

ISSUE 12

CHEERS!

MAY 2011

THE KU STUDY ABROAD & NORTH AMERICAN STUDENT NEWSLETTER



Photo by student Sean Castillo

From the Editor...

Often a favourite time of the year, summer brings promises of golden sunshine, relaxation and plenty of outdoor activities. London is great to explore during these months and you should take full advantage of the slew of festivals, exhibitions and green spaces around the city. Look at our Events Calendar for some inspiration or check out the Time Out London website for a more in-depth list of ideas.

For those of you who are leaving us this month, I hope that you have thoroughly enjoyed your time at Kingston and being so close to a city of greatness. Study abroad and North American students add to the diverse population at Kingston University and we are glad that you took the opportunity to study here.

Finally, to all of you - have a great summer! You've most likely worked hard this year and you enjoy a few months of freedom.

Cheers,
Lauren
MA Magazine Journalism



Photo courtesy of Rex Features

The Stone of Destiny

By Nichelle Rubash, Study Abroad Student from St. Cloud University

Earlier in the semester, a few friends and I went on a tour to Scotland. While we toured around, walking or on the bus, our guide would tell us history about the land, people, and some artifacts. He talked about wars, clans, and castles; and he told a story about one artifact that I found to be interesting, the Stone of Destiny. Why is this 336 pound red sandstone so meaningful to Scotland, how did it receive its name, and what has been the location and use of the Stone of Destiny over the centuries?

The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, first came to Scotland in 840AD, but the history starts a couple centuries before in about 850BC. The story refers back to biblical times about Jacob, one of the grandsons of Abraham. He was sent by his parents to Haran and as he travelled there, night began to fall. He knew he would not make it to the city, so he used his cloak to cover him and took a nearby rock as a pillow. When he was sleeping, he awoke to see a great pillar of light in the form of a ladder leading up to the heavens. From it God spoke to him and showed him a vision. When Jacob awoke in the morning, he thought the stone must be sacred, and so he took it with him to the next village. He kept the stone with him throughout his life and told the story to his family. It was passed down through his family for generations until someone lost faith in it. He told its story to a merchant and used it as a form of payment for his family to get back to Israel. Then from there it continued to be passed through merchants, making its way through Egypt, Sicily, and Spain until it was brought to Ireland.

There are two different stories as to how it then moved to Scotland. One story says invading Scots took it with them back to Argyll, Scotland, another says that as the empire expanded Kenneth I, the 36th King of Dalriada, moved his capital to Scone and with it the Stone of Destiny. Because it was kept in the capital Scone, the stone then received its name the Stone of Scone. The biblical and historical meaning of the stone was strongly believed by the Scots. They used it as a symbol of Scottish independence and pride, and made it the coronation chair for the monarchs of Scotland to sit on. It continued to be used as such until 1296 when King Edward I was battling with Scotland and took it back with him to England as a prize. Scotland was humiliated by the loss of this sacred artifact. King Edward I had the stone placed in Westminster Abbey. There it was used as the base of the coronation chair for England. This symbolized Scotland's subjection to England.

The Stone of Destiny remained in Westminster Abbey until Christmas Day 1950. According to J. Todd Rash, four students were in a pub drinking when Gavin Vernon showed them a newspaper talking about King George VI's declining health and the steps that were taken for coronation for England's next monarch. It mentioned in the article that the Stone of Destiny built in England's coronation chair was given to England by Scotland. This infuriated them because they knew it had actually stolen from them. This lit a spark and the four students, Ian Hamilton, Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson, and Alan Stuart, all from Glasgow University, decided to take the stone back to Scotland.

Kay stayed inside one of the cars while the other three broke into the Abbey and attempted to remove the stone. 'The trio pulled and tugged at the Stone but were unable to free it. When they did it toppled over and smashed in two. They got the two pieces of the stone out of the abbey and eventually back up to Scotland. The story was all over the newspapers and within a couple days the border between Scotland and England was closed for the first time in 400 years as the English police searched the incoming traffic from England for the stone.

This was a rallying point for Scotland as they finally had their sacred relic back in their land after it was taken from them 600 years prior. Many flags were hung to show pride and Scots rallied to say the stone should stay.

The stone was returned a year later to England, and was used for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. In 1996, it was decided by the English parliament that the Stone of Destiny would be returned to Scotland and kept there when it was not in use for the British coronations. So on 30 November 1996, Saint Andrew's Day, the stone was returned to Scotland. Thousands of Scots lined the streets to show their support as the Stone of Destiny was brought to Edinburgh Castle, where it remains today.



What's On?

Events Calendar

21-28 MAY: Football Festival at Hyde Park London, free admission

For more information visit: <http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/whatson/football-festival-at-hyde-park-article-10570.html>

02 JUNE: Kingston Food Festival - Chemistry of Food and Wine held at Main Hall, Market House

For more information visit: http://pay.kingston.gov.uk/mykingston/Tickets/view.aspx?cat=Events&ctg=&pid=b77f1e74-05c9-4e18-aa35-e3b992e56aa2#Page_Content

04-05 JUNE: London Green Fair at Regent's Park London, free admission

For more information visit: www.londongreenfair.org

14-18 JUNE: Royal Ascot Races held in Ascot, Berkshire

For more information visit: www.ascot.co.uk

16-19 JUNE: Taste of London held in Regent's Park London

For more information visit: www.tastefestivals.com/london

20-21 JUNE: Summer Solstice at Stonehenge, Sunset at 9:21PM and sunrise at 4:43AM

For more information visit: <http://heritage-key.com/event/stonehenge-summer-solstice-2011>

20 JUNE - 3 JULY: Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club

For more information visit: www.wimbledon.com/championships/tickets

27 JUNE - 3 JULY: London BluesFest, various venues around London

For more information visit: www.bluesfestlondon.com

10 JULY: 11th British 10K London Run

For more information visit: www.thebritish10klondon.co.uk

15 JULY: Thames River Disco Cruise from Turks Pier, Kingston

For more information visit: www.turks.co.uk

15 JULY - 10 SEPTEMBER: BBC Proms classical music festival, various venues around London

For more information visit: www.bbc.co.uk/proms

Looking for a cheap day out? Take a day trip down to Brighton. It's only an hour and a half away and tickets are cheap if you book in advance. Take a walk along the pier and indulge in some good seafood! You can also rent paddleboats on the Serpentine in Hyde Park throughout the summer. Pack a picnic and enjoy the sun! Richmond Park also has loads to offer with grills, bicycle rentals and a golf course.

PHOTO
COMPETITION

KINGSTON CATEGORY



1ST PLACE: GREG ZAVITZ

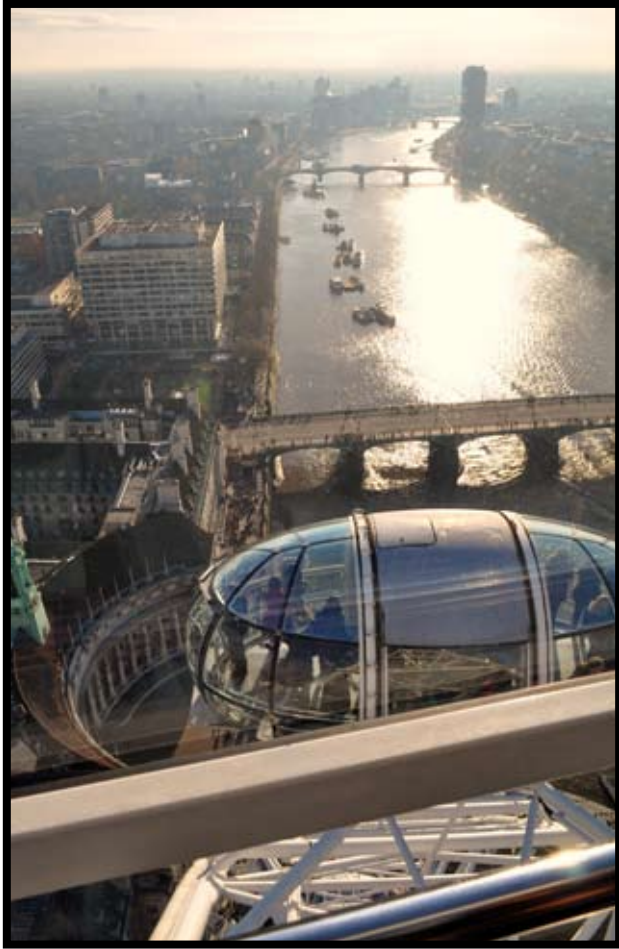


2ND PLACE: ELLE LUCKSTED

3RD PLACE: SEAN CASTILLO

PHOTO
COMPETITION

LONDON CATEGORY



1ST PLACE: SEAN CASTILLO



3RD PLACE: GREG ZAVITZ



2ND PLACE: CLAIRE LIANG

PHOTO
COMPETITION

UK CATEGORY



1ST PLACE:
SEAN CASTILLO



2ND PLACE:
KATIE WINNEWISSER

3RD PLACE:
ELLE LUCKSTED



PHOTO
COMPETITION

EUROPE CATEGORY



1ST PLACE:
CLAIRE LIANG

2ND PLACE:
GREG ZAVITZ



3RD PLACE: KATIE WINNEWISSER

SUMMER QUIZ!

THE FIRST PERSON TO EMAIL THE CORRECT ANSWERS
TO LAUREN.SCRIBI@GMAIL.COM WILL WIN £10!

1. At Royal Ascot, what is the suggested dress code for women in the Royal Enclosure?
2. Taste of London is being sponsored by what two major British companies?
3. What are two other references for the Summer Solstice?
4. Why is the 4th of July celebrated in America?
5. What is the significance of Bastille Day?
6. What does the surfing term 'backdoor' mean?
7. Is watermelon a fruit or vegetable?
8. In what year did the Champagne grapes of Verdun, France freeze and never ripen?
9. What two places are hosting the Billabong Pro surfing tournaments this summer?
10. In Vermont, soft serve ice cream is referred to as what?



**Have a
great
summer!**

- The International Office