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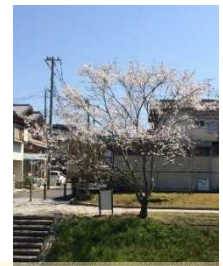
# Global Café



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April 2017 No.8

## Spring is almost here! Hanami Walk

Every year around April, Kyotanabe celebrates "Hanami Week" through a series of events that are dedicated to the spring season. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April I participated in the "Hanami Walk". Organised by the Kyotanabe Tourism Association, this event takes people on a guided tour around the best spots for cherry blossom viewing.



We managed to see some cherry blossom!

We were first taken to see the cherry blossom trees near the Bouga River. Unfortunately it was too early to see the flowers in full bloom. The tour guides however stopped along the way to show other spring flowers, testing our knowledge on their names and explaining their background. I was also interested to learn that the river was a lot higher up than it is now, but had to be lowered to prevent flooding.

During our short break at the Bouga River Park, one of the guides who was surprised after hearing that we do not have earthquakes in the U.K, showed me the facilities that were installed at the park in case of natural disasters. I thought that the drinks vending machine in particular, which automatically dispenses drinks for free following a disaster was a very clever idea!



Emergency vending machine

The latter half of the course took us round the Kyotanabe Campus of Doshisha University in Kodo before arriving at our goal destination, Fureai-no-eki.

I had a lot of fun talking with the rest of the group and the guides and I didn't feel particularly tired, even though we had walked a total distance of 10km!



Picking nanohana

As part of Hanami Week, Kyotanabe invites people to pick *nanohana* (rape blossom) in the fields opposite Kannonji Temple. As well as being used to decorate the house, nanohana can also be used as an ingredient in cooking.

I also took some flowers home and used them the next day in a pasta sauce. I heard that nanohana can have a bitter taste, but I didn't think it was too bad at all!

## Simple & Tasty English Breakfast : Eggs & Soldiers



Eggs and soldiers

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April will be Easter Sunday, a Christian event that celebrates the day on which Jesus was resurrected. On this day many people choose to eat eggs for breakfast as they symbolise new life. At home my family often enjoy our eggs in a traditional style known as "Eggs and Soldiers".

A very simple dish it consists of sliced buttered toast (soldiers) and a soft boiled egg, and is enjoyed by dipping the soldiers into the runny egg yolk.

It is unclear as to why the toast fingers were named "soldiers". Whilst it does seem a little sinister to be dunking soldiers in eggs, it's very tasty and so easy to make. I recommended that you give it a go!