

Dear Down-town Canterbury, or Canterbury* People,

I guess our visit to the Beckett will have shown you just how central a part of UK life the pub can be for some people.

There are men who have their own billiard cue in the pub, and their own tankard or glass. There is a feeling that people "belong" to their local.....the barman will often start pulling a pint of the right beer the moment a given person comes in at the door.

I will often drop in for a half on the way back from work and, depending on who is in at the same time, may find myself talking to a plasterer about his exploits on a motor bike when he was in his late teens or to a five bedroom house (sitting room) guy about his time as a civil servant in Nairobi, 40 years ago. The conversations are light and glancing and, for me, serve as an adjustment zone between work and home life. Sometimes, if I go straight home, I get the bends, like a deep sea diver coming to the surface too fast. And I am a light pub user.

I wonder how you have fared with the after tea and after supper programmes. Yesterday I went to I■■■■'s session of creativity and was wowed by her tired ease, her warm simplicity and her ability to put me into light trance. I learnt quite a few things I will certainly use when I go to Reykjavik next week. What I really loved in her session was that I was not at all in a contrary, questioning mode, and I can be a very contrary participant. What precisely, have I to learn from her animation style....? A lot, I think.

In the evening I went to E■■■■ who is a mistress primary trainer with huge TT experience across India and Pakistan. There was a grounded clarity about each of her simple, brilliant exercises. For more details ask tall, younger C■■■■ in Group B . I can have every confidence when I ask E■■■■ to go and do workshops in Pilgrims' name in Greenland, ~~the~~ Palestine, or ~ ?

How unbelievably lucky I am to work in an outfit with folk of the calibre of E■■■■r and I■■■■.....It has a direct enhancing effect on my own work. A teacher is in some ways as good as students and colleagues allow him, or stimulate him to be.

Have you visited www.hltmag.co.uk? You will find seven years of humanistic thinking created by teachers from across the globe. As a follow-up to this course you should read the **Ideas from the Corpora** section from Feb 1999 right though to May 2005. It is likely to seriously modify your view of language.... You read three of Rundell's pieces early last week.

Please think about writing for the magazine. I am immensely proud of my 800 or so contributors. Please bring the number up to 812!

I hope this letter does not come across as overly self-satisfied. I am sad that HLT still only get visited by 1000 teachers per day. There should be 100,000 visitor sessions per day! Hubris. See you tomorrow- Good night, Mario

* local + ♀ stress pattern