

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2012

MAGGIE DICKSON

Maggie Dickson was born in Musselburgh, a small town east of the Scottish capital Edinburgh, in about 1702 and was subsequently brought up there. She married a fisherman but he soon left her. Depending on the version of the story you read, he was either forced to join the Royal Navy or went to work on the fishing fleet south of the border in Newcastle.

In 1723, at the age of 21, Maggie found work at an inn in another small town in the border area between Scotland and England, called Kelso. Subsequently she fell pregnant after a relationship with the innkeeper's son. Maggie concealed her pregnancy and the baby arrived prematurely. It is unclear whether the baby was stillborn or died shortly after birth. Either way, Maggie abandoned the body on the banks of the River Tweed, where it was found. Maggie was arrested and subsequently tried in Edinburgh. Some sources say she was charged under the Concealment of Pregnancy Act, but it seems more likely she was tried with causing the death of her child. Based on questionable medical evidence that the child had been born alive, she was convicted and sentenced to death.

Maggie was hanged at a public execution in Edinburgh's Grassmarket, a site where death sentences were often carried out, on 2 September 1724. Her execution was followed by a near riot as friends and relatives fought with medical students for her body. The friends and relatives won, and Maggie was placed in a coffin to be transported to Musselburgh for burial. While her relatives paused en route for refreshment in a roadside pub, the lid of the coffin moved, and Maggie was found to be alive. She was well enough to walk the rest of the way to Musselburgh the next day.

As the sentence of the court had been carried out, Maggie was beyond further prosecution and she lived for another 40 years, known universally as Half-Hangit Maggie. Some say that Maggie survived because she had become a "good friend" of the rope-maker who supplied the hangman, and the early breaking of the rope allowed her survival. Whatever the reason for her survival, her story is remembered in the name of Maggie Dickson's Pub, which overlooks the scene of her execution in Edinburgh's Grassmarket, and remains a popular spot to this day for tourists and locals.

The incident has become an important part of local folklore and even the hangman, John Dalglish, felt the need to mention her in his dying words.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

* Call for details: **089 9217595**

SITE OF THE MONTH:

For those who would like to learn more about Edinburgh:
http://www.tripadvisor.com/Guide-g186525-i19992-Edinburgh_Scotland.html



Article by Craig

The Maggie Dickson Pub in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: December 1st will be our last “end-of-term” party in the current school calendar system. As you are aware, we are shifting to a semester calendar system from next month. This means that we will hold two, instead of three, parties like this in a year. For this last party we are planning something special and I’m sure those of you who come will have a great time! See you there.

Junko Says: After so many years, I had become accustomed to the old four months term system. We are now going to change, as you already know, to two semesters in a year. I hope everyone is prepared and ready to try out this new system; it should prove to be more convenient for everyone, our students, teachers and even for me in the office!



Matthew Says: I am interested in the environment and the impact we have as humans on the environment. You all love shopping so you all know that every time you leave a store, you leave with a plastic bag holding your bought item(s). Please ask yourself "Do I REALLY need that plastic bag?" - You use that bag for what - two minutes, while it takes twenty years for it to degrade...in the sea. Do you eat fish? Fish eat those plastic bags!

Craig Says: A friend of mine recently told me about several abandoned villages and amusement parks which can be found all over Japan. One of them, Hashima island, will feature in the new 007 film, Skyfall. I am very interested in visiting one of these places, so if you have been to any of them, please let me know.



Ludovic Dit: Le 11 novembre, c’est la commémoration de la fin de la Première Guerre Mondiale (1914-1918). Un carnage épouvantable (1,315,000 soldats Français morts, soit 27 % des 18-27 ans), qui a dégoûté profondément de la guerre les Français (qui sont maintenant largement pacifistes). Aujourd’hui encore, on se souvient avec vivacité de toutes ces vies moissonnées par l’absurdité et la stupidité belliqueuse.

NOTICE BOARD

END-OF-TERM PARTY

Our End-of-Term-Party will be held this term on:

December 1st here at Crossroads.

We start at 8:00pm.

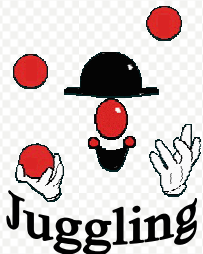
See you there!!



Games



"Games Master"
Craig will
organize some
games with
prizes for the
winners!



Juggling

A performance by Matt



Karaoke

A Food-Cooking Competition



Recitals



and Presentations



See an
amazing
scientific
experiment by
Professor
Matkovsky



Science

Anyone can enter the
cooking competition!
Bring an example of
your best cooking and
win a prize!!

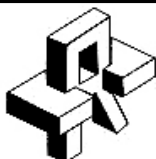
* Our teachers will also cook an
"international cuisine" for you to try out!

Congratulations Riko and Mariko!



The daughter of one of our S(d)1 students, Mariko Morizono, has been going to high school in Sydney, Australia for the past 3 years. She graduated this year. She is now preparing to enter university in Sydney. Mom Mariko says:

This is my daughter, Riko. She lives in Australia. She graduated from PLC high school on September 16th this year. In the photo, Riko is standing next to the school Principal. It was a very important moment for her. She wore her kimono. I was so happy, I cried! Riko was the best dressed girl at the ceremony!



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