

You are standing in *the place where...*

1

Highclere Castle *near Newbury in Berkshire, UK*

The castle has been owned by the Carnarvon family since 1679, and the Earl and Countess Carnarvon currently live there. In 2010, film director Julian Fellowes, a close friend of the family, was planning a new TV series about an aristocratic family and their servants during the early 20th century. While he was staying at Highclere Castle, he realized that it would be the perfect place to set his historical drama, and the castle was transformed into Downton Abbey, the home of the fictional Crawley family. The series was a huge success and it has been sold all over the world. Both the interior and exterior scenes were shot in and around the castle itself.

In the second TV series the castle is used as a hospital during the First World War. These scenes are based on a real-life event. In 1914, Lady Almina Carnarvon allowed soldiers who had been wounded to be looked after in the castle.

Go there

Highclere Castle and gardens are open to the public during the Easter and summer holidays, and on many Sundays and public holidays from 10.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Visit the Egyptian Gallery which contains many objects brought back from his travels by Lady Almina's husband, the fifth Earl of Carnarvon, who famously discovered the tomb of the young Pharaoh Tutankhamun. www.highclerecastle.co.uk

2

Cortlandt Alley *New York, USA*

In Hollywood's version of New York City, the giant metropolis full of secret alleys where crimes take place, and criminals are chased by the police. In fact there are hardly any alleys in New York today at all. One of the few remaining ones, Cortlandt Alley, has been used for almost all the alley scenes in films and TV series that are set in New York. Films with scenes that were shot there include Crocodile Dundee and Men in Black 3, and TV series like Blue Bloods, Boardwalk Empire, NYPD Blue, and Law & Order.

Go there

Thousands of tourists want to be photographed in Cortlandt Alley. It is on the edge of Chinatown, in Manhattan, between Franklin Street and Canal Street. In fact it is a perfectly safe place to visit. In real life, it is not inhabited by gangsters, but is the home for perfectly respectable businesses such as the New York Table Tennis Federation Training Center.

3

Christ Church College

Oxford, UK

This wonderful 16th century college, with a spectacular tower, which was designed by the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren, has an important connection with children's literature. It was at Christ Church that Charles Dodgson, professor of mathematics, first met the children of the Dean (the head of the College). He used to tell them stories, and was inspired by one of the girls, Alice, to write Alice in Wonderland, in 1865, under the pen-name of Lewis Carroll. Many years later, Christ Church was used as the setting for several film adaptations of some other famous children's books, the Harry Potter novels. The first time Harry and his friends enter Hogwarts, they walk up the Christ Church staircase where Professor McGonagall is waiting for them at the top. The dining room in Hogwarts is the Christ Church Dining Hall. It could not be used for filming, because it was being used by students at the time, so it was recreated in a studio.

Go there

Visitors are welcomed throughout the year. However, as the college is a working academic institution, some areas may occasionally be closed to the public. Opening times: Monday to Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday: 2 p.m.–5 p.m.

www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Reading Comprehension

I. Match the paragraphs with the correct headings

Paragraph 1 _____
Paragraph 2 _____
Paragraph 3 _____

- A. The only place in a city which is infamous for crimes.
- B. One of the very few areas that have been used for movie production or other purposes.
- C. A historical place whose appearance was refurbished for entertainment.
- D. An ancient place which has been popular for shooting children movies.
- E. A unique place in the city that is famous for looking after wounded soldiers.

II. Read the article and complete the sentences with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.

1. Highclere Castle was used for a TV series by _____ of the Carnarvon family.
2. _____ soldiers were taken care of in Highclere Castle during the first world war.
3. Visitors can see a large number of things in _____ which was collected by the fifth Earl of Carnarvon.
4. Crimes and police's chasing criminals are scenes in the _____ of New York.
5. Cortlandt Alley is safe to _____.
6. A well-known _____ designed Christ Church College.
7. The man who wrote *Alice in Wonderland* is a _____.
8. _____ were using the Dining Hall, hence videos couldn't be shot there.
9. Tourists can't visit _____ in Christ Church College because they are still being used for academic purposes.