

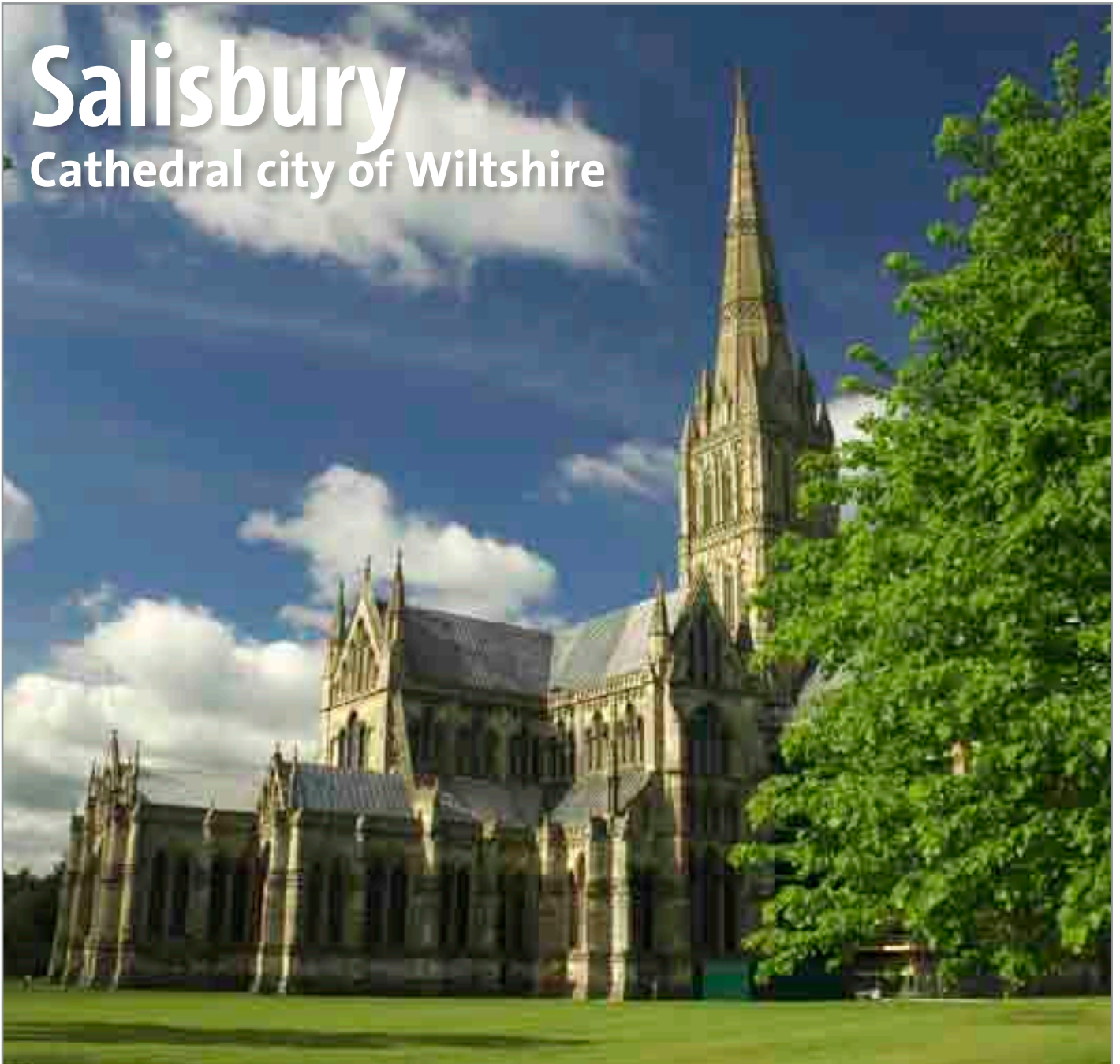
StopPress

The LAL Torbay Students' Magazine

Issue 28 | January 2009 | www.laltorbay.co.uk/stoppres

Salisbury

Cathedral city of Wiltshire



James Bond

From page to screen

A lifetime of films

A personal look at the cinema



A LESS TAXING TAXI (01803) 211 611

LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE TAXIS

ALL MAJOR CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

(CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD SURCHARGE APPLIES)

NO CALL-OUT CHARGE

NO EXTRAS – SINGLE TARIFF

24 HOURS A DAY – 7 DAYS A WEEK

5, 6, 7 or 8 passengers subject to separate tariff
(plus small surcharge over Christmas and New Year)

TORBAY TAXIS LIMITED, 55 BELGRAVE ROAD, TORQUAY



Sunbury Stores

St Michael's Road • Paignton

Convenience Store
Off Licence
Newsagent

Drinks • Ice Creams • Snacks • ATM

Open 06.00 - 22.00 Mon - Sat
07.00 - 22.00 Sun

Welcome to StopPress



Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of 2009.

This month we're introducing the first of our new series on the history of cinema and films, by Kevin Ryland; Lorraine Myrie gives us the proud, motherly low-down on her very talented son; we get all geological with a look at the unique landscape of the Westcountry; break into the offices of MI6 to find out about James Bond and take you on a trip to the beautiful and historic city of Salisbury. All of this and the usual 'What's on' and brain-teasers to get your 'little

grey cells' working after their Christmas break.

Don't forget that we always welcome input from you: if you want to tell other students about your life at home, your hobbies, an amazing holiday, or you have photographs you want to share, write to us at stoppress@laltorbay.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!



Contents

LAL News.....	4
Christmas with the Leisure Manager	5
At the cinema	6
James Bond	007
Salisbury	8
Myrie on Myrie	10
History of the English language.....	11
Geology of the Westcountry	12
Grammar Spod	13
English howlers.....	13
Spod Spy	13
Coffee Break.....	14
What's on	14
LAL Excursions	15

StopPress is published by LAL Torbay, edited by Andy Tyrrell and typeset by Tristram Grevatt.

Cinema by Kevin Ryland. Grammar Spod by Ariane Meier. Additional articles in this edition were submitted by Lorraine Myrie, Andy Tyrrell and Simon Nelson. Thanks to Ariane Meier for proof-reading.

We welcome submissions: Please hand any items you would like considered for publication to Andy Tyrrell in Room 1.01, or e-mail stoppress@laltorbay.co.uk

Articles in this magazine are contributed and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of LAL Torbay.

Front cover by Chappy14.

LAL Language Centre (Torbay) Ltd
Conway Road, Paignton, TQ4 5LH,
England
+ 44 (0)1803 558555
torbay@lalgroup.com
*
www.laltorbay.co.uk/stoppres

News



New web site at www.lalschools.com

We are pleased to announce that LAL's brand-new website at www.lalschools.com has been launched after many months of work. The new site is completely different from our old website, which had been serving LAL for four years.

The new site is full of information about LAL's schools and our partners. It has been designed mainly for our agents, but it includes features for students, staff and host families too.

For example, the LAL Guide is on-line on the new site, and StopPress will have a new home there before long too.

The site will be regularly updated to feature the latest news and special offers from LAL.

New LAL Torbay Guide

Hot off the press is the new LAL Torbay Guide for adult students. This is the second Guide to be produced, and includes even more information than last year's launch issue. There's more information about lessons,

for example, and the excursion guide - which features detailed descriptions and colour photographs of LAL Torbay's excursions - now has a quick-reference key to the attractions on every tour.

We have also completely updated our guide to eating out in Torbay to include new restaurants and up-to-date information.

The Guide is given to all new students on their first day,



but copies are available for existing students from the Excursions counter, free of charge.

We always welcome feedback on the Guide, or suggestions about how it could be improved. So let us know what you think!

New staff at LAL Fort Lauderdale

We warmly welcome Michele Wegmann, our new Sales and Marketing Manager for LAL USA!

Ms Wegmann was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She is fluent in French (native speaker), English and Spanish. A long time resident of South Florida, she is a graduate of St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, with a B.A. in International Business Communications, Public Relations and Marketing.

Michele enjoyed 32 years with Air Canada, first as a flight attendant and ended as an In-Flight Safety Manager. More recently, she worked in the Hospitality Industry at the prestigious Turnberry Isle Resort & Club in Aventura, Fort Lauderdale, as guest relations/VIP organiser.

Michele has a son, Thomas, living in Toronto, Canada, and is married to a local professional golfer. She enjoys travelling, reading, cooking and golf!

Christmas with the LAL Leisure Manager

Level
B2
Intermediate

When everyone at LAL was looking forward to a relaxing Christmas break after a long and hard year, one member of the team was packing his bags and changing his job description for the next fourteen days.

Simon Nelson, the Leisure Manager, is about to enter his 11th year with the company but every Christmas he goes back to his roots, as an Entertainments Manager. He heads off to the resort of Santa Susanna, which is about 40km North of Barcelona, Spain, to entertain almost 1,000 guests at the four-star Florida Park Resort Hotel. Simon has been doing this for the last four years now, along with his former assistant at LAL, David Short, and a small Spanish team. The 12-night Christmas package is all about bingo, quizzes, fun and games, sports challenges, cabaret shows and disco music.

Simon says he is a 'jack of all trades' in entertainment. He has been a holiday camp host, radio DJ and even did a stint working in TV, which all helps to bring the programme together. He reckons that this has led to the four most successful Christmases the hotel has had in its nineteen year history.

It all came about from a desperate phone call from the Managing Director of the chain of Group Florida Hotels who operate seven large resort hotels throughout the Costa Brava and Costa Blanca areas of Spain.

The owner and his wife, along

with the group's UK Marketing Director, are long standing personal friends of Simon and needed someone to come in and make things happen. Simon comments, "At first I was sympathetic, but not really interested. I have a good job here at LAL and by Christmas the last thing I need is two weeks of compering shows, singing, calling bingo, dressing up as Santa and all the other day-to-day things that it involves.

But Sebastian and Kathy were very persuasive and in the end I agreed to go for one Christmas and get the ball rolling.

"Since then the repeat bookings have gone up from 0 to almost 25% of the total bookings and the bar takings have gone up astronomically. Every year is more successful than the last and 2008 was a bumper year. They also look after us like kings as well, they leave everything in my hands and I even have my own PA whose job it is to look after all my personal needs. David has stuck with me, I also added Toni to the team two years ago and he has proved invaluable in his role along with my hard working PA, Marina." How long will it go on? Simon says, "I say every year, next year it is Christmas relaxing at home for me, but to be honest I do enjoy it. I would never let it get in the way of my real job with LAL of course, but it fits in really well with our Christmas holidays here at the school. So, who knows, we shall have to see in twelve months time where I will be at Christmas time.'  SN



From top: Florida Park Resort Hotel; (left to right) Dave, Marina, Simon and Toni; The entertainments team

At the cinema



Kevin Ryland looks back at a lifetime of visits to the cinema.

I have been a loyal fan of the cinema for many years, from when I was a very small boy. Before I set foot in a cinema I was afraid of the strange building which had colourful and attractive photos and gaudy posters outside. The first film I ever saw was an English comedy about a romantic little railway line being kept alive by ardent supporters which, indeed, was rather prescient.

From that day I was truly "hooked" and went with my mother very often, always to see "U" films ("U" = universal), though when I was older

I graduated to "A" films ("A" = adult), "X" films, however, remained inaccessible until I was 16 as they contained "strong" themes of violence and sex.

In those days, before the invention of video and DVDs, it was easier to control what kind of films children could see. There were Saturday morning children's clubs with cartoons, adventures and cowboy films (such as Hopalong Cassidy) and plenty of ice-cream, soft drinks and popcorn. When I was a child I used to go to Walt Disney cartoons until I realised how sentimental and manipulative they were. I've always preferred the superb anarchy of the

Warner Bros. Cartoons of Bugs Bunny and Road Runner.

My mother's father was a film director (Norman Lee) and she worked in a film studio as a continuity girl, so you could say it was in my blood.

As I grew into late adolescence my film tastes changed and became more sophisticated and I joined the Torquay Film Society. By this time I was resident in Oxford and I was really keen on "art" films and foreign films and used to indulge my enthusiasm for films from India, Japan, Europe and Mexico, for example, at the students' favourite Scala Cinema, and I learnt

to recognise the style of key film-makers and read serious film magazines (i.e. the British Film Institute's "Sight and Sound") and books.

I've never lost my love of good westerns and horror films, but comedies and war films largely leave me cold, with one or two special exceptions like "Some Like it Hot" (1959) or "The Thin Red Line" (1998), both masterpieces.

Recently I joined the new Torquay Film Society (everything goes full circle!) which projects DVDs of art and foreign films and which has garnered good support. I also try to support my local cinemas such as the Apollo (Paignton) and the

Level
Upper-intermediate

C1

Page to screen: James Bond

Level
B2
Intermediate

Michael Connors

Women want him, men want to be him and he likes it "Shaken, not stirred".

No, we are not doing an article on LAL's Managing Director! We have decided to start the year with a closer look at one of the most famous English literary figures.

Commander James Bond, KCMG, RNVR agent of the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) was created in 1952, the brainchild of British journalist Ian Fleming. He has to date appeared in 12 novels, two short stories and 22 films. In 2007, to commemorate the 100th birthday of Ian Fleming, a 13th Bond novel was published, written by Sebastian Faulks.

For those of you wanting to impress your friends you might like to know that James Bond's parents are Andrew Bond and Monique Delacroix and, depending on which biography you read, his birthday is 11th November 1920, 1924 or 1925. His family motto is "Orbis non sufficit" ("The world is not enough"). His bride, Teresa di Vincenzo, is murdered on their wedding day and in the novels he has a son by the character

Kissy Suzuki.

In contrast to the smooth, suave secret agent portrayed on film, it is thought that Bond was a more romanticised version of Fleming himself. From reading the books it has become obvious that Bond and Fleming attended the same schools, liked the same foods (scrambled eggs, and coffee), had the same habits (drinking, smoking, wearing short-sleeve shirts) and had similar naval paths. In an interview Fleming once admitted that Bond had been partly inspired by his service in the Naval Intelligence Division of the Admiralty, most notably an incident described in 'Casino Royal', when Fleming went on a mission to Lisbon. At a casino in Estoril he lost a large amount of money to a "chief German agent" in a game of Chemin de Fer.

In both novels and film, Bond has meaningless affairs or one-night-stands with virtually every woman he meets, and then leaves them when they become an inconvenience. One of the more amusing aspects of the Bond stories is that the women he meets also have the most ridiculous names: who can forget Dr, Christmas Jones, Holly Goodhead or the world-famous Pussy Galore. **AT**

Central (Torquay) when they show worthwhile films. My recent cinema-going experiences have included "The Dark Knight" (noisy and overrated) and "Gone, Baby, Gone" – Ben Affleck's first film as a director (sensitive and impressive), but there are so many poor films these days, such as mindless "popcorn movies," silly comedies or noisy action films that my loyalty is severely tested.

I love cinema – the projector's light, the special atmosphere, the feelings of excited anticipation that I first experienced all those years ago. **KR**



Thomas Gray

The cathedral city of Salisbury



Located in the county of Wiltshire at the point where five rivers meet, there has been a settlement here since the Iron Age. It wasn't until after the Norman Conquest of 1066 that the Sarum, as it was called, became important with the building of a castle on the remains of the Iron Age hill fort and later the nearby cathedral between 1075 and 1092.

As often happened in these dark times, the Church and Military never saw eye to eye and so it wasn't long before the clergy had their cassocks in

a twist and the military were flashing their weapons, so a new cathedral was started at a nearby site and the city of New Sarum was born and became Salisbury in 1220.

In 1226, King Henry II gave the Bishop of Salisbury permission to hold a fair lasting eight days from 15th August. Over the following centuries the dates of the fair has moved many times and is now held for three days from the 3rd Monday in October.

By the dangerous, smelly and violent times of the mediaeval age Salisbury had become the most



Salisbury Tourism

Level
B2
Intermediate



Salisbury Tourism

important place in Wiltshire. The city now had a spectacular wall around it with five gates allowing access to a busy and prosperous area full of taverns (pubs), markets, houses and churches, all located around the magnificent cathedral.

One of the oldest and most famous taverns in the city is the 'Haunch of Venison' which is infamous for having the mummified remains of a hand that was cut from its owner during a very bad-tempered card game. If you visit it you can see the solid pewter bar, but be warned because you may see the resident ghost. There is also a story that Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower met secretly in a small room in the tavern to plan the D-Day landings during World War II.

Famous residents

Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath lived and died in Salisbury and the actor Anthony Daniels (who played C-3PO in the Star Wars films) was born here.

Famous visitors

A room located above St Anne's Gate is where the composer Handel stayed. And during the Great Plague of 1665 King Charles II moved to Salisbury to get away from the danger.

With no television, radio or film and, to be honest, some of the most depressing music, it's not surprising that the wealthy people of the 13th century became very fond of having great parties and banquets. In Cathedral Close there is an historic 13th century banqueting hall which was used for these grand functions and at times of the many royal visits to the city.

Throughout the city's history it has always been popular with artists and musicians because the wide open landscape and rolling hills of Wiltshire make it an ideal place to visit for inspiration.

In the 18th century John Constable made a number of celebrated paintings of the area featuring the cathedral spire and surrounding countryside.

It is impossible to mention Salisbury without mentioning the fact that just 8 miles (13km) from Salisbury, located on the vast Salisbury Plain, is the world famous prehistoric stone circle at Stonehenge. Built between 3,000 and 1,000 BC, the site is thought to have been either a place of worship or a huge astronomical calendar and has now been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Each year on June 21st visitors from around the world gather at Stonehenge overnight to mark the summer solstice and, weather permitting, watch the sun rise above the stones on the longest day. At dawn the central Altar stone aligns with the Slaughter stone, Heel stone and the rising sun. 🇬🇧 AT

Visit Salisbury:

The next LAL tour to Salisbury is on Saturday 31st January, price £25 including a visit and admission to Stonehenge.

Trains to Salisbury from Paignton cost £37 for an off-peak return.

Find out more about Salisbury at: www.visitsalisbury.com

Salisbury Tourism



The cathedral

The spire of Salisbury cathedral is 123m (400ft) high and is the tallest in the UK. It has Europe's oldest working clock – built in 1386, and has one of only four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta.

Myrie on Myrie

Level
Pre-intermediate

B1

As a proud mother and grandmother it is hardly surprising that the teaching department has always followed with interest the highs and lows of our very own Lorraine Myrie's children and grandchildren. Recently she went to London to attend the launch of her son's new book, we couldn't let this event go unrecognised so here is her proud biography of her talented son.

The date was 19th July 1984 – a special day because it was Russell's 6th birthday and his last day as an infant in Ilsham School.

On the last day of term the pupils were allowed to wear non-uniform and take a toy or game to school. Russell went to school wearing one of his presents – a Liverpool football strip. The headmaster asked the children what they wanted to be in the future and Russell said "I'm going to play football for Liverpool and write books".

He went through juniors, sat the 11+ exam and started at Westlands Secondary, where he won prizes for writing and was one of the founder members of the new school magazine. At this time he became interested in hip-hop and rap music.

Down came the Michael Jackson posters and up went posters of Wu-Tang Clan, Space Cowboy and his cousin Mark Myrie whose stage name was Buju Banton.

Russell also started music lessons, playing drums – he went on eventually to Grade 8 at the Royal School of Music and for a time flirted with the idea of being a musician. He played in Torbay and Devon Youth Orchestras.

Russell started writing political lyrics; his sister Allison was in the musical collective 'Soul to Soul', and singing and writing reggae with the group 'People to People'; another sister, Suzanne, had just started to learn the piano; we bought a second-hand organ. It was a few noisy years!

Amid all of this I insisted on homework being done, and checked school-work. Russell went on to get eight GCSEs, and three A-Levels and, after narrowly missing out on a place at Oxford University, went to Brunel, graduated with a degree in English and History. At Brunel, Russell kept writing and became more interested in hip-hop. He played drums in pubs and clubs but because he earned more beer than cash, he started doing session work in recording

studies. He met Pete Doherty whose sister and Carl Marat were two of his room-mates.

After leaving university Russell worked at a wine import and export company in London. However, he never stopped writing and submitting articles for publication, and receiving rejection slips or being ignored, a situation which went on for 27 months. Although he came very close to giving up his dream of becoming a writer he found the strength to keep on until 'Touch' magazine accepted one of his articles – unpaid. The thrill of being published spurred him on to try even harder.

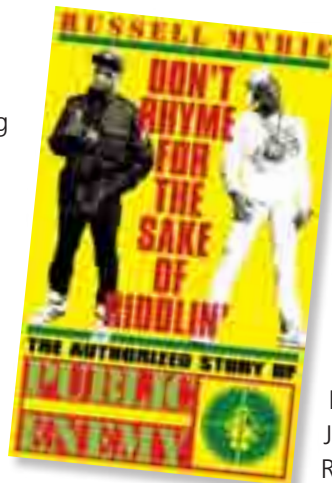
He then made a major decision to give up his job and work full-time at Touch magazine – a small outfit which was featured on the TV programme Paddington Green. He was sent to America to interview Dr Dre, one of hip-hop's pioneers. While there he was employed by a music magazine to write about the growth of hip-hop in the UK. Touch merged with a magazine in Aldgate where Russell learned about editing and producing; this project went bankrupt but the experience he gained there proved invaluable because he was head-hunted by 'The Voice' – a twice weekly paper in London.

He introduced an arts magazine supplement to the Friday issue of 'The Voice' and was promoted to Arts Editor. He branched out into book and music reviews and divided his time between the USA and UK.

He started writing sleeve notes for CDs, and interviewing well-known people for his newspaper. To name drop he has interviewed Will Smith, Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Richard Pryor and the Nobel Prize writer Derek Walcott, to name but a few.

He was asked to tour in the USA with Puff Daddy and write about it; he went on tour with Jamaica with Missy Elliot. In 2002, he met Carlton Ridenaur, aka Chuck D of Public Enemy. He liked Russell's work, gave him many interviews and introduced him to influential people. The hip-hop group Public Enemy decided to publish a biography of the group and Russell was the only writer Chuck D trusted.

After touring with them during 2006 and writing, rewriting, sending manuscripts to lawyers both sides of the Atlantic (and proof-reading by his mother) the book 'Don't Rhyme For The Sake of Riddlin: The Story Of Public Enemy' was publicly launched on 9th October 2008 at the South Bank in London. **LM**



A brief history of the English language part three - the French arrive

Level
C1

Upper-intermediate

For all you grammar students who want to practice your third conditional (for hypothetical events), here is a classic 'What if' from English history that has an important effect on the grammar, spelling and pronunciation that you are learning now...

1066, the year of three kings, ended with the second of two pitched battles fought on English by the Saxon King Harold. After spectacularly defeating an invasion by the Scandinavians in the north of the country he marched his troops down to the south coast to confront a particularly angry William, Duke of Normandy.

At the Battle of Hastings things were going well for the English king and at one point it looked like the home team was going to win, until Fate decided that a well-aimed arrow should land in King Harold's eye and kill him. William, with his outrageous French accent, won the battle and the country. Over the next one hundred years the English culture and language changed dramatically.

English was wiped away from the corridors of power as King William replaced the English lords with his French buddies. French-speaking barons were appointed, who brought their own families and servants.



A banquet from the Norman Bayeux Tapestry: In English many words for animals are Anglo Saxon (pig, cow, hen) but the words for the foods from those animals are French (pork became pork, boeuf became beef, poulet became poultry).

French-speaking abbots and bishops were appointed to replace the English-speaking clergy. Four years after the battle the new Archbishop of Canterbury was a Frenchman who, like the king, spoke no English.

Within 20 years of the Norman victory, the smell of garlic could be found in almost all the religious houses as they were now run by French-speaking superiors. Large numbers of French merchants and craftsmen crossed the Channel to take advantage of the trade offered by the new French colony.

In order to survive in these politically unstable times it was up to the wealthiest and most powerful of English people to brown-nose those in power and learn French if they wanted to maintain any of

their previous status.

With the country dominated by the French it is unsurprising that it was not long before French spelling rules, pronunciation and grammar started to have an effect on English. Spelling underwent some radical changes as a result of the conquerors trying to spell English according to French spelling rules. Before 1066 the word *queen* was spelt *kwen* but pronounced in the modern way.

However, by the end of the 12th century some children of the nobility spoke English as their first tongue and had to be taught French. Nevertheless, if you were to walk around many English towns and villages at this time you would notice how the French influence had influenced life through the

French influence introduced a number of new letter combinations to the English spelling system, including double vowels (ee), sh, th, wh, ph and the English-language learner's nightmare combination of letters – ough.

names that the children had. It was now more common to hear parents calling their kids John, Eleanor, Margaret, Simon, Peter and Stephen rather than Godwine, Egbert, Alfred, Wulfric and Eadric.

French continued to be used in Parliament, the courts, and in public proceedings. It is also thought that it wasn't until the 1300s that the King actually spoke English!

We think that the English language managed to survive, unlike Celtic, because the population of England in 1066 was much greater than when invaders had overrun the Celtic language. Though French became the language of the upper classes and gentry, 'the masses' continued to speak English.

So, to return to our third conditional – 'What if the English had won the Battle of Hastings?' Well it's very possible that the language would be much easier to spell and pronounce, but we'd all have some pretty daft names! 🇬🇧 AT

The geology of the Westcountry

Level
Intermediate **B2**

Geologically speaking it's only been a very short time since our hairy ancestors were walking around continental Europe looking for their next meal, when they came across a wide area of open plains and forests full of rhino, mammoths and elk.

Having continued to explore further north they came across a region of land made up of a number of high, wooded areas with excellent views of the surrounding area. They also discovered fast flowing rivers full of fish and fertile red soil. To the east was a vast open expanse of high ground made of a curious, soft, white soil and a climate that was not too unpleasant: it was not as warm as further south, but the rains that fell in this area made it a great place for growing crops.

Over the following centuries the sea-level rose and the fertile land was cut-off from the rest of the continent. Our visitors were



Ali Taylor



Sean Davies

The hard volcanic rocks of Dartmoor (top) contrast with the soft sedimentary limestone of Durdle Dor (above) on the Dorset 'Jurassic' coast

now living in the south-western corner of what would later be known as the British Isles.

The south-west is made up of a mixture of volcanic rock (created by volcanoes)

from 295 million years ago and sedimentary rock (created by rivers and seas). Devon and Cornwall are mostly granite, created by volcanoes, with the famous tors of Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin moor being the remains of huge masses of solidified volcanic rock. To the east of the region in Wiltshire and Dorset you can find the famous chalk and limestone regions of Salisbury Plain, the Dorset Downs and Somerset Levels.

One of the unexpected benefits of the rising sea-levels was the creation of 702 miles (1,130 km) of coastline around the huge finger of land sticking out

Devon is rusty

The red soil of Devon is a result of iron-rich sand from a desert which once covered the land. The sand became rock, the iron rusted (oxidised) and the result is our red soil.

into the Atlantic Ocean. Archaeologists have not managed to discover any prehistoric surfboards or buckets and spades, but there's no doubt that early man would go fishing and hunt for food on the shore.

As the population increased and began to farm, many of the forests and woods that covered the westcountry were cut down, leaving the bare, windswept moors that we can see today. Farming thrived on the more fertile soils in the east and these areas are still the home of most of the region's dairy farms.

In 2001 a 95-mile (155 km) length of the south coast (from Orcombe Point near Exmouth in Devon to Old Harry Rocks in Dorset) was officially recognised as a World Heritage Site. This Jurassic Coast is made up of rocks from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous time periods which have been twisted by powerful forces in the earth so that they are exposed vertically not horizontally. This means that as you walk along the coast you pass back through time without having to dig down to great depths. **AT**



Steve Dawson

Cornwall's Willy is smaller...

The highest point in Devon is High Willhays on Dartmoor (621m – 2,039ft above sea level). The highest point in Cornwall is Brown Willy on Bodmin Moor (417m – 1,368ft).

Grammar Spod: Past Simple



I hope you have all enjoyed the festive time with all its mince pies, Christmas puddings, mulled wine and Christmas crackers... but now it's back to school!

I am delighted to share with you the undeniable secrets of the lovely English language once again this month. Having had a closer look at the Present Continuous tense in last month's StopPress, this time we will be looking at the Past Simple tense.

Let's turn to the ever so useful Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary for the definition of the Past Simple tense:

The Past Simple tense is 'the form of a verb used to describe an action which happened before the present time and is no longer happening'.

We use the Past Simple tense for the following:

- **Short, quickly finished actions and happenings**
'We chugged out the Christmas tree.'
- **Longer actions**
'When I was a child I believed in Santa and the Easter bunny.'
- **When referring to finished periods and moments of time**
'I bought some eggs yesterday.'
- **Repeated actions**
'My mother always bought me roses for my birthday.'
- **Story-telling of past events**
'Once upon a time, there lived a famous lady called Countess Grammar.'

I hope you enjoyed this introduction to the use of the Past Simple tense. Please let me know if there is a tense or a grammatical concept you would like to read about in particular in one of the following editions of StopPress. I would be delighted to hear from you at stoppress@laltorbay.co.uk.

Until next month – yours sincerely,

Countess Grammar  AM

English howlers

I'm sure I don't need to tell you how difficult it is to learn English. There are so many words and many of them have more than one meaning! If it makes you feel better the English get confused by their own language too.

Here are some examples of embarrassing mistakes made with the language by the English and other nationalities from around the world...

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

"Would you like to ride on your own ass?"

A sign seen on an automatic public WC hand dryer:

"Do not activate with wet hands."

In a maternity hospital:

"No children allowed"

In a Tokyo hotel:

"Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed"

In a Tokyo bar

"Special cocktails for ladies with nuts"



Spod Spy

Once again our Spod has been out and about in Torbay, looking for examples of English being used incorrectly. This sign is on the waterfront in Torquay. Apart from the letters stolen from 'Borough of Torbay', what's wrong with it?

Answer on page 15.

Coffee Break

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3 x 3 grid contains the numbers from 1 to 9 once only.

Solution on page 15

2			4		6		3	7
4							1	
	9	5				2		8
		3	9		1	7		
	4		2		7	6	8	1
		2		6	8			
	2	6		8		1		
7	1		6		9		2	4
			1	7				9

What's on

Painterly Printmakers 19 Jan 2009 - 22 Feb 2009

An exhibition of the work of artists Deborah Treliving and Simon Ripley in the Torre Abbey Galleries. Normal Abbey admission prices apply. Torre Abbey Historic House and Gallery The King's Drive, Torquay Tel: 01803 293593

Garden Bird Watching 24 Jan 2009 Visit our bird hide to create and decorate your own scrap book recording the birds you see. A fun and easy way to take part in the RSPB's 'Big Garden Bird Watch', and have a go with binoculars and a telescope.

Meet: Occombe Farm Time: 10.00 -12.00 Occombe Farm, Preston Down Road, Paignton Tel: 01803 606035

Peoples' Wood Tree Thinning Day 1 Feb 2009 Help the rangers manage this young woodland planted in the early 1990s. We'll be removing poorly-growing and squirrel-damaged trees to benefit the remaining trees and create habitat piles.

Meet: Warren Barn, Cockington Country Park Time 10am - 3pm Cost: Free Sunday 10:00 - 15:00 Warren Barn, Cockington Country Park, Torquay Tel: 01803 606035

Pig Race Night 12 Feb 2009 A race night with an oinking difference. Guaranteed to have you in hysterics as you cheer on your "piggy" to the finish line. Ticket price: £14.00, SOS CLub Members £12.00 (Includes supper in Paignton Zoo's Island Restaurant).

Brain teasers

SOS!

Fifteen people are trapped aboard a ship that's going to sink in exactly 20 minutes. Their only chance for survival is the five-person life raft stowed on their vessel. To make matters worse, the waters around the ship is full of man-eating sharks, so swimming to safety is out of the question.

A round-trip to the nearest island and back to the ship takes nine minutes on the raft. How many people will live to see dry land?

The usual suspects

Five suspects are called to the police station for questioning. They give the following statements.

A: "One of the five of us is lying."

B: "Two of the five of us are lying."

C: "I know these guys, and three of the five of us are lying."

D: "Don't listen to a word they say. Out of the five of us, four are lying."

E: "All five of us are dirty rotten liars!"

The police only want to release the suspects who are telling the truth. How many people should they let go?

Down on the farm

A farmer wishes to move a wolf, a sheep and a cabbage from one side of a river to the other while obeying the following rules...

1. The captain can only take one animal or item across at once.
2. You cannot leave the wolf alone with the sheep or the sheep with the cabbage.

You can go across the river as many times as you need but the shortest possible solution takes only 7 trips... how?

Snakes alive!

A young man is boasting about the many and varied pets he keeps.

He has 10 pets. Not just canaries and dogs, but tortoises and even snakes! He can't remember how many of each animal he has, but there are six wings, three shells and 26 legs between all of them.

Can you work out how many snakes does he have?

Answers on page 15!

Little Theatre, Torquay

Sat 17th - Sat 24th Jan 2009 - 7.30pm*

*(no performance on Sunday)

Barefoot In The Park

By Neil Simon

Directed by Brian Fossey

Climb the five flights of stairs to the tiny apartment of New Yorkers Paul and Corrie Bratter, as fresh from their honeymoon the mis-matched pair begin a battle to understand life, love and surviving wedded bliss, aided by a meddling mother-in-law and an extremely eccentric neighbour. A smash hit comedy from the master of one-liners.

Tickets £9.50 Concessions £8.50

Sat 14th - Sat 21st Feb 2009 - 7.30pm*

*(no performance on Sunday)

Dial M for Murder

Directed by Alec Stokes

When a husband's plot to murder his wife for her money goes wrong, he improvises a brilliant plan B! A taut psychological thriller which proves that planning the perfect murder is not as easy as it seems...

Tickets £9.50 Concessions £8.50

Bookings:

The box office is open every morning, Monday to Friday between 10.30am and 1.30pm. During the run of all plays the box office is also open from 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

By Phone: 01803 299330

Fundraising for our exciting new

Baboon Exhibit.

19:00 - 23:30

Paignton Zoo Environmental Park,

Totnes Road, Paignton

Tel: 01803 697500

Nest Box Making 17 Feb 2009

Make a nest box for your garden birds this Spring.

Cost: £5 per box. Booking: Essential

10:00 - 12:00

Occombe Farm, Preston Down Road, Paignton

Tel: 01803 606036

Babbacombe Theatre, Torquay

10 February 20.15

ALIVE WITH LAUGHTER

The Babbacombe Theatre has always been renowned for keeping its 'finger on the pulse' as well as keeping one step ahead. 2009 will be no exception as the all-new show 'Alive With Laughter' opens at the venue on Tuesday 10th February and will run weekly until October 21st.

Babbacombe Theatre, Babbacombe, Torquay

Box Office 01803 328 385

Princess Theatre, Torquay

19 February 14:00

A Smart Attack of Art

20 February 19:30

Big Time American Wrestling

20 February 19:30

Big Time American Wrestling

21 February 19:30

Pop Goes the 80's

Box Office Numbers:

Ticketmaster: 08702 414 120

Groups (10+ tickets): 01803 380 842

Box Office Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00

Find out what's on at
www.englishriviera.co.uk

LAL Excursions

27/01 Dartmouth & Kingswear

28/01 Dartington Hall
Country Pub

29/01 Exeter walk & shops

30/01 Taste of Dartmoor

31/01 Salisbury & Stonehenge

03/02 Totnes walk & shops
Jazz Night

04/02 Brixham & Berry head

05/02 Plymouth Barbican & Hoe

06/02 Coast Drive

07/02 North Cornwall

10/02 Kents Cavern

11/02 Cockington & Torquay
Country Pub

12/02 Exeter walk & shops

13/02 Taste of Dartmoor

14/02 Bath & Wells city tour

17/02 Totnes walk & shops
Jazz Night

18/02 Dartington Hall

19/02 Plymouth Barbican & Hoe

20/02 East Devon Delights


21/02 SW Cornwall & Land's End

Full descriptions of all excursions are printed in the LAL Torbay Guide. This programme may change: please see this week's excursion planner, available from the Excursions counter.

Solutions

2	8	1	4	9	6	5	3	7
4	3	7	8	2	5	9	1	6
6	9	5	7	1	3	2	4	8
8	6	3	9	4	1	7	5	2
5	4	9	2	3	7	6	8	1
1	7	2	5	6	8	4	9	3
9	2	6	3	8	4	1	7	5
7	1	8	6	5	9	3	2	4
3	5	4	1	7	2	8	6	9

SOS: 13 people can escape to dry land (5 over, 1 back, 5 over, 1 back, 5 over).
The usual suspects: One person should be set free. Every suspect accused a different number of people. If anyone was telling the truth, it had to be one suspect, no more no less. The only suspect whose statement fits that condition is D.
Down on the farm: Trip 1 = sheep across; Trip 2 = nothing back; Trip 3 = wolf across; Trip 4 = sheep back; Trip 5 = cabbage across; Trip 6 = nothing back; Trip 7 = sheep across. Snakes alive: he young man has two snakes. 6 wings = 3 canaries (6 legs), 3 shells = 3 tortoises (12 legs), 6 animals = 18 legs, remaining animals = 4 with 8 remaining legs = 2 dogs + 2 snakes
Spod Spy: 'Prohibited' has only one 'i'.



leaving
one
classroom's
lights on overnight
wastes enough
energy
to make
forty
cups
of **tea**

(so switch them off)

SWITCH OFF

