



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

CONTACT

MAY 2022

SEE GREAT ART FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BSU

Annual General Meeting

Jubilee

Big Jubilee Lunch

Medical Column

Don't doff your mask

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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER

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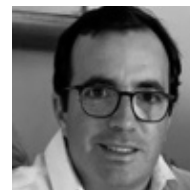
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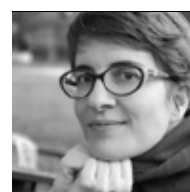
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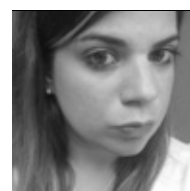
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Dear Members

Welcome back once more. I would like to start off by thanking everybody who attended the AGM as well as those who reached out to us interested in learning more about the topics presented.

This AGM was a bit different, a bit special. As my first time as president, and after two years of Online meetings, I wanted to make it special. Thanks to The British Schools, for allowing us to use the Pavilion, to our Cooks, and to Scottish Dance Uruguay and Latitude 33 Pipe Band, I believe we all enjoyed a lovely evening in which we got back together over some drinks and dips, were delighted by a Scottish dancing and piping show, and breezed through a quick business agenda on what the Society has been up to.

We had the honor of HMA Fay O'Connor joining us, showing her continuous support, and gifting us with some lovely thank you words. It has been very interesting working with her, as she is constantly looking for new ideas and activities for our community.

I hope you all had the opportunity to read our yearly report, but just as a quick review: We are doing well. The SWCH and Benevolent Fund are working great, our general fund has been replenishing (thanks to you all who updated fee payments), all legal and accounting issues are in order, and we can now look forward to going back to organizing events and activities to be enjoyed by all.

Geoffrey Deaking has stepped down as our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor after 8 years, leaving behind big shoes to fill, as most have praised the newsletter. Nevertheless, we are working hard to keep it going and pushing to make it even better.

A warm welcome to Victoria Stanham and Eliana Kozulich who are joining our team to work on the newsletter, our social media and events planning. They have already brought bright new ideas and skills you will soon be seeing.

A special thanks to all the executive board members, auditors, council members, SWCH and Benevolent Funds Chairs, who have helped us pull this 2022 AGM together and who worked on the report.

It was wonderful being back together at the AGM, and we missed those who couldn't make it. So, we hope to see all of you again at our next event. Stay tuned.

Kind regards.

Colin Shearer
President



Birthdays

in May

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3· María C. Canosa | 20· Ana Inés Albanell |
| 5· Christina H. Mullin | 20· Lucía M. Prevett |
| 6· Charles D. Larbalestier | 20· Ana María Meikle |
| 6· Ana B. Jiménez de Arechaga | 21· Guillermina Vivo |
| 6· Virginia May Campbell | 21· Ronald M. Beare |
| 8· Mary Hillier Hardcastle | 22· Mark C. Teuten |
| 9· Marian I. Whitacker | 24· Laura I. Paolino |
| 9· Dominique Capurro | 25· Patrick Hobbins |
| 10· Annette Beare | 27· Jonathan Miles |
| 12· Sharon E. Kitchen | 30· Andrew Hobbins |
| 19· Daniel R. Wilson | 31· Carmen Gomensoro |

HAPPY
Birthday

New Members

Adriana Butureira Rosemiglia

Alejandro (Jano) Martin Macadam Arechavaleta

Nancy Gladys Villagran Crivelli

Welcome

Can February march?
No, but April may.





This month's cover features Tate Modern. Tate Modern is an art gallery which houses the United Kingdom's national collection of international modern and contemporary art, and forms part of the Tate group together with Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives. It is located in the former Bankside Power Station, in the Bankside area of the London Borough of Southwark.

Tate Modern is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the world. As with the UK's other national galleries and museums, there is no admission charge for access to the collection displays, which take up the majority of the gallery space, whereas tickets must be purchased for the major temporary exhibitions. In case you're visiting, the nearest railway and London Underground station is Blackfriars, which is 0.5 km from the gallery. Enjoy!

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can pay your 2022 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

We have also implemented **recurring payments** so you no longer have to remember to pay your fees. You do not need to have a MercadoPago user, by clicking [HERE](#) you can choose to enter your details as "Invitado", you are 3 clicks away of never having to remember to pay again! This recurring payment is very easy to cancel if you wish to do so in the future.

You may also pay by transfer or a direct deposit to the account of British Society in Uruguay at **Banque Heritage** (account number 62582-03). Please email your transfer/deposit slip to our Treasurer.

If you forgot to pay any previous annual fees please email our Treasurer at treasurer@britsoc.org.uy to learn about ways to pay past dues.



**Redpagos Annual Fee
2022 - \$700**

**Redpagos Recurring
Payments - \$650**

Once this is done, your membership will be updated.



Greetings

Let me introduce myself: I am Contact's new Editor. And beginning with this May issue I will be in charge of picking up where Geoffrey left off and hopefully uphold his legacy. A tough act to follow!

Me in a nutshell: I talk too much, read too much, and am obsessed with biomechanics and efficient movement patterns (postural habits). I studied at Miss Hubbard's nursery, St. Andrew's School, The British Schools and then did my B.A. in Theatre Arts at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, VA (USA). Twas at uni that I came across postural reeducation work. Upon my return to Uruguay I trained to become an Alexander Technique and Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization teacher. And, because words and languages and the worlds we create with them have always been a passion, I'm also an English language tutor.

But enough about me: Let me tell you about this May issue of Contact. As usual, we have some wonderful articles and news by our regular contributor columnists and sister council institutions.

Events-wise, May is for croquet! To get you excited about the upcoming Autumn Croquet Tournament we've added a short article on croquet basics to get you mallet-ready.

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. The Big Jubilee Lunch will take place on 5th June, and in preparation for the event we're holding a bunting competition. In case you need instructions and inspiration for your creations, we're providing some useful links in this issue.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on our May Issue at editor@britsoc.org.uy

-Victoria Stanham, Newsletter Editor



27TH APRIL 2022 AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The British Society's Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 27th April at The British Schools Pavilion .

The AGM, chaired by our current president Colin Shearer, was very well attended and enjoyed the presence of Ambassador Faye O'Connor who also shared some words.

After the meeting, Latitude 33 Pipe Band and Scottish Dance Uruguay regaled those present with a delightful performance of Scottish piping, drumming and dancing, and our wonderful cooks served some delicious sweet and savory nibbles which we washed down with wine, beer and other refreshments.

It was a pleasure to see everyone face-to-face once again, and hope to see more of you all at our future events!



Alejandro Sosa, Cecilia Canosa, Marcio Umpierrez, Andrea Davies, Gabriel Rizzo



Sylvia Tassar, Sonya Ayling, Maureen Pierce, Carolyn Cooper



Colin Shearer (BSU President), Gloria Trelles, Ambassador Faye O'Connor, Dip. Diputada Silvana Pérez Bonavita, Andrea Davies (BSU Vice President)



Caroline Stanham, Ambassador Faye O'Connor, Walter Albanell, Colin Shearer, Andrea Davies, Joaquín Salhón



Malcolm Macormick, Alberto Márquez



Gabriel Rizzo, Colin Shearer, Richard Empson



Jaqueline McClew, Poppy Prevett



Laura González, Elizabeth Whitty



John Hamilton, Pedro Páez



BSU Board Members, mbassador Faye O'Connor, Scottish Dance Uruguay dancers



Latitude 33 Pipe Band, Scottish Dance Uruguay



Colin Shearer , Alejandra William, Catalina Williman



Latitude 33 Pipe Band and Scottish Dance Uruguay



Lilo Wells, Susan Day



Gabriel Rizzo, Ambassador Faye O'Connor, Richard Empson



9th SOUTH AMERICAN PIPE BAND GATHERING

Scottish Dance Uruguay will proudly host in October the "9th South American Pipe Band Gathering".

It is the most important event of this discipline on the continent. It consists of a 4-day experience in which more than 200 pipers, drummers and dancers gather to celebrate Scottish culture.

The overall purpose of the Gathering is to continue the British legacy, promoting Scottish art in a cultural festival. All those who are involved with Scottish music and dance on the continent prepare for more than a year to put on their best show.

Scottish Dance Uruguay wants to invite everyone to enjoy the Gg and is looking for sponsorships and donations of any kind to make this great event possible.

You can contact them via email at scottishdanceuruguay@gmail.com



Autumn Tournament Prep

Croquet is a sport that involves hitting wooden balls with a mallet through hoops embedded in a grass playing court. Croquet has been a favorite English pastime since at least the 1850s, when it reportedly migrated from Ireland to London, where it was played in a slightly different form from today's version. While today's serious version of croquet is often referred to as "chess on grass" (a game of strategy, skill, and tactics), for most it's a casual, somewhat lazy diversion, full of fun and scamper yet not overly energetic, and a great excuse for mingling with friends. A precursor to croquet is Pall Mall, a lawn game (though mostly played on earth surfaces rather than grass) that was mostly played in the 16th and 17th centuries, like was depicted on *Bridgerton* Season 2.

METHOD OF PLAY

Before any match, players must agree on the level of seriousness with which they intend to play and the rules to follow. The more relaxed competitors follow any agreed upon game rules. The truly serious follow strict international sport regulations.

- For the players competing in garden or backyard croquet, the object is to maneuver a colored ball (usually red, blue, black, or yellow) through a series of hoops by hitting it with a mallet, scoring a point for each hoop made in the correct order and direction.

- Players take turns: the player, or team, with the blue ball goes first, followed by the player with the red ball, then black, and finally yellow. If you knock your ball into someone else's, you can put yours next to theirs and whack it for miles. If a ball is hit out of bounds, however, it is placed roughly one mallet length into the court from where it crossed the boundary.

- To win you need to hit your ball through all the hoops properly and then hit the finishing stake. The game continues until all players have reached the finishing stake, unless a player has hit an opponent's ball into the stake during the game, in which case he or she is disqualified.

CROQUET TRIVIA

- Croquet was held as an Olympic event once, at the Paris games in 1900. Roque, a variant of croquet that originated in America in the late 19th century, was an event at the 1904

Summer Olympics.

- The venue that hosts Wimbledon - the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club - was founded in 1868 as the All England Croquet Club, and re-christened in 1877, when lawn tennis eclipsed croquet in popularity.

- Croquet was one of the first outdoor sports to embrace gender equality - it was considered suitable for 19th century women because it was non-contact and slow and could be played in long dresses.

- Lewis Carroll adored the game and played at Oxford University. In the pages of *Alice in Wonderland*, he even created an anarchic version in which a hedgehog was used as the ball and a flamingo as the mallet, while playing cards doubled over to make the hoops.

- Leo Tolstoy was also a fan of the sport, romanticizing it in his novel *Anna Karenina*, in which Princess Tverskaya invites Anna to a croquet party along with their adorers.

- By the 1920s and 1930s, croquet had become the most popular sport in socialite, literary, and Hollywood circles.

- For many years, reportedly, it was Winston Churchill's wish to be buried in his croquet lawn at Chartwell, his house in Kent. According to his biographer Chris Wrigley, the prime minister was known to swing his croquet mallet with one hand, as though he were playing polo.

Source:

www.vanityfair.com/culture/2015/05/pippa-middleton-croquet-guide





BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

5th. June, 2022

Exciting news : the Big Jubilee Lunch will take place on the 5th June, and we would love to have all our members involved in the preparations for such a wonderful event, which is why we are providing links for you to start preparing paper chains and bunting to decorate the venue.

The BIG Jubilee Lunch is an international event for people to get together in a simple act of community friendship. Most of us get involved for lots of different reasons. Whatever your motivation, the most important part is bringing people together to share delicious food, refreshing drinks, great company and good times.

There will be prizes for the bunting competition, the paper chain contest and for the best decorated table.

Great things happen when we come together. What will you bring to the table?

Contact us! Get involved!

Links for the buntings

<http://bit.do/Links-for-the-buntings>

Link for crown template

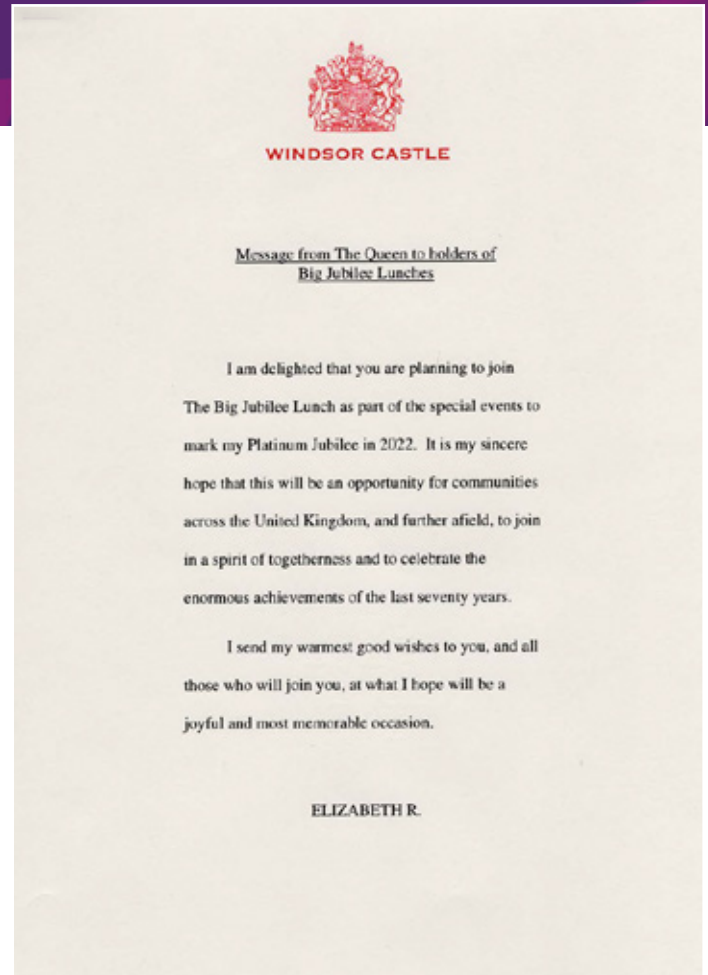
<http://bit.do/Link-for-crown-template>

Links for the recipes

<http://bit.do/Make-it-happen-Recipes>

<http://bit.do/Ready-Steady-Plan>

<http://bit.do/Bunting-biscuits>





Women leaders

Ambassador Faye O'Connor met 7 Uruguayan women who participated in the Santander Uruguay and The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) W50 Leadership scholarships in recent years. They shared their invaluable experiences and the tools they have learned to deepen their leadership skills, that will serve them for a lifetime.

The "Santander Women Scholarships | W50 Leadership 2022 – LSE" program aims to train 50 women who hold management positions in companies in any sector and who are looking to work and improve their leadership style.



Coronation Cup

Ambassador Faye O'Connor attended the launch of the Coronation Cup at the Carrasco Polo Club. Organised by The Hurlingham Polo Association, the Coronation Cup will be played in July in London. It is the first time that Uruguay is invited to participate. The link between Uruguay and British polo goes back several years. Did you know that when (the late?) Prince Philip visited this country

he played polo? He also participated in a press conference at the Carrasco Polo Club, along with government authorities.

Uruguay will play England Polo Team on Saturday 23 July 2022 at Guards Polo Club, Windsor Great Park, Surrey. You can find more information [here](#)



British film and music

British series, film and music lovers were delighted with the Downton Abbey film premiere and Gorillaz concert in Montevideo last month. The Ambassador attended the Avant Premiere of the sequel, together with guests and lucky raffle winners. She also enjoyed every minute of the Damon Albarn concert, together with other raffle winners. [Follow her on social media](#) for a chance to attend future events!





Fresh news!

We continue working hard for your satisfaction.

Physiotherapy: New and modern space

In mid-March the Physiotherapy Department moved to the 2nd floor of Parque Batlle II clinic. It has 9 consulting rooms and 2 gymnasiums available Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. One of the gymnasiums is solely for children and the other for adult pulmonary rehabilitation. These new facilities, together with the existing ones in Edificio Málaga and Carrasco Clinic, improve significantly the service to our members.

Low complexity services in the Emergency Department

Continuing with the refurbishment of the area, new Annexes for low complexity adult and paediatric patients have recently been inaugurated.

For adults, coordination can be arranged for same day appointments.

This is not applicable for emergency cases (where patients come with no previous coordination). It will only be suitable for patients who need an organised schedule. Appointments: 2487 1020, ext. 3001

Home care service up to El Pinar

We have extended our home care service up to El Pinar. This includes home doctor, home physiotherapy, Senior Adults Programme and nursing care. We are glad to be able to cater for our members in Costa de Oro.

Oncofertility, a new speciality.

We have added to the Hospital staff a new medical sub-speciality focused on reproductive health of patients who have undergone an oncological treatment or a complex illness which has had effects on their reproductive lives.

This discipline, new in the country, is directed by Dra. Diana Kimelman who studied abroad and has devoted herself to this sub-speciality. Her contribution is very valuable for our professional staff, members and patients.

Post Covid: New clinic

A consultation for follow-up of patients who have undergone Covid 19 and suffer its after-effects was implemented. The consultation is with Dr. María Jimena Bueno and Dr. Valentín González.



New staff member in hepatology

We are proud to announce that Professor Nelia Hernández, with ample experience in liver pathologies, has joined our staff.

This sub-speciality complements our professionals in a multidisciplinary and specialised approach.

Paediatrics: Paediatric Rheumatology

Paediatric Rheumatology, which deals with rheumatic diseases which are generally autoimmune, has been incorporated to the Paediatrics Department.

It is supervised by Dr. Rodrigo Suárez de Palleja, who has recently joined our staff.

Heart surgery and Haemodynamics

For many years the British Hospital has been working towards providing heart surgery and haemodynamics in order to be a complete health care centre.

Recently the Fondo Nacional de Recursos and the Ministry of Public Health have notified the Hospital that it will be able to offer this service to its members in coordination with the INCC. In the next few days the first stage will start with previously coordinated haemodynamic tests and gradually the rest of the procedures will be incorporated.

We are very proud to be able to offer this very important service to our members.

Gender violence clinic

A multidisciplinary team for counselling on gender violence has been working at the Hospital for the past few years.

The consultation can be personal or for a family member who may be undergoing such a situation. A self-reflection form which helps to determine if you are undergoing gender violence and need professional help is available on the web.



Lunch Invitation

Wednesday 4th May at 12:15 PM



Economist

Aldo Lema

*Associate Economist of Grupo Security and
Managing Partner of Vixion Consultores*

Parva Domus, Punta Carretas

More Information



www.cub.com.uy

Last week I had the privilege to climb all 527 steps to the very top of the Cathedral of St Paul in London. I could look out over London and consider the astounding achievement of the architects, masons, artists, carpenters, and workers of every kind striving together for one overarching goal. Christopher Wren is famously recognized as the mastermind who designed and oversaw the work.

None of us can be Christopher Wren, because, very thankfully, we are all unique and have our own contributions to make as we go through life. We choose some of our work and some of it is chosen for us. We do certain things and leave others undone.

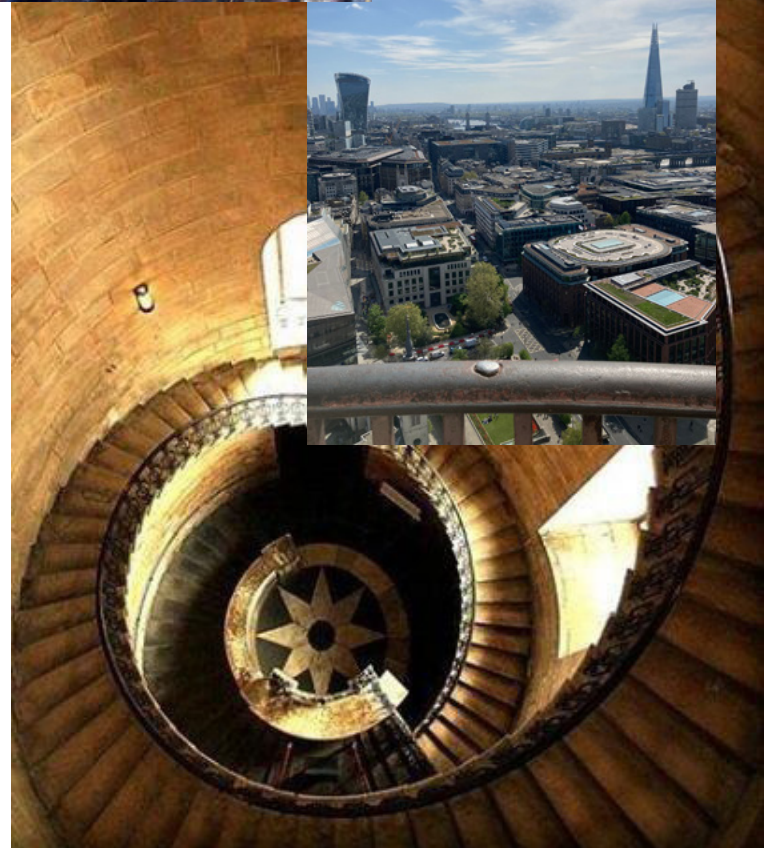
“Why Work?” is the theme for the first two Sunday Services of May. John is teaching on the 1st and Lisa Hamilton on the 8th. What is our purpose, the objective, the motivation and the where does the fuel come from to continue in our work? I wonder if Christopher Wren was inspired at all by the words of St Paul who wrote: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters...” Colossians 3:23.

If talking about work is unsettling for you, perhaps our other theme in May will be more appropriate. May 15, 22 and 29 will focus on **Mental Health** issues. We know there are millions of things to say, but we have invited individuals with the education and experience to share helpful insights and perspectives for our own lives and those around us.

I think you will feel welcomed and find the overall experience to be quite fascinating.

Our services are in person and online via Zoom and all the info is found on our website.

John Hamilton
Pastor of Christ Church





After starting its educational activities in Montevideo in 1934, the Anglo quickly spread throughout the country. Anglo Salto and Anglo Paysandú were founded a year later, and soon the Anglo had opened over 30 centres in the interior of the country. In 1994, it started a network of Anglo centres in Montevideo, Ciudad de la Costa and Costa de Oro, reaching a total number of 48 Anglo centres in the country today. About 15,000 students take Anglo courses every year throughout the country.

The Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute, “Anglo” for short, was founded on 9th March, 1934 when a group of prominent Uruguayan and British members of the community gathered at the Rural Federation premises to listen to Sir Eugen Millington-Drake’s proposal to form an Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute in Montevideo, which was later officially inaugurated on 29th April that very same year.



The Anglo began its activities in a flat on Avda. 18 de Julio 965, and by the end of 1934, there were more than 400 students distributed in 24 classes of different levels. Since those early days, the Anglo has kept growing, and today, 88 years after its foundation, it has turned into one of the largest educational networks in Uruguay.



In 1948, the Anglo became the first Cambridge Assessment English authorised centre in Uruguay, and in 2010, as a result of the steep rise of Cambridge exams in our country, it was granted the category of “platinum centre”. There are about 3,000 authorised centres in the world: but only 14 Platinum Centres in Latin America and 81 in the whole world. A few years later, in 2012, the Anglo took part in the Platinum Centres Yearly Awards and it won “the best platinum centre in the world” prize in the area of customer support and was chosen as one of the three finalists in the area of business development. Three years later, in 2015, the Anglo was selected as one of the three finalists in the business development category for the second time.



Another landmark in the history of the Anglo is the year 2001, when the Anglo opened its first branch of The Anglo School, a bilingual school in the neighbourhood of Carrasco. In 2004, it opened a second branch in Centro, and today, over 800 students attend classes at kinder, primary and secondary levels at The Anglo School. Thanks to the success of the school, evidenced by its steady growth in number of students, in 2018 the Anglo bought a 10-hectare plot of land on Camino Carrasco and a year later inaugurated its sports field. This expansion continued even during the current coronavirus pandemic as in 2021, The Anglo School Centro branch opened Secondary Education.



Eighty-eight years after its foundation and inauguration, the Anglo keeps looking ahead. This year it has launched a brand-new series of **online** English courses for students interested in learning English remotely or in a more flexible way at all levels and for students preparing for Cambridge English First, Advanced and Proficiency. These online courses add to the "Effective Communication" series launched in 2020 during the pandemic.

Last but not least, the Anglo's activities include consultancy services for external schools, in-company tailor-made training, a wide a range of methodology and language courses for English teachers, an extensive cultural programme to promote British culture, and a library containing thousands of titles available for loan and for sale.

Needless to say, over the years the Anglo has contributed to the educational growth and personal development of thousands and thousands of people all over the country. We hope the instruction they have received at the Anglo has opened plenty of doors and offered them different study and work opportunities all over the world.



AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE ANGLO SCHOOL

Throughout the years, our Awards Ceremony has been the culmination of our learners' studying, preparing and taking exams. In the last two years, the ceremony was brought to a temporary halt as a result of the pandemic, so the fact that we could resume it this year has filled us with excitement and joy.

The ceremonies were held last 5th and 7th April at The Anglo School Carrasco and on 8th April at The Anglo School Centro, to celebrate the achievement of our students in their Cambridge English, Cambridge International and Anglo exams. More than 300 hundred students received their certificates and a present for their effort, marking a steady increase in the number of learners who choose to certify their knowledge of English.

Students from Primary Form 2 through to Secondary Form 4 took a wide range of both international and national exams. Along their English learning journeys, our kids sat Cambridge English YLE (Young Learners Exam) in its three levels: Starters, Movers and Flyers; Key for Schools, Preliminary for Schools, First for Schools and Advanced. In Secondary Forms 2 to 4 they also took Anglo S6, First and Advanced. Besides, all our Primary Form 6 and most of our Secondary Form 4 learners certified their bilingual education with Cambridge International Checkpoint and IGCSE respectively.

We would like to highlight the excellent results obtained by all our students, and especially the top grades achieved by IGCSE candidates in all of the subjects: English as a 2nd Language, Global Perspectives, Literature in English and Business Studies. Despite the difficult circumstances we have all been through in the last two years, our students and teachers have not only proved able to face the challenges but also to be successful. We are very proud of all our kids' achievements!



In addition to receiving their certificates, the ceremonies were highlighted by artistic performances by some Anglo School students. In Primary, ribbon dances and a choir singing a selection of British pop music entertained the audience, while in Secondary a school music band playing songs from renowned British artists like Coldplay and the Beatles celebrated the effort of our students.

Whilst these ceremonies celebrate the hard work of our learners and what they achieved last year, we also believe they will encourage and support them on their journey to becoming life-long learners and global citizens of the 21st century.

A big thank you to all teachers who were part of this learning journey and congratulations to all our students!!!



Members of the British Society: special discount



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Don't Doff Your Mask

I'm writing this post on Easter Sunday, at the end of Holy Week, which has exploded as the *de Turismo, de la Cerveza, Criolla, del Olimar* and whatever Uruguayan variant of this week-long festivity has created over the decades, *Vuelta Ciclista* included. After two years, Montevideo was left as empty as a city targeted by Putin, with the exception of the Prado, the Rambla and the Parque Rodó. This week has also been marked by a relaxation in the requirement to use masks, as the early March N° 512 guidance by the Ministry of Public Health states. There are considerable mirror and parallel relaxations in neighbouring Southern Cone countries, such as Argentina and Chile. This has been reflected in the significantly fewer masked people in many of the public gatherings mentioned above.

Although many directives are similar with respect as to when you should still be wearing your mask, the final decision in other situations has been left to individuals, who must gauge what their personal risk is and donning vs doffing is left to discretion. Some recommendations are straightforward, like being masked in indoor spaces with others not belonging to your own bubble, make sense, but during a typical day, we may be shifting gears between different situations: at home, in a supermarket, at a bus stop, queuing at an Abitab agency or going to the movies. However, enforcement of mask use by shop owners is not allowed and this may cause significant disparity in people's behaviours. Besides, once we run out of masks when the 50-pack boxes empty, will we go to the store and buy more?

I strongly believe that common sense should guide our mask donning vs doffing decisions. The pandemic is NOT over, although the number of new cases, hospital admissions and deaths are clearly on the decline. There are many countries, for reasons more specific to their reality than general, where cases

are on the upsurge. Look at China, for example. It's where it started and where they cannot stop it. But it's not completely levelling off and is showing some upticks in a few European countries and elsewhere. These more than two years have demonstrated that this virus will not go away easily and we'll live with it, maybe forever, as we do with many other viruses. As countries downscale the rates of testing and rely less on isolation – mostly because it's politically unsustainable to keep people isolated or quarantined – we'll probably be unaware of an impending upsurge until it's too late.

My recommendation is: keep masking, unless you're with your immediate or trustable bubble(s) or outdoors. Even if your corner shop cannot enforce masking, put yours on when you enter, for your protection and for the owner and staff. This has been my regular behaviour and masked cashiers, who know I'm a physician, thank me for it as if I were an influencer. The pandemic will in high probability have some sort of a comeback – or more than one – and it's best not to be either sitting ducks in harm's way or being part of the problem by spreading it.

Note: The 9/11 attacks, the risk of chemical and biologic weapons, Ebola virus in west Africa and now COVID-19, made the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for exposed healthcare and other personnel mandatory. The process of putting PPE on and removing it safely was strictly protocolised and the term 'doffing' became the neologism meaning the opposite of donning.

Certificate TESOL -Trinity College London- celebrates 30th anniversary at Dickens Institute

In November 1992 Dickens Institute had its first moderation of the first batch of Certificate TESOL Students in Uruguay. The most remarkable thing about this group of 12 students was that they were the first non-native speakers of English students to be moderated in the world.

It took Dickens three long years to persuade Trinity College London that non-native teachers of English were able to teach English successfully! Still, it was achieved and our first moderator, Professor Clive Brasnett, was here at Dickens!

The results of the moderation were splendid and Mr Brasnett was very impressed with the first group of non-native English Teachers.

After that and 30 years later, Dickens CertTESOL Department has celebrated the success of 19 trainees who became teachers after a very successful course.

Congratulations Teacher Trainers and 19 splendid new Teachers!

Congratulations Trinity College London for opening its CertTESOL course to non-native speakers of English 30 years ago!



Directora del Instituto Dickens, Mónica Harvey de Campisteguy junto al profesor del Trinity College London, Clive Brasnett OBE, BA (Hons), MA; Cert Ed.





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Mayday!

I have never had to send a distress call. Never had to shoot off a flare from a drifting lifeboat. But there were plenty of situations like that in the World War II movies I watched as an adolescent, which impressed me deeply and left me with an enduring aversion to dark, open waters. There was something thrilling about those black & white scenes of British naval officers in stylish white polo neck sweaters sitting at a microphone saying, with quiet stoicism, “Mayday. Mayday. Mayday.”

As I grew up and the myth of those movies began to fade, I started wondering why people say “Mayday” in an emergency. Where I come from, that word meant May 1st, international workers’ day. I couldn’t see any connection between a massive workers’ street parade and being on a sinking ship in the middle of the Atlantic. I eventually learned that “Mayday” is an English corruption of the French expression *m’aider* that means “help me.” It is an abbreviation of *venez m’aider*, or “come and help me.” It originated in the 1920s, when a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in London, Frederick Stanley Mockford, was instructed by his superiors to come up with a word of some kind that would be easily understood by all local and international air crews and ground staff as a call for help. Since most of the flights out of Croydon in those days flew back and forth to Le Bourget Airport in Paris, Mockford suggested “Mayday” as an anglicization of the French distress call that would be easy for everyone to pronounce.

In earlier times, military officers on battlefields all over the world communicated by Morse code, which had been around since the mid-1800s. My fellow Boy Scouts and I were inducted into the magic of Morse code in our early teens, and the concept—the idea of being able to communicate with dots and dashes—made a huge impression on me. My father had recently introduced me to Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, and the opening four notes sounded remarkably like a V in Morse code: *dit-dit-dit-dah!* I practiced my dots and dashes

as though I were learning scales on the piano, wanting to be fully prepared to send messages in the event of some life-threatening event that never happened. In those days we used SOS, which stood for “save our souls” and was easy to tap out, one letter at a time (... --- ...). No matter that in 1927, the International Radiotelegraph Convention replaced SOS with “Mayday” as the official distress call. As Scouts, we were also instructed in the use of flags for signalling at sea but, to my great disappointment, were given no guidance at all for sending or reading smoke signals.

I fully appreciate the challenge Mockford’s superiors gave him. As a translator, and especially as an interpreter, clarity of meaning is a much sought-after ideal. Most people butcher foreign languages, making words in another tongue incomprehensible with flawed pronunciation and imperfect accent. Recognizing the fragile nature of language and meaning, language schools produce advertising to conjure up the horrors of a linguistic misstep: what if the name of the product you are planning to launch overseas means something unacceptable in other languages? What if your inability to communicate in a foreign language causes loss of life? These schools and language academies want to focus our attention on the costly potential for disaster when people do not fully understand each other. One such company aired a marvellous video of a sailor on a German cargo ship out on the ocean. He is the radio operator, sitting at a desk wearing headphones. It is late at night. Suddenly he hears a voice crackling in his ear: “Hello! Can anyone hear me?” He switches on his microphone and says: “Ja, I can hear you. Vot is heppening?” The voice in his ear says, “We’re *sinking!*” The radio operator nods and smiles and says “Ja, but vot are you sinking *about?*”

Last day of the exhibition HMS Agamemnon: Navigating the Legend

On April 9 at the Ralli Museum in Punta del Este, the NGO Oceanids, dedicated to the preservation of maritime heritage, with the support of the British Embassy in Montevideo, inaugurated an immersive audiovisual exhibition on Admiral Nelson's favorite ship, the HMS Agamemnon. It is worth noting that this emblematic warship sank in Maldonado Bay in 1809 after participating in historical events and battles, such as the American Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, and the Battle of Trafalgar.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the British Ambassador Faye O'Connor, local and national authorities, as well as special guests from the United Kingdom, such as Jonathan Adams from the University of Southampton, considered the father of modern maritime archaeology, Robert Yorke, the director of the Joint Nautical Archaeological Policy Committee, Garry Momber, director of The Maritime Trust, and Mary Montagu-Scott, the scion of the family that owned the shipyard where the ship was built in 1781 and director of the Buckler's Hard Shipyard Museum, as well as representatives of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

These personalities and the institutions they represent supported the exhibition and contributed unpublished audiovisual material, in a joint effort with national institutions, such as the Ralli Museum, the Punta del Este Yacht Club, the Maldonado Municipality, the British Society and the Anglo.

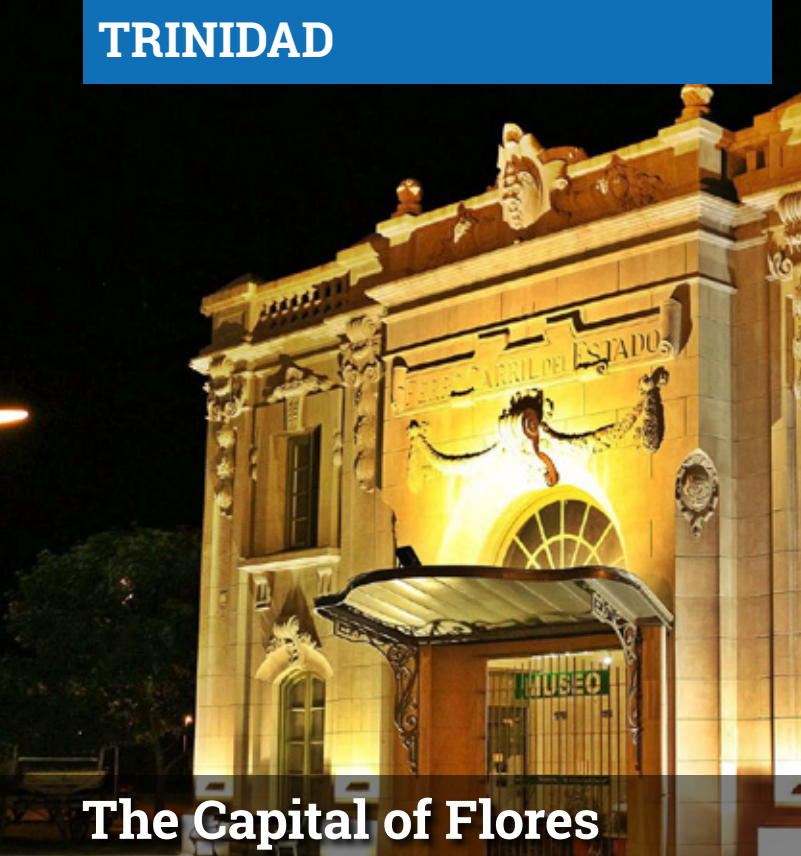


Through a projection on three surfaces simultaneously, using from animations to video mapping, the audiovisual proposal that lasts about 15 minutes narrates in an engaging way the history of the ship: its origin, battles, and its destiny as an underwater site that faces the challenge of its preservation, due to the impact of the climate change.

With just a couple of weekends open to the public, this exhibition has been enjoyed by more than 500 visitors, and will have its last screening on Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 6 pm, with free admission in the Annex Room of the Ralli Museum in Punta del Este.

The history of the ship admired by Lord Nelson comes to life in an entertaining sensory journey for the whole family, which invites to discover the real value of the underwater heritage present in Maldonado Bay.





The Capital of Flores

Trinidad is the capital of Flores, a small province in the centre of Uruguay.

An impressive building, unique in the country, can be seen «The railway station», featured not only by its style and remarkable beauty, but also for the state of conservation of the different mouldings scattered over the surfaces. The original openings can also be seen as well as the ticket office. The four windows in each of the side walls with eight glasses each one is a curious detail.



Its style is eclectic, there are some elements of art nouveau, some of neo-baroque combined with some touches of viennese modernist tradition.

All sources consulted agree on its high quality among the railway architecture, but the architect's name is unknown. For sure it must have been a scientist and an artist for he mixed wisdom and science with some kind of mysticism. Anyway, what it is certain is that the British impact caused by the participation in the origin of the railway lines in Uruguay, was the kick start to build this magnificent building.



Today it has been converted into a museum: "Museo Fernando Gutierrez»,

It is full of objects that tell stories, but nothing compared to the thousands of stories and dreams in the suitcases carried by passengers arriving in this terminal over those years.





Refounding The United Nations

For quite some time I have been thinking about how inadequate it is that an association of most world nations should be controlled to a great extent by its most powerful members, who by using their power of veto, can block decisions that they consider detrimental to their own interests.

It is very damaging that the United Nations main building is in New York City, reflecting a fact that after the Second World War the United States of America was what appeared to be the most powerful nation in the world.

The United Nations, the later association of countries that came after a failed forerunner, the so-called League of Nations, has been in most cases the instrument of great powerful countries to secure support for their own interests, leaving out those of the world at large and particularly, those of developing nations.

Over the years some countries were chucked out like Taiwan in order to accept China as a member. There is a so-called Security Council in which the most powerful nations have permanent seats and as a kind of concession, other less powerful ones are allowed to participate for brief periods of time.

I believe that it is about time that another association of nations should be created to replace the UN with its main

office in a really neutral country, like Switzerland, in which there should not be any Security Council and in which no country should have the right to veto decisions adopted by a majority of members. An association in which no country should be excluded, bearing a name that could be, World Nations.

There had been many examples in the past and in recent years in which decisions that condemned gross violations of human rights in several countries were not carried out due to the right of veto, in which some great nations prevented others, closely associated to them, from receiving worldwide condemnation, as it should be, if certain basic principles were adhered to as most claim to be the case, while at the same time, being very selective as to how this is done.

I feel it would be a healthier organization in which the voice of the whole world could be heard on many issues without interference by the most powerful nations.

If one day the world comes together in peace and what is now merely a debating forum with very limited powers, becomes a true world government, as most of us hope, then the need for a drastic change in the structure and location of what today is called the United Nations will be necessary.



The Mall and the Wasteland

The name of kings and important politicians are usually found at the corners of avenues and boulevards. Imperial London had the Mall leading to the Kings' premises. Only in Montevideo, a short wasteland was honoured for an evening, by the symbolic presence of a Minister, a Foreign Secretary, a Prime Minister and a King! Before the British envoys to Uruguay were elevated to the rank of Ambassadors they were Ministers and presided over Legations and not Embassies. From 1925 to 1930 the British Minister in our country was Sir Ernest Stowell Scott (1872-1953).

George Canning (1770-1827) served as Foreign Secretary in the early XIX Century and was one of the promoters of the creation of Uruguay as a way of pacifying the region, and thus permitting British trade. He is also credited as declaring *"South America is free [from Spanish colonial rule] and if we don't mismanage our affairs greatly, it's ours"*! He was Prime Minister for four months in 1827, dying in office.

King George V (1865-1936) succeeded his father, Victoria's older son Edward as King of England. On his lifetime he saw the end of the German and Russian empires and the fall of both the Kaiser and Tsar who were his close relatives.

Cecil Simpson was just an architect and head of the Office of Public Works in London. In Montevideo on his official capacity he recommended to find and buy a suitable house to move the Legation or if not finding one, buy some land to build one. After discarding the houses he was presented with he recommended to buy a plot near the Parque de los Aliados, on the outskirts of the city. It was approved and 3,400 square metres of land were bought for some £9,000 in 1923. The local firm of architects Adams & Broad was contacted to build the residence whose plans were to be done in London by the architects Cloux and Reavell of the Office of Works. The design of the building followed the guidelines set by Simpson. It had to reflex *"dignity with a touch of richness in the pilasters, but avoiding the exaggeration of local buildings"*. The British residence would be ready for inauguration in 1927. The new building was the only one in the block at the time. The access was by a wasteland, a future street that would connect



Artigas Boulevard to the park with the provisional name of Access Street. In short time, the Montevideo Municipality would honour the British residency's venue by christening the street with the name of one of our independence architects, George Canning.

By 1927 everything was ready and set for the great inauguration and the only thing left was to find a suitable date for the big opening. The Minister Scott would choose the local celebration of the King's birthday as the inauguration of the British residency building. The first Friday of June, 1927 a great ball was celebrated in honour King George V birthday with the President and local dignitaries present, as the whole diplomatic envoys accredited in Uruguay. More than a decade later, the Minister Millington-Drake would buy another plot of land at the back of the Residence and double its extension with a marvellous garden.

Montevideo is not any more the capital of the British Informal Empire in the River Plate basin, but the Residence stands still manorial, surrounded by green vegetation, in the XXI Century city. Ambassador Jackson's words sound prophetic: *"Politically she is not sure whether she prefers the ostrich feather boas of her Edwardian belle epoque or the miniskirt of today; neither really suits her style, and the combination of both even less. But she retains the ruins of her lovely face"*. Jackson referred to the city, but who knows if his sarcastic remark did not reach the Residence too.





Mushroom, Spinach and Chickpea Curry

Ingredients – 4 Portions

- 15 ml olive oil
- 100 g finely chopped onion
- 100 g finely chopped sweet red pepper
- 3 large cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 chili without seeds, finely chopped (optional)
- 1 tray 200 g fresh mushrooms, sliced or cut in quarters
- 1 tbsp curry powder or 1 tbsp garam masala or 1 tbsp of the following mixture: ground cumin, ground coriander seeds, and turmeric *
- 1 tin (400 g) tomato cubes
- 1 tin (400 ml) coconut milk
- 1 tin (400 g) chick peas
- 1 bunch fresh spinach leaves roughly chopped (without the stalks)
- 1 teasp chopped fresh coriander leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

- Heat the oil in a saucepan before adding the onions and sweet red pepper and fry carefully for five minutes without browning.
- Add the garlic, ginger and fresh chili if using and cook for a further minute moving constantly with a wooden or nylon spoon.
- Add the mushrooms and cook for around five minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add the spice mix of your choice and mix in well over the heat allowing all the flavours to mix.
- Add the tomato, coconut milk and drained chick peas and bring to the boil.
- Simmer for five minutes before adding the chopped spinach.
- Bring back to the boil until the spinach is wilted and remove from heat. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and chopped coriander leaves.
- Serve with brown rice.

** You can find an excellent selection of herbs and spices at a small store in Mercado Ferrando in El Cordón. They probably have the best selection of spices to be found in Uruguay and always in prime condition. They make a wide variety of spice blends such as curry, Ras el Hanout, garam masala, Chinese fivespice, to name but a few. They will sell small quantities.*

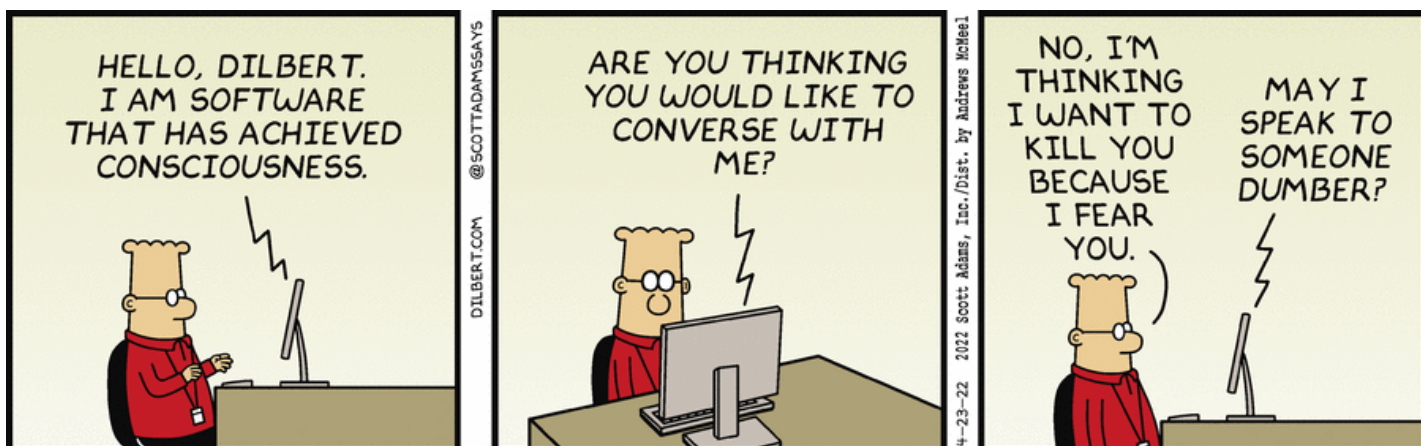


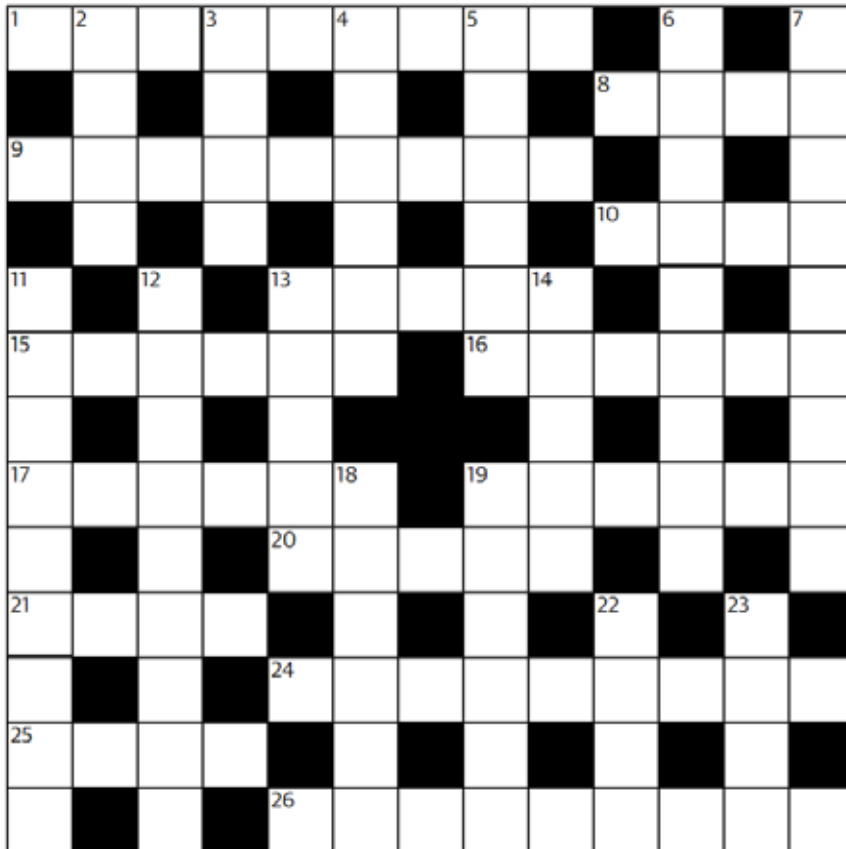
THE PASSING-OUT PARADE

The sun shone down
The lines of soldiers swayed
And crumpled to the ground
At the passing-out parade

DILBERT

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





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

April solution:



Across

- 1 Game with a puck (3,6)
- 8 Adam....., George Eliot novel (4)
- 9 Variety of plum (9)
- 10 Desist (4)
- 13 Even (5)
- 15 Marine mammal (6)
- 16 Gratify by compliance (6)
- 17 Sign of the zodiac (6)
- 19 Written (6)
- 20 Enigma Variations composer, d. 1934 (5)
- 21 Expected successor to position or estate (4)
- 24 Go too far (9)
- 25 People — music genre (4)
- 26 Thankfulness (9)

Down

- 2 Concern (4)
- 3 Colours (4)
- 4 Northern constellation, the Swan (6)
- 5 Fraction equal to 12.5% (6)
- 6 US military academy in upstate New York (4,5)
- 7 Bandit (9)
- 11 Cease paying attention (6,3)
- 12 Apparently reasonable (9)
- 13 Wait in line (5)
- 14 First-rate (5)
- 18 Thin slice (6)
- 19 Repeat without understanding (6)
- 22 Closed (4)
- 23 007 (4)





The truth behind the legend of the 'sword in the stone'

An Italian knight turned saint is said to have stabbed his sword into a rock in the 12th Century.

Today, the sword can still be seen in Tuscany, but is it real? And was it the inspiration for Excalibur and King Arthur's saga?

BBC
REEL



10 FILMS TO WATCH THIS MAY



May sees the release of the much-delayed *Top Gun* sequel, a documentary to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and two chilling horrors about children with superpowers.

CLICK HERE TO
SEE THE LIST





Mother Shipton

In North Yorkshire, along the River Nidd, one can find the birthplace of Ursula Southeil, better known as the soothsayer Mother Shipton. Within her lifetime she had several premonitions about some of the largest historical events to take place in England, such as the Great Fire of London and the Spanish Armada. After passing away in 1561, aged seventy-three, she remained an important local phenomenon in her hometown of Knaresborough and the remnants of a cave in which she lived, situated close to the Petrifying Well, can be visited.

Mother Shipton began her life in this cave in the Knaresborough woodland in 1488. She was born during a dark and stormy night, the daughter of a fifteen-year-old called Agatha who named her only daughter Ursula. As soon as she was born, her life would be the subject of scrutiny and controversy, particularly when her mother refused to reveal the identity of Ursula's father. Within no time at all, speculation about this mysterious child began to circulate with later sources describing the child's appearance as ugly, deformed and witch-like from birth. Some believed that the child's conception was the work of the Devil, with many accusing Agatha too of being a witch. Such accusations of witchcraft in early medieval Europe were not uncommon and often affected women, who for whatever reason, were living alone or were without family or friends.

Ursula dealt with the local community by keeping to herself and journeying off into the woodland and to the cave where she had been born. It was here that she studied the local woodland in great detail, enabling her to devise potions, remedies and concoctions made from the local flora. In no time at all, awareness of Ursula's abilities and knowledge as an herbalist began to grow within the community and she soon became a very called-upon resource for those wishing for her to cure their ailments. At age twenty-four, Ursula married the carpenter from York Tobias Shipton (some claimed she must have put a spell on him). Unfortunately, only two years later Tobias Shipton passed away, leaving her to become a social outcast once more (as some cast aspersions as to the circumstances of his death).

The inference that she had been involved in her husband's passing led Ursula to flee once more to her safe place in the woods, and it was here that she would come into her own, continuing her practise of creating herbal remedies whilst also

dabbling in the odd premonition. At this point, now referred to as Mother Shipton, people would seek her out in order to not only find cures for their malaise but answers to their questions. She would begin these predictions in small ways, noting minor occurrences that would happen locally before moving onto larger predictions with greater ramifications. Her predictions would extend to some of the most important people in the land including King Henry VIII himself. As her reputation grew, so too did belief in her abilities, enabling her to make a living out of her prophecies.

Such prophecies increased her public profile, so much so that knowledge of her abilities would extend far and wide with some speculation that even King Henry VIII was referencing Mother Shipton in a letter to the Duke of Norfolk in which he mentions, "a witch of York". Moreover, in the famous diarist Samuel Pepys account of the Great Fire of London, he includes the details of hearing the Royal Family discuss Mother Shipton's predictions of such an event. In a pamphlet dated 1641 which is one of the earliest surviving records of her predictions, she foresees Thomas Wolsey's fate at the time of his demise, after he had fallen out of favour after failing to secure the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Whilst her mysticism proved unnerving for some, in such a high-profile case such as predicting Cardinal Wolsey's fate, or the ensuing dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, her status and fame reached dizzying new heights.

Despite her popularity, Mother Shipton remained an elusive figure that continued to mystify and intrigue those who came into contact with her. At the age of seventy-three she died but the memory of her unusual life and powers continued to be talked about long after she was gone. Indeed an account of Mother Shipton's life and prophecies was published in 1641, eighty years after her death.

Mother Shipton had lived a difficult life, dominated by ridicule and suspicion. However her mystical skills rescued her from her status as a social pariah and today has placed her firmly within the pages of English folklore and legend.

Source:

www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Mother-Shipton-Prophecies



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

