



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

MAY 2021



The British Society in Uruguay
Members' News

British Embassy
Memorial Display

Food for Thought
Democracy in Crisis

www.britsoc.org.uy



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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 29 April elected The British Society's second youngest President ever to office. Colin Shearer was a clever choice and having worked with him over the last two years, I am confident he will do a great job. I congratulate those present for having supported his nomination and encourage more British institutions from our Community to follow suit and elect younger people to their boards.

However, Colin's election means that this will be my last time addressing you as Society President. I firmly believe a turnover in authorities at all levels of society is a healthy exercise, since new faces bring new ideas.

In what refers to our own little Society, I am sure a new President is a positive thing too, so I leave office - for the second time - with a smile to take a welcome rest.

During my years as your President, my main objective has been to overhaul, modernise and rejuvenate our Society.

We have worked hard to improve our [website](#), making it more useful and user-friendly. All forms which used to be distributed in hard copies or by e-mail (such as membership applications, honorary member nominations, etc.) are now available on the site, thus streamlining procedures and making them simpler. This site is also being synched with the update of our members' database, so that members will soon be able to make changes to their own contact details and find out if they are up to date with their membership fees online at a members-only section of the site which is currently being implemented.

Our social media accounts (on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and now also [LinkedIn](#)) have content which is both informative and entertaining. Numbers of followers on social media (6300+ on Facebook, 6900+ on Instagram, and already 500+ on LinkedIn) clearly show that the Society's reach through social media far exceeds the conventional British community, which means that ever more people (all anglophiles and interested in British culture) are informed of and attracted to our events and activities. The fact that over 90% of all followers on social media are under 50 years old also shows that we are successfully attracting younger people to what we do, and the reach of our accounts reveals we have significantly increased the Society's contact with the Community and beyond.

Though the pandemic has seen our events greatly reduced, we have striven to shift some of our former events online and set up other online activities to keep in contact with our members. And speaking of Contact, our newsletter, which you are currently reading, now has more new regular columns, entertainment sections and information than ever before, and is posted online and promoted on all social media, thus becoming a good way to attract new people to the Society as well as being our main avenue of contact with members.

Prior to the pandemic we had worked hard to set up new activities to give members a broader variety of options and to attract member of the British community (and others beyond) who do not usually attend our events. Examples of this are the Scavenger Hunt, the BritRock music festival, and the after-office talks, to name a few. We also had new ideas lined up for 2020 – such as the announced called “BS talks” cycle, which aimed to give a select group participants direct interaction with select guest speakers – which we were unable to implement, but may yet come to life. And despite the pandemic we have yet more new ideas lined up for 2021 – such as the “Literary Teas” cycle I hope my successor will be able to implement in the coming months.

The Society's charitable Funds (Sir Winston Churchill Home & Benevolent) are doing well, both operationally and financially. Over the last four years, their management and running has gone smoothly and the Funds have strengthened considerably, the Sir Winston Churchill Home Fund increased its total capital by over 50% and the Benevolent Fund by over 70%.

We have worked hard to broaden membership – and thus the concept of ‘British community’ – to include anglophiles not necessarily of British descent. These new members are attracted to our Society because they share our values and ideals, because our events and activities interest them, and because they are supporters of the United Kingdom and all things British. Thanks to this approach, membership of the Society has surged throughout the last four years and currently stands at over 440, the highest it has been since 1946!

Last, but by no means least, the Society now has a roof. The recycling of the former British Cemetery custodian's house into what is now being called “Britannia House” and has become headquarters of several British community institutions, was a joint initiative we pushed for with the aid of the English Club and the British Cemetery Society, and which saw fruition thanks to the generous contribution of the British Cemetery Society added to those of the afore-mentioned institutions. Though coronavirus has not allowed us to officially inaugurate it for the Society's use, the premises are ready and will begin to be used as soon as the pandemic permits it.

Thus, I am leaving my successor a modernised Society with its own premises, healthy accounts, two well-run charities, increased membership and visibility, successful activities, and a younger outlook. I hope to have satisfied most of your expectations for my term in office.

Richard Empson MBE
President



Birthdays

in May

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 03 · Elaine Beare | 20 · Ana M. Meikle |
| 03 · Patricia F. Stanham | 20 · Lucía M. Prevett |
| 05 · Christina H. Mullin | 21 · Ronald M. Beare |
| 06 · Virginia M. Campbell | 21 · Guillermina Vivo |
| 06 · Ana B. Jiménez de Arechaga | 22 · Mark C. Teuten |
| 06 · Charles D. Larbalestier | 24 · Laura I. Paolino |
| 08 · Mary Hillier | 25 · Patrick Hobbins |
| 09 · Dominique Capurro | 26 · María F. Potter |
| 09 · Marian I. Whitacker | 27 · Jonathan Miles |
| 10 · Annette Beare | 30 · Andrew Hobbins |
| 19 · Daniel R. Wilson | 31 · Carmen Gomensoro |



New Members

Alvaro Ricardo Rivas López
Carlos Manuel Hedengren Corragioni d'Orelli
Catherine 'Cath' Mary Bodeant Elías
David Phillip Michaels Press
Karen Ingrid Schandy Sicco
Lindsey Jane Cordery Ferrero
Luis Alberto Márquez Correa
Malcolm Hood MacCormack Bain
Maria 'Rosina' Rosa Otegui Griego
Patricia 'Pato' Prat Rendon
Walter 'Tato' Albanell Olarreaga



Ballindalloch Castle, known as the “pearl of the north”, is a Scottish castle located in Banffshire, Scotland. It is one of the finest surviving examples of a classic Scottish baronial castle.

Today, the castle is still occupied by the Macpherson-Grant family. It is open to tourists during the summer months and a number of workshops on its grounds are in active use.

It is said that the original intention was to build at a better site defensively, but when building commenced whatever was built in the day was thrown down at night. Eventually the laird, annoyed by the problem, heard a mysterious voice saying, “Build in the cow-haugh, and you will meet with no interruptions.” He did so, and there was no further problem with the building.

Stay safe,

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The British Society would like to kindly remind all members who have not yet done so to get up to date with their membership fees.

Remember you can now do this easily from the comfort of your own home using any local debit card and most credit cards through the [RedTickets](#) platform.

And if you forgot to pay last year's fee (or any previous unpaid dues), you can simply pay two or more at the same RedTickets link or by visiting our [Website](#).

Else you can make a bank transfer (or direct deposit) to the **British Society** account at **Banque Heritage** Uruguay number 62582-03, or pay our Treasurer (in copy) directly. If done by bank transfer/deposit, please send our Treasurer a copy of the transfer/deposit slip.



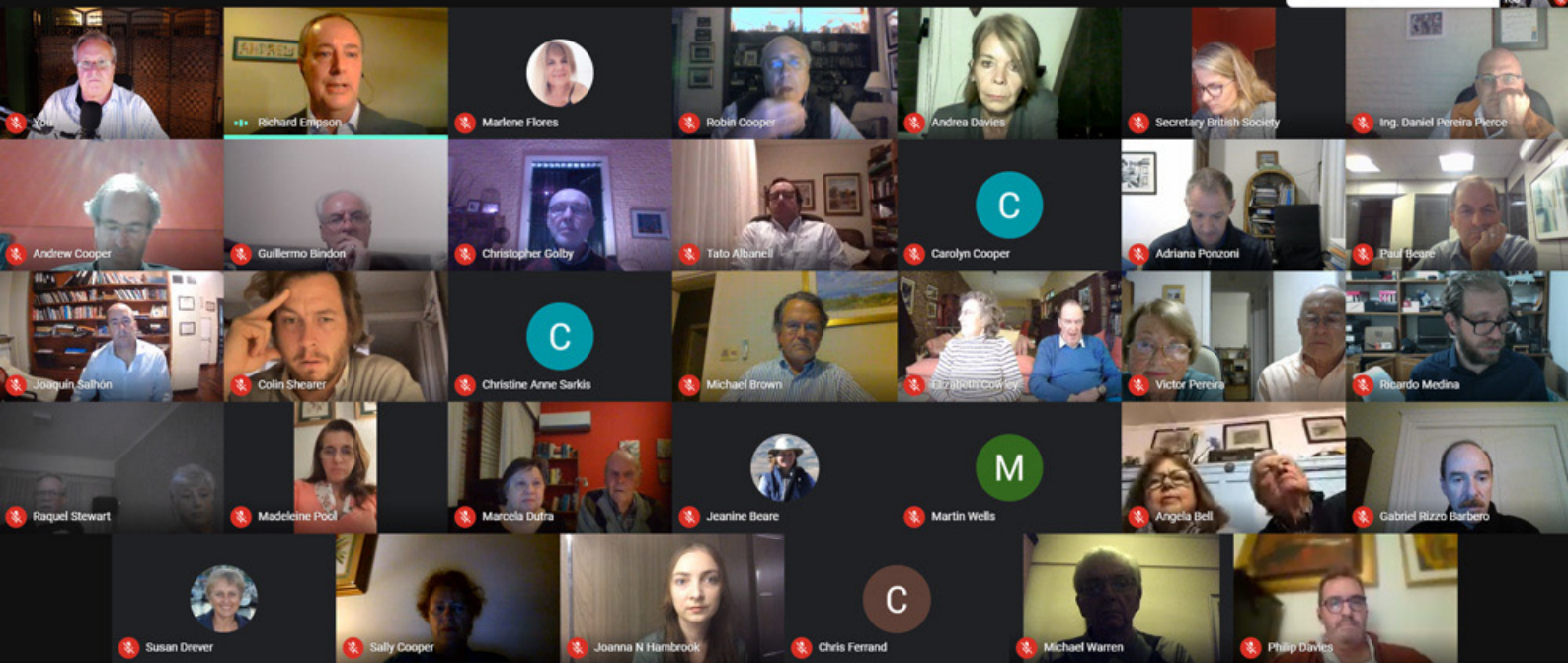
2021



Once this is done, your membership will be updated.

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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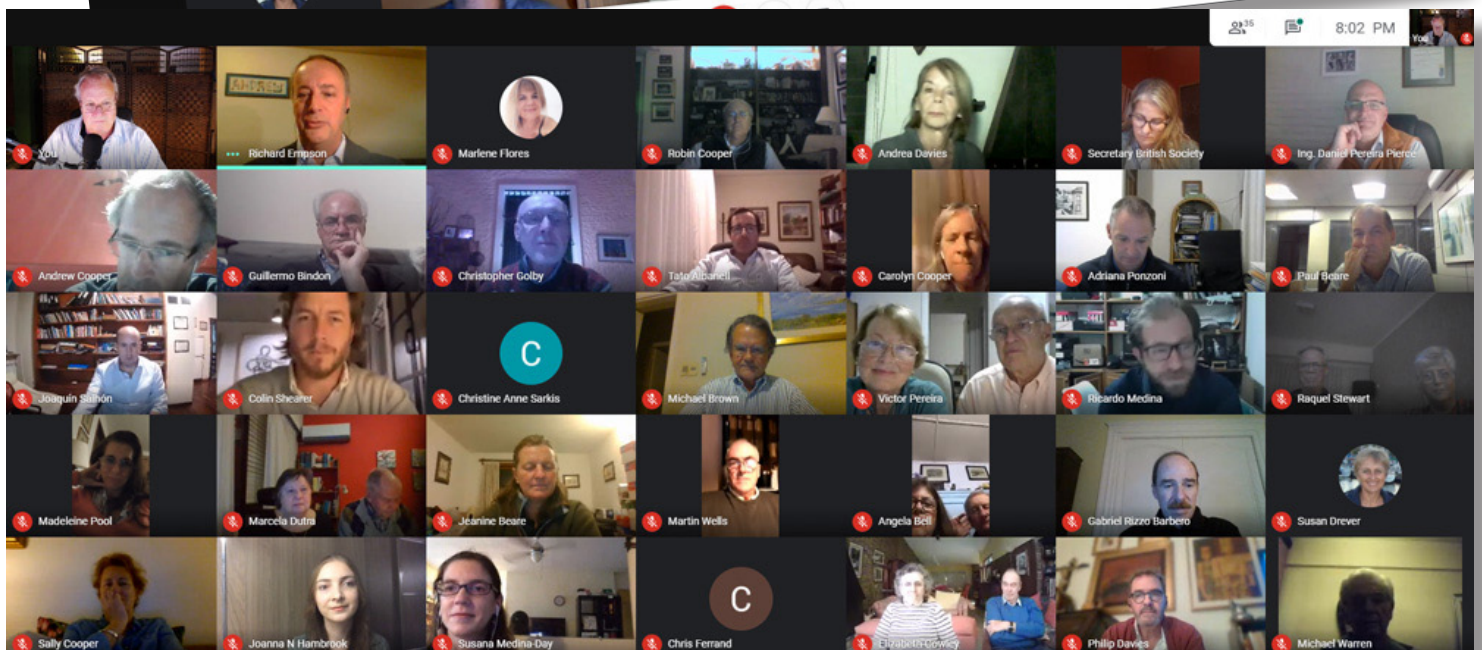
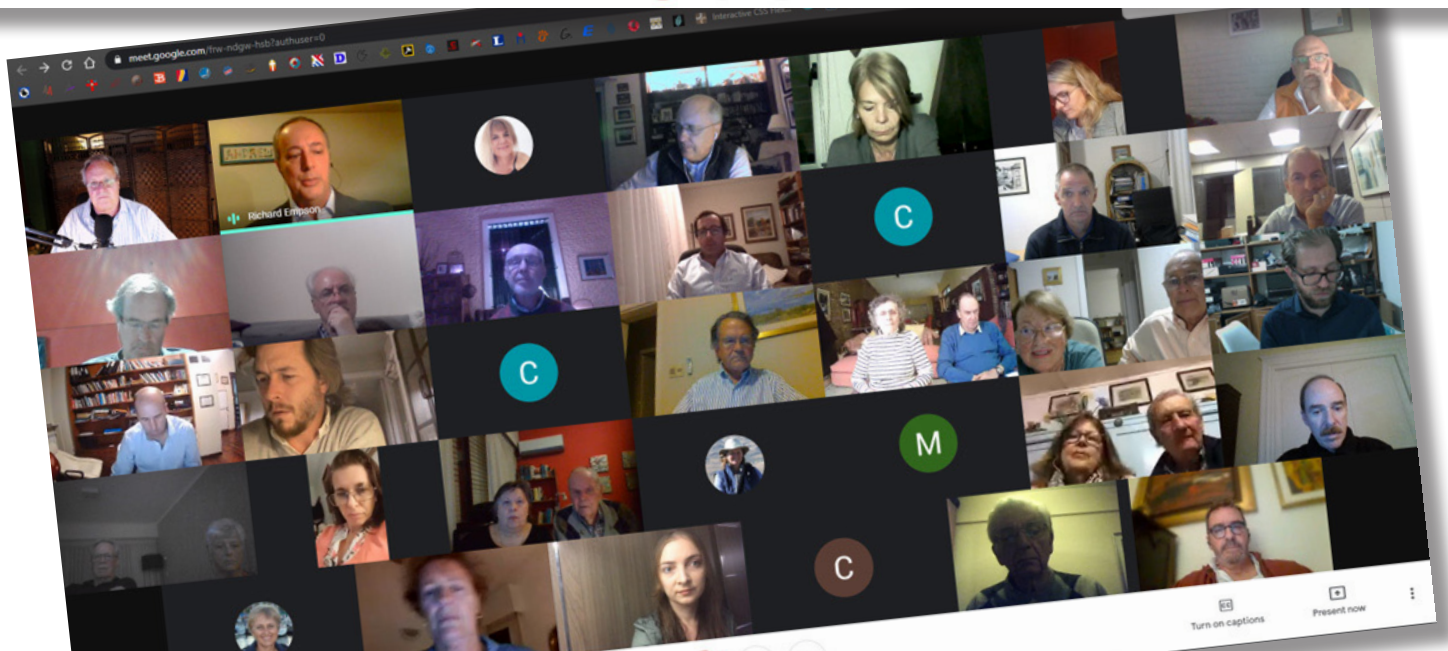


2021 BSU Annual General Meeting ^



Turn on captions

Present now



25 8:02 PM



Here, there and everywhere

Thank you Richard!



*and thanks
Fer too!*





Hands on!

April has gone by and the good news is that all our residents have got their second vaccination! The photos show different moments making handicrafts, and the final result on one occasion was a “viejito”!

You might notice that Sylvia Sherwood is in some of the pictures! She is staying at the Home for a few days while she recovers from a health problem, participating in all activities and chatting with everybody.



Pastor Diego Frisch

Sadly, Diego died on April 17th after a fall, and just a month after his wife Ruth.

He was a caring and loyal friend for many of our Residents, Committee and Staff.. Always a welcome sight, arriving for tea with sandwich treats tucked under his arm, a meditation, and a hymn to share, to be followed by Bingo!

He took the care to visit with each resident, and when their time came he would minister at their funeral consoling all those present with personal and humorous memories. A genuinely loving and caring Pastor for whom we are all thankful.

Liz Cowley



We can see from the 'photo that their favourite time was tea-time-mate-time full of good fare and humour!!



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
DUKE OF EDINBURGH
10 JUNE 1921 - 9 APRIL 2021



We would like to thank all those who kindly sent condolence messages on the passing away of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, both through us and on the online condolence book. These will all be forwarded to the Palace. Some of you have offered to send us copies of photos, documents and other objects related to The Duke's visit to Uruguay in 1962.

We would be delighted to receive them and incorporate them in a memorial display at the Ambassador's Residence. Please contact us on ukinuruguay@adinet.com.uy to coordinate delivery/collection.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo

The Ambassador on TV

The Ambassador was a featured guest in Channel 4 morning show Vamo Arriba on 21st April, to talk about the Queen's birthday and HRH Duke of Edinburgh's funeral.

She also answered some personal questions about her life in Uruguay. Watch why she was dubbed "a real Uruguayan", after a Q&A game! Facebook Twitter Instagram



VAMO ARRIBA FAYE O'CONNOR!

CORONAVIRUS DÍA 405

VAMO ARRIBA

NOCHE 20⁰⁰
11:01



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

BRITISH EMBASSY



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

FAYE O'CONNOR

EMBAJADORA BRITÁNICA

Watch our video celebrating Earth Day

Late this year the UK will host the UN Climate Change Conference, and tackling climate change is a core focus of our Embassies around the world, including here in Montevideo.

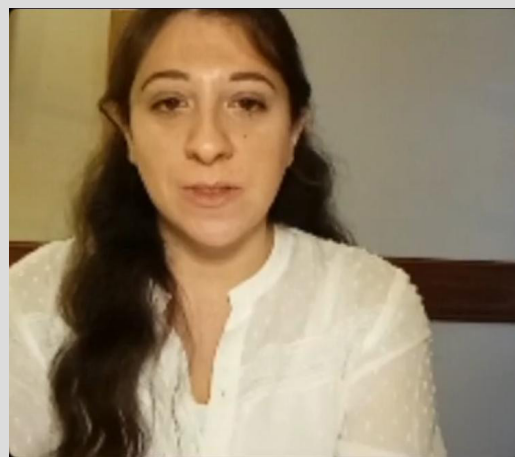
To mark Earth Day this year, Ambassador Faye O'Connor shared some of our achievements at the Embassy and Residence in this video published on Facebook, which tells

how we have been working together with the Uruguayan Government on this crucial topic, and highlights some of the eco-friendly products and services offered by British companies in Uruguay.

You can watch it also on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Fashion Revolution

In another activity on Earth Day, the Ambassador was interviewed on Instagram live by the Uruguayan chapter of Fashion Revolution, the UK founded global activist movement. Amongst various topics related to sustainable fashion, Faye showed some garments she had reformed, joining the global upcycling trend to join a culture where materials are used for longer. You can watch the interview on [Instagram](#) and on [Facebook](#).





ONLINE CONFERENCE INVITATION

WEDNESDAY 5TH OF MAY 13:00 HOURS

DOCTOR OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

EDISON GONZÁLEZ LAPEYRE



THE URUGUAYAN NATION AND THE PORT

MORE INFORMATION



WWW.CUB.UY

LAMENT



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

Lament is a reality. Lament has to do with our emotions and expressions of grief in times of difficulty, crisis, uncertainty, and loss. We are hosting a two-part conversation on Lament through our Sunday Zoom connection. The talks are always posted on our website, but the conversations are only available in the live connection.

Some people are reacting to the current crisis by pretending that it is contrived for political or financial or military gain of some sort. They prefer to pronounce their opinions then to engage with empathy the sense of loss and uncertainty. Some Christians organized public demonstrations of prayer to denounce and displace the virus. These are just two of the many emotional responses. I certainly prefer action to isolation and engagement to depression, but I suggest that getting your vaccine and learning to lament are more appropriate responses to this global crisis for us at this time.

Instead of denying that we have limits or praying that our limits will cease to exist, I recommend we recognize, accept, and even embrace our limits as a gift from God that can lead us a better understanding of our shared humanity, our fragility, our need for interdependence.

What is lament? How am I responding? Is my response a reactive emotional defense mechanism? Am I able to empathize and understand others? How am I becoming the person I wish I were? Good questions for your reflection this month.

I pray for you as I pray for our entire community.

John Hamilton

Pastor, Christ Church

Arocena 1907

Esq. Lieja, Carrasco

Tel 2601 0300

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www.christchurchmvd.org



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO



Born into the royal families of Greece and Denmark in 1921, Prince Philip was the prince consort and husband to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. He was the longest-serving royal consort in British history at the time of his death, on 9th April 2021.

Through the years, he served as a patron and member of more than 750 organisations, and completed 22,219 solo engagements since 1952. In 2017, Philip announced that he would be retiring from public life; his last solo public engagement took place at Buckingham Palace.

In March 1962, as part of a 56-day royal tour of South America, Philip paid a 4-day visit to Uruguay. The Anglo would like to pay tribute to late Prince Philip by sharing four rare photographs that both point to and summarize some of the most important events of his visit, which include the inauguration of one of the most treasured Anglo buildings.

The Inauguration of the Anglo new premises.

On Tuesday 13th March 1962, Prince Philip inaugurated the new Anglo building on "Médanos" street, in the centre of Montevideo.

The Duke of Edinburgh receiving presents from Dr Alberto Gallinal Heber, President of the Anglo Board of Governors.



After unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion, the Prince waved to a large, cheering crowd from the new building's entrance.



The Duke of Edinburgh receiving presents from Dr Alberto Gallinal Heber, President of the Anglo Board of Governors.

After unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion, the Prince waved to a large, cheering crowd from the new building's entrance.

An unforgettable polo match

Philip loved equine sports, and was among the UK's top four polo players in the mid-1960s. On Wednesday 14th, March 1962, the prince played a polo match at the Carrasco Polo club with some of the finest local players.

This photograph was taken on the day before the match. Philip spent some time practising and carefully choosing the horses he would ride the following day.



*This photograph was taken on the day before the match. Philip spent some time practising and carefully choosing the horses he would ride the following day.
Image courtesy of Julio Arocena*

Having lunch with the Duke of Edinburgh

In the early morning of Wednesday 14th March, 1962, the prince flew a plane to the “Estancia Santa Clara”, in Florida, where he was warmly welcomed by Alejandro Gallinal Heber, members of the Gallinal Heber family and the British Ambassador Norman Brain. Invitees spent a wonderful morning in the beautiful stately home, built in 1907 by the French architect Camille Gardelle.



*A rare picture of Prince Philip sitting at the table in Santa Clara.
Image courtesv of Juan Bonasso Gallinal*

2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of The Anglo School and, despite COVID, we are celebrating!

The growth of the school has been extraordinary and we are pleased to see how far this journey has taken us:



The Anglo School first building located on Arocena street.



The Anglo School Town located on Barrios Amorin street.



The Anglo School Sports field

- ✓ From the house in Av. Arocena, to a building of our own, built from scratch to cater for our need for larger premises.
- ✓ From one to two locations, with the opening of The Anglo School Town branch.
- ✓ From having to rent playing fields to be able to practice sports, to having our own sports field - 10 hectares – 5 minutes away from our Carrasco building.
- ✓ From offering Kinder and Primary Education at our Town Branch to inaugurating Secondary Education to cover the 2 to 16 year-old range at both Carrasco and Town
- ✓ From adopting Cambridge International academic programmes for our English Curriculum to being selected by the University of Cambridge as a model of good practice in the delivery of their programmes (<https://bit.ly/3aFxK0R>)
- ✓ And most importantly, from 56 students in 2001, to over 800 in 2021.

Our commitment to continuous improvement has encouraged us to dream big. Each goal we set and achieve leads us on to the next. Aligned always to our principles and values, The Anglo School remains true to the promise of offering "Excellence in Bilingual Education".

Our thanks to all the families who have joined us on this exciting journey, trusting us with the education of their children!



The amount of screen time among children and adolescents

The use of screens is somewhat difficult to control given the context we are living in, where parents must reinvent themselves to make these screen times a natural thing for their children by taking care of them to the fullest.

Our specialists can help us understand the effects of screen exposure and give us some tips for naturally handling this together with our children.

Short-sightedness or myopia is on the rise.

Short-sightedness is a very common eye condition that causes distant objects to appear blurred, while close objects can be seen clearly. The global prevalence of myopia is increasing rapidly. One of the theories that could explain this is the sharp rise in screen time among children. Cases of myopia has already affected up to 80% in some Asian populations, and between 50% and 60% of the population in the United States and increasing.

The screen itself is not to be blamed but rather the eye strain that is required when using screens at close range which may account for the rise in myopia. In addition, excessive use of screens takes time away from children's time spent on outdoor activities which is known to help prevent the onset of myopia and its progression.

If you already have myopia, what is the treatment like?

For patients who have had myopia progression for 6 months, a treatment with diluted atropine drops is available, which is indicated for patients where myopia progresses more than ½ point in 6 months. That is why we recommend that children wearing glasses or contact lenses have their eyes tested by a pediatric ophthalmologist every 6 months.

What are the symptoms seen in children with excessive screen time?

We have seen an increase of symptoms such as red eyes, gritty eyes, and eye irritation. These are linked to a pathology we call "dry eye" in which excessive screen use has been found to decrease the eye's blink rate by at least a half as well as its quality and range. Other types of symptoms, such as blurred vision, double vision, and difficulty focusing, have also been seen. These symptoms are related to the lack of balance from having strabismus, such as a convergence insufficiency by having a crossed or turned eye, where the eyes have difficulty in focussing on objects closely, in



these cases this can be solved with convergence exercises. However, there are other types of strabismus that include constant esotropia where the eyes are crossed ("cross eyed") or intermittent exotropia, where the eyes diverge ("lazy eyed" or "wall eyed") and where surgery may be required in some cases.

And when this happens, what is the recommended screen time?

Screens are not recommended for children under 3 years of age and from that age up, they should be used sparingly. In kids between 3 and 5 years old, not more than 1 hour a day and teenagers not more than 2 hours of screen time per day. While these guidelines exist, in times of pandemic it is more difficult to provide more accurate recommendations. Finally, it is important to remember that it is not advisable to use a screen at bedtime at any age.

What does the 20-20-20 rule mean?

Basically, for every 20 minutes spent using a screen, you should try to look away at something that is 20 feet away from you (i.e., 6 meters) for a total of 20 seconds. That is, your kids should look at something at a distance for about 20 seconds 2 or 3 times for every hour of screen time.

Note from Humana Podcast #3 by Dr Laura Barreiro and Dr Solomon Saul.

BRITISH CEMETERY

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and complying with government and municipal rulings, the maximum number of people allowed to attend a burial is ten. If it is a Covid-19 burial the number is reduced to two.

Please do not insist, the personnel follow strict orders and remember that the job they are doing is rather grim and they are rather worried under the present circumstances.

We hope, as have all other cemeteries in Montevideo, not to have to close our gates except for burials.

At the moment we have only one of our staff suffering from Covid-19.



PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH

At Dickens Institute we were very sad to hear of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We did not know much about Prince Philip but we did know he was a good man. A man who gave up everything to devote his life to Queen Elizabeth, his children and Britain, his nation of adoption. We knew he was described as a rock at Her Majesty's side, and that he had a diverse number of interests, among them the environment. But best of all he had a very keen sense of humor which was quite unexpected. He worked very hard until a few years ago when he retired, having devoted his life to service. Indeed he was a great man.

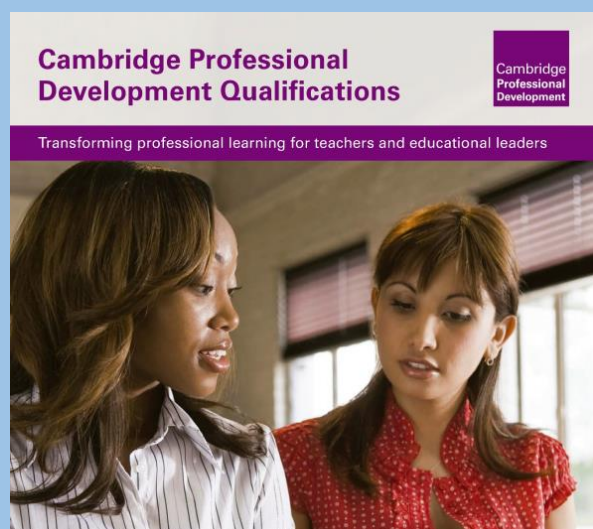


The Dickens Institute, The Board of Directors, Teachers and all the Staff, would like to express our sorrow at the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and extend our condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and to the Royal Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and the British People all over the world who are suffering such a great loss.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT DICKENS

There is a wide range of courses and workshops that we will be delivering totally or partially via Zoom this year. Just a few examples for you to consider:



Just contact us if you are interested in gaining or developing new skills. At Dickens, we are there to support you.

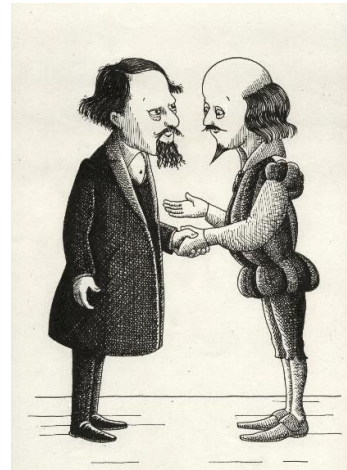


The Dickens Institute's homage to Shakespeare, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the World's most eminent dramatist, is in the form of an extract that I have been asked to read as the founder of the Dickens Institute.

Among the teaching staff there is great admiration for Shakespeare's plays, especially Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet. The Dickens students follow the lines of Cambridge Assessment English which, unfortunately, does not include literature. Hopefully, they may read Shakespeare's plays some time in the future.

We have thought of offering the teachers who belong to the Dickens Academic Support Department a course on Shakespeare's plays, but the pandemic has not made that possible.

That reminds me of an anecdote. I attended a bilingual school, and my English Teacher was very keen on Shakespeare's tragedies. One day he sent us to read Macbeth for homework. I was fourteen and felt this quite daunting. And it really was. My granddad, Mr. Boxer, who was a dear man, saw me struggling with Macbeth and found a solution! He gave me a copy of Tales from Shakespeare by Charles Lamb. These stories were based on Shakespeare's plays but easy versions understandable for young people. My teacher was very pleased with me, my understanding of Macbeth and, secretly pleased, no doubt, with his own teaching skills!



Please [click here](#) to watch the Dickens Homage to William Shakespeare.





“Por Una Cabeza”

Many people I know are tango fans; I’m probably not one yet, but I find certain songs and lyrics are full of meaning. ‘Por una cabeza’ describes the torment of a man addicted to horse-racing and women, who is in the throes of trying to wean unsuccessfully from his plight.

Our political leaders and especially President Luis Lacalle Pou, have personified our country’s addiction to personal freedom and individual responsibility, now weaponised to combat a global pandemic. During most of 2020, this apparently worked: the number of new cases was very low, even reaching zero in mid-year, until the gradual uptick towards the end of the year took place and accelerated exponentially, as soon as the summer holiday season ended. Freedom and personal responsibility are two sides of the same coin: you cannot have either and neglect the other. If you over-invoke your freedom and squelch responsibility, claiming ‘pandemic fatigue’, the chances are you’ll end up partying, meeting others from different bubbles and lowering your guard. Personal responsibility is a duty, that must be exercised freely; otherwise, it’s a government-imposed restriction on our freedoms, via shutdowns, lockdowns, confinement, curfews and other limitations on mobility, which haven’t been very successful beyond the short term, which is somewhere between two to four weeks. Unfortunately, SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, treats our freedoms and personal responsibility in the same way the women described in the tango’s lyrics treat the addicted and suffering womaniser: they simply don’t care.

At the turn of 2021, a new factor entered the scene: vaccines. After some worrying hesitancy, the Government managed to get hold of two and more recently, three different vaccines from China (Sinovac), the USA (Pfizer) and

UK/Sweden (AstraZeneca). Overlapping the tremendous upsurge at the end of the summer, the vaccination programme, analogous to the Red Army resurgence in Stalingrad and to Operation Overlord in Normandy, started to tip the balance in favour of the “good guys”. As I write this column during the second half of April, the daily numbers of new cases, the occupation of critical care beds and the number of deaths has apparently levelled off and may be starting to decrease. There may be a slimmer of hope, although we should remember that we’re surrounded by red-hot regional neighbours who may be brewing & baking resistant variants to justify a new season of the pandemic, as happens in cable TV series.

The Government hasn’t budged: it is steadfastly committed – and addicted – to staying clear of limiting freedoms, without restricting mobility and continuously invoking personal responsibility, with the JFK-analogous motto of asking people to do for their country rather than asking Government to take it all on its shoulders.

The final stretch of this horse race is taking place, between the people on one side and the virus on the other. We have to bet, although we’ve lost again and again in the past. My bet? The people will beat the virus... “¡por una cabeza!” This may well be our last “fija”:

Basta de carreras,
se acabó la timba.
¡Un final reñido
yo no vuelvo a ver!
Pero si algún pingo
llega a ser fija el domingo,
yo me juego entero.
¡Qué le voy a hacer..!



Shakespeare's Dark Lady? Emilia Bassano Lanier (1569-1645)

Shakespeare's Sonnets—a sequence of 154 sonnets—were published in book form in 1609, that is, during his lifetime. Several of the Sonnets address a Fair Youth, and also a Dark Lady, and in 400 years of Shakespeare scholarship, the attempt to pin down their identities has taken up thousands of pages. In the sequence, sonnets 127 to 154 all refer to a mysterious Dark Lady, clearly a very sexy married woman, whom the poet considers beautiful, even if her kind of beauty is not of the fashionable kind: *In the old age black was not counted fair, / Or if it were, it bore not beauty's name* (127). In sonnet 130—perhaps the most quoted, as the title of a book (Anthony Burgess), of an album (Sting)—the poet is humorously explicit: *My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;/Coral is far more red than her lips' red;/If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;/If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head./I have seen roses damasked, red and white,/But no such roses see I in her cheeks;/And in some perfumes is there more delight/Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks./I love to hear her speak, yet well I know/That music hath a far more pleasing sound;/I grant I never saw a goddess go;/My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground./ And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare/ As any she belied with false compare.*

But soon we see that the relationship is a difficult one, with another man involved, and the poet, torn with anguish and desire, at one point forces himself to come to terms with the situation: *When my love swears that she is made of truth,/I do believe her, though I know she lies,* the poet begins sonnet 138, ending: *Therefore I lie with her and she with me,/ And in our faults by lies we flattered be*—“lies”, of course, with both its usual, and sexual, meaning.

Who was this very sexy, deeply passionate, very unfaithful, unconventionally beautiful woman? Another dark woman who fits this description in the plays, is Cleopatra: so was she a real woman Shakespeare might have known? For some scholars, Emilia Bassano is the mystery lady.

She was born in Spitalfields in 1569. Her father Baptista was a racial outsider, a Sephardic Jew who was a court musician. At age six, she went to live in the home of the Countess of Kent, whose Protestant humanist circle prized education for women. The musical talent that ran in her family was thus enriched by literary and philosophical learning; she became a musician and writer, although debarred by her gender from any professional status. Emilia became the mistress of Henry Carey, Lord Chamberlain—patron of Shakespeare's troupe, The Lord Chamberlain's Men—when she was eighteen and he was sixty-three. She became pregnant in 1592, and was forced to marry her cousin Alphonse Lanier, another musician, but the affair with Carey continued until his death in 1596.

And yet Emilia became the first woman in England to publish a collection of her own poetry. Her *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611) is a profoundly Christian poem told from a feminist point of view, and a radical epic making the case for women's freedom, (see the sections “Eve's Apology in Defence of Women”, “The Tears of the Daughters of Jerusalem” and “The Sorrows of the Virgin Mary”), centuries before feminist movements.

A few weeks ago, I watched an excellent play, *Emilia*, based on her life. Directed by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, the play's most contentious assertion is that as Shakespeare's lover, the inspiration for the dark lady of the sonnets and a fellow poet, her words were freely borrowed by the bard, making her a living symbol of exploited women (she interrupts a performance of *Othello* where even her name is used). Played by an all-female cast, critic Michael Billington writes that “the great virtue of this highly theatrical, speculative history lies in its passion and anger: it ends with a blazing address to the audience that is virtually a call to arms”.



Fades

We were in Miranda's back garden, whiling away the time with a flagon of bitterly cold Australian white wine. In the fading light of a warm afternoon, a figure appeared, as if from nowhere.

He was known as Fades, which was short for Fade Away. He had a real name, but everyone called him Fades because of his extraordinary ability to appear and disappear as if by magic, fading in and out of peoples' lives with never a warning or an explanation. He was an old friend of Miranda's, a bit of a gambler she told us. He'd invested a little too recklessly in the minerals boom of the late 1960s, then lost a lot of money that wasn't technically his in the Lightning Ridge stampede. Unable to settle with his creditors, he thought it best to lie low for a while. She introduced John and me as friends from Europe who had just arrived in Sydney and were going to wander about in the outback for a while, taking odd jobs here and there, to see something of rural Australia. "Like you Fades," said Miranda, her pretty eyes twinkling, "they're of a mind to do something different for a while."

"Jackerooing?" said Fades, spotting the bolt hole he was looking for. "Beauty, mate! I'll be in that."

And so began our journey together. Two weeks later we were staying at Kelly's Hotel in Finley, a very small town perched on a vast, flat plain, with not much of anything in view all the way to the horizon. Traveling salesmen stayed here and itinerant working men. It was a well-worn establishment, not very expensive of course, with creaking stairs and dark wood-panelled walls, and a faint aroma of dust and homesickness. It had a pub where we enquired if anyone was hiring day labour. Fades could talk his way into anything, and it wasn't long before he found employment for us all.

We spent four gruelling days sweeping out a barn as big as an airplane hangar where creatures great and small

had evidently been in residence for some time. News of our prodigious skills must have spread like wildfire because we were soon hired to harvest an enormous field of barley. Backbreaking work that gave me callouses and spectacular sneezing fits. I think we were happiest when we were building silos for a farmer who was in the grain business. Once I got the hang of the rivet gun, I enjoyed assembling sheets of corrugated aluminium according to a blueprint. We stood on scaffolding, shirts off in the blazing sun, getting savage tans as a bonus on top of our princely wages.

When that job ended, we decided we'd like to try something indoors for a change. Fades got to work and found jobs at a milk processing plant in a nearby town. The plant bought milk from surrounding dairy farms and produced casein, or powdered milk. We clocked in after sundown and worked till dawn. John was in the wet room wearing Wellington boots, a rubber apron, and rubber gloves. Fades, who surprised everyone by having a commercial driving license, spent the night collecting milk all over the moonlit countryside in a long, shiny tank on wheels. My job, in the dry room, was to bag up casein into fifty-pound sacks and stack them onto pallets. I toiled alone in a vast, silent warehouse, with pallets stacked on top of each other as far as the eye could see. I bagged one sack after another, and another, and another. All night long. I thought I would go mad. We all started wondering just what we were doing there.

So, the following Saturday we went to the picnic races, one of the major social events in that part of the world. Fades put his entire pay-check on a dark horse called *Español* and watched it romp home at twenty-five to one. True to form, he vanished during the night and we never saw him again. Since he was the one with a car, John and I were forced to resign from the plant and our brief career as jackeroos faded to a close.



Māoris' and Pakehas' English: a new variety born from pride.

The expansion process in New Zealand was similar to that of Australia -tackled last month in this column- with the difference that there were no convicts in the former. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Pacific islands served as bases for whalers and sailors, but this would change when in 1840 local Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi in which they ceded sovereignty to the British Crown in exchange for the promise of protection and privileges (though both parties did not have the same understanding over the agreement). This deal set off a large-scale stream of British immigration to the region (mainly from Ireland, Scotland, and southeastern England). The outcome was, needless to say, dialect mixing. However, a special ingredient made all the difference: Maori.

Relationships between the Maoris and the whites oscillated between arrangements and military resistance (for instance, the Maori Wars of the 1860s). Overall, Maoris have been able to maintain their culture, lifestyle, and language. Even though the majority of Maoris do not speak their ancestral language any longer, Maoris English does constitute a distinctive ethnic dialect. However, it is quite elusive since the set of distinctive features is small and not very prominent.

The English spoken by white New Zealanders has been influenced by the indigenous languages. The domains where aboriginal words are most salient are place names and lexicon for local flora and fauna. About two-thirds of New Zealand's toponyms are of indigenous origin (for example: Wagga Wagga, Woolgoolga, Muralgarra, Takapuna). The terms relating to plants and animals as well as artifacts and customs of indigenous cultures, have also been borrowed [take kai (food), iwi (tribe), kawa (customs), mahi (work), puku (belly), taonga (treasure) as examples]. In terms of

grammar, differences exist too but are scarce. One example is how New Zealanders use certain verbs. For instance, as the figure below shows, they farewell somebody (rather than say farewell to ...). A very salient phonetic feature is how New Zealanders centralize their / / vowel (in kit, etc.); and they raise their /e/ vowel (e.g. in dress) to sound almost like i. So when you are in Auckland and take a lift to the eleventh floor you will probably hear the automatic announcement sound like "luft stopping – livel iliven".

Even though this dialect is growing, its recognition is running behind. During the twentieth century a "good" accent was a British one, and the local way of speaking was looked down at. But this has been changing. There has been a shift from an exonormative attitude (seeing norms of correctness "outside") to an endonormative (accepting an internal norm) orientation. But how did this happen? It is the result of pride, feeling of belonging, and the emergence of a group's "identity". Maori words are functioning as a tool of marking identity, they are being used to signal cultural, social and political identities in a deliberate manner.

The publication of scholarly dictionaries has helped advance towards linguistic independence, which in Western cultures count as tools towards good usage and indicators of linguistic dignity. Some even carried the word "national" in their titles.

At present, regional words as well as pronunciations are embraced by locals, helping them make their English a distinct variety. New Zealand is officially bilingual, and the Maori language is taught in schools and learned even by Pakehas (New Zealand's Maori-derived word, used quite naturally, for European New Zealanders). All this tells us about the prospective future of this young culture, and linguistically speaking... it looks good!

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Democracy in Crisis

We usually take democracy for granted. It is there, it works, we vote every so many years, it guarantees our freedom and basic rights.

In the 1980's most military regimes in Latin America ended and there were hopeful signs that democracy would strengthen all over the continent. Those were times of hope, but they did not last long. With very few exceptions most countries have turned into imperfect democracies when not outright authoritarian regimes.

In the early 90's, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe returned to the Rule of Law. But what is happening today in Hungary and Poland shows that in some cases, the expectations failed.

In Italy, Spain and France, anti-liberal parties are gathering vigour. And though not really authoritarian, leaders like Donald Trump and Boris Johnson are far from being the traditional conservative politician and have shown disdain for liberal democratic institutions.

These new regimes are not the result of military coups, violent revolutions, or foreign control. Their leaders were initially voted in free elections. Once in power they slowly but efficiently eroded all institutions and take hold of strong power. Some are left wing rulers, others are right wing, and all have in common a strong nationalist and populist inclination: Vladimir Putin in Russia, Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, Victor Orban in Hungary, Jaroslaw Kaczynski in Poland, Hugo Chavez and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Rafael Correa in Ecuador, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua. And though not exactly authoritarian, but certainly populists, the Kirchners ruled over Argentina for quite some years and Jair Bolsonaro is doing his best in Brazil.

Many political analysts have shown their concern about this rather nasty outcome. Anne Applebaum, winner of the Pulitzer prize for her formidable book on the Soviet gulags, is one of them. Her most recent book "Twilight of Democracy" refers to what she calls the "seductive allure of authoritarianism". Applebaum has a rich academic and

journalistic career, worked both in Washington and in London where she was editor of the well-known Spectator, a magazine that advocated for free markets, free thinking, free press, and free trade.

Another book that addresses a similar issue is “How Democracies Die” by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, two professors at Harvard University. Applebaum’s book is more personal, perhaps because she has lived in places where things are happening and is well acquainted to some of the main actors of this drama. Many were good friends in the past, though not anymore.

The other book is more academic, but also gets into Latin America reality.

Both were published by Penguin Random House and I believe they have been translated to Spanish and therefore could be found in bookstores in Montevideo.

Democracy is a complex way of living in freedom, and it can at times be frail. In the first half of the XX century, the world saw the rise and growth of totalitarian regimes such as communism, fascism, and Nazism. They had an allure that persuaded millions of persons to embrace such political proposals. Countries led by charismatic leaders that were above the law and preached dogmatic ideologies, thought they could put an end to tame and docile democracies. Yet democracies prevailed. The need to live in freedom, where basic rights are respected, was more important than these deceiving doctrines.

Uruguay has a long tradition of democratic stability in a continent where there is not much of it. It also has lived through long interruptions to that tradition and therefore is acquainted to the idea that democracy can be unexpectedly vulnerable.

These books confirm the need to be prepared. Democracy has been threatened again and again since it became the better way to govern a country. There is indeed reason to be alarmed. But in the end, as so many times before, it will succeed.



The Letters of Captain James Strachan

More than 220 Britons volunteered from Uruguay and participated in the Great War (1914-1918). We could write a whole book on any one of them, but we will devote this article to Captain James Strachan, not because he was more important than other volunteers, but mainly because he sent meticulous letters from which we can follow him during the war, understand his actions and feel his emotions.

Nothing is known about him before he came to Uruguay except that he was a Scot with ample studies as he came to this country to be manager of the Midland Uruguay Railway, the second railway line in importance in the country with more than 500 kilometres during Strachan's tenure as manager. He is even practically unknown to the British community as he lived in Paysandú, far from the British institutions and activities that were mostly in Montevideo. Strachan is undoubtedly the highest-ranking volunteer from Uruguay and his letters were sent to his colleague Charles Bayne, manager of the Central Uruguay Railway and Head of the British Patriotic Fund, the most important British institution during the war.

James Strachan left Uruguay in June 1915, six months later than he would have wished as he had to give advance notice of his resignation. Nine months of hard training in the North of Scotland with Officers Training Corp included, as when we hear from him again, he is already Lieutenant of the 4th Gordon Highlanders.

(France, June 15, 1916)

"Fifteen minutes [of artillery barrage] does not sound long when said quickly, but under certain circumstances it looks like a veritable eternity. The way those shells came whizzing through the air, was a revelation and there was a continuous stream of them... imagine all that concentrated on a short front of no more than 500 yards and you have a picture... some of the bursts were magnificent."

Two days after writing the letter Lieutenant Strachan is wounded seriously in the Somme attack at High Forest by an explosive bullet to his forearm.

(Manchester, August 1916)

"This is just a line written in bed. I was unable to tell you exactly where I was then, I expect you may have conjectured that our unit was somewhere in the zone where the heavy fighting was going on. My wound is not a particularly serious one now that the bleeding has stopped."

Strachan re-joined the Gordon Highlanders in early 1917. During this year he will be promoted to Captain, rank he has when his next and last long letter is published in late April 1918.

(France, February 11, 1918)

"I am in hospital again with acute inflammation in the right eye. Since I came out here again in May [1917] I have had a hand in three big actions, in addition to doing a good deal of the usual tours in the trenches in all sorts of weather and under diverse conditions.

[Passchendaele]... when we got halfway an enemy aeroplane opened fire on us with its machine gun, but the bullets went wide; after the artillery put some shells over us, fortunately, we were in luck again for, although they came nearer than was comfortable, no one was hit. These little stimulants persuaded me to urge my men on as hard as over they could go, until one dropped from utter exhaustion, and the Corporal I had acting as Sergeant began to murmur about asking more than human beings could do. I took him aside, cursed him roundly and pointed out that it was his duty to support me whatever I asked.

[Back to relief trenches] ...I am certain a photo of me would have made you howl of laughter. The result was that I could not get up next morning with pains all over my body. When the Battalion moved next day, they had to take me in an ambulance, but after a week in Hospital I turned up again smiling."

Two days after this letter is published, Captain Strachan is reported to have been wounded again, but the *Montevideo Times* is wrong. Fact is that when his last letter is published Captain James Strachan is already dead, having been killed at Loos on April 11th, 1918.



Fame

Many people have the secret ambition of being famous, a mostly unconfessed desire that propels us from the frustrating anonymity into a world of recognition and acknowledged merit. As we see truly famous people in the worlds of show business, finances, politics, none of them regretting their fame and success, it all seems a very desirable goal, unfortunately out of reach for most of us.

But there is another side to what Andy Warhol predicted, that one day we would all enjoy our 15 minutes of fame, that at least for some of us, inclined to enjoy our privacy, makes it an undesirable prospect.

When I was in my early twenties, I was invited by Dr. Reisch Sintas to participate in a very prominent local TV show, "Conozca su Derecho" (Know your Rights), where a number of well-known guests from many areas of culture, religion, politics, finances, etc. engaged in debates on current events or subjects that had a significant meaning.

One of those guests was a parapsychologist, endowed with the gift of gab and bringing forward all sorts of strange subjects which he presented as proven facts.

Being a scientist, used to quite different criteria of valid evidence, I was terribly upset at his facile demonstrations attempting to ascertain the truth of his often-preposterous assertions. He was a star of the show, extremely popular and with a large local following, convinced by his confident demeanour and good debating skills.

I wanted to challenge his nonsense and as I've done over the years in academic meetings when a colleague makes very objectionable statements, I bided my time waiting for my opportunity to expose him and his faulty methodologies, in this case made easier by the incumbent's lack of truly academic training. One day at the show he said that Einstein had published his famous relativity theory without using one of the most important principles of logic. Smelling blood, I asked him since he made such a statement, if he at least knew what Einstein's theory was all about.

Silence, I challenged him again saying that otherwise what he was saying wasn't science but rather science fiction, and he didn't utter a word.

For the following month, the star of the show sat in silence, without making any comments, regardless of the subject that was discussed. The consequence was that due to the popularity of the show, I was recognized and suddenly accosted by people in the street, buses, everywhere, asking me all sorts of questions on what was being debated. When that didn't happen, as I walked in the street or were on buses, I was discreetly observed, I noticed people nudging each other and pointing in my direction, I had completely lost my privacy but fortunately it only lasted a few weeks and then I returned to my relative anonymity, for which I was incredibly grateful. From then on, I detested the idea of fame as something to be avoided at all costs.

Not always things that seem very desirable once we are exposed to them, turn out to be what we thought and dreamed about.



Lemon Drizzle Cake

Lemons are a citrus fruit native to Asia but are now common worldwide. In Uruguay, the total number of lemon trees is calculated to be around 7 million with an average yield of 43 kg per plant. That makes for around 86 kg of lemons per year for each citizen of Uruguay! Hence the following recipe, as an attempt to use up some of those vast amounts of lemon.

Lemons are just coming into season here now, and it runs from April until early summer. The following recipe is for an easy to make lemon drizzle cake with a lemony zing.

Ingredients

For the Cake

- 200 g unsalted butter
- 200 g sugar
- 3 eggs
- 200 g flour
- 5 g baking powder (1 teaspoon)
- Zest from two lemons
- Juice of one lemon

For the drizzle

- Juice of two lemons
- 80 g sugar

For the icing topping

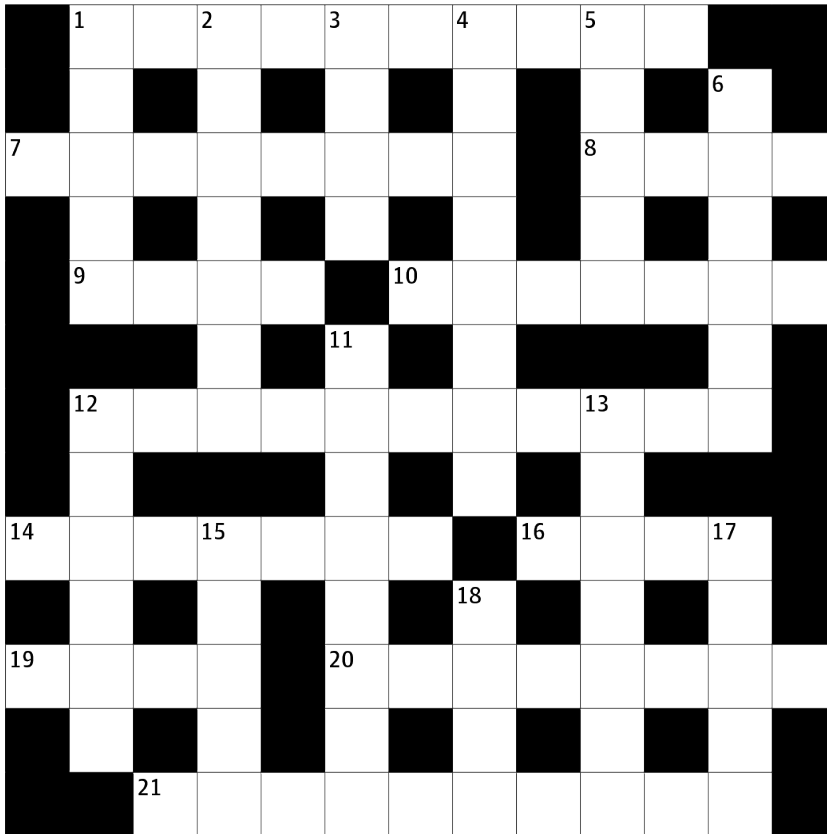
- 80 g icing sugar
- Juice of one lemon

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Beat together the butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Add the beaten eggs one at a time. Sieve the flour and baking powder two or three times to ensure it is well mixed and fold into butter, sugar, and egg mixture until smooth. Add the zest and the lemon juice and mix in.
3. Grease a loaf tin with plenty of butter and lightly flour (alternatively use baking paper) and spoon in the mixture and smooth out.
4. Bake for between 45 and 55 minutes until a thin skewer or sharp thin knife inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean and the cake is golden on the outside.
5. Allow the cake to cool slightly and prick all over with a skewer and pour over the warm drizzle. Leave in the mould to completely cool before removing.
6. Decorate with the icing topping made by watering down the icing sugar with the lemon juice. You could also sprinkle over some more lemon zest or even some toasted almonds for a touch of luxury.

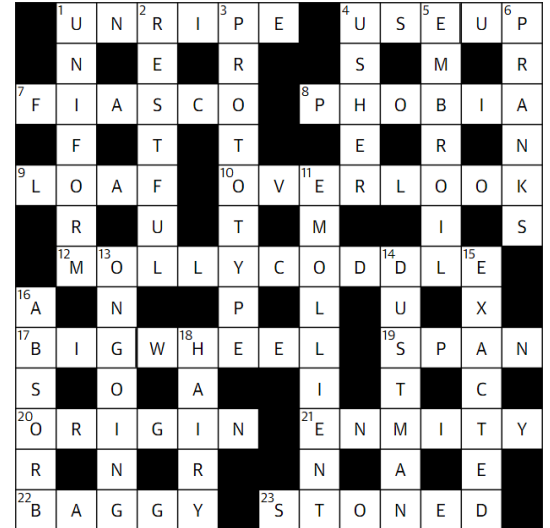
Enjoy with a nice cup of tea!

**For any queries or questions,
please contact me via e-mail at
sbpperzins@hotmail.com.**



Print this page and start playing!
Solution in the next Contact issue.

April solution:



Across

- 1 American crime syndicate, having close relations with the Sicilian Mafia (4,6)
7 Grandfather, say (or a grandfather clock?) (3-5)
8 Nibble (4)
9 Electrical sound (4)
10 First artificial Earth satellite, orbiting from October 1957 to January 1958 (7)
12 Chimney climber and repairer (11)
14 Small acting role (3,4)
16 Crossword arrangement (4)
19 Complain(t) (4)
20 Australian state formerly known as Van Diemen's Land (8)
21 Antics (10)

Down

- 1 Star (abbr) (5)
2 That will teach you! (2,5)
3 Denomination (4)
4 Shell fragments (8)
5 Prove to be false (5)
6 Endangered (2,4)
11 Drink before a meal (8)
12 Name of Ho Chi Minh City until 1976 (6)
13 Medium for radio and television broadcasting (7)
15 Puss In Boots, for example (abbr) (5)
17 Supernatural being, the object of worship (5)
18 Scandinavian capital, called Christiania until 1925 (4)

LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
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The Furry Stupid Cat

I have a furry
Stupid cat
She does what all cats do
The problem is, she does it
In extremely public view

If that were me, I tell her,
There would be all hell to pay!
At teatime, on the hearthrug -
What would the vicar say?

She glares at me with those blue eyes,
Those eyes of china blue:
They say, you clean your furry bits
To keep them free of poo!

Your mother should have taught you that
You gormless kangaroo...
If I'm a furry stupid cat
You're furry stupid too





Jack in the Green

Jack in the Green, also known as Jack o' the Green, is an English folk custom associated with the celebration of May Day. It involves a pyramidal or conical wicker or wooden framework that is decorated with foliage being worn by a person as part of a procession, often accompanied by musicians.

The Jack in the Green tradition developed in England during the eighteenth century. It emerged from an older May Day tradition—first recorded in the seventeenth century—in which milkmaids carried milk pails that had been decorated with flowers and other objects as part of a procession. Increasingly, the decorated milk pails were replaced with decorated pyramids of objects worn on the head, and by the latter half of the eighteenth century the tradition had been adopted by other professional groups, such as bunters and chimney sweeps. The earliest known account of a Jack in the Green came from a description of a London May Day procession in 1770. By the nineteenth century, the Jack in the Green tradition was largely associated with chimney sweeps.

The tradition died out in the early twentieth century. Later that century, various revivalist groups emerged, continuing the practice of Jack in the Green May Day processions in various parts of England. The Jack in the Green has also been incorporated into various modern Pagan parades and activities.

The Jack in the Green tradition has attracted the interest of folklorists and historians since the early twentieth century. Lady Raglan—following an interpretive framework influenced by James Frazer and Margaret Murray—suggested that it was a survival of a pre-Christian fertility ritual. Although this became the standard interpretation in the mid-twentieth century, it was rejected by folklorists and historians following the 1979 publication of Roy Judge's study on the custom, which outlined its historical development in the eighteenth century.





Why US English is a history lesson for the British

Long before Jamestown or the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Massachusetts in 1620, the US English style of spelling words such as 'honor', 'color', and 'center' were alive and well in British English. Etymologist and broadcaster Susie Dent opens an 'aluminum' can of worms and teaches Brits a thing or two about their shared linguistic heritage.



DILBERT

by Scott Adams
<https://dilbert.com/>





Autumn is here...

