

## *Cream Tea & Tea time Masterclass*

British Tea Museum, Hastings by Aubry Marine, Grenier Etienne, Prandi Enzo and Marot Chloé

On April 26th, during our trip, in Hastings, we have visited the British Tea Museum. At the beginning, a woman received us, caressing our heads with peacock feathers. This miss was our host. The museum is composed by only 1 main room with a lot of tables, chairs and a tea bar. On the bar there are a lot of different beautiful tea jars and about our tables, we had lovely tea cups and nice plates. It was a beautiful decor which make us travel a few centuries before. Indeed, we saw an old carriage and some costumes from the past.



### *Tea Time!*

- What is tea Time? It's not only a tradition that was introduced in England where people share a cup of tea with family and Friends but a habit in the daily life of every English. This concept appeared in England during the 19th thanks to the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna.
- How did She do it? The Duchess was simply hungry at around four in the afternoon and the evening meal was scheduled for 8pm. As she didn't want to wait that long to eat, she asked for a tray of tea, bread, butter and cake at the end of the afternoon. Overtime, tea has diversified, there are several families, black teas, green teas

& green tonics and oolong & white teas, while a new snack has appeared: the scone.

- Tea time, which is also known as afternoon party, became popular and a convivial moment where women met men and danced to a certain extent. We students saw this very clearly with the sumptuous dance that Mr Pelud and Mrs Juillion performed for us.

So, we had the pleasure of tasting the English tea as well as the tasty (and caloric according to some) scone:



- First, we had the right to smell different teas in order to choose one. We had set our sights on Moroccan Mint: A classic blend of gunpowder green tea and spearmint. We also had the privilege of enjoying a second cup of tea accompanied by the famous scone. This is a British bun which is eaten with fresh cream and/or jam. However, a question arised, cream or jam first? A debate that reminds us of the famous conflict between pain au chocolat and chokolatine. And the answer then...? Like one wants!
- And our opinions...? Oh yes! Quite shared once again, some people liked it, others found it a bit too original, and about the tea, as good French people it was our duty to add sugar! And with this little extra there is only one word left to say... *DELICIOUS!*

Our opinion is a bit divided:

- On the one hand we find that this activity was very interesting, the lady who received us was invested in her role and she really wanted to teach us this English tradition, we also appreciated the fact that it was interactive. Being able to choose the tea we wanted was seductive and discovering scones was a pleasant experience even if some didn't appreciate.

- On the other hand, it was a bit too much for some, it could be uncomfortable to have to participate in tea activities because we didn't necessarily agree. The welcome was a bit special and displeased many of us.

Overall, it remains a pleasant discovery very interesting and funny !

To conclude, we spent an extravagant day that we won't soon forget. It was a strange and funny experience; we discovered the eccentric part of the English people and we tasted some excellent teas and caloric scones.

*Tea Time! Sunshine! \*\*sparkling sparkling\*\**

