

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter December, 2012



CROP CIRCLES

Twenty-six countries reported approximately 10,000 crop circles in the last third of the 20th century; 90% of those were located in southern England. Crop circles are found all over the world but are mostly found in the South West of England, particularly near Stone Henge.

A crop circle is a geometrical shape or pattern that has been formed in a field of wheat or corn that from above looks like a "circle" or a pattern of circles. The wheat or corn is flattened and bent in such a way as to make a pattern within a field. So where do they come from, who makes them and how are they made? So far, the answers to these questions remain a mystery. The biggest mystery is that they are always exactly symmetrical and adhere to perfect mathematical dimensions. One particular crop circle even helped solve a long-standing mathematical problem related to "squaring the circle".

Most crop circles are formed at night, though some have been seen to be formed during the day. They often form within three or four hours and there is very often no evidence of any "trampling" by people in or around or leading to the circles. Some crop circles are so big, up to a thousand metres long, that it is claimed that it would take hundreds of people more than 8 to 12 hours to make and these would look "crude" at best.



Some Crop Circles



Is this how it's done?

Probably the most shocking and interesting crop circle occurred on Tuesday 21st of August, 2001 when two crop "squares" appeared right next to the SETI radioscope in Hampshire, the county next to Wilshire which contains Stonehenge! This crop square appeared to be a response to a message that the same radioscope sent into space in 1975. The response was decoded easily as it was sent in "binary" form (computer language 010101 etc.) and was found to be in English! The code reads: *"Beware the bearers of FALSE gifts & their BROKEN PROMISES. Much PAIN but still time. BELIEVE. There is GOOD out there. We oppose DECEPTION. conduit CLOSING.!"* The second square contained what looks like an image of the sender(s) of the message!

The people who study crop circles are called cereologists and they travel all over the world trying to solve the mystery. They claim that electromagnetic readings increase dramatically within the circles and this can cause cameras and cellphones to stop working. More worryingly however is that people have felt the skin change on their hands and arms while walking or lying in a circle. It has been recently advised that pregnant women should not enter a crop circle!

Article by Matthew

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:

Here's an interesting site about crop circles:

<http://www.temporarytemples.co.uk/faqs/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: We had a very enjoyable, if somewhat unusual, end-of-term party last term and I'd like to thank all those who came along and shared in the fun. A big thanks also to Craig, our "games master", and "Professor" Matthew for adding to the night's fun, and magic, and for judging the entries in the cooking competition – good job guys! Also, a special mention to Kaori and Yoko who performed a role-play in Korean for us - well done, girls!

Junko Says: I was very pleased to see Kaori and Yoko practice a Korean role-play at our last party. I was especially pleased that they used the occasion to help prepare for a competition organized by the Prefecture Government. The competition was held on the 9th of this month and guess what? They came 5th out of 15 entrants in the role-playing section! Congratulations to you both and to your teacher, Yeonsu. I'm very proud of all three of you!



Matthew Says: So this month you all get to choose who you would like to lead your country. It's a shame there are only idiots to choose from. It's the same all over the world. How do these people get to these positions of responsibility? There are only three things these politicians are good at. One is telling fibs, the second is wasting our hard-earned money and the third is pointing at us when they address us.

Craig Says: It's starting to feel a lot like Christmas! In British culture, children (and many adults, too) receive an advent calendar at the end of November. These have 24 or 25 windows and behind each is a picture or a chocolate. On the days running up to Christmas, people open one window every morning and receive a Christmas treat. Do you count down the days until Christmas?



Ludovic Dit: Voilà, c'est fini ! Je retourne en France pour toujours ! Je quitte le Japon et Matsuyama le 18 janvier 2013. C'était une expérience très plaisante et enrichissante d'enseigner à Crossroads, et que je regretterai mes étudiants si gentils! Bonne chance pour la suite, bonnes fêtes et surtout : continuez d'apprendre le français, cette langue difficile mais merveilleuse !! A bientôt !

NOTICE BOARD

END-OF-TERM PARTY

Games Master Craig setting the stage



Professor Matt's amazing experiment

The food competition judges hard at work



Kaori and Yoko with their Korean role-play



My Trip to Norway

Setsuko, from our A1 group, went on a short trip to Norway last October. Here are some of the photos she brought back with her, and what she had to say about her trip:



"I went to Norway from the 3rd of October for ten days to see the aurora. I traveled in a big group of 36 people from Ehime. We left Narita airport and arrived first at Helsinki airport in Finland. It took 10 hours, but the time difference between Japan and Norway is just 7 hours.

Then, we went on a cruise from Kirkenes. We stayed on the ship for five days. It's called 'the world's most beautiful Voyage'.

I went to Nordkapp. It is located at latitude 71°10'21 and is the northern most cape in Europe. I was able to see the aurora on three nights".



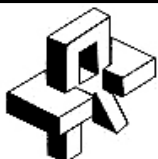
At Nordcapp



A Fjord in Norway



Laplander and his reindeer



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