



## **Guingamp Cosmetics Laboratory**

Kath: For once we found speaking English useful. Having made friends with the students at Guingamp University last year, the Spotlight team and members of the AIKB have embarked on a project to give practical support to students learning English.

November 2012 saw volunteer families taking a language student into their homes for a weekend of intensive English. Eccentric as ever the twinning weekend theme was bonfire night. Activities included making a Guy Fawkes, cooking a supper dish, and then coming together for a rather animated bonfire party.

Elaine: “Hi there – what do you think of this English tradition?”

Student: “Beautiful!” — “Beautiful”— “Warm!” — “Crazy”

Elaine: “How are you managing the weekend?”

Student: “It’s good” — “Whoa...look at that!” — “Very good”

Elaine: “Is it difficult speaking...having to speak in English and listening to English all the time?”

Student: “Yes because I was with Lauren and they have two friends...so difficulty.... not speaking French”

Elaine: “aaah...yes....so would you think you would do it again?”

Student(s) “Oh yes, yes, yes — we learn a lot of things”

Kath: Hilarity increased as the ‘Guy Competition’ got under way. With each losing guy being dragged out and thrown onto the bonfire.

Elaine: “So what are you studying at Guingamp?”

Student(s): “A lot of language — English — Spanish — Italian — Chinese — aah the winner!”

[followed by lots of revelry! ] “His head's fallen off!”...”Ilan put bangers in the inside”...”Where did you get bangers?”.... “It's all gone now” ... “We won, Shannon we won” ... “We knew you would” .... “It's a fix”

- Kath: Flushed with our success the cosmetic chemistry students invited us to a candle-making activity with a twist. These candles, when melted, can be used instead of massage oils. The volunteers were introduced to the laboratory.
- Student(s): “During the year we have several productions such as this year we have a moisturising cream, we have foie gras, we have a whole meal made for homeless people...this is full industry production. And as we have a production we need to have all the other services a company must have to ensure a product of quality so these are all the services we have — so we have the regulatory office — research and development, who does the innovation — the efficiency department — marketing — production — statistics and quality — quality control — quality excellence. Each of these services are led by the master’ s degree students who have to manage third year university students — so it’ s really interesting — it’ s just like in a company —so we know how a company works and usually to find a job it helps a lot, and so today we will explain you what each department does and we will make you visit each places where they work and then we will make formulation of massage candle with you, so you will work by pairs with one of our students and I hope you will enjoy it!”
- Kath: The aim of the activity was to give the students the opportunity to direct the activity in English by instructing the volunteers.
- Elaine: “What will we be doing then?”
- Student(s): “You make a candle — at first you um...um...introduce a raw material in the jug and melt it and for end I cut the wick for line to come down.
- Jon: “Sorry, sorry what’s your name?”
- Student: “Lauren, my name is Lauren”
- Jon: “Right Lauren, how are these students doing?”
- Student: “The students are doing a candle, a candle perfume red fruits – they are fantastic! Wonderful!
- Jon: “Thank you — we’ll see when they’ve finished!”
- Kath: It’s actually very tricky to perform tasks through verbal instruction but these were very clever young people.
- Jon: “So you’re studying perfume here — you’re in your second year?”
- Student: “Second year, yeah”
- Jon: “How much of a problem is it to have to learn French before studying perfume?”

Student: "I thought it was very, very difficult because it was very different from Chinese — so I had the difficulties to study the French"

Jon: "But now your French is good enough to be able to understand everything, or nearly everything? Yes. You study English here as well?"

Student: "From 20 years old"

Jon: "From the age of 20 — OK"

Student: "Yup"

Jon: "Anything else — any other language?"

Student: "Um...in fact I speak the Mandarin, the Chinese official, and the dialect in my region"

Jon: "When you leave here, what do you want to do?"

Student: "Um...I will continue my study — I have two years to finish the Master's degree and I will do a placement in a cosmetics company"

Jon: "And in the end — ultimately what do you want to do?"

Student: "I don't know exactly but I think I will come back to try to find a job. I miss very much my family and my country."

Kath: Not all the students were girls though, as John found out when he spoke to a most diplomatic student.

Jon: "Philip, you're studying perfume here at Guingamp — how many other boys are studying perfume?"

Student: "Four — four boys"

Jon: "How many girls?"

Student: "Girls — I think 25?"

Jon: "Right, so many more girls than boys. Do you have any kind of problem with your boy, your male friends — do they say you should be studying engineering or science?"

Student: "No —it's OK —everything fine"

Jon: "OK – so what do you do you want to do — when you leave here what do you want to become?"

Student: "I would like to work in a major company — to lead a research team in a cosmetic lab"

Jon: "Where are you from?"

Student: "I'm from Brest"

Jon: "Is this the nearest place that does perfume — or the best?"

Student: "The nearest — but also I think it is one of the best — there is another school in Paris, in Montpellier, South — but here it's a good school because we are not so much we can work...we are independent — easy to learn"

Kath: Everyone agreed the day was a great success.

Teacher: "I am Lauren Labasse — I am a cosmetic teacher in UCO, university in Guingamp. I work here for four years — I'm very exciting for this afternoon with the English people for my students too. The smile is wonderful and ..."

Elaine: "Do you think it's been a very useful experience for them in terms of using English as well this afternoon?"

Teacher: "Yes, we are very happy to have this exchange because in English lessons we have no real exchange — here they can speak English with English people and practice their English and progress"

Elaine: "Thank you very much — it's been a great experience, actually, for us"

Kath: The volunteers were quite pleased too.

Elaine: "Jenny — can you tell me what you thought of today's experience?"

Jenny: "Very nice —very enjoyable — the end result was very good"

Elaine: "John — have you anything to add to that?"

John: "I thought this afternoon was most enjoyable — most instructive — the exactness"

Elaine: "How would you say you got on with your teacher this morning?"

John: "My teacher was delightful and she was able to answer all the queries — all the silly questions that I had"

Elaine: "In English?"

John: "In perfect English"

Kath: So Spotlight's back-to-school ended well — with a lovely fragrant massage candle and a stomach filled with home-baked cake — an afternoon well spent!

Expect to hear more of our student exploits this year as we welcome our internship student, who'll be working with us this month.