

Inter-Cultural Sharing Event in Closeburn, Dumfries, in Southwest Scotland

Robert and Oksana Torok
February 10, 2018



In a two-hour drive through the beautiful hills of southwest Scotland, Irina, Masumi, Rahana and Ann made the way to the home of the Jaupi family on Saturday 10 February 2018 to join a Culture Sharing event.

After arriving, we helped to get the food table set up while neighbours and friends of Viera Jaupi arrived family by family to a warm welcome.

A total of 21 people participated; young and old, representing diverse countries. Each family brought cuisine native to their countries and the Jaupi family had also prepared wonderful food to share with everyone.

Everyone mingled and chatted, getting to know each other on arrival in a very free and friendly atmosphere over soft drinks.



After about 40 minutes Viera extended her welcome to everyone and we were served with Scottish country vegetable soup and bread prepared by a neighbour of the Jaupi family, followed by self-service tasting of the diverse cuisine; again, everyone getting to know each other while enjoying the food.

With the main course over, tea or coffee was served with the adults sitting around the table to begin the next part of the programme – self introductions or sharing insights into their culture.

One participant, Rahana, volunteered to start, introduced herself and began to share about building a better society through a peaceful heart, mutual understanding, acceptance and cooperation. This was followed by each participant taking turns to express themselves.

There was a neighbour who shared about how the couple met and how good a person is the partner;

A kind hearted retired police woman adopted 2 children and is now a happy granny;

A Polish couple were happy to find good friends in the local community after several attempts to settle;

A Brazilian doctor with a love of travelling having travelled to many countries including Africa to serve people and decided to settle down with a Scottish man from Dumfries who had also travelled to diverse countries to serve communities too;

A Scottish family just came back to live in Dumfries after many years living in New Zealand;

Masumi from Japan sang us a beautiful Japanese song and gave us her hand-made crane origami;

Irina from Kazakhstan shared about how she ended up in Glasgow;

Viera expressed her gratitude to have good neighbours and friends always willing to give her support;

Ann shared about the meaning behind a pair of chopsticks from Chinese culture and expressed how the Family Federation for World Peace brought Irina, Masumi, Viera and herself together. The organisation encourages the building of harmonious, united, loving families extending to the larger global family. Ann also encouraged the community to continue holding gatherings like this to build trust, understanding and support, bringing the bigger community together for a better society. The plan for a Peace Marriage Festival on 25th February 2018 was also announced.

The event ended around 4.30 pm, everyone receiving a good-bye hug or handshake. May the friendship continue..... and a safe journey home!

