

Global Café



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January Activity Report

Tea Time with Mariko UK Charity Culture



Following a request from a local citizen group, "Kyuutanabe Gu Rakubu", on the 27th January I gave a presentation on Charity work in the UK and showed how to make cup of tea. Whilst enjoying a cup of peach and ginger tea with everyone, using my own experiences of charity events at school and in my home town of Lymington, I explained how charities work in the UK.

Participants found it interesting how young children come into contact with charity work through the school curriculum, and were surprised to learn that Japan ranks very low on the World Giving Index (WGI). For me, the discussion which followed the lecture was very useful find out more about charity and volunteering work carried out in Japan.



I hope to hold more Tea Time lectures to explain other aspects of the UK. If you are interested at all, please do come along!



Food Tour of Kyotanabe February BAL

This month took part in a local event, "One Coin BAL". Over two days 36 shops around Kyotanabe City provided special food menu items or services for only (one coin) 500 yen. As only 5 months have passed since my arrival some areas are still very new to me. Therefore this was a great opportunity to learn more about the shops in the local areas ranging from Matsuiyamate to Shintanabe.

Some of my friends who are currently exchange students here also took part in the event. One commented that they felt "they had discovered a area of Kyotanabe". Another friend from Germany said when enjoying a slice of baumkuchen, "the first time I tried baumkuchen was here in Japan". I was very surprised to hear this as I had assumed up until then that it would be commonly found over there!

I hope to take part in more local events throughout the year and discover more of Kyotanabe's charm, so watch this space!

What comes to mind when you think of February? *Valentine's Day?*

How was your Valentine's Day everyone?

Valentine's Day is also celebrated by many people in the UK. The opposite to Japan however, it is traditional on this day for men to give women gifts. Common gifts are roses or cards. In many schools or workplaces you can even have roses delivered to your loved ones!

White for "friendship", pink for "crush", red for "love", the colour of the rose carries a different meaning. Unfortunately the roses I received in my school days were mostly white and from my friends!



Yum!



Foods that perfectly combine
「和」(wa) and 「洋」(yo)
=multinational dishes?

This month I participated in the Nigatsudo Takeokuri for the first time! Read next month's report to find out more!