

Rx for Catering, LLC



The Claire Diaries

UK Report

Things I have learned...

- Great Britain is made up of England, Scotland and Wales; toss Northern Ireland into the mix and you have the United Kingdom.
- Chin wagging means stop talking. One of my co-workers told me to “Stop my chin wagging and get into the cab”.
- A lie-in is not getting straight out of bed in the morning...starting the day in a lazy manner. ← My personal favorite.
- My gay friend Christian explained to me the proper way of doing the “Queen’s Wave” is Elbow, Elbow, Wrist, Wrist.
- All the winners on this trip to London and Edinburgh should be going to the dentist upon their return for a good cleaning to get the sugar off their teeth from all the sodas they consumed.
- Leavesden Studios is where they film the HP movies. The indoor scenes are filmed in what was originally a 1940’s airplane factory. It was here that the de Havilland Aircraft Company built Tiger Moths, Halifax Bombers, Mosquito’s and Vampire jet fighters – some of which were pivotal in the Battle of Britain. To date several movies have been made at Leavesden Studios including pre production for Titanic, Star Wars, and Golden Eye movies to name a few.
- When we toured the special events department, they had 2 Ford Anglia’s from Movie 2 on display. The special effects folks told us they have 15 Ford’s in various stages of condition for use in the movie.
- They have 3 Fang “The Dogs” but the main one they use is a dog-named “Bella” who by the way is a BIG girl. If Bella decides to give her big boned girlish figure a shake, I suggest one takes cover as she is a slobbery kind of gal and that stuff can go a flying.
- Bella is also not a people person type of dog. Although her breed (and I forgot what this is other than BIG) are known for being wonderful guard dogs... it took five weeks for her to warm up to Robbie Coltrane. Now that is what I call “a girl playing hard to get”.

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- Any scenes that take place in the Great Hall take approximately 2 to 3 weeks to film with 400 child extras, during which time the studio provides educational tutoring.
- The outdoor Quidditch scenes are filmed in a small town approximately 5 hours north of England called Alnwick. Home and Gardens magazine of UK named Alnwick one of the most livable cities in the UK. I can't begin to tell you how amazing the castle is.
- My friend Julie said that if you want to sound like you know what you are doing with English history *it is all in the date*. Just pull a date out of the hat, put some roman numerals besides a King or Queens name, add in an out of marriage affair, an illegitimate child, someone getting beheaded and Viola' you have English history.
- Let's try it.
- In 1317 Queen Victoria of York was having a torrid affair with the famed playboy King Simon IIX of Scotland. When her beau, the Duke of Wales, got wind of this information he promptly married Queen Victoria who (unknown to him) was pregnant with the King's child. Unfortunately for Queen Victoria the Duke of Wales was REALLY good at math and figured out who the real father was of her baby boy. FURIOUS over this situation the Duke had the Queen put into exile for making a mockery out of him. However, many years later, this boy would become the most compassionate King of England but not before beheading the entire lot, as he needed to blame someone for his dysfunctional childhood! And there you have it! English history on the fly...feel free to try this at home.
- The best dessert in the UK? Is called Sticky Toffee Pudding and it isn't what it sounds like...it is actually a moist sponge cake soaked in toffee with a caramel topping served warm with vanilla ice cream...DELICIOUS!
- No, I didn't see anyplace to purchase a "deep fried Mars bar" while in Scotland. I think that is just an urban legend.
- The food in London is good although the food in Scotland is not.

I hope you enjoyed this **special** version of the "Claire Diaries" and thank you for reading.

Claire

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