University, gave participants the opportunity to have a go at making crafts from the home countries of the presenters and learn about the cultural background behind the crafts.

As the event was very close to Bonfire Night, a celebration that takes place every year in the UK on the 5th November, I showed everyone how to make mini bonfire candles. Afterwards I explained why we have such an event with a presentation on Guy Fawkes and the failed gunpowder plot.

Thanks to everyone's great enthusiasm and determination, we made some brilliant-looking candles and had a fun time!

This month I along with two CIRs from the towns of Seika and Kizugawa held a Christmas event, "Winter Wonderland". Read next month's report to find out more!



Bonfire Night
foods ?

Bonfire Night is special not just because of the huge bonfire and fireworks, but because are also many different foods to look forward to!

Perhaps the most famous is **the Baked Potato**, baked in foil and fluffy in texture.



Others include **Toffee Apple**, a apple on a stick covered in a hard toffee coating and **Parkin**, a cake which is commonly found in the Northern region of England.

