

WRITING ABOUT THE TRIP TO ENGLAND

ROCHESTER

The Great Siege of Rochester



Have you ever been to Rochester where the great castle still stands after hundreds of years? We are now going to tell you the story of that famous castle.

The castle was built to control the important river near it by the bishop of Rochester in the 1080s. It was a very modern castle for the time.

Due to the fact that the result of the siege would decide if the king stayed or had to leave the crown, the great siege of Rochester castle is probably the most famous siege of the medieval period. It's also the best documented of all medieval sieges.

The story began in 1204 when the king of England lost all his lands in France, so he raised huge amounts of money to recover his lands but to get this money he had to over-tax his barons. They complained but the king betrayed them and wanted to take the castle of Rochester, so the siege started and the rebels had to face the king's army.

The siege engines attacked the castle; however they couldn't destroy the strong walls so the king changed his strategy and killed pigs to start a fire under the tower.

Because of the burning props, the rebels had to go deeper into the castle to avoid the fire. Some of our journalists told us that a small number of the rebels were allowed to leave the castle but they had their hands and feet cut off!

Because of the winter the starving rebels that remained in the castle had to surrender but only one rebel was hanged.

During the 13th century, the new king rebuilt a part of the castle and added a few residential buildings, unfortunately, in 1264 another siege happened and these buildings were destroyed.

Then, the castle remained unused for centuries before it was sold to Rochester Corporation and opened to the public in 1870.

For more information: <http://www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/rochester-castle/8208>

Article by Justin and Charl  lie for the British Historic News

LONDON

The boy of the Golden Hind



I was a ship's boy on the Golden Hind for three months, I was only twelve. We were sailing on the Atlantic Ocean, hunting some Spanish Galion. The journey was longer than Captain Drake expected and the supplies began to lack. The whole crew was exasperated and fights started. Personally, I preferred staying quiet but one day, I couldn't bear the hunger anymore. So, I went into the captain's private storehouse and I stole some food. Unfortunately, I got caught by the quarter master! Maybe you don't know how a thief is punished on a ship. I'll tell you.

I was terrified when he entered the room. I tried to hide then justify but he was no fool. He had already caught thieves before. He dragged me to the deck. I was crying, I begged for mercy but every man is treated equally, no matter their age. They surrounded me and the captain came out of his cabin, a hammer and a nail in his hand. Two men were holding me while he nailed my hand on the mast. I was supposed to stay there for four hours, I was not allowed to move. Maybe it doesn't sound a lot to you, but we're on the sea. The swinging of the ship and the waves hitting the hull prevented me from staying immobile. Meanwhile, the nail was digging a larger and larger hole. You should also know that the nails were rusty most of the time. The blood began to flow on my arm and the pain was unbearable. It was just the beginning. The wound was encrusted with salt from the ocean so it couldn't heal. The hole was now bigger than the nail head, I could see the mast through my hand. At that



moment I collapsed. The weight of my inert body on my hand was so painful that it took me out of my sudden weakness. I cried all the strength of my soul. Even the gulls were frightened of my screams. It wasn't even half of my punishment. The wound started to smell of death. The bleeding had stopped but a white fluid was trickling from it. My hand was swollen, I couldn't recognize it. The veins on my wrist had turned black. The hole was the size of an apple when the wind and the sea calmed down. The sun was burning my skin. The ship was not moving anymore, the crew removed the rigging from the masts. The waiting would be interminable. I started to hallucinate because of the heat and the pain. I felt as if I had been there for days while only three hours had passed. The crew was getting bored so they found funny to annoy me. They spat on me and one of them even pissed on my wounded hand. It was burning as hell! If I had been able to, I would have killed myself.

I had lost hope when Captain Drake finally came out and ordered the doctor to take me downstairs. He took two men with him. At that moment, I knew that I would never see my arm again.

Baptiste and Guillaume

"The Ghost of the Storm"

It was the 16th March 1577, at 5AM, the Golden Hind was starting a new journey to America. The trip was very long, risky and dangerous. We will tell you a very surprising story about this boat!

One month after the beginning of the journey, the ship was in the middle of the sea and a hurricane was about to reach them, the crew was in a panic.

"Lower the sail ! We cannot move forward anymore ! Do it quickly or the wind will blow us over !

"I'm trying, I'm trying but I'm not strong enough ! I need some help !"

"Call one of your friends, I'm trying to stabilize the boat !"

"I'm coming to help you John !"

After a long effort, John and his friends succeeded in lowering this sail.

A legend says that after a storm at sea, the "Ghost of the Storm" comes to the boat and kills one man every night. The only way to stop him is to burn him.

At nightfall, the whole crew started to sleep, except for the night watchman who was still steering the ship. Everything was quiet, but suddenly he heard a strange sound.

"Is there someone here ?! John is that you ? Captain ?"

He turned his head and a ghost appeared, the man fainted when he looked the ghost in the eyes. The day after, the Captain woke up and saw one of his night watchmen totally shredded

"Oh my gosh ! I forgot about this legend, we're done ! The ghost of the Storm has doomed us!" the Captain said.

A very old man, that nobody had ever seen on that boat started to speak :

"No, sir, there is a way to escape him"

"And how can we do that ?"

"You'll have to burn him but he's a very furtive creature, he is fast and strong, the last man who succeeded in killing a ghost like that did it 200 years ago !"

The Captain was the night watchman for the next twenty days, day by day his crew was smaller and smaller. John and him were the last two survivors of this ship. Exasperated and powerless, the captain set the boat on fire and fled away in a rescue boat.

"At least, I'm not doomed anymore, I can sleep without being tense."

While he was sleeping, the ghost reappeared, but this time to kill him !



To be continued...

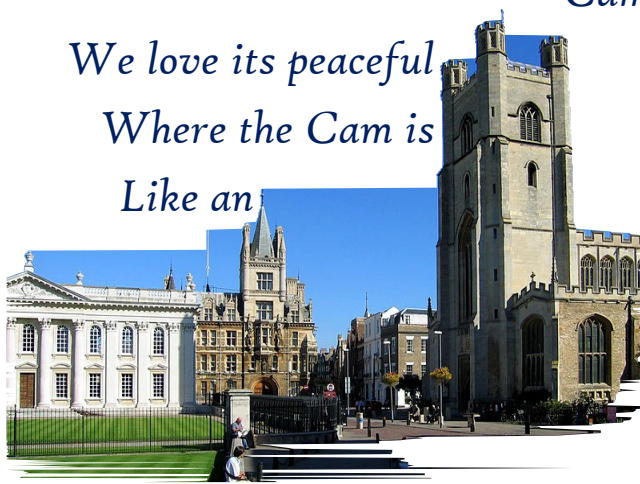
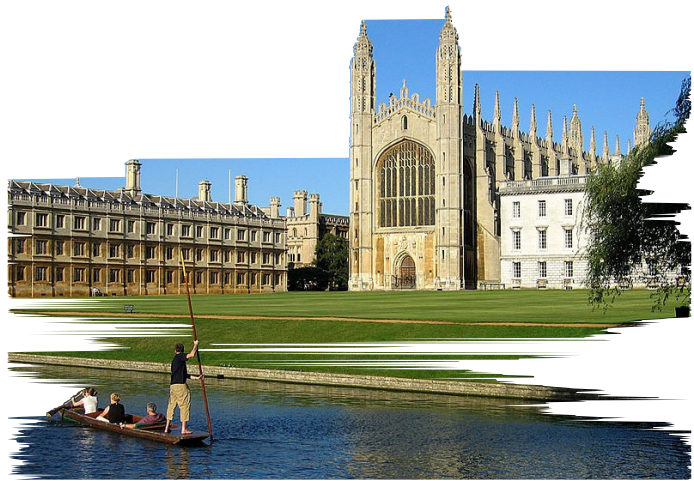
Sacha and Jean

CAMBRIDGE

- Cambridge -

*Cambridge, Cambridge, Cambridge,
A great beautiful city,
An amazing place to be
With a famous university
And impressive chapels.*

*Punts and bicycles,
Studies and sports,
Shopping and tourists.
That is the everyday life
Of the thousands of inhabitants.*



*We love its peaceful
Where the Cam is
Like an*

*Cambridge, Cambridge, Cambridge,
landscape
sleeping
unflappable snake
In a wild flowery place.*

Grass and cherry trees,

*Benches and squirrels,
Quietness and serenity
Are part of a gorgeous scenery
Which looks like a wonderful painting.*

Solèna and Chiara

Visit of Cambridge

Cambridge is a splendid place to visit with its superb architecture: gothic or modern.

Cambridge colleges

First, if you go to Cambridge, you will be surprised by the incredible number of colleges! The first college was founded in 1284 and since 30 more have been built. The gothic style makes them very impressive. Cambridge is one of the biggest universities in England with Oxford. Inside, the setting is amazing, most of the universities have beautiful lawns. However, be careful, only the teachers of the colleges are allowed to walk on them! Sometimes you can visit all the colleges but during the exam period; the colleges are closed to the public. Did you know that some of them have a chapel as King's College which has the biggest chapel in Cambridge? This magnificent chapel was built by Henry VI in 1446. Inside, the stained windows and the statues are really gorgeous!

Cambridge market square

If you are hungry and if you don't have sandwiches, you can go to the market square where you could buy some food and also some souvenirs. Walk in the beautiful street near the market if you want to go shopping. Moreover, at the centre of this market you can find a magnificent fountain.

The river Cam

Then, what about punting on the river cam? Enjoy a nice ride on a small boat and discover the city from another point of view. It will be very calm and you will admire the wonderful landscape and the colleges' gardens. There are also animals such as ducks living near the river. The boat, which looks like a Venetian gondola, is pushed by a man. If you want to try, you are welcome, but be careful, you can fall into the river!

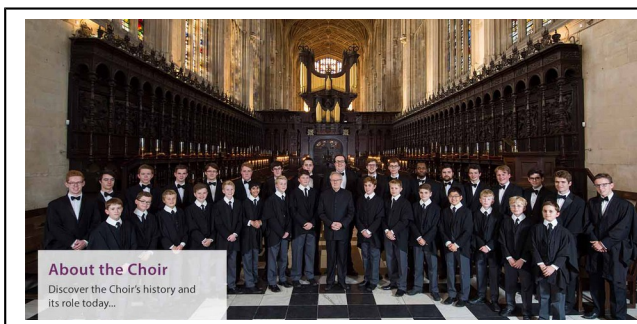
Delphine et Benjamin

ART SECTION: *King's college Chapel*



THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH IS LOCATED IN CAMBRIDGE, WHICH IS A UNIVERSITY CITY AND A COUNTY TOWN OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE. IT IS LOCATED ON THE RIVER CAM NORTH OF LONDON. KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL IS A HUGE BUILDING OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE. IT WAS STARTED IN 1446 BY HENRY VI AND WAS ACHIEVED IN 1515.

IT HAS THE LARGEST VAULT IN THE WORLD AND SOME OF THE MOST GORGEOUS MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS. DURING THE 2ND WORLD WAR, THESE GLASSES WERE REMOVED TO BE PROTECTED OF THE GERMANS' BOMBINGS AND SHOW SOME PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE. THE DECORATIONS WHICH ARE PRESENT IN THE CHAPEL REPRESENT MAINLY THE ROYAL POWER WITH FEWER RELIGIOUS SIGNS, EXCEPT IN THE LAST ROOM OF THE CHAPEL.



EACH YEAR, FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS CHOIRS IN THE WHOLE OF GREAT BRITAIN IS BROADCAST TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. THE CHAPEL IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COLLEGE LIFE. IT WAS BUILT FOR THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS, AND TODAY THE CHOIR STILL SINGS EVENSONG DAILY DURING TERM TIME.

SINCE 1968, TOURISTS HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF SEEING THE FAMOUS PAINTING OF RUBENS: "ADORATION OF THE MAGI". IN THIS WORK OF ART, RUBENS REPRESENTED THE THREE WISE MEN STARING AT JESUS CHRIST. THIS PAINTING WAS GIVEN BY ALFRED ERNEST ALLNATT, A MILLIONAIRE.

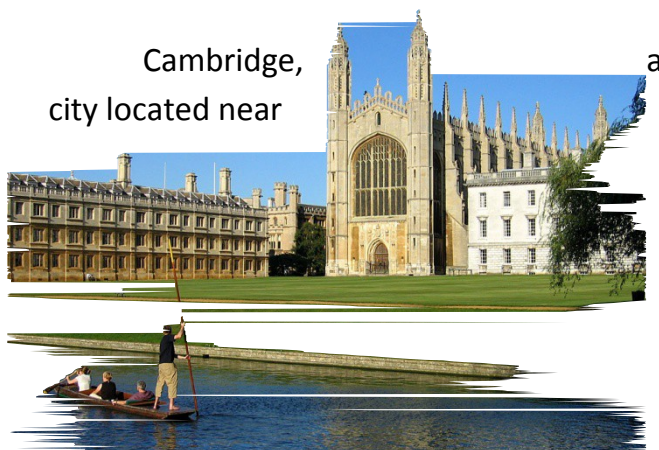
THE KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL ORGAN IS LIKE THE COLLEGE CHOIR, FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD. TODAY, THIS INSTRUMENT IS IN RESTORATION AS IT WAS IN THE MID 1930S THANKS TO MANY DONATIONS, AND THIS WORK WILL LAST NINE MONTHS.

TICKETS COST £9.00 OR £6.00 (CHILDREN AND STUDENTS).

THE ENTRANCE IS FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 WHEN THEY ARE VISITING WITH THEIR FAMILY OR SCHOOL GROUPS. YOU MUST BUY TICKETS AT THE KING'S COLLEGE VISITOR CENTRE, OPPOSITE THE FRONT OF THE COLLEGE). WARNING: IN JULY AND AUGUST, THERE ARE LOTS OF VISITORS.

PAUL CAZALI, ADRIEN LABURTHE TOLRA FOR THE TIMES, 2016

Cambridge: an attractive city and heart of studies contributing to our future.



London, is filled with international colleges very well known all around the world, like King's college. Although the city has a long history behind it, young students live here all the year, which makes it a very dynamic city. Apart from the academic aspect of the city, Cambridge is also known for its high level in several sports like rugby or football. There is also the famous competition against the University of Oxford, their best enemy. For example, a very attractive boat race takes place every year. Besides, the city is also attractive for its beautiful landscapes with great old buildings, churches, amazing grass and the pleasant river Cam on which we can do punting. On top of that, the atmosphere is more lively and dynamic because there are many shops in pedestrian streets and you can find all you like from a clothes shop to a pleasant restaurant. Moreover, a big market is held every day on the square in the heart of the city, where you can buy local products.

Today, Cambridge is the heart of innovation and is at the forefront of technologies. The best students are contributing to many projects to invent our future. One of them, Alan Turing was admitted in Trinity College in Cambridge in the 1930s to study mathematics. Afterwards, during the Second World War he invented

the basis of computer science and information technology to decode the famous Enigma machine used by the German army. So he permitted to avoid many other deaths in this terrible war.

To finish, I recommend this city for its attractive aspect with shops, markets and of course its lively atmosphere where people study very hard to create new things for our future and for their own knowledge.

Clément and Paul

The Cambridge Murderer

Hello I'm Calvin and I'm gonna tell you the worst night I've spend in my life. It took place in the giant King's college of Cambridge...

It was a few years ago, I was 19 and I had been admitted at King's college and I was so proud. The first week was awesome, my teachers were amazing and I already had some friends. I couldn't imagine a better situation. But it all began during a dinner, we were all eating in the big dining hall when someone came in, horrified. At the beginning, he couldn't talk because he was too scared. He finally regained his composure and explained what he had found.

The body of a student was spread out on the floor, my friend Ginger had been killed... The teachers immediately ordered us to go back to our rooms. I spent long hours in my bed, I could not sleep and I couldn't spend more time without doing anything. I left my bed discreetly and I started to search for information. I was walking in the hall, when I overheard the conversation of some teachers who were talking about Ginger. I was behind the door and the only thing that I heard was that ginger had cat hair on his dead body. King's college is the biggest place of Cambridge but the only guy who had a cat was the caretaker. I immediately understood it was him, he was always nasty with the students. I Went to his room which was located in the chapel. I knocked on his door but nobody opened. I got in, he wasn't there. I was scared like I never been. I looked all around me and then I found the final proof. There was a small bloodstain under the couch. I looked down and then I saw a knife with blood on it. I started to panic and I didn't know what I had to do. But it was too late. He was there behind me. I didn't see him but I heard his respiration. When I turned around, I saw his horrible face with a cut on his right hand. He started to walk to me. I couldn't move, my blood was frozen. I shouted to him « Why did you do that !? » « WHY DID YOU DO THAT ? » and then I cried ... I was sure I would die so I preferred closing my eyes. I've waited for 2 or 3 seconds and then « BOOM ». I thought I was dead but I could still think. I opened my eyes slowly and saw the body of the caretaker on the floor. A few seconds later I understood that my friends had followed me and saved the my life. They knocked him out with a baseball bat. The murderer was taken to jail. I finished the year with his face in all my nightmares. That was my story...



Interview of a French student in Cambridge:

We have asked some questions to a student from Cambridge



University, she told us how it is to live in Cambridge :

Journalist : Why did you decide to go studying abroad, and why particularly in Cambridge?

Student : My mother, who was born in England, studied at Cambridge University and worked there. I thought it was a nice way to pay tribute to her. Plus, I love speaking other languages, and it was a good opportunity to learn more about this beautiful country and its culture. Finally, everybody knows that studying abroad is much more rewarding.

J : Is it difficult to enter this University?

S: Indeed, it is. You can't enter the University if your grade point average is under 16. Then, you have to send your secondary school grades, and if you're accepted, you will have to pass an oral interview in Cambridge which tests your motivation and your academic level.

J : What do you study here?

S: I study many languages, especially Spanish, English and French. I take management lessons and I also study Strategic Management, Advanced Business, and other a bit more complicated subjects.

J : What type of activity can you practise in Cambridge?

S: The most popular activity in Cambridge is rowing. We're training all year long. Every year, rowing competitions take place. They're called "*Bumps races*". There is also another rowing competition, the "*Boat Race*", which opposes Cambridge and Oxford Colleges. Other sports can be practised in Cambridge, such as rugby, cricket, chess and "*Tiddlywinks*". One of the most popular activities in Cambridge is punting, which means steering little boats on the Cam river. Finally, many associations devoted to Theatre, such as the *Footlights Drama Club*.

J: Tell us about the English way of life, culture, habits etc.

S: I've noticed differences between English and French people. English girls like to be dressed provocatively. The English always have a beer in hand. My favorite meal is Fish 'n Chips, without hesitation. English people are –as we all know- respectful and polite.

Sacha and Pierre.

CANTERBURY

The Canterbury killer

In 1349 the city of Canterbury had a big cathedral where 20 monks spent their time. Their way of life was praying and helping poor people. There were a lot of pilgrims who came from all over the world to pray and go to confession. But one day something terrible happened in the cathedral.

Martin Landru was a pilgrim from Rochester who lived alone with his father during all his childhood because his mother died when he was born. His father had big money problems and he was totally indebted. When he was eleven years old, the father and the son made a pilgrimage to Constantinople. There, his father became completely mad and he threatened to kill him if he didn't steal the relic of St Anthony. Thanks to this relic, he could have a lot of money by selling it. So, he hid after a Mass and remained hidden until nightfall. At midnight, he took the sacred hand of St Anthony and he ran away. In the morning, he went back to his house but there, he discovered some men who had beaten his father, and he escaped with the relic.

Twenty years later, Martin was a farmer; he was hiding in the little village of Murat, in Auvergne. But there was an epidemic of plague in all the country and Martin was unfortunately contaminated.

When he realized that he would die soon, he decided to make one last pilgrimage to the cathedral of Canterbury to confess all his sins.

It took him one year to arrive there, but he was really surprised when he discovered the beautiful cathedral. He quickly found the confessional with father Augustine inside. It took him two hours to tell him his entire story. When he went out, he saw the priest's face was totally distraught... and from that moment Martin Landru became completely mad. He took his knife and stabbed him in the heart. An altar boy who saw the scene took the Bible he had in his hand and he threw it at the head of the killer. Landru's neck hit Thomas Becket's tomb. He died instantly.

Nobody knows why Martin Landru killed the priest after confessing his story to him, maybe because he was ashamed of what he had done... but to this day the relic is still unbound.

Lisa Jourdain and Juliette Sorel

