

# PARISIAN DIARY

**In our last issue we told you that a website created by the Bubblycrew (Hammersmith & Fulham young carers) had been shortlisted for the Cable and Wireless Childnet International Awards. Here is Jenny's diary of their trip to Paris to pick up their award. Would they be first, second or third? Read on to find out!**

*Picture by Aysha.*

get a reputation as the loudest group here, but our group does have the largest amount of people, so I guess that's all right. We stop to have lunch, and I buy 18 postcards and 3 mini Eiffel towers for people back home. We do a bit more sightseeing then go back to the hotel.

Then the plan was to get on a bus and walk 5 minutes to this really nice restaurant to have dinner, but instead we went on another one of those long walks that Gideon is famous for. Because no one really knew which bus stop it was (and none of us speak French) we just got off at the last bus stop, and we found ourselves lost in a really, really dodgy area of Paris, everyone felt really uncomfortable. So we just kept walking, everyone sticking close together, trying to find our way. Then, when we were actually getting quite close to the restaurant, everyone got fed up and decided to go back to the hotel.

## **Wednesday, 3 April, 2002**

The BBC and the photographer arrived today! The BBC is doing a small piece on it for BBC's Newsround, so John the BBC cameraman walks around the whole time filming, and the photographer walked around, just snapping away. It's so unreal! Everyone wore the Childnet t-shirts, and at

the International School of Paris, everyone did a presentation of their website and people could walk around and ask questions about the websites. I hadn't felt well all day and when we got back to the hotel someone felt my forehead and said I had a fever, so I was ordered by Elisa to get back to bed, not to eat, to drink a litre of water, and to keep a cold, wet flannel on my forehead. Then Elisa told me not to sleep and when I asked why not, she replied "because I'm afraid you won't wake up!". Which was quite OTT, but it was nice that everyone cared. So they went to the Eiffel Tower while I stayed in bed. When everyone got back I managed to drag myself to a restaurant and back (I no longer had a fever). But the restaurant was really nice, it made up for the mishap on Tuesday. When we got back to the hotel, I promptly fell asleep.

## **Thursday, 4 April, 2002**

Today, I feel so much better, which I'm really relieved about because today's the big day!

At 11am there's a meeting about the ceremony, then Elisa and the other groups went to the art museum (the one with the Mona Lisa) the rest of the Bubblycrew stayed behind for an interview. Then we went to a café. Then we came back to get ready, as we had

to be ready at 4.00pm.

We went on a coach to where it was being held. There was a lot of hanging out and stuff, but I won't bore you with that. Then the ceremony. The thing is, we were either gonna be 3rd, 2nd, or 1st, everyone thought we were gonna be 2nd (except Gideon, he thought we would be 3rd). When they said "And in 2nd place is ... Reach Out" everyone just went "Oh My God!" and was really shocked. WE WON 1ST PLACE!!!! When we went on stage, we just had these huge grins on our faces. After the ceremony, there was more hanging out, but this time we went around having wine and that, and more photos.

When we got back to the hotel, there was dinner and a party (only one flaw, no music).

We would've stayed longer, but Gideon made us go to our rooms at 2.00-2.30am or thereabouts, telling us to pack our stuff now, as he needed to take our bags at 8.00am the next morning.

So we went to our rooms and packed, and even though we were tired, me and Shivvy didn't fall asleep until 5.30am, although this time we were actually trying to get some sleep.

## **Friday, 5 April, 2002**

It wasn't easy, but we managed to

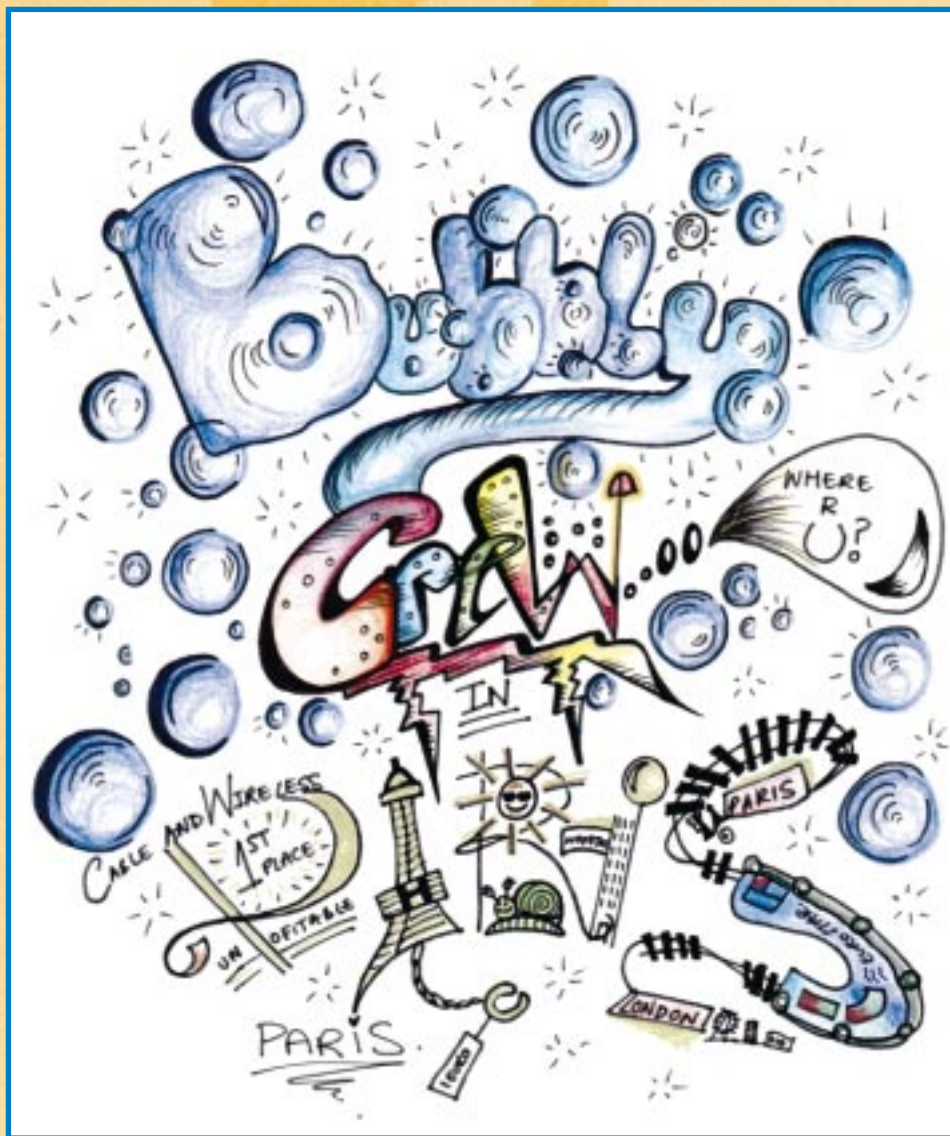
get up at 8.00am. Then we went to Euro Disney.

I couldn't go on any of the rides, because the first one went upside down, which I can't handle, and then when we ate, we had these rank sandwiches that made my stomach hurt, so I couldn't go on any. But that's all right, Euro Disney wasn't all that anyway. We left at 5.00pm, and we nearly missed the train. Then on the way, the Eurostar kept delaying, we didn't get to London until 11.00pm. Paula was at the station with the mini-van, and she dropped everyone off. By this time I was so tired, my body must of gone into 'spasm' as Paula described it, my eyes were wide open.

I got home at 12.30am, had a bit if supper, and went straight to sleep.

## **Conclusion**

I woke up at 4.00pm on Saturday, had lunch, and went back to sleep, and more-or-less didn't get up until Monday, it took me that long to recover. The lack of sleep for everyone was staggering. But I'd still do it all again. I got to know everyone a lot better, and everyone lost a bit of weight on the trip.



## **Sunday, 31 March, 2002**

I'm at Elisa's house, me and Shivvy are spending the night; and tomorrow we leave for Paris! I'm quite glad to be here, because for a while there, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to come (passport complications). But we're all going, so we're all in good moods.

## **Monday, 1 April 2002**

We get up at an ungodly hour of the morning, sleepily getting ready, more asleep than awake (luckily we're able to disguise the fact with a bit of make up). But once we're finally on the Eurostar, I'm fully awake, but I don't get excited until we arrive at our hotel, when it finally hits me: We're in Paris! The hotel's quite nice – and we can check our e-mails from here for free! There's not much on TV, but there is this German music channel which is just hilarious to watch.

After we've unpacked, and sorted ourselves out, we go on this '15 minute' walk which turned into a couple of hours (Gideon: "It's just a 5 minute walk up the hill..."), everyone's quite grumpy by the end of it, and normally I'm the only one whose feet ache, but this time everyone's complaining about their feet, so everyone's relieved when we finally get back to the hotel.

## **Tuesday, 2 April, 2002**

In the morning, there's a 'welcome' meet and greet meeting with the people from the other websites, and the people hosting the whole thing. There are people here from North America, South America, Australia, Africa, Asia, Egypt, Sweden...just about everywhere really! Then we all get on a coach and go on a sightseeing tour of Paris. We're also starting to