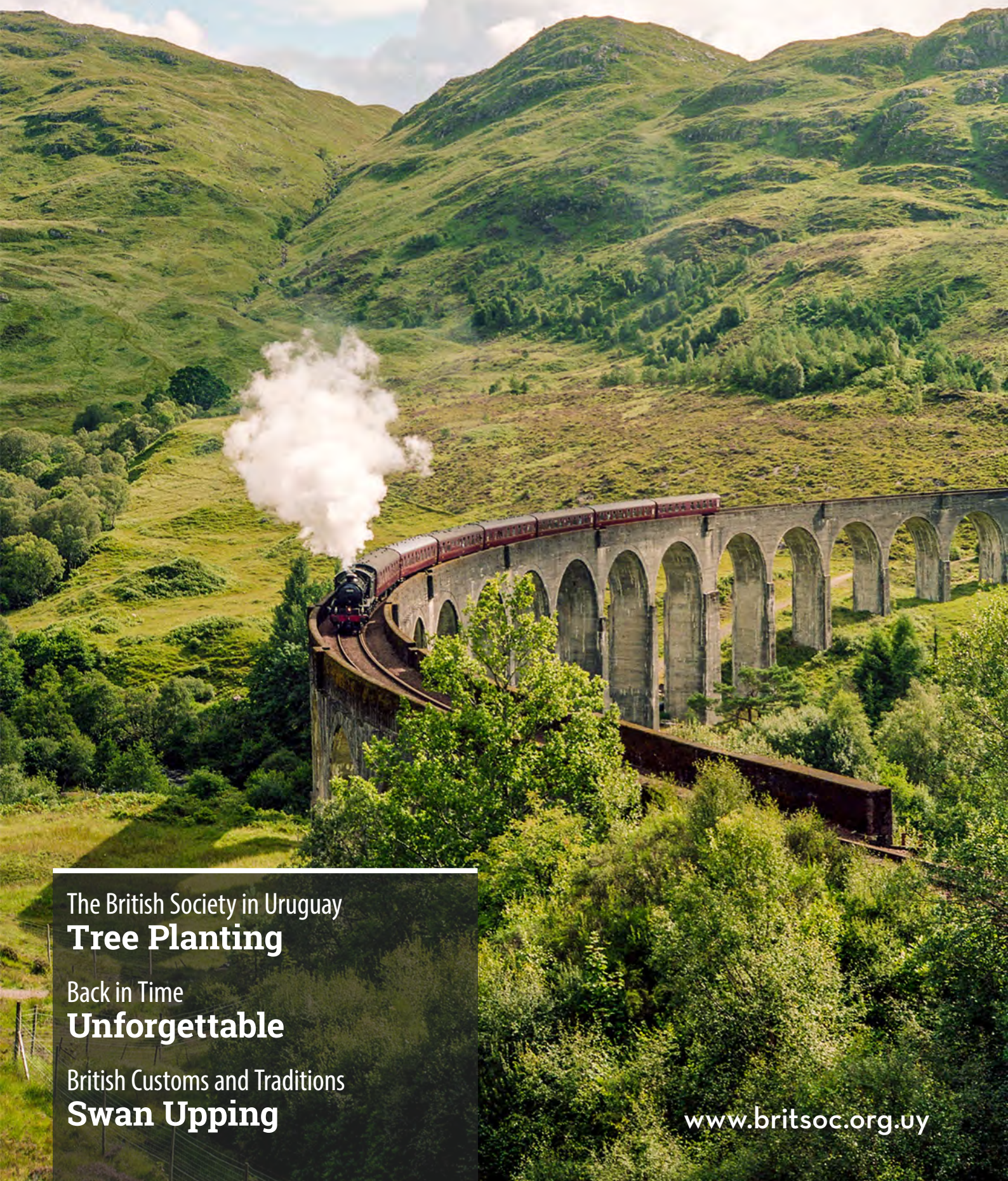




THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

JULY 2021



The British Society in Uruguay
Tree Planting

Back in Time
Unforgettable

British Customs and Traditions
Swan Upping

www.britsoc.org.uy



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Edition Number 130 - Year 12 - July 2021



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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,
It's great to be back in touch again. I feel as though things are starting to open up, after several months of quarantine, with new projects appearing; Government announcements feel encouraging, and we begin our second semester of this very controversial 2021.

I am glad to announce that our Book donation program has got off to a good start as several schools and institutions throughout Uruguay with English as an optional curricular have shown interest in receiving English textbooks and novels that are stored in Britannia House. Logistics have proved to be quite challenging due to Covid and busy schedules, but we are working to overcome them and continue on. So, remember, if you are tidying up and you find that you have a bunch of books that are taking up space or are no longer needed, and you don't know what to do with them, we could have a solution for you.

Soon, big changes will be seen in our webpage as we are aiming to better our services and create more and new interesting contents in collaboration with several other British institutions in Uruguay and the region. A big part of our efforts are aimed at improving procedures, systems and all those less glamorous but equally necessary things that support our British Society.



We had the pleasure last June 22nd, of joining the British Schools and HMA Faye O'Conner, at the Queen's birthday celebration, by planting an Ibirapitá Artigas Tree on School grounds. Several form 3 students were more than eager to help and participate in the event, for Environmental Day, and the planting of a tree was a creative and great way of celebrating when gatherings are not yet possible. I would like to congratulate the Embassy for all their work, as 95 Trees, one for each of Her Majesty's years, were planted throughout British institutions and friends in Uruguay. Also 5 Rose bushes were carefully planted at the British Cemetery in remembrance of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as he would have turned one hundred this past 10th of June.

We have been contacted by a couple of English based companies that are offering opportunities to those interested:

1) Protect Group a worldwide refund insurance service company has set up offices here in Uruguay and is looking for young people to join their team and

2) Zuma, a worldwide famous restaurant chain that is looking for new talent in the hospitality industry regarding new markets in the Middle East and Europe.

Contact us if you are interested, so we can give you further information.

Winter holidays have started, and probably lots of you may have arranged trips and visits with family or friends. We wish you all a wonderful time and will write back next month with more news and what we have been up to.

Kind regards,

Colin Shearer
President



Birthdays

in July

01 ~ Jorge Clavijo	17 ~ Carlos B. Monkhouse-Jones
03 ~ Jaqueline C. McClew	19 ~ Sylvia Vignoles
05 ~ Magdalena Etcheverry	20 ~ Andrew Teuten
05 ~ Elizabeth J. Hambrook	22 ~ Federico G. Carter
06 ~ William J. Biscomb	23 ~ Joaquín F. Bazzano
08 ~ Martin Inthamoussu	23 ~ Colin Shearer
08 ~ Marion R. Maynier	24 ~ Rosa E. Comerio
09 ~ Virginia Castleton	25 ~ Diana C. Beare
10 ~ Jacqueline A. Larbalestier	25 ~ Geraldine H. Pool
14 ~ Virginia Sosa	26 ~ Victoria Hobbins
14 ~ Caroline A. Stanham	27 ~ Ruth K. Morton
15 ~ Victoria Cooper	28 ~ Ingrid S. Gordon-Firing
15 ~ María Lebrato	30 ~ Estela M. Cardeza
15 ~ Romina M. Serrano	31 ~ Jorge H. Gioia
16 ~ Nicholas Beare	
16 ~ María H. Freyre	
16 ~ John Hobbins	
16 ~ Catalina M. Prevett	





The Glenfinnan Viaduct is a railway viaduct on the West Highland Line in Glenfinnan, Inverness-shire, Scotland. Located at the top of Loch Shiel in the West Highlands of Scotland, the viaduct overlooks the Glenfinnan Monument and the waters of Loch Shiel. You can take a train journey across the viaduct, which you might recognise from some Harry Potter films. 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.



Happy Birthday Your Majesty!

Queen Elizabeth's 95th official birthday was celebrated at the Home on June 12.

There was a carrot cake and a fruit cake with Union Jack flags on it to celebrate the important occasion

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Protect Group a worldwide refund insurance service company has set up offices here in Uruguay and a looking for young people to join their team

www.protectgroup.co



Zuma, a worldwide famous restaurant chain that is looking for new talent in the hospitality industry regarding new markets in the Middle East and Europe.

www.zumarestaurant.com

president@britsoc.org.uy



TREE PLANTING

En celebración del 95° aniversario de
Su Majestad la Reina Elizabeth II,
afianzando las relaciones entre
Reino Unido y Uruguay.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

Junio 2021
N° 61/95





95 Trees...

To mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II official 95th birthday, the Embassy gifted 95 Ibirapitá trees, also known as the "Artigas tree", to several institutions, government officials and friends of the Embassy across Uruguay. The trees are symbolic of the historic friendship between our two countries and a sign of shared commitment to care

for the environment and a message of hope for the future. Ambassador Faye O'Connor has been planting some of these trees together with the recipients, at their selected locations and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months, all around the country.

...And 5 Rose Bushes

We also gave 5 rose bushes to the British Cemetery, in memory of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, on the 100th anniversary of his birth. The Ambassador planted them

together with the British Cemetery and British Hospital Presidents, in a small ceremony. You can see pictures of all planting ceremonies on our social media.

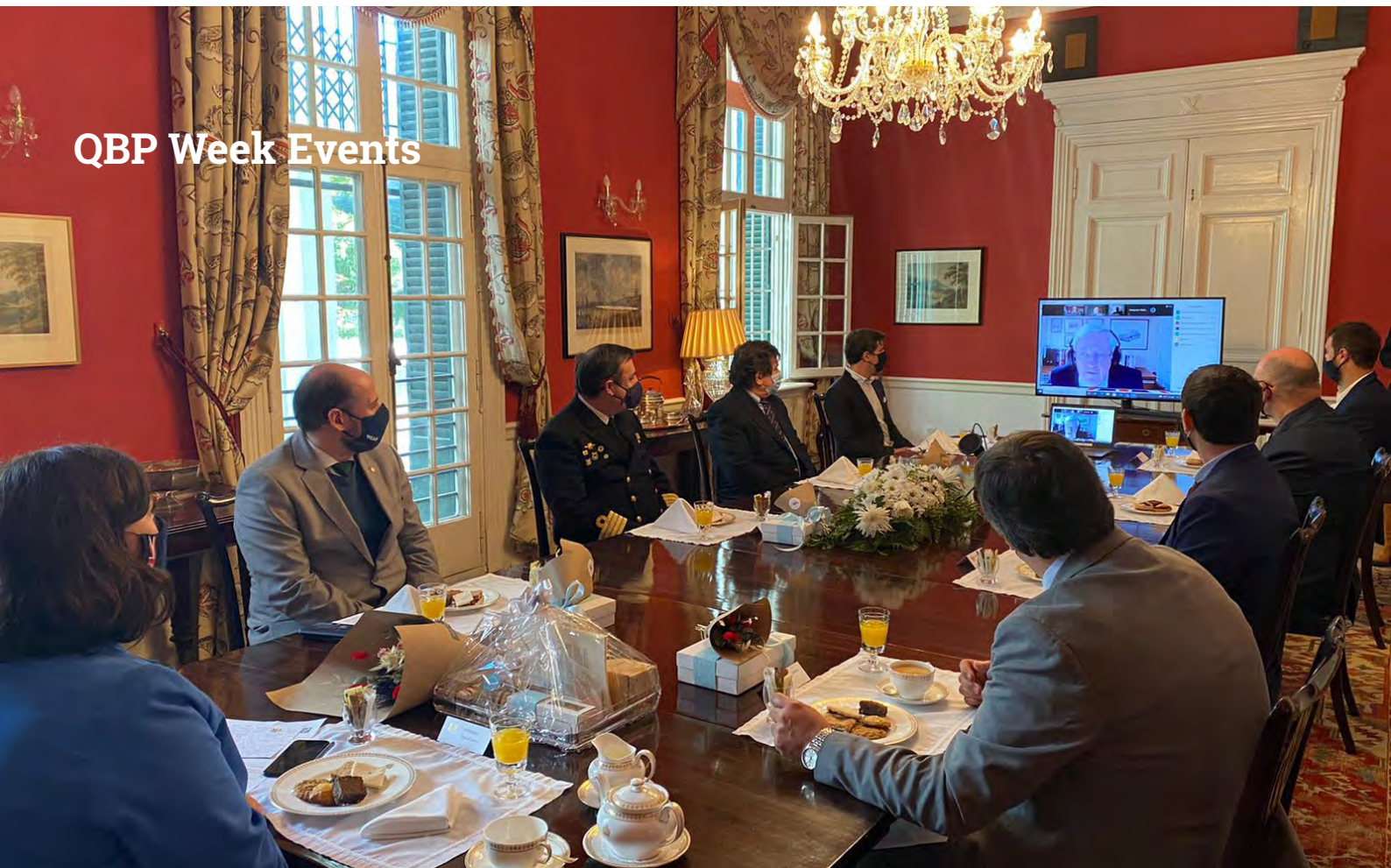




Environment Week

Environmental protection is a key issue for the UK as hosts of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow in November. To mark Environment Day, the Embassy organised an "Environment week" from 5-12 June. The following were some of the key events: Conferences on "Green Economy" and "Race to Zero" (emissions topics), livestreamed discussion on microplastics in oceans with Uruguayan scientists and UK NGO Fashion Revolution,

an Instagram Live in which the Ambassador interviewed Uruguayan sportswoman Sofia Deambrosi, who rowed across the Atlantic with three fellow Bristol students in a boat made of recycled material, a compost fair in the Residence garden attended by Environment Minister Adrian Peña and authorities from Montevideo and Canelones Intendencias. You can watch a summary of the events [here](#).



QBP Week Events

QBP Week Events

Unable to hold a party due to the pandemic, the embassy held small events between 14-18 June, throughout the week of the Queen's official birthday. Some were virtual and others in person, all linked to our various priority areas of work such as trade, environment, education, international relations, including links with the Falkland Islands, amongst others.

The Ambassador hosted authorities from Uruguay and the UK to discuss the future of HMS Agamemnon, Lord Nelson's favourite ship, that ran aground in Maldonado Bay in 1809 and whose wreck was found in 1993. We discussed future cooperation to expand the knowledge of maritime archaeology in Uruguay and make it more accessible to the public.



Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

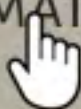


ONLINE CONFERENCE INVITATION
WEDNESDAY 7TH OF JULY 13:00 HOURS
DR. RICARDO PASCALE

**“FROM STOP TO GO-
A PROPOSAL FOR
URUGUAY’S FUTURE”**



MORE INFORMATION



WWW.CUB.UY



IT'S TIME

The Heart of the Gospel of John



During the month of June, our Christ Church community spotlighted the topic of “Financial Wisdom”. During four talks (a total of just more than an hour of teaching) we reviewed the importance of perspective, and principles, and priorities. I invited the community at large to choose the Biblical Perspective “God owns it all” (Psalm 24:1) and gain the freedom of understanding that our role is stewardship – administration of diverse gifts and forms of grace from God. (1 Peter 4:10).

We emphasized that money has only four possible uses: (live, give, owe and grow). And five wise principles applied daily will create the margin necessary for sustainable contentment, peace and the joy that comes from giving what has been given to you. We asked many questions for reflection and shared our thoughts and reactions together.

I wish more of us could talk about money matters with less anxiety, insecurity and comparison with others. Money is a tool and we are all managers of it at some level. Someone can have material success, but inner stress. Another can have material stresses, but inner peace. Contentment doesn't have a price you can pay, but it is a place you can find and rest.

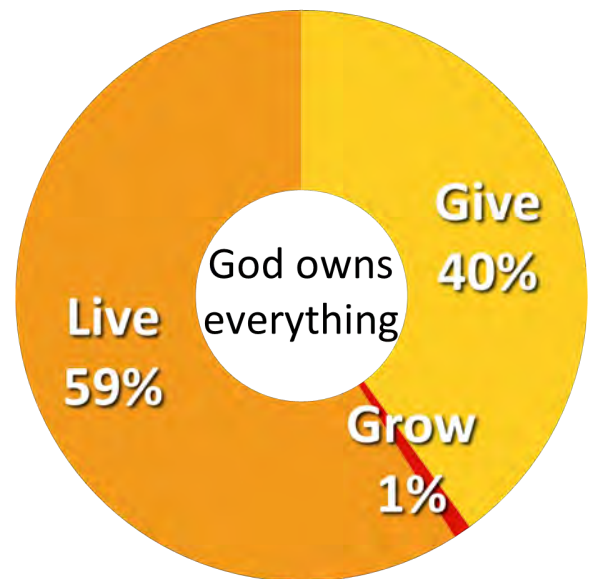


Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

Arocena 1907
Esq. Lieja, Carrasco
Tel 2601 0300
contact@christchurchmvd.org
www.christchurchmvd.org

We made a pie graph at Christ Church to represent all of our spending since November. We designated every expense as Live, Give, Owe or Grow. (We have done this for some time now.) Are you interested in the result?

Christ Church Expenses Nov 2020 - May 2021



We don't have anything listed under Owe because we have a tax exemption and no debts!

If you assign every penny you spent from January to June to one of these four categories, I wonder what your pie graph would show you? Does it reflect the goals and best financial wisdom you want for your life, home, business, organization?

I'd love to know if you learn anything from our simple series found online at www.christchurchmvd.org. (I have found Financial Wisdom at www.ronblueinstitute.com)

John Hamilton
Pastor, Christ Church

THE ANGLO INSTITUTE VISITS TEATRO VICTORIA IN MONTEVIDEO

ANGLO

Whilst we wait for a time when it is practical to organize events “presenciales” again, I thought it might be interesting to look back on some of the talks I have given for the Anglo Institute over the last 5 years or so. A key feature of the talks was that they took place at a location with direct relevance to the subject matter giving the audience a chance to experience the history rather than just hearing about it. This is the first in a short series of articles which I have called “The Anglo Institute Visits.....”

May 2019 marked 200 years since the birth of Queen Victoria, Britain’s second longest serving monarch who reigned during the height of the country’s economic and political power. It was also the era when many of the connections between Britain and Uruguay were established.

The ideal location for a talk about the life of Queen Victoria was clearly Teatro Victoria (originally known as Victoria Hall) established by the British community in Montevideo in 1905 in homage to the monarch. Jointly with the British Society, we presented the talk there twice during June 2019. I described Queen Victoria’s fascinating and varied private life as well as how, in the public sphere, Victoria did much to develop the modern British monarchy of today with its emphasis on public service.



Victoria Hall - 1909



Children’s Ball - 1908

Picture “reverse angle” from stage to back of theater

Participants at the talks then had a chance to learn something more about Teatro Victoria. The building was designed by a prolific British-born architect John Adams, who also designed other notable buildings in Montevideo such as the first part of the British Hospital and also the London and Paris Building in 18 Julio.

Victoria Hall soon became a significant location for the British community. For example, it hosted the British Schools prize giving ceremonies in the early part of the 20th century. It was also the location of the 1st General Meeting of the British Society in Uruguay in 1918. It was at this meeting when the creation of Society was approved and its constitution and objects were discussed and passed.



"Prize Giving" British Schools 1909



The same view - "Now"

Following financial difficulties, the building was sold in 1947 to Banco de Seguros del Estado (BSE). It continued to operate as a theater until 1976 when it closed. It was subsequently occupied by a number of families who did considerable damage to the interior. However, in 1995, a charitable trust was established to administer the building and since then has been in constant use.

As a result of the talks, one small "mystery" was solved. We had known that when the building opened in 1905, a bust of Queen Victoria was placed in a small alcove in the lobby. Now the alcove is empty. We were unsure what had happened to the bust. However, during one of the talks, a member of the audience informed us that when the building was sold to BSE in 1947, the bust of Queen Victoria was removed and placed in the British Cemetery in Buceo - and it still there today!



Derek Tyler, Regular Anglo Presenter and Contributor

Derek was born in Britain and subsequently worked in many countries around the world, including those in South America. For more than 5 years, he has been a regular presenter at the Anglo Institute giving talks to students and the general public on British related subjects.

GET TO KNOW THE COURSES STARTING NEXT TERM!

NEW START: JULY 2021

- ADULT COURSES
- EXAM PRACTICE FOR FCE, CAE & CPE
- BEC INTENSIVE: PRELIM. & VANTAGE



MORE INFO
WWW.ANGLO.EDU.UY

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ANGLO



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Remember that, throughout the treatment, your repeat prescription
must be obtained from the pharmacy chain where it was first obtained.

HER MAJESTY'S BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND HER LOVELY GIFT



Last June, Her Majesty's British Ambassador Mrs Faye O'Connor surprised us with a lovely gift for the Dickens garden, an Ibirapita tree! It was a particularly moving gesture due to the fact that it was in celebration of Her Majesty's 95th birthday but it also helped us to commemorate the birth of Uruguay's National hero, José Gervasio Artigas, who was born in June 1764, therefore 257 years ago. The lovely sapling was planted in a place of honour in the Dickens garden to remind us, hopefully, for many years, of this very special occasion. The Dickens People are very grateful to the British Ambassador for this very special gift.



Sofía Scheschener and Patricia Alvarez Harvey received the Ibirapita tree from UK Embassy. Then, our English Club students learned about it and its legend.

The Ibirapita tree is famous in Uruguay due to the fact that when José Gervasio Artigas lived in exile in Paraguay, he used to sit under an Ibirapita tree and drink his mate served by his faithful servant Ansina. To this day, the Ibirapita tree can be visited in Asunción with a bust of General Artigas under its huge, shady branches. It is well known for its beautiful yellow flowers.



INDIAN LEGEND OF THE IBIRAPITA TREE

According to an old legend Ibirápitá was the son of an Indian chief. The chief was old and very ill, so he called his son Ibirápitá and promised to name him chief as well as to give him all his belongings on condition he would marry the beautiful Isipó. Ibirápitá was horrified as he was in love with Caavótorí and told his father so. His father insisted on his marrying Isipó. In desperation he went to see Isipó hoping she would help him. Not only did she not help him but she promised to ask the God Aña to harm him and his love!

Ibirápitá rushed to find Caavótorí and together they fled. Some time later, they heard noises behind them and before they could go much farther Ibirápitá's legs became frozen and then his whole body. In horror Ibirapita realised he was turning into a tree! Isipó's threat had come true and the God Aña's spell had worked! And so, the legend recalls, Ibirápitá became a beautiful tree that gives the loveliest flowers in Summer and at the beginning of Autumn. Its flowers have been called "a shower of gold"!



DICKENS & CAMBRIDGE WEBINARS

Below you will find a series of webinars we will be offering throughout the year.

The objective of the webinars is to provide teachers and students preparing for Cambridge Assessment English exams with some useful tips and strategies. As you will see, our main focus will be on those areas that tend to pose the biggest challenges to students (and teachers as well!).

We may not be able to get together F2F but that will not stop us from working together once more!



July:

Speaking at B1 & B2: The Ultimate Guide for Teachers to Develop Students' Sub-skills
July 30th | 1pm

Do you want to know how to upskill your students' speaking performance? Join this webinar in which we will analyse the different and crucial sub-skills that make up the speaking ability and that will make a difference in exam results. You will also walk away with trendy ideas to use inside and outside the classroom.

August:

Developing speaking skills and strategies at B1/B2 levels
(for students)

September:

Developing listening skills and strategies at B2 level
(for students)

Dos and Don'ts for international exams (for teachers & students)

October:

Q&A/FAQs sessions (for teachers & students)



For further information, please contact Veronica Jara: veronicajara@dickens.edu.uy



Building The Plane as We Take-Off and Fly

Fifteen months ago, when the state of healthcare emergency was declared, everything seemed very linear, cause-and-effect and hunkering down, avoiding contact and gatherings, was the only possible strategy. This part of the world, at the southern extreme of the Americas, was the last to be affected by what originated in China, spread westward to Europe, the UK and North America. Before we were hit, we heard and saw terrible things that happened in northern Italy, France, Spain, Britain and north-eastern USA. It took about seven months until a steady uptick and eventually a surge overcame our defences and since the beginning of this year, we've been debating on the best policy to avoid the worst scenarios. Health versus the economy, lives versus livelihoods, remote versus in-person schooling or working, became central to the daily discourse, as we awaited the evening news to give us the latest numbers on new and active cases, deaths and how we were gradually and fatally spiralling down the spectrum of the green-yellow-orange-red grades of the Harvard index.

The most important lesson we've learnt over nearly one and a half years is that what we held as true at the beginning isn't so anymore. Remember masking: at one time it was supposed to be unnecessary, only to be widely recommended and even enforced later. The same holds for lockdowns: they did work, for a while, during the initial months, to be gradually abandoned, either due to non-observance or to the difficulty in being enforced, an argument repeatedly used by our President to avoid them.


'Warp-speed' (faster than light) development of vaccines broke all records for their release into the market, at least in EUA-mode (Emergency Use Authorisation). A year ago, it was estimated that the first available vaccines would be ready by mid-2021, when in fact jabs in shoulders jump-started before the end of 2020 – nearly exactly a year after the first cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan. Most of all, we've discovered (as Israel was the first to show) that vaccines worked and certainly were the shortest way out of this hell.

In short, we've been on the steepest part of the learning

curve, and we won't cease to learn at many levels, even after the pandemic is over, be it in healthcare, economy, work, politics, and social change. Science had had the upper hand at the beginning and still seems to lead the way, but the interface with the economy and the livelihoods of people has shifted from one of confrontation to that of finding a middle way. What really has scored the lowest marks is politics: all leaders have been badly hit and their market value is dropping or at least questioned. For those who have fared well, the question remains if they can keep it up once the new normalcy gradually comes back.

As we phase into a post-pandemic world, there are many things that will have changed forever. Beyond deaths, long-COVID syndromes and many permanent disabilities that will mark the healthcare consequences, the work environment will look a lot different. Many developed countries who are experiencing a bounce back of the economy, are having problems getting workers back to the office to work in-person. A significant part of the workforce has cut themselves off from commuting and from the 9-to-5, 40-hour workweek. Remote working, including freelance in a non-employed status, be it from home or from any location, is an option chosen by not a few, especially college or university white-collar workers. The sole meaning of office buildings will be questioned, as a significant number will be empty structures. Living together during confinement and lockdowns was tough, leading to broken relationships, but at the same time some have found new meanings in staying at home with their significant others and family.

If I were to describe what has happened – and will continue to do so for some time – a good analogy would be that of putting an aeroplane together while on the tarmac, taxiing, taking off, cruising and landing and continuing to put it together once we reach our new destination. We must review all what we've learnt about what has happened to ourselves, to society and to the world, as this increment in knowledge and wisdom will be fundamental to confronting the next pandemic, which may not be so far away.



Hamnet (2020) by Maggie O'Farrell

Most readers will know that William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway when he was 18 and she 26 and pregnant with their first child, a daughter they named Susanna. Two years later twins, Hamnet and Judith were born, and Shakespeare embarks on his career as a playwright which means he will be spending most of the year in London, returning home in the summer when playhouses were closed because of yearly outbreaks of the plague, and at Christmas. In time, his company began touring in the summer, which meant less frequent visits back to Stratford. He became famous and grew rich, buying a large house in Stratford for his family, who had been living in his parent's home (now known as The Birthplace). But in 1596 tragedy struck when his son Hamnet, aged 11, died of the plague.

Surely there can be nothing so heartbreakingly tragic as the death of a child. Maggie O'Farrell's novel explores grieving, mainly through the boy's mother, but also his twin sister, and ultimately, through the boy's father too – a deeply moving story lodged in the intimacy of a family and their everyday life in rural Elizabethan England, when people walked for 4 days to get to London, and letters took ages to reach their destination.

The main character is Agnes (pronounced Aniez), the name her father used in his will for the person we know as Anne Hathaway. Or rather, whom we know so very little about. In O'Farrell's novel, Agnes's husband is never mentioned by name – he is the tutor, the husband, the man- because this is a domestic narrative, and Agnes is the protagonist. O'Farrell gives her a life, fills in details- she is a healer who knows how to use the herbs, wildflowers, roots and berries found in the forest of Arden- and from whom, it is implied, Shakespeare learnt about the flowers everywhere in his plays ("When daisies pied and violets blue, And lady-smocks all silver-white, And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue, Do paint the meadows with delight").

The novel opens with a boy, who's desperately looking for a grownup, his mother, grandmother, but can't find

them – he only encounters his brutal grandfather John. Everyone is out, and his twin sister, lying in their parents' bed, is clearly seriously ill. He's not feeling too well himself, but Judith needs attention.

Chapters switch to times before this opening scene, so we read about "the tutor" catching sight of a very attractive girl with a falcon on her arm ("Kestrel," she corrects him), their falling in love, both families opposing the match at first. We go backwards and forwards in time until we get to the central scene, the death, not of Judith, but of Hamnet. The twins have been remarkably close, connected by a deep bond they share with no-one else. It's devastating to read how everyone is focussed on poor Judith, who has clear signs of the bubonic plague, while Hamnet hovers just outside adult attention.

About halfway into the novel, there is a minutely detailed story showing how the twins caught the plague:

"For the pestilence to reach Warwicksire, in the summer of 1596," O'Farrell writes, "two events need to occur in the lives of two separate people, and then these people need to meet." The unwitting conduits are a master glassmaker in Murano, who burns his hands while blowing glass beads, and a cabin boy on a merchant ship, who becomes enchanted with an African monkey in Alexandria and picks up a stowaway infected flea in his red neckerchief. The author charts the flea and its progeny's deadly path, into the boxes of glass beads, one of which, eventually, Judith excitedly unpacks.

Readers and critics have long speculated whether Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, might have been written as a way of dealing with grief, as the names are interchangeable. We read how horrified Agnes is hearing the title of her husband's new play. Also from this time is Twelfth Night, where twins are separated, each fearing the other dead.

These issues are an integral part of the novel, together with little nudges about the famous second-best bed, and the possible Catholicism of the Shakespeares



Unforgettable

I've been listening to *Unforgettable*, Natalie Cole's album of duets sung with her father. The title track takes me back many years. They all do.

I remember exactly where I was when I heard that Nat King Cole had died. The beach in Uruguay; the hot sand; the sudden shock of sadness. February 15, 1965. I thought: "So soon? Will there be no more songs like *When I'm with my Sweet Lorraine*?" How could we survive without that soothing, melodious voice? Why would we want to?

It was already a sad time for me. I would be leaving within a couple of weeks, leaving my home in Uruguay, a place I loved in ways that would take years to fully understand. A small group of us were on the beach that day, friends who had spent the summer together and were now about to be scattered to the winds. We sat still on our towels, listening to the radio, and feeling a deep sense of loss.

Nat was born in Montgomery, Alabama in 1919. Early in his career, he played the piano in a jazz trio. One evening a well-tipped night club patron insisted on hearing him sing a particular song, unwittingly nudging the piano man on to his life's work. It sounds like the plot for one of those old black & white movies about rising rock stars. Especially the scene where the wandering talent scout just happens to be in the audience.

In 1958, tempted by the burgeoning Latin American market, Nat decided to try his luck singing in Spanish. He went to Havana to record some of the most famous romantic *boleros* of the time. In spite of Nat's unique brand of Spanish, the album *Cole español* was an instant megahit in every Hispanic market. He later went to Brazil to record in Spanish and Portuguese. His third *español* album was recorded in Mexico City in 1961. He came to Uruguay on tour, and everyone went wild over him. We loved his outrageously phonetic Spanish and his hopelessly gringo vowels and we all began talking like that amongst ourselves and saying *carumba!* the way Nat King Cole did.

Radio stations pieced together snatches of lyrics from his songs to create elaborate "interviews" they claimed to have had with him, tapping into popular culture and humour to entertain their listeners. They asked questions like: "Will you be staying with us for long, Sr. Cole?" and then played him singing one of his signature songs at the time: *Quizás, quizás, quizás* (Perhaps, perhaps, perhaps). Those vignettes were charming and funny, and made him seem just like one of us. He was a real, live American star but he seemed to fit right in. We all thought he was grand.

The liner notes on Natalie's CD include a few gems. And there is a marvellous photo of her father chatting to Louis Armstrong in a studio, with Ella Fitzgerald sitting nearby. Nat's 1963 version of *That Sunday That Summer* went to the top of the pop charts alongside the Beatles' *I Want To Hold Your Hand*. The line from his song, *Straighten Up And Fly Right* (1943) came from one of his preacher father's sermons about a buzzard that took a monkey for a ride in the air. About *Non Dimenticar* (1958) Natalie says, "...as with all his foreign recordings, Nat learned the lyrics phonetically." But we already knew that.

The original version of *Unforgettable* was recorded in 1951. It was the first full teaming of Nat King Cole and arranger Nelson Riddle. In her live shows, Natalie began singing this song as a duet—with her father's voice on tape—and the idea evolved into the recording I've been enjoying today. As I listen to this music I am once again on the beach that February day in Portezuelo, listening to back-to-back Nat King Cole songs on the radio.

**That's why darling
it's incredible
that someone so unforgettable
should find me so
unforgettable too**

Who could forget a voice like that?



The Bipolar Scottish English Continuum

Scottish English is recognised as a major variety in terms of its importance and influence. Even though it is a small variety when it comes to its speakers, it receives general recognition due to the lengthy history of English in Alba. I invite you to peek into its adventurous past with this rudimentary socio historical linguistic sketch.

1066 - At the time of the Norman Conquest, most people in Scotland spoke a form of Celtic (Anglian was spoken in the south-east, and Norse in the far north and in the western borders).

12th to 14th centuries - Political developments in England and Scotland led to an influx of northern English speakers into Scotland. The gradual development of a particular variety of English in Lowland Scotland leads to what we recognize as Scots, but which was known as 'Inglis'.

14th century - The first large-scale literary work in Scots (The Brus) was written by Barbour. Pre literary Scots is only attested in place names and glosses. In 1398, the Scottish Parliament shifted from Latin to Scots as the language of record, and Scots flourished as both a literary and spoken language.

18th century - The use of literary Scots declined (in part due to the Act of Union of the English and Scottish parliaments), giving way to Standard Southern English, which is today the written standard. But while literary Scots declined, spoken Scots remained vigorous, mainly in rural areas and working classes.

When it comes to language matters, it is hard to find a linguist daring to define a variety, however, lexicographer Adam Jack Aitken (a leading scholar of the Scots language)

was brave enough to describe Scottish English as "a bipolar linguistic continuum, with broad Scots at one end and Scottish Standard English at the other". We can talk about Scottish English because the two ends of the continuum are largely mutually intelligible, though mastery of Scottish Standard English (SSE) will not prepare someone new to Scotland (or indeed native Scots themselves) for the difficulties they could face in understanding a broad speaker from an unfamiliar area.

The size, proximity and influence of England, as well as population movements mean, however, that historically and synchronically, the Scottish English continuum is attracted towards its English neighbour. In fact, it is claimed that SSE is basically Standard English spoken with a Scottish accent. While SSE is quite homogeneous geographically wise, with slight regional differences across the country, Scots can be subdivided within four dialects: Mid or Central Scots, Southern or Border Scots, Northern Scots, and Insular Scots. Northern Scots, particularly the variety spoken in the Northeast, is often called the Doric.

Even though Scots is becoming limited to certain domains (for instance, amongst family and friends), it is ranked as a 'language' by the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages. More formal occasions tend to invoke SSE, considered an English variety within the many others spoken around the globe. Bottom line, just like The Brus is an extensive account of the Battle of Bannockburn, Scottish English may as well represent encounters and conflicts between Scots and the omnipresent English language.

Cold Warriors and Their Pens

by Tomás Linn

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A certain historical period can be approached by quite different ways. The most obvious one is by having a clear knowledge of the chronological order in which events happened. Another way is by reading accounts of specific situations during that period. Or finding out what was going on in each one of the countries involved. Or looking into biographies of those that were key actors.

In the end, it all adds up to the same story, but such diverse insights provide a more complete picture of what that period meant as a whole.

One interesting period of recent history is the Cold War that started right after the Second World War and ended in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. So many things occurred in those years, episodes in which the war being cold suddenly heated up: Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Russian tanks invading Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the missile crisis in Cuba, guerrilla warfare and military coups in Latin America.

It never occurred to me that popular novelists well known to most people, were also strongly involved in this conflict, until I came across a book called "Cold Warriors: Writers who Waged the Literary Cold War" by Duncan White, and of course, once read it seems obvious that these characters surely were part of many incidents related to the Cold War.

Some names are familiar. George Orwell and Arthur Koestler, John Le Carré, Graham Greene, Mary McCarthy, Anna Akhmatova, Ernest Hemingway, Boris Pasternak, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (the three of them Nobel Prize winners) and towards the end of the Cold War, the Nicaraguan poet Gioconda Belli and the Czech playwright, later president of his country, Vaclav Havel. There are also references to Stephen Spender, editor of *Encounter*, a magazine that published articles by well-known writers, most of them linked to left wing cultural activities but certainly anti-communists, without knowing it was financed by the CIA. The secret once unveiled, brought up quite a scandal.

Intelligence agencies had much to do with many of these writers as they worked for them during the Second World War, and even beyond. Kim Philby, not a writer but the famous British spy also working secretly for the KGB, was in close contact with many of them. He was part of a parallel Cold War fought by spies and double agents. His story is magnificently told in Ben Macintyre's book "A Spy

Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal".

In the incredible world of spies and authors Uruguay was not left behind. Many might remember Philip Agee's "Inside the Company", where he uncovers CIA secret operations in the 60's and particularly those related to when he was stationed in Montevideo.

Africa de las Heras, a KGB spy born in Spain, that worked undercover during the Civil War, met Uruguayan author Felisberto Hernández while in Europe and married him because he was the best possible way to enter Uruguay and work as a spy. The writer was well known for his strong views against communism. The marriage didn't last long, Hernández never knew he had married a spy and Africa de las Heras went on to other destinations before returning to the Soviet Union hailed as a heroine. Her story can be read in a book by Raúl Vallarino called "Nombre Clave Patria: Una espía del KGB en Uruguay".

British historian Tony Judt has a monumental book about the "Post War" as seen from Europe but has also done research on the French intellectuals of the Rive Gauche in Paris, some of which were friendly with Soviet totalitarianism. Jean Paul Sartre was one of them, in contrast to those that had more honest views and thus were disdained by their colleagues. Raymond Aron and Albert Camus were clear examples of writers not seduced by what was happening on the other side of the Iron Curtain. About Eastern Europe, I would strongly recommend Anne Applebaum's magnificent "Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944 – 1956".

Each one of these episodes offer vastly different approaches to what in the end was one single and same Cold War.

The interesting thing about "Cold Warriors" is that it refers to writers that were extremely popular in the 50's, 60's and 70's, and probably many of us have read them and keep their books in our home libraries.

Some of these writers were socialists, like Orwell, or even communists like Koestler. The Spanish Civil war had a strong impact on them and since then they changed their views and lost all confidence in the Soviet Union, and specially in Stalin. Orwell's most famous books, "Animal Farm" and "Nineteen Eighty-Four", through fiction were strong pleas against totalitarian regimes. In a different way Koestler did the same with "Darkness at Noon".

"H.M.S. Pinafore" In Montevideo

During the late XIX Century the ships of the Royal Navy's South Atlantic Squadron regularly visited the port of Montevideo. Showing the flag, coal replenishment and multiple logistic, diplomatic, and strategic reasons made the ships' visits a community event, when parties, sporting events and social gatherings were organised for officers and other ranks alike, with the commitment of the whole British colony. But with HMS Pinafore we are not referring to one of those visits, but to the production and staging in Montevideo of the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta of that name, that had opened with great success in London's Opera Comique theatre in 1878.

The British community in Montevideo has built strong cultural walls to prevent assimilation and construct a friendly space in a strange land. One of the institutions that is founded for this reason is the Winter Evening Entertainment Society [quickly shortened to Entertainment Society] that makes its debut in the 1888 winter with a variety show of amateur British singers, musicians, and actors with such success that a new more ambitious project is presented by the artistic directors and committee members. To perform a full play is the challenge and the whole British community rallies behind the Entertainment Society.

The difficulties are enormous for a community of no more than a thousand members. Just as an example, the musical partitures arrive late for the full rehearsals as the ship which brings them from England is behind schedule for quarantine problems in Southern Brazil. But there is flair and above all amateur talent as never again will be found among the British community in Montevideo, so the project defeats every obstacle and HMS Pinafore is premiered in Montevideo in December 1889. The two functions are arranged to coincide with the arrival of a Royal Navy ship that will provide the real sailors and officers uniforms needed for performances at the San Felipe theatre.

Here some excerpts of the criticism of the play, written by William Denstone for The River Plate Times. Denstone participated as Stage Manager, as he used to be a professional actor who came to the River Plate in 1885 as part of a touring players company.

"Where all did so well, it would be difficult to decide

who deserved the post of honour, where it not that public opinion had already decided for us and unmistakably given the palm to the ladies [of the chorus] to whose successful efforts the brilliant exit of the piece is certainly due. The first encore was obtained by the lady's entrance "gaily tripping" which they managed most charmingly; their singing, graceful movements and well-chosen dresses forming a tout ensemble that was simply irresistible.

Of the lady's soloists, the first place should be given to Miss Bolton, whose magnificent voice was heard to special advantage in the difficult scene and air of the second act.

The gallant Captain Corcoran, Mr. Magrane, showed off a splendid voice to great advantage throughout the entire piece.

In this short account it has not been possible to give more than a few of the principal features of each part, but we have purposefully kept one of the leading figures for the last; and when we recall the capital representation of the Admiral, the immortal Sir Joseph Porter, KCB by Mr. Stanham, we can do no better than to repeat Captain Corcoran's salute asking for three cheers. Sir Joseph was the life of the piece."

The success of the British amateurs of Montevideo crosses the River Plate and even The Standard of Buenos Aires, not a friendly newspaper for Britons this side of the river has praise to offer:

"To say that the piece was well acted and well-sung would be faint praise; it was rendered in a manner that would be considered highly creditable at home for professionals, as a first night's performance."

The Entertainment Society kept on being the principal artistic institution of the community for decades to come, but never again such talent was gathered in Montevideo. Few months later some of the leading actors had left Uruguay. HMS Pinafore's success was never repeated, though it was performed again twice in Montevideo. During the Great War, but in these new circumstances the success was not measured in artistic quality and talent, but in fundraising results as its revenues went for the British Patriotic Fund; and at the Solis theatre in 1953.



ZX81

One of the first personal computers in the late seventies and early eighties of the last century was the ZX81, the creation of a British genius, Clive Sinclair, who had already produced the first electronic calculator.

I was living in Canada when the ZX81 made its appearance and it fascinated me from the very beginning. As I bought one and discovered its potential, I realized that among its many virtues, it was ideal for mathematical calculations due to its great accuracy. As time went by, it sold by the millions worldwide and I got paid the handsome sum then of 100 dollars for an article I wrote for a New York magazine on its use for archaeological research.

I was so thrilled that I took the liberty of writing to Her Majesty to suggest Clive Sinclair be knighted for his great contribution to British commerce and technology. I received a reply from the Palace that such suggestions had to be made to the Prime Minister, then Mrs. Thatcher, to whom my message had been delivered. No doubt, others must have felt the same, because several months later I read in the Globe and Mail that Clive Sinclair was in the Honours List and scheduled to be knighted.

When I travelled to Uruguay to take up residence I brought with me this computer as well as what was probably the largest collection of programs in the world (over 1,000) since I had become the Librarian of the Timex-Sinclair Association for North America. Among them, I

had many that dealt with astronomy, from major star and planet positions in the sky for every night of the year to other relevant data as well.

At the time, this computer was just arriving in Uruguay and when the Director of the local Planetarium got wind of what I had, he at once brought to my home his boss, a Col. Barba of the municipal casinos and other departments that included the planetarium, and both became so impressed by this little British machine that they decided to hire me for a substantial sum in order to translate all the astronomy programs into Spanish and to teach a course for teachers of astronomy on the use of this computer for the purpose.

During the course one of the teachers said that her son had been born many years ago, precisely at the time of a moon (lunar) eclipse and wanted to find out if the program would confirm this. I tried to explain to her that regardless of how accurate a computer can be, there is always a margin of approximation that could differ by a day or two. When I entered the date she gave me, it was dead on, exactly that date had an eclipse. They were all overly impressed, and Sir Clive could very well be proud of his product.

Later on, when I was using my telescopes at home, what the computer indicated by graphic displays was what I found in the sky that night, including the positions of the major Jupiter satellites. But when internet started, I had to regretfully put away my good old ZX81 that had given me so many satisfactions.



Cornish Pasty

The Cornish Pasty –pronounced with a long “ah” as in “Amen”– is a filled pastry case made by placing a filling of beef, potato, swede, and onion on a flat, circular pastry shape and folding it to wrap the filling, crimping the edges to form a seal and baking in the oven. (Traditionally a pastry should have around 20 crimps).

It is not known exactly when the pasties originated, but they have been documented as part of the British diet since the thirteenth century, when they were consumed by the rich upper classes and Royalty with rich fillings such as venison, beef, lamb, and even sea food.

There is written evidence of their existence in a letter from a baker to Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour in the early sixteenth century, referring to the pasties.

It wasn't until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that the pasty was adopted by the tin and copper miners and farm workers in Cornwall as a means of providing an easy, substantial, portable lunch. They were normally made with the initials of the owner on one end of the pasty, to avoid confusion of ownership during the meal break. The miners would heat their lunch by candles placed underneath a tin bucket or shovel in which the pasties were placed.

The thick edges of the pasty were thrown away after eating the rest of the meal to avoid being poisoned by copper or tin dust from their fingers.

When the Cornish mining industry collapsed, in the mid-1800s, large numbers of miners moved overseas to countries like Australia, South Africa, Canada, USA and Mexico, and took with them their favourite recipes for Cornish pasties, making them renowned worldwide.

In 2011 the Cornish Pasty Association gained European protection status for the pasty, which means that only pasties made in Cornwall and to a traditional recipe and manner can legally be called “Cornish Pasty”.

Nowadays, it is Cornwall's largest food export, and accounts for 20% of its trade. However, the statistics are changing due to the effects of Brexit.

Ingredients

Serves two or four people

For the filling:

- 500 g of rump steak, cut in small cubes
- 150 g onion, chopped
- 100 g of swede or turnip, chopped
- 250 g potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- Salt, pepper, and a good pinch of thyme

For the pastry:

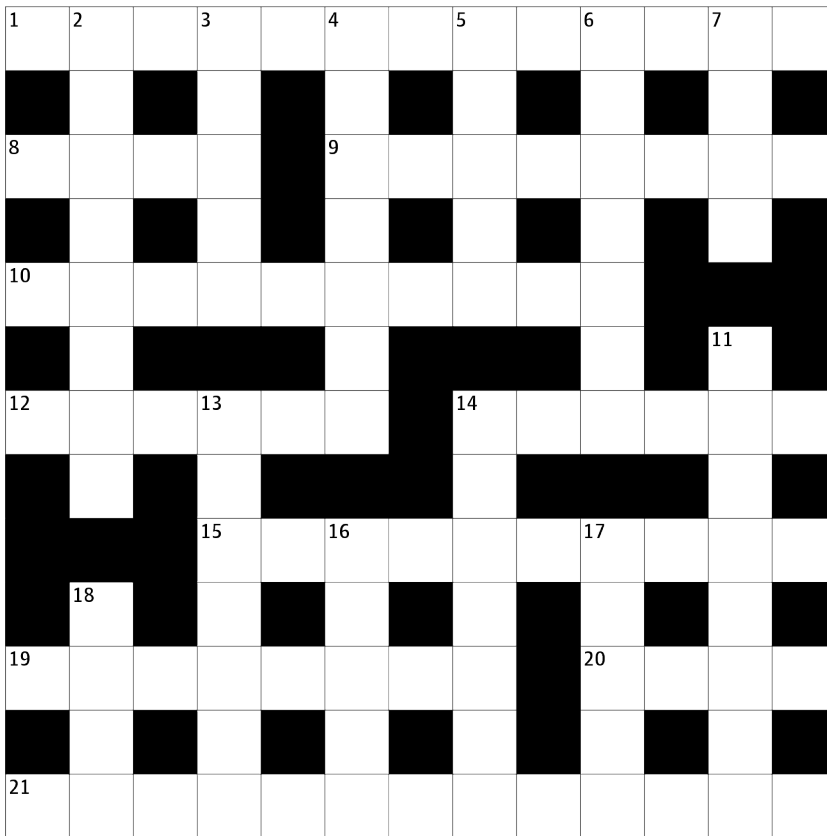
- 400 g flour
- 200 g butter
- Cold water

Method

1. Make the pastry by mixing the cold butter into the flour with your fingertips or a food processor; then add water as necessary to make a soft dough. Do not over knead, as that would make the pastry less flaky and more elastic.
2. Cover the pastry and allow it to rest in a cool place or fridge. Roll out to two dinner plate sized circles or four side plate sized circles, according to your appetite. Leave to chill again while you prepare the filling.
3. Season the steak and vegetables with the salt, pepper and thyme and layer on one side of the pastry circles. They can also be mixed together (traditions differ). Brush edges with egg, flip over the pastry to form a half moon shape and twist the edges to give a rope effect. Mark initials in one corner with the leftover pastry cuttings. Brush over with egg, bake at 200° C for 20 minutes, then lower the heat to 180° C for a further 40-50 minutes.
4. Nowadays they are often served alone or as a full meal with any of the following garnishes: mashed potatoes, peas, mushy peas, gravy, chips (French fries), carrots.

SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME

from The Guardian
www.theguardian.com



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

June solution:

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Across

- 1 Very dark comedy (7,6)
8 Cosmetic powder (abbr) (4)
9 Wheel with projections on its rim that pull things through (8)
10 Playful primate (10)
12 Unprincipled (6)
14 Wild North American canine (6)
15 Game played with string looped over the fingers (4,6)
19 Composition for voices and orchestra based on a religious text (8)
20 Archbishop of Cape Town, 1986-96 (4)
21 Superciliousness (13)

Down

- 2 Taboo (8)
3 Temporary stand-in (5)
4 Sing carols from house to house (7)
5 Unit of frequency (5)
6 Absurd imitation (7)
7 Stringed instruments (abbr) (4)
11 Kind of woman's shoe (8)
13 Repeated aloud (7)
14 A High Wind in Jamaica? (7)
16 Units of an academic year (5)
17 Those against? (5)
18 Therefore (4)

LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
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Enge At Penge

Welcome to the Engineering Faculty
At the University of Penge. The Faculty
Is divided into five Departments:
Mechanical Engineering, or Mech Eng,
(Pronounced enge as in avenge);
Chemical Engineering, or Chem Eng;
Electrical Engineering, or Elec Eng;
Civil Engineering, or Civ Eng;
And Stone Engineering,
Whose headquarters are in Wiltshire.



Swan Upping

Swan upping dates from the 12th Century when the Crown claimed ownership of all unmarked mute swans in a bid to ensure a ready supply for royal banquets. Swans are no longer eaten but the practice of counting and marking the swans on the River Thames still takes place in the third week of July every year. Rowing skiffs are used to corral a brood of swans so they can be captured.

The name of the ceremony is thought to originate from the call, "All Up" - a signal for the boats to circle a brood. Private owners of swans developed a complex system of markings, etched into the swans' beaks to identify them as private, and not Crown, property. But the royal mark was simplified and eventually ceased to be used altogether at the instigation of Queen Alexandra who was concerned that the birds were hurt by marks. The Queen's swans are left unmarked and other private owners now use leg rings to identify their birds. Any unmarked bird automatically belongs to the Queen. But today the Queen only exercises her right of ownership along the River Thames and its tributaries.

The pub sign, "A Swan with Two Necks" originates from the practice of the Worshipful Company of Vintners, private swan owners, marking their birds with a nick on each side of the beak, i.e. two 'nicks'. In the days of Elizabeth I anyone driving away swans at breeding time, or stealing eggs, was liable to one year's imprisonment plus a fine, at the pleasure of the Crown. And any person carrying a swan hook, by which swans might be taken from the river, if not a swan herd nor accompanied by two swan herds was liable to a fine of two thirds of one pound (13s. 4d., 66p).

This year, the week-long event starts at Sunbury-on-Thames and will end at Abingdon, Oxfordshire.





The surprising truth about vultures

Most people think vultures are unpleasant animals because of their habit of eating decaying carcasses. But look more closely and vultures have a beauty all of their own. Manuel Aguilera has dedicated his entire life to changing people's perception of the birds. He's hoping to make people realise that they are magnificent creatures that need to be protected.

BBC
REEL



FILMS TO WATCH THIS MONTH



BBC picks the films not to miss this month – including the latest Marvel, a drama from the director of *Spotlight* and the sequel to *Space Jam*.

**CLICK HERE TO SEE
THE LIST OF FILMS**



DILBERT

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





Winter is here!

