



Newsletter

TGS Newsletter no. 14, December 2011 - UK Edition
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Happy Christmas from our White Christmas Arcade!

by Igino Zanandrea

To all our English friends: our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a joyful new year – wishing you another great year with TGS! Once again our season's greetings are coming from a representative of all TGS Leaders gathered at Katya's for the traditional TGS Christmas Party in Arcade (province of Treviso, 15 miles north of Mogliano Veneto where TGS office is). The pictures of this TGS Newsletter special edition were taken during our "White Christmas Arcade" party: a great occasion to share our Season's Greetings with everyone and to remind us about the forthcoming "TGS Friendship Meeting", which will be held at TGS headquarters on Sunday 15 January 2012, with all TGS students and leaders!

In the meantime, here we are to give you an update about what's going on with the Association lately and to share our plans for next year. It's always a pleasure for us to get in touch with a good number of English friends whom we often think about but we have very few opportunities to spend time with throughout the year. Some of you we are lucky enough to meet on special occasions as it happened in November during our Committee Journey to the UK.

Once again Happy Christmas and enjoy our TGS Newsletter!

The Committee Journey to England

by Alessandra Granziero

TGS Committee was back to England last month to meet our agents and collaborators and to lay foundations for our TGS Summer 2012.

Last Summer was great fun for our students and much is due to the way the English side has worked. It is real satisfaction when Italian parents and students give us enthusiastic reports and they soon start asking about plans for the following year.

Unfortunately, the Committee Journey to England started with a disappointing event. Katya, who is in charge of our head office in Italy and is in touch with our collaborators all the year round, got ill the day before leaving and was forced to stay at home. It was probably the first time for the Committee to travel in two instead of the usual three members.

Igino and Alessandra received a very warm welcome by our local agents. They shared their mutual points of view regarding Summer 2011 and laid foundations for next year. It was a good opportunity not only to start planning next summer, but also to give to each agent the preliminary draft of our stay. This will enable our local agents to get in touch with their collaborators and teachers, to pre-book the halls and the classrooms where our social events will take place.

The Committee Journey was also a good chance to test



34rd edition of “Su e Zo per i Ponti” - Venice, 15 April 2012

“Up and Down the Bridges” is a non competitive race organized by TGS Eurogroup to involve young people, adults, families, school parties and sport groups in an amazing walk through the alleys of Venice, in the name of friendship and solidarity. Save the date now: we’re waiting for you! Further information: www.suezoperiponti.it

a couple of alternative tours in London : the Olympic Games Tour and the Unseen Tour. The feeling is that they both are great opportunities for our students and that they are worth doing next summer.

The *Olympic Games Tour* in the area of the Queen Elisabeth Olympic Park took nearly two hours, started at Bromley by Bow and finished at Pudding Mill Lane Underground Station. It was an attractive walk through the sites where the Olympic Games are taking place. Much of the structures are still under construction and it is quite unbelievable to think that by next June they will all be finished and ready! At the same time the mere thought of the huge number of people gathering there to attend the Olympic Games makes you crazy! The other walk we took was *The Unseen Tour* by an homeless woman trained to guide tourists through London. The experience was superb and it gave us a different perspective of the city. Viv, our guide, told us about the main buildings we passed by and added personal experiences. We therefore got to know where homeless people used to gather but now they are not allowed to because of gates been raised. The way our guide explained her life without pitying or grieving was an incomparable lesson for life.

Now that we are back to Italy, it is time to meet the all Committee and to plan the leaders’ training days.

Again, a super thank you to those of you we’ve recently met: we will do our best to keep in touch!

The Winter sleep

by Bruna Rainaldi

Our friends in England might think that, considering the period of the year, we are in the middle of the long “sleep”... not at all! This winter, in particular, is proving very busy.

Some of us started the meetings to organise the next “Su e Zo per i ponti” last October and so far the general plan has been set with a few new ideas that will give you a good reason to come again to Venice to enjoy the walk. When? Oh, yes, that’s fundamental, Sunday 15th April, book your flight soon! What’s new? Well, we

cannot tell you now all of it but what we can say is that you will find in several “campi” local craftsmen who will demonstrate on the spot the ancient handicrafts of Venice. It sounds interesting, doesn’t it? And, the Rialto Bridge has been included again in the route of the march.

Some others have lately been thinking of the organization of the “Incontro dell’Amicizia”, or “Friendship Meeting”: this is the meeting for all the students who were in England last year, their families and their leaders. It will take place on Sunday 15th January, in Mogliano Veneto where TGS has its quarters and it will be the official opening of Summer 2012; in fact, on this occasion, which has been an annual meeting for the last thirty-five years now, we have the possibility to gather in one place both the experienced students and the students-of-tomorrow to operate a sort of exchange of enthusiasm between them. Those of you who have ever been to a “Get together” with the families may have an idea of what happens on the stage of the theatre after the serious presentation of the summer courses, during the exhibition of the various groups of students: storms of laughter and sports shouting for the team of the heart! As a matter of fact, all the leaders are there to give information and answer any questions from the families in our usual professional way but the joy to be again all together cannot but let loose.

Last but not least, some other members of the Committee have started planning the training meetings for the leaders-to-be. The so called Welcome Meeting will take place in March and on that occasion we will meet those who want to start the fairly long and demanding training that will turn them into TGS leaders. Every year we give importance both to the technical aspects of the organization of the summer courses and to the mission of TGS and to the Salesian inspiration of all our activities, with our well experienced priests on the front line!

All this while Christmas is approaching and the days seem to go faster... no time for sleeping! Merry Christmas everyone!

