

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN CAMBRIDGE.

1) The Stereotypes British people have about the French

The stereotypes that are common to all groups are that the French are rude, they are supposed to wear berets and French food is good. The older they are, the more British people mention good wine as a stereotype.

2) What they associate France with (words that come to their minds)

The words that come to British people's minds most of the time are "fashion", "stylish", "friendly" "European", "sexy", no matter which age group they come from. The 40 to 60-year-olds insisted on French friendliness and the fact that they are European.

3) Is French learnt at school?

In all age groups, most people said that they had learnt French at school.

4) Which French words were mentioned most often?

"Bonjour" and "oui" seem to be the words that British people know best.

5) Their knowledge of France:

Apart from the youngest age group, most of the English people we interviewed have been to Paris.

French cooking: Most age groups, especially the youngest and the oldest have stereotypes about French food. Most of them mentioned Coq au vin, frogs' legs and snails. They also mentioned Raclette and Cassoulet, which proves that they have travelled to France.

French politics: The people who are between 26 and 60 are those who seem to know more about French politics.

French artists: Among the youngest, less than half of the interviewed people listen to French music. The older they get, the less British people seem to listen to French music. The younger ones mentioned such groups as Shaka Ponk and Christine and the Queens whereas people over 40 talked about singers like Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Mireille Mathieu and Johnny Halliday.

French football : The youngest and the people aged between 40 and 60 said that the French team was better than the English one.

Our impressions about this survey

Most of us enjoyed interviewing people in the street. Indeed, the people we spoke to were friendly and open-minded. It was funny to see what they thought about us and to be able to answer the questions they also asked us. Some of their answers were really unexpected: for example, the French dish that was often mentioned is "Coq au vin" although we don't eat it very often. We were also surprised by the stereotypes they have of French people: they see us wearing striped tee-shirts and selling onions on bicycles!

Some of us had mixed feelings about this activity for different reasons: it was sometimes difficult to get people's attention in the street, and it was embarrassing to disturb them. Another group thought that it was sometimes difficult to interview people because they did not understand what the students said because of their pronunciation. Finally, some unexpected situations occurred such as interviewing a deaf old lady who could not hear what the students said, so they had to repeat all the questions.

