



General English Course
Erasmus+ KA1
TWIN COLLEGE
DUBLIN

November 20th, 2021- December 4th, 2021

Travel Diary by Paola Denotti

First day: Arrival on the Island

Our host Anne is very kind, she welcomes us in a nice typical Irish house and she offers us a sandwich and a cup of tea.

Despite my English, with Elisabetta's help, we were able to chat pleasantly with Anne about teaching and our jobs.





Walking around our house with nice colleagues who show us how to reach school





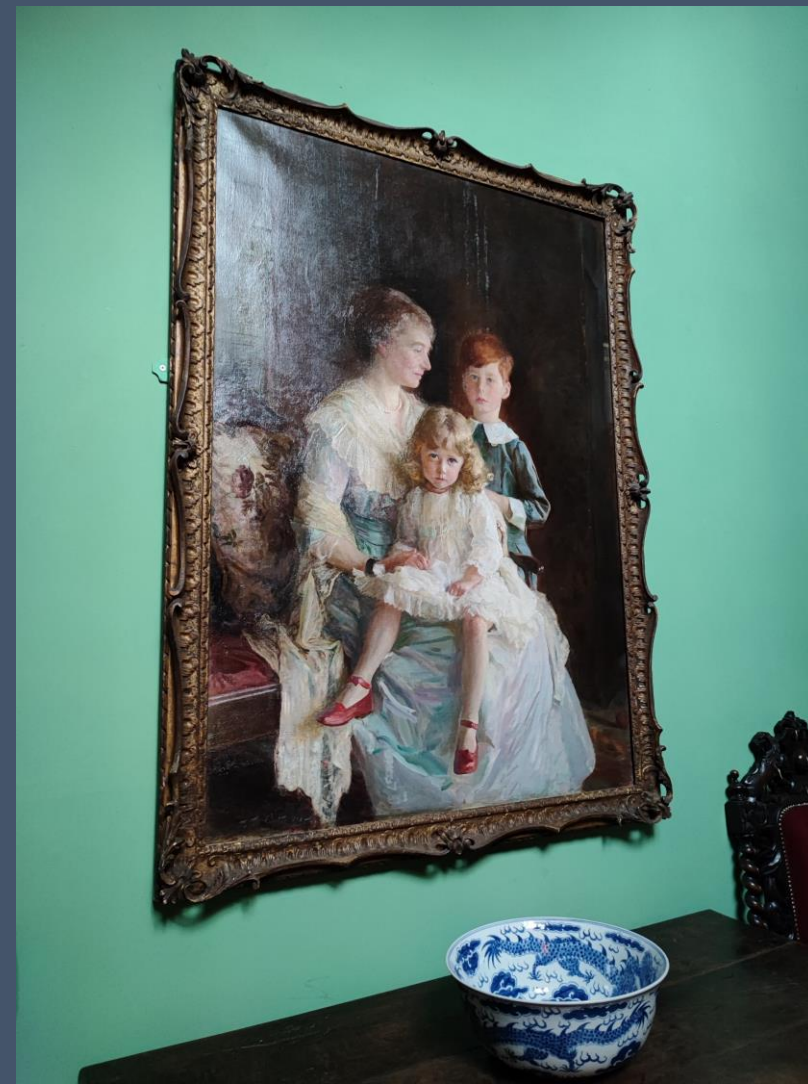
**Malahide Castle
And its historical estate**





The estate began in 1185, when Richard Talbot, a knight who accompanied Henry II to Ireland in 1174, was granted the "lands and harbour of Malahide." The oldest parts of the castle date back to the 12th century and it was home to the Talbot family for 791 years, from 1185 until 1976, the only exception being the period from 1649–60, when Oliver Cromwell granted it to Miles Corbet after the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland; Corbet was hanged following the demise of Cromwell, and the castle was restored to the Talbots.







MY HOST FAMILY

Anne and Hugh are a delightful Irish couple

They were welcoming and chatted with us every day at dinner time. Hugh cooked Irish and fusion dishes, and above all tasty desserts.

Often they give us some advices to visit exhibitions or about going to interesting restaurants.

The apple of family eyes





In my Irish house there were other two Turkish guests. They were polite, friendly and kind but mostly braeve. They have a dream, they want to emprove their life and are working hard for their aim.

Emrullah, is 25 years old, he is an engeineer and he left Turkey because he hopes to find a job, not only for paying his debts as could be in Turkey, but to have a better life. He thinks that it is his only choice. Without family, he overcomes the troubles alone and some times he was very worried, fortunatly he started smiling again when he found a solution to his problems.



Mustafa Kaan, is 24, he's got a night job since he arrived. He works at night and go to attend an English school in the afternoon.



TWIN COLLEGE:

**The First Lesson
At Twin College**



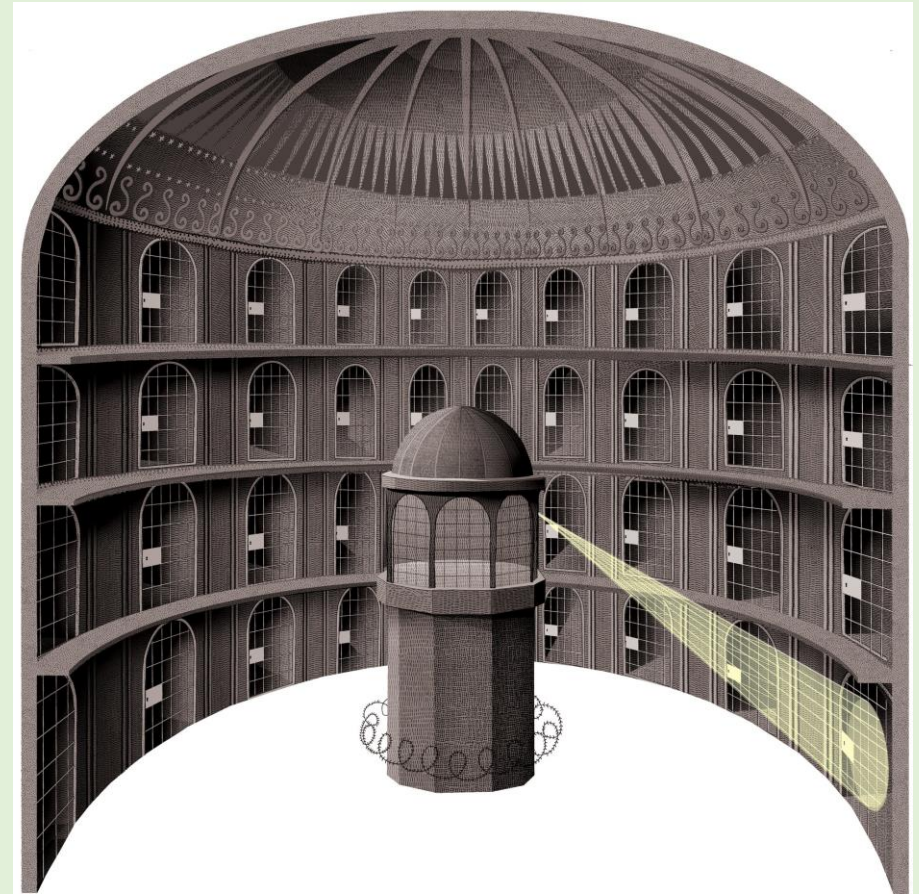
Halden Prison

Owen lesson

We did a very good lesson , we talked about jail, prisoners, punishment and reeducation. We talked about a Norwegian justice system where the focus is the rehabilitation rather the punishment. We talk about Halden, the world's most humane jail. It was a singular coincidence to discover that the topic of the lesson was the same of my Civic education lesson that I had done with my students. When they had done their researches about the virtuous models and the negative model of jail they had found information about Halden.

The second Lesson at Twin College

I won't forget my glory's moment when, in my first English class, Ben, our teacher, showed us a picture of a particular building and I recognized it. When Ben asked to the class if someone had ever seen that I said: «Yes, It is the Panopticon of Jeremy Bentham» Ben was incredibly surprised, he couldn't believe his ears. He said: «Good! Well Done! Excellent, Paola!»



The lessons in the afternoon were lighter

Conversation questions

Discuss any of the questions below

1. Are there problems with crime where you live?
2. Do you believe that the death penalty would prevent crime? Why/why not?
3. Have you ever been the victim of a crime or a mugging? What happened? Do you know anyone else who has been a victim?
4. In your opinion, are there any legal drugs that should be illegal? If so, why?
5. Are there any illegal drugs that you think should be legal? If so, why?
6. Does prison help rehabilitate criminals? Should it?
7. Should a person who steals always be punished? If so, to what extent?
8. Is it ever O.K. to break the law? If so, when? Have you ever broken the law?
9. Do you think the legal system in your country is fair? If not, how could it be improved? 10. Do you think guns help prevent crime?
11. What are some things or actions that are legal that you personally think should be illegal? 12. Has the crime rate in your country increased or decreased in recent years? Is it the same where you live? Why/why not?
13. What kinds of crime are most common in your country? What are the penalties for these crimes?
14. Why do people commit crimes?
15. Do you think the death penalty is a good idea?
16. What are the causes of terrorism? How is terrorism different from crime?
17. Is there a lot of corruption in your country? Has it always been this way?
18. How big a problem is organised crime in your country?
19. Have you ever been to a court of law? Talk about your experience.
20. Do you think trial by jury is a good idea?



Many times we chatted together and about our personal experience. The atmosphere was fun and cheerful.

Everyone was interested to learn and often my classmates had a dream, they hoped to change and improve their lives.

Often they were welcoming, careful and kind with other classmates.

Also the thing that you knew when you are in a stressed situation can be forgotten.

Atakan, one of them, said to me «Take your time!» when I apologized for my mistakes.

Obviously
There is an
international
atmosphere



These are some
of my class mates

Milli prefers using interactive ways of teaching. Often She makes us play to hangman with a selfdiscovering method, and guess the meaning of the idioms



Under the weather

Meaning

To feel ill/unwell.



Origin

This idiom has nautical (sailing) origins. Sailors and passengers aboard ships often became seasick during storms and bad weather, when the boat would rock back and forth. Anyone who felt seasick would be sent below the deck to the bottom of the ship where the rocking was less noticeable. In other words, they were sent under the deck and away from the weather, which is how the phrase 'under the weather' was created. It is now used when people feel unwell for any reason, not just from seasickness.

Examples

"Hi John, it's Simon. Sorry but I can't come to work today – I'm a bit **under the weather**."

"I've been feeling a little **under the weather** today. I had to wait outside in the rain for 2 hours last night and I think I may have caught a cold."

Carley: "Are you coming to the party tonight?"

Robyn: "I don't think I should. I've been feeling **under the weather** all week."

Sleep on it

Meaning

To spend time (usually at least a day) thinking about something carefully before making a decision.

Origin

It is not known where this idiom originated from but people often believe that if they do not have the solution to a problem straight away, a good sleep will help. Some people think that the brain continues to solve problems while we are sleeping and when you wake up the solution will just be there! However, others believe that we can make better decisions after sleep as the brain is 'fresh'.

Examples

Mr Davis: "So Tom, would you like to work here?"

Tom: "I'm not sure. Can I **sleep on it** and let you know tomorrow?"

"She told me she would **sleep on it** and let me know her decision but it's been 3 days now and she still hasn't called!"

Kate: "That's it, I've had enough. I'm resigning!"

Lisa: "Kate, you're really angry at the moment. Why don't you go home and **sleep on it** before you make any sudden decisions."



Let the cat out of the bag

Meaning

To reveal a secret or a surprise, usually by accident.

Origin

Many years ago, merchants often sold live piglets to customers. After putting a piglet in a bag so the customer could transport it easily, dishonest merchants sometimes swapped the piglet for a cat when the customer looked away. The buyer often didn't discover the trick until they got home and really let the cat out of the bag, revealing the merchant's secret!

Examples

"It's a secret. Try not to **let the cat out of the bag**."

"I was really looking forward to seeing the film, until Jack **let the cat out of the bag** and told me the ending!"

"We were going to have a surprise birthday for dad, but my silly brother **let the cat out of the bag** the day before."

"Well **the cat's out of the bag** now. Everyone knows Amy will be given the lead role in the play."



Not my cup of tea

Meaning

If something is not your cup of tea, you do not like it or you are not interested in it.



Origin

The positive version of this expression, "it's my cup of tea", has been in use since the late 1800s when the British started using the phrase "my cup of tea" to describe something they liked. (We all know that the British love their tea!) In the 1920s, the word 'not' was added to the phrase to describe something that they didn't like.

Examples

"Some people love playing cricket, but it's **not my cup of tea**."

"I know that horror films are **not your cup of tea**, but you should definitely see this one – it's amazing!"

Peter: "Did you listen to the CD I gave you?"

Kevin: "Yes, I listened to it twice but it's **not really my cup of tea**."

You can also use the opposite:

"I really like Van Gogh's paintings. They're just **my cup of tea**."

Traveling means opening doors, peeking out of a
windows and discovering new things

...



Walking on the NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND

26th november



What do I know of man's destiny?
I could tell you more about radishes.

Samuel Beckett

Henry Raeburn (1756-1823)

Sir John and Lady Clark of Penicuik, 1791

The artist captures a sense of intimacy and tenderness in this double portrait.

John Clerk gestures towards their estate. His wife Rosemary rests her arms on his shoulder and the soft sunlight from behind, which lights up their faces, gives and added unity of the composition.



“Felicità è l'estasi perpetua dell'essere ingannati a dovere.”

Johnathan Swift



John Lavery: The artist's studio Lady Hazel Lavery with her daughter Alice and stepdaughter Elleen, 1910-1913

Jan Steen, The Village school, 1665



Dublin is a lively and dynamic city which offers a lot of cultural activities; permanent and temporary exhibitions allow Dubliners, and tourists to contemplate high-level artworks, be inspired by beauty, by provocation, by the power of art that invites or compels to look the things in a different perspective, go beneath the surface or just stop and reflect.





Everything Disappears



I've lost my silly way of allowing people to live.





This is not art,
this is
Mary's real life



Dublin teems with life, streets of the center are crowded of young people from all over the world. Even if you have the feeling that Dubliners desire to get up, to believe in the future,

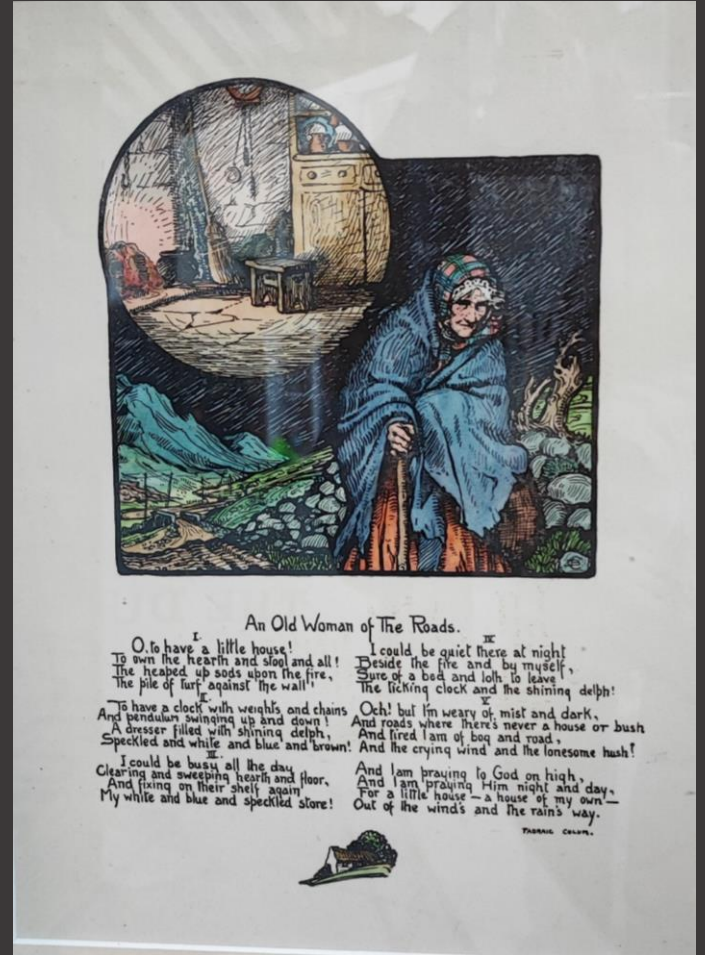
Ireland is still working to get out from Irish collapse

Irish economy was hit hard by the 2008 crisis and it cannot be denied that the Irish economy was weathered by the global recession caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

Unemployment rate is very high and many people have lost their homes.

A lot of homeless fight everyday with cold and hungry.

Irish Government tries to give assistance but the way is still long.



An Old Woman of The Roads.

O, to have a little house!
To own the hearth and stool and all!
The heaped up sods upon the fire,
The pile of turf against the wall!

To have a clock with weights and chains
And pendulum swinging up and down!
A dresser filled with shining delft,
Speckled and white and blue and brown!

I could be busy all the day
Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,
And fixing on their shelf again
My white and blue and speckled store!

I could be quiet there at night
Beside the fire and by myself,
Sure of a bed and loth to leave
The ticking clock and the shining delft!

Och! but I'm weary of mist and dark,
And roads where there's never a house or bush
And tired I am of bog and road,
And the crying wind and the lonesome hush!

And I am praying to God on high,
And I am praying Him night and day,
For a little house—a house of my own—
Out of the wind's and the rain's way.

TERRACOTT



Visit to the National Botanic Gardens

27th November



We are very lucky, today the weather is sunny, it's a beautiful day to take a lot of photos but it is also windy e we are freezing. Especially our hands without gloves!



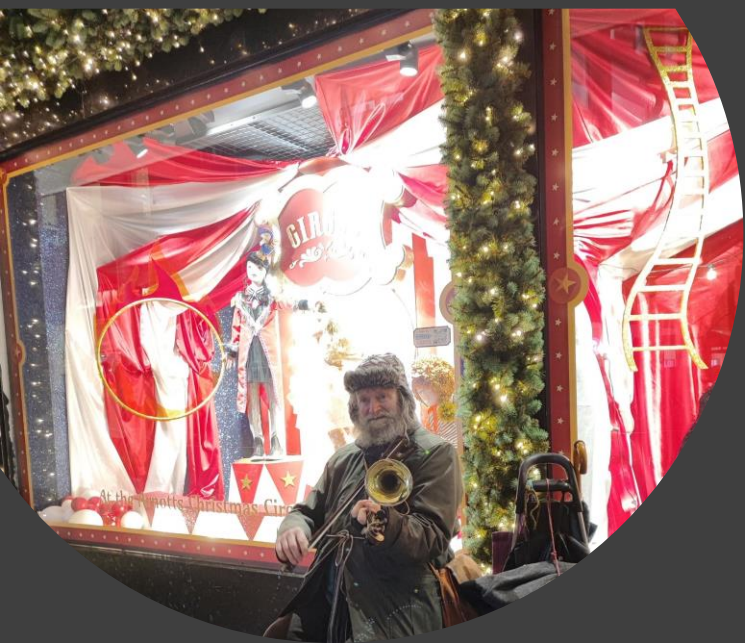
Irish people are not afraid of low temperature, little children with their families are happy walking around the garden





The greenhouses
and Irish autumn





Discovering Dublin at
Christmas time

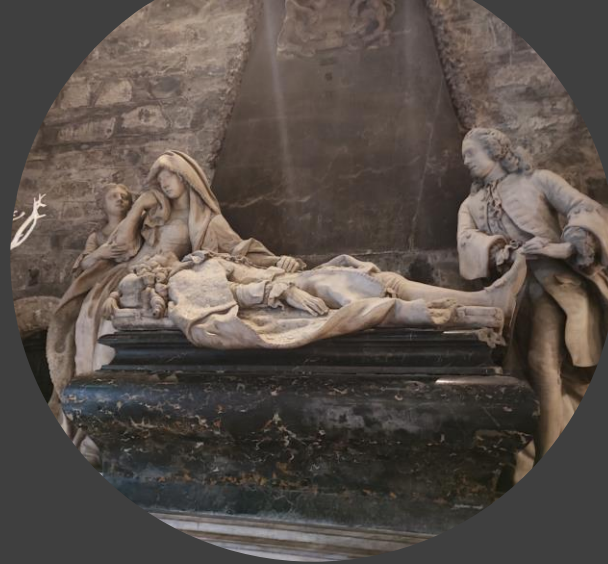
... with my colleagues



SAINT. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
(1191-1227)

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR





Christ Church Cathedral (1030-1172)

Ireland is famous for buildings of the Middle Age. It was Normans who brought the Gothic style dotting the island of beautiful Castles and Churches



The mythical
Irish pubs





Irish traditional music

Traditional folk music is a music often transmitted orally, music with unknown composers, music that is played on traditional instruments, music about cultural or national identity.



Sad, full of life, thrilling, engaging, evocative, poetic, exudes of a wild nature



The songs were used like main instruments for telling, to pass on and to travel quickly all over the island the exploits of Irish heroes, but also the everyday lives with concrete and real problems and injustices,.

The Irish folk music was a mean of condemnation and uprising. It finds inspiration in the particular history of the island.

The main themes are oppression, famine, the difficulties of the People.



The harp



Mandolin



Flute and pipes



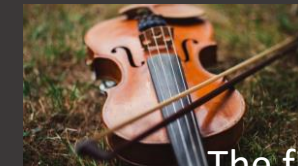
Accordion



Harmonic



Banjo



The fiddle

Chester Beatty Library

28th November 2021

En extraordinary collection
of miniatures and precious
oriental art's works





Oriental art jewels





"Arts of the Book".
The exhibition shows manuscripts, miniatures paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and some decorative arts from the Persian, Islamic, East Asian and Western Collections



The breathtaking and unexpected
Temporary exhibition
Edo in Color



The charming style of the Ukyo-e
and the city life
in the XVII and XVIII century





Kitagawa
Utamaro



What I have learned

- I have brushed up and improved my skills in English language
- For the first time I had the opportunity to spend two weeks in an Irish family, completely immersed in a reality where there isn't nothing of my usual daily references
- I have tested myself, I explored my resources, a little bit my emotions, my stress resistance, capabilities and my problem solving.
- Before leaving I thought that it will be not easy, I knew that it wasn't going to be easy and I was actually right. Generally this kind of experience are made when one is young but someone try to get involved also in more mature age. Despite the great effort I haven't changed idea: It was a great adventure! My awareness of myself is partly increased



I'm happy to have faced this experience, dive in and immerse myself in a condition, - in the host family, in the school, everywhere,- which mean that I had to speak and listen to English all time and I survived.

But the test is not over!

Now I have to face the most difficult exam: To be able to change, to transform this stimulating experience in energy to work in Cagliari, in the Liceo Euclide, with my pupils. This is not easy because it is important to be focused despite the fatigue.