



# It's Just Not Cricket!

January 2006

*Life is much too important a thing to ever talk seriously about it.*

~Oscar Wilde

## **Cherokee Prayer**

Help me always to speak  
the truth quietly,  
to listen with an open mind  
when others speak,  
and to remember the peace  
that may be found in silence.

## **A Bit of English Culture**

Spelling (US word = UK word):

- center = centre
- theater = theatre
- flavor = flavour
- favorite = favourite

The Great Fire of 1666 began in Pudding Lane at the baker's house because he neglected to properly put out the fire in his stove before going to bed. The original roof of St. Paul's Cathedral melted (made of lead), the Tower of London was saved by blowing up houses to create a gap between the encroaching fire and the tower, and school children will tell you about the guy who buried his wine and parmesan cheese to protect them from the fire.

Mesmerizing Memoir:

John Bailey is the author of *Iris*, a memoir of his wife, the famous English novelist Iris Murdoch. It is the story of their life together from when they first met at a party and into the years when Alzheimer's has taken much of Iris away. The book was later turned into the film of the same name starring Kate Winslet and Judi Dench as Iris.

## **Mama Mia! London's Burning!**

Abba. A group my sisters and mom love. Before coming to England, I wasn't impressed by them, but at the same time didn't really care if someone around the house was listening to them. I had a fairly neutral opinion. After hearing them on the radio several times a day, everyday, for the last few months (actually it only took a week or two), I am now to the point where I immediately turn on a CD when one of their songs begins (it would take too long to find another station that comes in and doesn't playing gangster rap). When I return to the US, I don't want to hear *any* Abba until I'm at least 96 and three quarters years old.

In Jackie's computer class there is a woman, Linda, who always talks to 'Abby' (she greets me everyday by saying "Abby's a'right") and says "yeah!" while giving high fives to the air. She doesn't understand much of what is said to her; if you ask her a question, she'll just repeat the last two or three words in answer or say "this one." A couple of Mondays back the tutor for this course played the music video of Abba's "Mama Mia" for the class. When the music started, Linda began singing right along with the video. She knew all the words. And she sang along all three times it was played. It surprised- and impressed- me then. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised because the following week she brought in a tape of Abba Gold to be played while the class was running its Friday café.

The first time I encountered music in Jackie's college class was during a Wednesday tutorial session when we were all taught "Ippi Taumbi" (a musical from the 1970s) and "London's Burning" (about the Great Fire of 1666). Since then, the sing-a-long sessions have moved into the kitchen where we've learned "By the Rivers of Babylon," "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore," "Freya Jacque" (which the class has rewritten to be about a cup of tea), "Old McDonald Had a Farm" and many others. Most of the students enjoy music of some sort- opera, country, Michael Jackson- and join in with great enthusiasm. Jackie creates her medleys by singing whatever random pieces of songs come to her- "We Three Kings" is one of her favorites.

Music is also important to the service users at Queensdown Road. Denis is almost always wearing headphones and listening to music. Janis likes 1980s rock and Madonna.

We all have personal preferences in music, often varying with our moods and it is used for different things- relaxing, energizing, setting a certain mood or atmosphere (would movies really be so scary, romantic, dramatic without the score and soundtrack?). Jung tells us it is a way into the center of ourselves. So today, sing along with the radio or a favorite album- even if it is Abba.

## Meet Pavla Jiraskova!



Pavla comes from the Czech Republic where she has recently finished her Masters degree in psychology. This year she is volunteering at the Church Army Day Centre, a day center for homeless women, in London. She really enjoys her placement finding the work dynamic and challenging.

Living and working in the center of the city is great fun for Pavla. She spends her free time doing the usual tourist sort of sight seeing things, but also enjoys the life of a Londoner—spending time with friends, studying, and parties. The only thing she had to get used to was the dark winter with no snow. But she's not far from Hyde Park so when she wants to see trees that's where she goes.

Up next for Pavla— she's applying for a PhD program at an English university.

*Here's a really quick and easy recipe taken from the catering course. Jackie likes to make it on days off at home.*

### Shortcake Biscuits

8 oz plain flour  
5 oz butter  
3 oz sugar

Cream the butter and sugar. Using a knife, cut in the flour until the mix is small crumbs. Place evenly on a small greased baking tray and bake at 350°F until the top is a golden brown (about 15-20 minutes). Remove and while still warm, score the biscuits. When cool, break and enjoy!



### **New Year's Eve**

Gathering at my flat for dinner before going to the clock tower (Big Ben) to ring in 2006 are fellow volunteers Pavla (Czech Republic), Mijung (South Korea) and Lindsey (Wisconsin).

### The US of A in England

US fast food is everywhere in London. McDonald's is everywhere (although they do have a sandwich with the stamp of approval from the Vegetarian Society). And just as prominent is Star Bucks crammed in between similar coffee and sandwich bars of English origin. And of course we can't forget Wal\*Mart, here in the form of Asda, where you can now buy everything you need for the perfect cheap wedding.



### **Sonya and Crazy Guy**

While visiting YAGMs, Sonya was repeatedly frightened by this guy outside the Tower of London.

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The Young Adults in Global Mission is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides adults between the ages of 19 and 30 a year of volunteer service. The program offers leadership development, spiritual growth, global awareness and understanding. To find out more about outreach of the church, please visit <http://www.elca.org/globalserve/youngadults/>