
2017-18 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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Holidays and Traditions

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November 29, 2017

Holidays and Traditions



Guy Fawkes Day

Due to the late start date of our program, we are away until the end of January missing the holidays at home. As the end of November rolled around, Thanksgiving was just another Thursday for the Brits. Thanksgiving was not the same as usual being away from home but it came with new opportunities such as helping out on campus and meeting other US students abroad. Luckily, I didn't have class so this gave me a free day to celebrate. In the morning, I got to help prep food and set up for an event on campus. This gave me an opportunity to be around other people and to do something beyond myself. After, I got to walk around the beautiful lake on campus and soak in all the beauty. Later that night, I attended a Thanksgiving dinner with students from all around the US. Being able to be together and all bring a Thanksgiving-type dish to the table made the day so special. Almost everyone made a dish, which meant a lot of food for around 30 people. We ate a lot and sang the national anthem and chanted USA to have some fun. I can now

say I am that much more grateful for all of the Thanksgivings spent at home with family and friends but am grateful for new experiences with newfound friends.

Although I missed being away from home, being in England has meant experiencing new holidays such as Guy Fawkes Day. Who in the world is Guy Fawkes? I asked myself this sitting in class as my professor had mentioned the name. I quickly learned that Guy Fawkes was a man who wanted to bring the Catholic faith back to power in 1605, so he plotted to overthrow the government by blowing up British Parliament. His attempt was unsuccessful due to a letter he had sent a family member in government warning him to not come into work that day. They caught Guy Fawkes and he was sentenced to death. To celebrate people had bonfires and got together to celebrate that the government was not overthrown. November 5th is now known as Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Day and is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires, sparklers, food and friends. On the 5th, I found myself around a bonfire with friends roasting marshmallows, drinking hot chocolate and listening to the sound of fireworks around the city. Although Guy Fawkes Day is nothing like Thanksgiving it was a fun night with friends that normally would have been spent studying.

Stay tuned for more adventures,

Marquesa