



BRITISH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



NEW BRITSOC COMMITTEE

In office

The AGM on 10 June elected the following, with thanks to their predecessors:

President: Richard Empson

Vice-President: Madeleine Pool

Treasurer: Michael Brown

Newsletter Editor: Germán Villar

Secretary: Susan McConnell

Sir Winston Churchill Home and Benevolent Fund Chairman:

Virginia Campbell

In this issue

Our new Society President addresses us for the first time. (page 4)

Go back in time with Tony Beckwith (page 2)

TABS and a request you should consider (page 5)

A book review by Madeleine Pool (page 9)

Next month's coming events (last page!)

COMING EVENTS

4th August - Club de Lunch Uruguayo - Británico 's Monthly lunch.

7th August - Scottish Dancing Practice.

14th August - St. Andrew's Society's Annual Golf Tournament at the Club de Golf Del Cerro. Go for the Grabbe Cup!!

14th August - Scottish Dancing Practice.

20th August - Montevideo Player's QUIZ NIGHT

21st August - Scottish Dancing Practice.

28th August - Scottish Dancing Practice.

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Jumping off the Bus

by Tony Beckwith

Back in the fifties in Montevideo, I loved riding the open-backed buses, those fabulous old wrecks with the engine jutting out in front. They were battered and abused rattletraps, painted battleship gray with a red stripe along the side, endowed with nightmarish exhausts.

Jumping on and off a moving bus was a rite of passage for our little band of boys at that time. We enviously watched the *canillitas*—newsboys carrying huge bundles of newspapers under their arms—swinging gracefully on and off the speeding buses in downtown traffic. It wasn't that hard or dangerous once you got the hang of it (every mother will disagree), although it's probably a miracle that none of us was killed.

But you didn't want to get too bold. You had to hit the ground running and then keep running as fast as your little legs could carry you because if you didn't you'd fall flat on your face. During that terrifying headlong moment you knew that you were utterly alone and there was nobody to help you; you were racing against yourself, completely on your own.

In earlier years, while still too young to take my place on the back platform, I revered the older boys, veterans of countless flying leaps. If some wretched playground bully ever picked on me, I'd threaten him by saying, "You'd better watch out or I'll call my brother — and he jumps off the bus while it's still moving!"

From the Editor

I hope you don't miss him! Jonathan has left the post, and I'm the one to replace him. Please understand that I can't wear his shoes. I'm two sizes larger. Looking back, the amount of time and brains Jonathan put into this are unmatched. He set a very high standard which I'm sure all of you very much appreciate. I don't. I hate it!! It means that something that was supposed to be a piece of cake is already looking like a plate of cold camp porridge. (And that reminds me of Jack's mother, with no offense meant to Mrs. Sprigings!).

So, pulling ourselves up, we've decided to make some changes, and rely on some people in the community who have agreed to chip in on a regular basis. We'll also be having space for Letters to the Editor, so any comments, or interesting news you have to share, by all means email them to britsoc@gmail.com.

Now that I mention email, you must know that the Newsletter is distributed mainly by email to 987 different people, plus a handful of printed copies (thanks Patsy, Virginia!). Of these 987 contacts, some are just an email address, and we need to put a name to them. We have already sent out an email asking you all for your personal contact details. Some of you have not yet answered. Please do. We won't be sending the September issue to anonymous email addresses.

Remember, as a member of the British Society in Uruguay, this is YOUR Newsletter, and it is up to you to help to keep it up.

Ed. E. Tore

Embassy News

Ambassador Under Fire

In a joint venture, NP Aerospace of the UK and local vehicle armouring company, Bognor SA, have produced an armour-plated version of the Bentley Continental. Last week a prototype was subjected to the most rigorous ballistic testing in Montevideo by world-renowned armour certifying companies, Qinetiq of the UK and Beschussamt of Germany. Ambassador Patrick Mullee watched (at a safe distance) while some of the 300 rounds of military ammunition were fired at the Bentley from all directions to prove the integrity of the vehicle's cabin. Further Bentleys with this now certified design will be modified locally for sale to Governments and VIPs around the world.



LOCATE

In an EMERGENCY, we need to LOCATE you! But if you aren't registered, there's little we can do for you.

LOCATE is a registration database designed to encourage more British Nationals to register with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and is geared specifically for handling crises where there are a potentially high number of British Nationals involved and high numbers of enquiries from concerned friends and families. If you are a British National please visit the following website and register with us: www.locate.fco.gov.uk. Please have your passport details to hand as you will need them when registering.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We are sending the Newsletter to an enormous amount of anonymous email addresses. We asked all of them to update their contact details, but only some have answered.

Please, it is important for us to know who we are sending our newsletter to. If you are one of our email readers, all we require is that you send your full contact details, that is, full name, home/office phone, mobile phone if available, and home address to britsoc@gmail.com.

A few words from the President

Dear members

This will be the first time I address our Community as President of The British Society, since I was elected at the end of June and took office in mid July. I would like to thank all those who backed me for your support and the confidence you have deposited in me. I will do my best to fill the boots of my renowned predecessor, Richard Cowley, to reinvigorate The British Society and to help the Community in any way our Society can.

The Society's new Executive Committee includes four – out of five – members from what my predecessor liked to call the 'Next Generation' (a phrase that always reminds me of Star Trek), i.e. they are under-50-year-old members of the Community. That may not sound like young to some, but it is significant for the Society, since attracting the newer generations has been an increasing problem. We will continue to work in that direction.

As some of you probably know, the Society convened a Grand Council of all British Community institutions in July, within the month following its Annual General Meeting (as per the statutes), and I was very pleased to confirm that our small – less than 2000 strong – Community is as thriving as ever. Active institutions include those running two schools, two churches, two social associations, two charitable organizations, two sports clubs, two pipe bands, a cultural institute, a theatrical group, a home for the elderly and a cemetery... to say nothing of this country's best hospital. Quite a spread! Thus we have what the British Embassy's well-travelled acting Consul described as 'probably the most active British Community in Latin America'.

In spite of the vagaries of climate change, August is when the Uruguayan winter cold starts to thaw and after the last few weeks most of us are hoping this year will not be the exception. The month includes a number of activities among which the St. Andrew's Society's annual golf tournament stands out. For those not familiar with the event, this is the day when our Community's golfers strive to keep Andrew Cooper's hands off the Grabbe Cup, something Martin Wells managed to do neatly last year. Since St. Andrew's Society has now opened the tournament beyond the Community to all members of the Cerro Golf Club, Andrew will probably face stiffer competition this year. I hope all those who take part enjoy it.

Richard A. Empson



Letters to the Editor

Your opinion is valuable.

Please write to us, and let us know !

This section is for short letters about things you 'd like to share.

Please keep your letters brief, so we can include them easily!

Sorry, but you have to be a BS member to get your letters published!

The trouble with being in a rat race is that, even if you win, you're still a rat.

Lily Tomlin.

If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.

Katherine Hepburn.

Friends are God's apology for relations.

Hugh Kinsmill.

Work is the curse of the drinking classes.

Oscar Wilde.

QUIZ NIGHT

To be held at the Montevideo Players premises, Acevedo Diaz 2326, on **August 20th. at 8.30pm**

For table reservation contact: by e-mail : montevideoplayers@gmail.com

mobile: 099 087776

Would you like to help?

A couple of meetings have been held recently to start the process of setting up a support system for the elderly in our Community. It's related to the TABS (Thoughtful Assistance for the British Society) idea which was received with enthusiasm at the AGM.

As a first step, we are going to offer a transport service for our elderly friends who need a lift to get to the Hospital, the shops, a meeting or whatever.

Can you help? Would you be able to make yourself available for an *occasional* trip in your car to help someone in the Community out? This really means occasional not a regular burden, and petrol costs will be covered, if required. If you'd like to join the existing group of volunteers, please call Richard and Liz Cowley on 710 2809.

Visit the British Embassy in Montevideo website at <http://ukinuruguay.fc.gov.uk>

ART & CULTURE

By Veronica Cordeiro



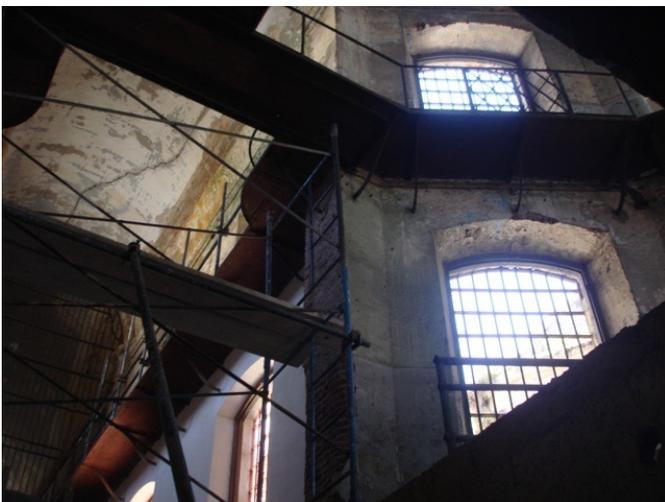
Dear readers, welcome to the arts and culture section of the British Society newsletter, a space aimed at mapping the increasing vibrancy of Montevideo 's cultural scene, bringing to you monthly a selection of the best the city has to offer in the visual arts, music, theatre, film, dance, photography, and more. Each month there will be a feature article, followed by a list of recommended visits. This August edition inaugurates with the grand opening of a most unusual and phenomenal project: the EAC – Espacio de Arte Contemporáneo, situated on what used to be the old Miguelete prison.

Read, enjoy and go visit!

EAC: A PRISON DEDICATED TO THE EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISE OF FREEDOM

Montevideo 's first centre devoted exclusively to contemporary art opened its doors to the public last Tuesday, 27th July, under the unexpected warmth and midday radiance of what would otherwise have been a bitter cold winter 's day. An important detail, given the outdoor circumstance of the inaugural ceremony, and the technical fact that the building 's central heating didn 't make it to the opening, though its tubular project is under way. The generous presence of the sun seemed to bathe this difficult site with a blessed rebirth: the first contemporary art centre is set on what was Uruguay 's first prison.

The old Miguelete prison was built in 1889 in what was then the northwestern outskirts of Montevideo city. Now situated only five blocks of the famous Tristan Narvaja flea market, the centre is not only easy to access, it is, as one would imagine of such a historical building, easy to identify with its immense concrete walls and vast terrain. Based on the panoptical model of north London 's Pentoville prison with a central watchtower that sees all without being seen, the Miguelete prison operated as a confinement centre until 1986. Since its deactivation it has remained abandoned for over two decades, with the exception of its administrative quarter where the Centro de Diseño Industrial was set up, in 1988. The prison building is composed of four wings, and for this first stage in the conversion



process, one of those wings, with 2400 square metres, has been entirely remodeled to house the EAC. The impressive and stylish renovation project was led by architects Ricardo Chele and Marcelo López, under the direction of Ministry of Transport and Public Works ' director of architecture, Eneida de León. A joint effort between the Uruguayan and Spanish governments, the latter having donated 350,000 euros towards the project via the AECID - Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo -, it was MEC 's Culture director Hugo Achugar who finally came with the winning idea for the recuperation of this site. EAC will

therefore operate under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Education, directing all national projects concerned with contemporary art to this site.

Visit the British Embassy in Montevideo website at <http://ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk>

The inauguration was an immense success with every inch of this enormous space filled with artists, art dealers, directors, ambassadors, all of whom gathered under the sun to listen to the opening speeches given by vice-president Danilo Astori, the Minister Ricardo Ehrlich and National Culture Director Hugo Achúgar. Fernando Sicco, EAC 's director spoke of the importance of such a space dedicated exclusively to the exhibition, reflection and understanding of the complexities of contemporary art, and for this occasion organized a series of exhibitions which include *Delitos del Arte* (Art offences) encompassing individual artist 's projects housed each in one of the 15 4x2m underground cells, *Mujeres Memoriosas* on a larger space on the ground floor with works by Cristina Casabó, Águeda Dicancro, Lacy Duarte, Magela Ferrero, Nelbia Romero and Margaret Whyte, *Como sos tan lindo*, the first exhibition as you enter the building and a project about gender by artist Paula Delgado, among many other shows. EAC is located in Arenal Grande 1930 esq. Miguelete and is open from Wednesday to Saturday, 2-8pm, and on Sundays from 12-4pm. Telephone: 929 2066.



See also:

Menos tiempo que lugar: el arte de la independencia. Centro Municipal de Exposiciones (Subte)

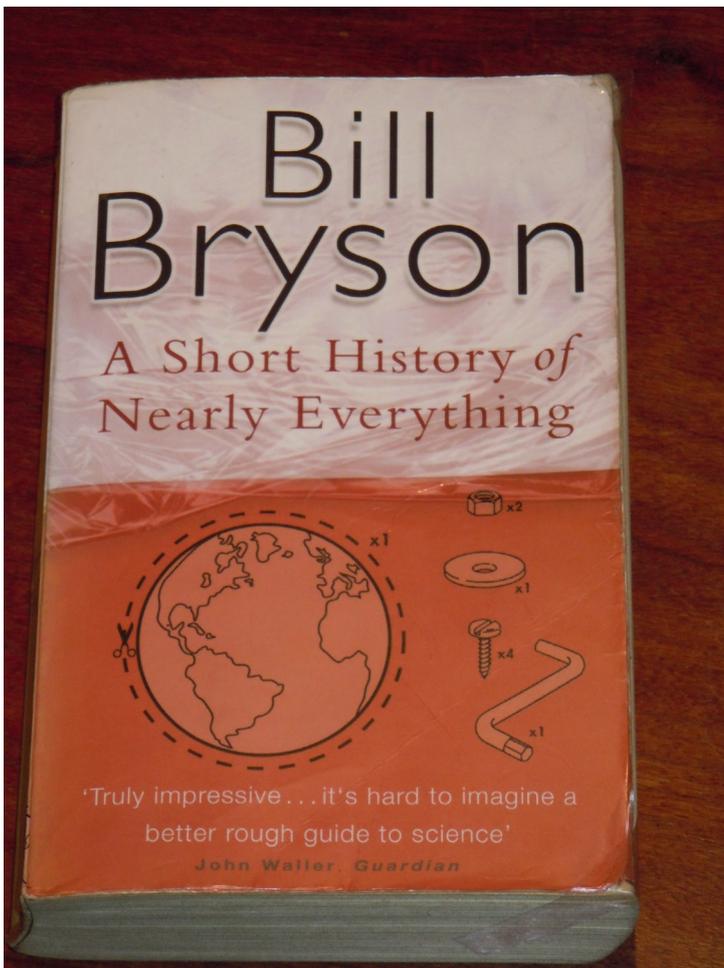
Plaza Fabini, 18 de Julio y Julio Herrera y Obes, subsuelo

tel. 9087643. Tuesday-Sunday, 12-9pm.

Ángel Rama, Explorador de la Cultura. Centro Cultural de España. Rincón 629. Tel: 9157594. Monday-Friday 11.30am – 8pm. Saturdays 11.30am to 6pm. Until 28th August.

Las Bodas de Fígaro. 21-23 August. Teatro Solís. Buenos Aires s/n esq. Juncal. 8pm. Tel: 1950 3323/25

Los Casal (música celta) . Special guest: Inés Basombrío, argentine singer introducing themes from her recent album "Músculos del Alma". Sala Zitarrosa, 18 de Julio 1012. Tel: 901 7303. 8th August, 9pm.



Book Review by Madeleine Pool

One of my favourite books is “**A Short History of Nearly Everything**” by **Bill Bryson**, a 600 page recount on the planet and its making. Trunkloads of information and surprising anecdotes on everything from the Big Bang, our Universe, atoms and evolution.

The author decides to dedicate 3 years of his life to answer not only how the world is, but how we figured that out.

How do we know that the universe is expanding? How did we calculate the planets age and weight? Why are the oceans salty? All is cleverly explained. How a bet at a private dinner between Halley, Wren and Hooke gave birth to the making of Isaac Newton’s “Principia Mathematica”. Insane experiments and unseemly attitudes by our leading scientists conform this “behind the scenes” approach to science.

Any good book to recommend? Send us your review to britsoc@gmail.com

The elderly Archbishop was making a controversial visit to Las Vegas.

His publicity advisers warned him that the trip would be fraught with risks, but the churchman insisted that the gambling capital of the world was exactly the king of place that the church should be trying to spread his message.

After a long flight the Archbishop stepped off the plane and came face to face with a horde of television cameras and newspaper reporters.

One eager young news hound thrust a microphone in his face and asked, “Archbishop, what is your opinion of the large number of brothels in this city?”

Mindful of the warnings he had received, the Archbishop thought carefully and replied tactfully,

“Are there any brothels in this city?”

The next day he glanced at the newspaper to see this headline:

“Archbishop’s first question, as he arrived in Vegas:

“*Are there any brothels in this city?*””

Dictionary Corner – 2

Richard Cowley helps with those words that seem designed to mislead us:

Incline

A line drawn with a fountain pen

Antidote

An amusing story that ants tell at social gatherings.

Cobalt

To run away together.

Endear

This is where it stops.

Erection

How the Japanese vote for a new parliament.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PIPE BAND

Riverside Pipe Band is getting new kilts and needs some help.

Are you off to UK or USA for a trip and have spare space in your luggage on your way back?

Are you coming to Uruguay on vacation from abroad?

Riverside Pipe Band is in search of people who might fit a kilt in their suitcase. If that is your case, please contact us at drummajor.rpb@gmail.com or at +598 99 658497. We will make sure it will get to you in time before you board.

Starts 15 August: Thursdays at 9pm and Sundays at 4.30pm
Espacio Teatro, Mercedes 865 esq Andes
En Español - also English by arrangement, eg for schools
\$180, concs \$120, plus 25% off if you book (900 0316) by 15 Aug
Also at the Carrasco Lawn Tennis at 9pm on Fri 13 & Fri 20 Aug
For Centro call 900 0316, for Carrasco call 600 4312



EL DRAMA DEL GRAF SPEE
 Written and directed by Jonathan Lamb

Souvenirs from Uruguay

Suggestions of local gifts have included Gran Clon, from Disco, (the only Carmenera in Uruguay), Betty biscuits and caramelized Pecans from Tienda Inglesa, and Liz Cowley's excellent booklet on the history of Montevideo. Another good idea would be Susan Drever's Greeting Cards, below, available from 712 2269 at \$30



LAMB CHOPS

By Jonathan Lamb

My father hated the vicar. He also hated a certain red-labelled brand of whisky, which he said tasted of soap, and a Labour politician called Dennis Healey, who had bushy eyebrows and was Chancellor of the Exchequer. The whisky provoked most, particularly if offered with still water rather than soda. "I want to *drink* it, not *bath* in it," he would say indignantly. 'Fifty-fifty please, plenty of soda.'

Healey's punitive taxation rates infuriated my father, a naval officer known in the family as 'the Old Man'. He told us that he had once met Healey at a banquet, and had got into such a heated argument with him that the two men agreed to step outside, and were rolling up their sleeves when other guests in dinner jackets had to separate them. A fight would have greatly satisfied the Old Man, who had boxed for the Air Force and the Navy in the 1930's. Before that, in the Merchant Service, he had gone ashore in Buenos Aires and other places and clobbered people under the alias of Seaman Benson. As a result he had cauliflower ears, a broken nose with a bobble at the end that you could push right in, and a devastating straight left. To his disappointment, neither my brother nor I really took to boxing. My brother liked carpentry and boats, and I liked reading. I was nervous of the punch ball we were given because when you hit it, it bounced back and beat you up. But we both liked pushing the Old Man's nose in, to watch it spring out again. Other skills he had learnt in his years at sea were how to strum a matchbox, how to play the spoons and how to make a pingpong ball disappear. He would hold it in one hand, seize it with the other, put it in your ear and then take it out of your mouth, a source of constant wonder to us. He also told us great rude stories. My favourite was his one about the three babies who meet in prams outside the supermarket. "My mum gives me bottled milk," says the first. 'Yuck', says the second. 'I get that powdered stuff. What about you, Hugo?' The third baby looks smug. "I'm on draught," he says. "It has three big advantages. It keeps over the weekend, the cat can't get at it, and it comes in such lovely containers! The only problem is, I have to share mine with a man who smokes St Bruno."



The Old Man

To the Old Man the vicar was an ever-present danger. My mother was a member of the Parish Council, so he was liable to pop by at any moment. My father - son of a parson - never went near the church, and our living room was known to all as 'The Bolthole' because it was where he hid when the vicar came. The vicar was a thin, grey, learned gentleman, not without a certain bite of his own. Reportedly he once walked past as my brother was sitting in the back of the car. "My daddy has just been promoted", said my brother. "Really?" said the vicar. "Even the dull can get on." To those of us who lived with the Old Man, 'dull' seemed a curious choice of word.

CLUB DE LUNCH URUGUAYO BRITANICO (CLUB)

Sr. Patrick Mullee, Presidente Honorario

Por la presente nos es grato informarles que nuestro próximo almuerzo tendrá lugar el miércoles 4 de agosto, como siempre en el NH Columbia (Rambla Gran Bretaña 478) a partir de las 12:15 horas y el almuerzo comenzará a las 13:00 hrs.

En esta oportunidad, nuestro Expositor Invitado es el **Ec. Javier de Haedo** y el tema a desarrollar será:

"Reflexiones de las perspectivas de Uruguay a mediano plazo"

Visit the British Embassy in Montevideo website at <http://ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk>

NATURE NEWS

By Elena Beare

Our winter was late in coming, but finally arrived in full swing dressed in all its regalia: wet, windy and not warm, just as it should. It is now doing its job of stabilizing the earth 's humidity and temperature, so that the earthworms can work happily, thus, helping the roots of plants penetrate deeper into the softer soil.

Early August, with its waning moon, will be the perfect moment to finish all winter pruning and dividing summer and autumn perennials in the garden. When replanting or transplanting, do so in good and well prepared earth, adding organic manures or compost. This will be very beneficial for beautiful flowering and fruiting of our plants.



A very easy plant to grow, and quite forgotten lately is the Nasturtium "Taco de reina". It is a rustic colorful annual that flowers all spring and usually re seeds itself for the following year. The flower is edible so you can add it to salads and it gives your bowl a special allure. It can be planted in a pot in balconies and those warm colors give joy for a long time. If anybody can get seeds, PLEASE, let us know. The seeds should go into good earth now.

For the coming spring months we recommend a hidden, secret and beautiful nature reserve to visit. Look into:

www.areaindigena.com and you can find all the details.

Quick Quiz for you knowitalls....answers to britsoc@gmail.com!

1. Name the Sport where nor the participants nor the spectators know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American Landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In some liquor stores you can buy Pear Brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. How did it get there?
6. Which are the only three words in standard English that begin with the letters "dw"?
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Name at least 7.
8. Name the only fruit or vegetable that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet starting with the letter "S".

Visit the British Embassy in Montevideo website at <http://ukinuruguay.fc.gov.uk>

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MAKE A DONATION

and we will thank you on every page!

On behalf of a growing number of Uruguay 's most affluent and

Influential movers and shakers, plus diplomats,
international companies, recent settlers
and language institutes.

Contact britsoc@gmail.com

September Events

18th September—Senior Caledonian Ball
at Punta carretas Golf Club 10pm

Don ' t miss this traditional party, and start practicing your country dances now! Dancing classes all Saturdays. Get in touch with the St. Andrew ' s Society, to find out where the venues are, at 099157615, 099992400, 099682625.

COOK IN RESIDENCE

Butternut Squash

1 small to medium size butternut squash

1 onion

1 potato

1 celery stick

1 carrot

50g butter

1 x dessertspoon grated ginger - or more if you like it hotter.

600ml vegetable stock or chicken stock

Peel the squash/calabaza , halve it and scoop out the seeds. cut into 3cm cubes. Dice the onion, potato, celery and carrot. Melt the butter on a low heat and gently saute the onion for 10 - 15 minutes stirring occassionally to prevent it catching and burning.

Add the remaining vegetables and cook 2 minutes, stirring so everything is coated in the butter.

Add the grated ginger, season with salt and pepper, add the stock and simmer for 20 minutes or until all the vegetables are soft.

Allow to cool slightly, then put in the blender or food processor and whizz until lovely and smooth. Check seasoning

For the croutons:

4 tablespoons olive oil

4 thick slices of bread any kind, crusts removed & cut into 2cm cubes

2 garlic cloves - finely chopped

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

Heat of oil in a frying pan and add the bread cubes. Saute over a medium heat until golden brown drain on paper. Then add the garlic and parsley and toss in the still hot pan.

OR

Cut bread into smaller cubes toss in a large bowl with a little oil and the garlic and bake in the oven until golden then toss with the parsley.

Serve soup with the croutons and a little finely chopped chives.

Just the ticket for a miserable cold wet winters day !!

-Joanna Mullee

BRIDGE CLASSES

for beginners. Prof. Gonzalo Uriarte, 099144645. Tues & Thurs at 7:15 pm. Adults are entitled to the first two classes free. Students: entire course free. If you already play bridge and are seeking a refresher course or tournaments, please call 099186846. Nice venue in Malvin with cafeteria: Orinoco 4864 and Río de la Plata. See <http://peachbridge.webs.com>