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Coming Events

► Friday 9th May

► Mothers And Daughters Supper, 19:30 hrs. at Christ Church.

► Tuesday 20th May

► The Allies Movie, Dinner and Raffle, 19:00 hrs. in the 3rd floor of the British Hospital's Polí-clínicas Building.

► Thursday 22nd May

► The British Society Lecture Supper, 19:30 hrs., venue to be confirmed.

► Friday 23rd May

► Encuentros A La Puesta Del Sol, 18:30 hrs. at the British Cemetery.

► Sunday 1st June

► The Big Lunch, 12:30 hrs. at The British Schools' Pavilion.



Nice British weather at the British Society's AGM!

President's Blurb

Dear Members,

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 April elected The British Society's first ever female President to office. Having proposed her myself, I am confident she will do a great job. I congratulate those present for having supported her nomination and encourage more British institutions from our Community to follow suit.

However, Madeleine's election means that this will be my last time addressing you as Society President. I firmly believe a turnover in authorities at all levels of society is a healthy exercise, since new faces bring new ideas, and even though not all ideas are good or even welcome we can't usually know this unless we try them out for size, and in a democratic society we can then reject those we don't like and renew those we do. In what refers to our own little Society, I am sure a new President is a positive thing too, so I leave office with a smile to take a welcome rest.

During my four years as your President, my objective from the very start was to modernise and rejuvenate our Society. With that in mind, the first step was to set up an Executive Committee made up entirely of people from what has come to be known as the British Community's Next Generation (i.e. those aged between 25 and 50). The aim was to surround myself with younger people with energy and new ideas. I leave office still aged under 50 and the oldest of my Executive Committee.

A fresh Executive Committee helped me take on the next objectives, the first of which was to overhaul and revamp this publication, which I see as the glue that helps hold our Society's members and member institutions together. After much hard work, the Newsletter has attained what I consider a satisfactory level of quality and reliability, with a more professional look and a balanced content aimed at entertaining our readers as well as keeping them informed of what is going on in the British Community and its many institutions.

We also worked to put information technology at the service of the Society, starting by setting up a



Society website (<http://www.britsoc.org.uy>), to help communication with members and the world, and Society e-mail addresses for all office-holders and specific purposes, to give continuity and simplify members contact with Society authorities (notice that in spite the change of authorities brought on by the AGM, all Society e-mail addresses remain unchanged – e.g. president@britsoc.org.uy will now be read by Madeleine). Next we tackled new media, creating a Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BritSocUy>) which already boasts over 1000 followers – over 90% of whom are under 50 years old – thus increasing the Society's contact with the Community and beyond significantly.

On a separate front, we worked to set up new activities to bring members together more often. The family-friendly Big Lunch, the inter-institutional five-a-side football tournament, the Society croquet tournament and the bi-monthly lecture-supper have all been highly successful and are now permanent features of our annual calendar of activities. The latter, in particular, has become the Society's most popular and well-attended activity and a regular meeting point for our members.



President's Blurb

When I took office, the Community entrusted the Executive Committee with the difficult task of reviewing the deteriorating situation of the Sir Winston Churchill Home (SWCH) and finding a way forward which ensured the continuity of the Home and the wellbeing of its residents. Following a Review Commission's recommendations and complex negotiations with the board of the British Hospital, an agreement was reached transferring the running of the SWCH to the British Hospital on a permanent basis, which came into effect in October 2012. Last year was thus the first full year of Hospital administration of the Home and results both operational and financial are proving the wisdom of the decision taken.

The Benevolent Fund, which I also received in a capital-depleting state, is now showing its second consecutive net surplus (more than double last year's result!), proving the Fund is healthy. Operational results are sound and positive (see Chairman's report), so I am confident both our main charities are performing well.

Membership of the Society has surged throughout the last four years and currently stands at over 400

members, double the amount we had when I took office. Behind the scenes, our database has been revamped and updated to ease communication with our members and the distribution of our Newsletter (which goes out to over 1000 people). Membership cards have been made, to simplify identification of members and subscription collection, as well as allowing the Executive Committee to seek special deals with third parties for Society members. Visibility of the Society has also been improved through car stickers and roll-up banners used at all events. More ideas in this respect are already in the pipeline.

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

Sláinte!

Richard Empson

SWCH News

Mildred celebrated her 98th Birthday with her beloved friends, students and caretakers. She was very happy and cheerful on this day, notwithstanding her frail health. Many thanks to all who dropped by at different times of the day to wish her a Happy Birthday, and also to those who are abroad and sent Birthday Cards and notes and even a lovely bouquet of beautiful flowers sent by her son David.

Sadly, Zena Hubber passed away on the 4th of April. She will be remembered for her dedication to her School and students, and in later years by all who were close to her at the Sir Winston Churchill Home.

Reasonably-Priced Translations

English - Spanish, Spanish - English
Also oral translations (interpreting)

Write to: vozinglesa@gmail.com



British Embassy News

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and keep in the loop!

Oil And Gas x 2

British government and academic energy experts came to Montevideo in separate visits to offer the UK's successful 40-year experience in the oil and gas sector. Carole Sweeney, UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) Advanced Manufacturing Director, gave a presentation at the Ambassador's Residence: "British commercial experience in oil and gas - an opportunity for Uruguay." The presentation highlighted UKTI's experience developing partnerships and supply chains in international markets. During her visit she met with representatives of the National Oil Company ANCAP and the National Department of Energy amongst other government officials.



Stephen Dow, lecturer in Energy Law from the University of Dundee, worked alongside the Department of Hydrocarbons of the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mining, assisting with the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Oil and Gas Industry. He carried out a 3-day workshop attended by public servants from various Ministries and also met with British oil firms in Uruguay and government authorities.



Inclusive Sailing

The Lord Nelson came to Punta del Este and provided an opportunity for Uruguayans from different backgrounds to sail aboard a tall ship on the open sea. The ship belongs to the Jubilee Sailing Trust, a registered charity that promotes the integration of people of all physical abilities through the challenge and adventure of sailing. Some of the features of the Lord Nelson are lifts for wheelchairs, signage in Braille and power-assisted steering. Andrew Beare, Honorary Consul in Punta del Este, enjoyed a few days sailing aboard the Lord Nelson. (Yes it is him, climbing the rope ladder.)



You Can Vote In European Elections

If you are a British national, don't miss the chance to vote in the European Elections on 22nd May. You just need to go to <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/overseas/download>, fill in and return a registration form by Tuesday 6 May.

Save The Date

The British Community will be invited to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday on 18 June at an event at the Residence at lunchtime. Watch this space next month for more details!



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British Cemetery News

PROYECTO CULTURAL 2014

Encuentros a la puesta del Sol III

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Detalle de sepulcro de Richard Lagemann - 1899

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PROGRAMA

23 DE MAYO - 18.30h

LOS INGLESES Y LOS INICIOS DEL FÚTBOL EN URUGUAY

DR. ALFREDO ETCHANDY

¿Cuanto le debemos a los que hicieron del fútbol el principal deporte uruguayo? ¿Jugamos como escoceses o como ingleses? ¿Porque **John Harley** fue ovacionado por 45.000 personas un 19 de junio de 1951 en el Estadio Centenario? ¿De donde vino y como comenzó esta pasión?

Invitamos a saber más de este deporte en la antesala del Mundial de Brasil y saber quienes eran **William Leslie Poole**, **Henry Lichtemberger** y otros fundadores de nuestros primeros cuadros "ALBION" y "CURCC", entre otras figuras directivas y jugadores de este deporte que descansan en este cementerio con historias de campeones. Dejaron el alma en la cancha...Y MERECE UN RECUERDO.

ENCUENTRO IV 27 de Junio-18.30 h

1806-1814 Artigas de la Invasiones Inglesas a la Liga Federal
Prof. Juan Carlos Luzuriaga

Los *Encuentros a la puesta del Sol* proponen descubrir y valorar el contenido patrimonial de nuestro cementerio. Es el *Lugar de la Memoria*, del rito intangible y de la custodia de elementos artísticos que califican una época y un sentir. Conectamos pasado y presente como parte de la vida de la ciudad y su gente.

AUSPICIOS

RED URUGUAYA DE CEMENTERIOS y SITIOS PATRIMONIALES
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APOYOS

COMISIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL DE LA NACIÓN- MEC
MINISTERIO DE TURISMO Y DEPORTE
PAISAJISTA Y VIVERO VIRGINIA CROTTI
CONSTRUCTOR GULPIO- GONZATTO



UruguayNatural





Featured Article

by Jill Quaife De Rigamonti

Unveiling Of The Battle Of The Plate Memorial At The National Memorial Arboretum

12th April saw the unveiling of the memorial to those who had served in the Battle of the River Plate in 1939, the first of three known events in this year's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the battle.

The memorial is at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire, opened by the Queen in 2001, where there are already many memorials to ships, regiments, individuals and even animals who have served in the British forces. There is also one major forces' memorial on the top of the hill to all those who have lost their lives on active service since the end of the Second World War.

The site of the arboretum is in itself amazing and will be even more so when the 50,000 trees that have been planted have grown up, but the River Plate memorial must be one of the most impressive and moving among all the impressive and moving ones that are there already. It is beautiful, a simple disc of polished black granite engraved on the front with the badges and silhouettes of the three British ships in the battle, Ajax, Achilles and Exeter, and a brief summary of the action. On the reverse is the badge and silhouette of the Graf Spee with a map of South America showing the positions of the British ships during the battle. On the ground in front of the disc are engraved the sizes of the four ships' shells showing their relative strengths, with the huge size of the Graf Spee's shells dominating those of the British ships. Four granite benches around the memorial (inscribed with the names of Admiral Harwood and his three captains, Woodhouse, Parry and Bell) will allow visitors connected to the battle to sit and think about it and their loved ones and the whole significance of this famous action in the Plate in 1939, the first major conflict and victory of the Second World War.

Over 250 people gathered for the unveiling ceremony, including four veterans of the battle, now aged 94, John Garrard and Ted Wicks of the Ajax and Jim London and Basil Trott of the Exeter, and it was they who actually unveiled the memorial which was draped with Admiral Harwood's own broad pennant, flown in Ajax during the battle (and loaned to the Society for

its exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary in 1989). Among the guests were many members of the families of those who had served in the action, led by Henry and Stephen Harwood, and it was a pleasure to see three generations of Harwoods there in force. One of the Admiral's great-grandsons, Sebastian Harwood, buried the time capsule which includes the names of all those on both sides who gave their lives in the battle together with the names of donors to the memorial and those attending the ceremony.

There were also two daughters of Admiral Woodhouse, the captain of HMS Ajax (Harwood's flagship), Mrs. Belinda Cooper and Mrs. Hilary Kennedy-Cooke, and Mrs. Anne O'Kelly with her husband Captain O'Kelly and their three sons, the daughter of Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer who was the gunnery officer of the Ajax. Her brother, Captain Jeremy Dreyer, who was unable to attend, was the captain of the successor HMS Exeter.

The ceremony was introduced by Malcolm Collis of the HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans' Association which had instigated the memorial in conjunction with the HMS Exeter River Plate Veterans' and Families Association, and there were then addresses from Commodore Paul Hammond, representing Admiral Sir George Zambellas, the First Sea Lord, and Sir Lockwood Smith, the New Zealand High Commissioner, representing HMNZS Achilles, who spoke of the Achilles memorial at Auckland. The Uruguayan Ambassador, Sr. Julio Moreira Morán, was sadly unable to be present, but was represented by the Defence Attaché, Captain Juan Pedro Retamoso Dupetit, and the Consul and Second Secretary, Sr. Marcelo Bachechi, and it was a great pleasure to see them there. The Chairman of the British Uruguayan Society, Donald Lamont, and his wife were present as were a number of other members of the Society, including Tristan Millington-Drake, the grandson of Sir Eugen, the British Minister at Montevideo at the time of the battle, and me, Jill Quaife, who was Sir Eugen's secretary from 1960 to 1972 including the period when he was writing his monumental book on the whole subject. The German Naval Attaché sent his apologies.



Featured Article

The short, simple and moving dedication service was led by the Reverend Canon Paul Kerr, with the singing of the sailors' hymn, Eternal Father, Strong to Save, and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille. The organist did not turn up but the crowd excelled themselves and managed to rise above the thundering wind whipping across the site on a bitterly cold un-April-like morning, though in the afternoon the weather suddenly changed and became beautiful.

There was then a sumptuous luncheon in a huge marquee, with short very apt and moving speeches afterwards by Stephen and Henry Harwood. They gave a particular welcome to the members of the Embassy and the Society and also stated that it was good to have a memorial to the battle in UK as well as those in Uruguay, Canada and New Zealand. This point was included in the local ITV News that evening. Captain Tom Tulloch, the Canadian Naval Adviser, representing the Canadian High Commissioner, read a message from the Mayor of Ajax in Ontario which has a close connection with the battle and the Ajax Association. Two of Admiral Harwood's grandsons, Ben and Jonathan,

will be going there in June to join in its celebration of the anniversary and will be presenting Admiral Harwood's day uniform to the town. Members will remember that his Commodore's full dress uniform was presented to the Naval Museum in Montevideo by Stephen in 2002. The Chairman of the Ajax Association, Peter Danks, thanked everyone for supporting the day and informed those present about the visit to Ajax in June and the luncheon at Portsmouth on 13th December, the anniversary day.

Afterwards Jonathan Harwood gave a presentation on the battle, which was very much appreciated by all those present. He was also interviewed by the local ITV News and he stressed the importance of handing on information on matters such as the battle to future generations.

The whole day was absolutely magical for anyone who has family connections with the battle or indeed knows about it, and will never be forgotten by any of them.

Obituaries

Miss Zena Hubber

(RIP 04/04/2014) - John and Myriam Hubber and Roy and Susan (nee Patching) Hubber would like to thank Zena's friends, former pupils and colleagues who attended Zena's burial at the British Cemetery on Sunday 6th April 2014. We also want to thank all those of you who sent messages of condolences and who at short notice understandably could not join us to lay Zena to rest.

We would also like to thank all of you who have in different ways cared for Zena during the last few years, not least the Sir Winston Churchill Home and it's dedicated staff and the community volunteers who do a wonderful job in challenging circumstances. Last but not least we want to thank the British Hospital and Dr George Stanham in particular, words are not enough to convey our deepest thanks and appreciation.

It was not possible to thank each one of you personally on that sad Sunday and in view of our respective imminent departures to Italy and England, we have used this medium to reach you. Thank you and God bless.

Charles Wallace, CMG, CVO

A good friend of Uruguay – Charles Wallace, CMG, CVO, passed away on 20th April in London after several months of severe illness. Charles was a good friend and great Ambassador in Uruguay from 1983 to 1986. His arrival in Uruguay, just after the Falklands War, put him up to the task of looking over the Uruguayan affairs plus the Argentinian ones due to the rupture of relations between the two countries.

His book "The Valedictory" (an Ambassador's final despatch is known as his valedictory) is worth reading, ISBN 0 86332 765 6. His last post was in Uruguay.

Charles was also Ambassador to Paraguay (1976-79) and to Perú 1979-83; he will be missed by his very many friends.



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Medical Column

by Dr. Jorge Stanham, MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

Zena

From 1957 till the late 80's, spanning more than thirty years, beginning with me and continuing with my brothers and sisters in the 60's and early 70's, followed by my four children in the 80's, Zena's Kindergarten on the far end of the ground patio of the building on Ellauri facing Atanasio Lapido was where we all started our schooling. During the last decade, she was a resident of the Winston Churchill Home located in the first floor of the old King Edward VII Memorial part of the Hospital, besides attending the Guild Shop every week for many years. Adding up, virtually four decades of my life happened in more or less close proximity to her.

Our teacher-pupil relationship persisted over time. After I became a physician and worked in the Hospital, I regularly had to abide by her remarks on keeping my white doctor's coat tidy, standing straight and not to look overworked. I found it remarkable that my efforts to please her lasted for so long. She was always interested in Alice, my wife, our four children and the coming of our three grandchildren. I had the feeling that she saw us all as a product of her determined efforts during our kindergarten years, to see us grow into mature grown-ups, with professional careers, good jobs and having a family. She was a teacher by vocation but most of all, she instilled a note of character and value-driven goals as the roadmap to our future.

During my summer holiday of 2007, I grew a beard. One day, when back at work, I was walking on the corridor next to the Home and spotted her sitting on a chair against the vintage metal lift door. I suddenly became horrified at what she might say about my appearance and hurriedly bent over to kiss her so she wouldn't notice. Her immediate reaction was: "I like it!"

At that moment, I became aware that our relationship had changed; it was now on equal terms and my attempts not to displease my old kindergarten teacher after fifty years came to an end.

Over the thirty-plus years since I became a doctor, I was the primary physician of many Winston Churchill Home residents, but Zena hadn't been one of them. After my dad retired in 1998, a colleague of mine who's also my personal physician took over her care, although I got indirect messages from other residents and the Home staff that she wanted me to be her doctor sometime. A year or so ago, her doctor asked me to accept her as my patient and I obliged.

Already in her nineties, her medical problems weren't few, but she always lived through and around them, in remarkable good spirits and was always happy to see me. In a certain way, I even suspected that it was she who wanted to please me now. I even had the feeling that the art of doctoring to her needs had to do more with caregiving and understanding rather than relying on poly-pharmacy and repeated testing. Over her last months, she was progressively restricted to her room. Whenever I visited her, because of her failing eyesight, I had to announce myself by voice, and she always immediately reacted with a loud high-pitched greeting, a smile and a kiss.

My dad had been doctor in her youthful years and she always admired him. She was outwardly happy that I became her doctor during her final months – my chance to return at least part of what she planted in me nearly six decades ago.

The Allies News

"The Allies" will be holding an event on the 3rd floor of the new Polyclinic of the British Hospital at 19:00 hrs. on Tuesday 20th May. A film will be shown, followed by a raffle with some great prizes, and dinner.

The cost of the ticket will be 300 Pesos.

All funds raised will be donated to the Benevolent Fund so please help us to collect money for this very worthy Community cause.

Please book your tickets either by e-mail to cpool@netgate.com.uy or by phone to Chris Pool at 271 14491 or 099528681.

Christ Church News

The traditional Mothers & Daughters Supper will be held at Christ Church on Friday 9th May at 19:30 hrs.

All ladies are welcome.
Tickets will be sold at the door.



Geoff the Chef's Corner

by Geoffrey Deakin
gde@boskejo.com

When you're craving comfort food, you can't beat meltingly tender short ribs slow-cooked in a sweet and tangy barbecue sauce. And here's the best part: only 15 minutes of prep work and the oven does the rest. Unlike many roast or stew recipes, it's not necessary to sear the meat first. You just slather it with sauce, put it in the oven, and let deliciousness ensue.

Easy BBQ Short Ribs

Ingredients:

- 2 kilos boneless beef short ribs, cut into 3-inch long pieces
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon dried ground thyme
- 2/3 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

Instructions:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 150°C / 300°F.
2. Arrange the short ribs in a 13 by 9-inch baking dish and season with salt and pepper, to taste. In a small bowl, combine all the remaining ingredients and stir to incorporate.
3. Pour the sauce over ribs and toss well, coating all the pieces.
4. Cover with aluminium foil and roast until cooked through and tender, about 3 hours.
5. Remove the foil during the last 30 minutes of cooking to brown the top.



6. Transfer to a serving platter and serve with boiled potatoes and some steamed vegies.

Always... Remember the gravy!

Secret Mustard

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon white corn flour (Maizena)
- 1 teaspoon Colman's Powder mustard
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Very cold Water (or beer)

Instructions:

1. Mix dry the mustard and corn flour in a bowl or jar with a lid
2. Add a touch of salt and ground pepper
3. Slowly add cold water to the mixture until you get a desired a smooth batch like purée
4. Store covered in the refrigerator after serving
5. Enjoy and don't count the calories.



Tip O' The Day

Don't bother peeling all produce. Eat the skin! All fruits and veggies have nutrient and fibre dense skin, so if you have tender product don't bother peeling. Just make sure it is washed well. Carrots, sweet potatoes and beets all roast up great skin on. Oh, and by the way, sorry Pasiva! Your secret is out!

Please, let me know if you have any doubts or suggestions for my corner. And remember, love and cook with wild abandon!



Back In Time

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

The Magician

My maternal grandfather, Albert Evans, was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire and moved to London as a young man. There he joined the London & River Plate Bank, a thriving financial institution with branches in Argentina, which some years later became the Bank of London & South America. In about 1910 Albert was offered a position in the Bank's Buenos Aires office, which he accepted. A bright future awaited him, but there was just one catch. He had recently fallen in love with a young lady, Dora King, and couldn't bear the thought of leaving her, so he asked Dora's father for her hand in marriage so that she might accompany him and share his new life. In those days, of course, the River Plate was considered to be "the back of beyond," and Dora's father balked at the thought of his daughter taking such a bold step into the unknown. But after thinking it over he made a counter offer, suggesting that Albert travel to Argentina and establish himself in his new surroundings, then return in a year and, if Dora still wanted to marry him, he would give his consent. And thus it came to pass that Dora and Albert Evans sailed from England a couple of years before the First World War and settled in Argentina, where they lived for the rest of their lives. They had three children, the second of whom in due course married my father and begat my brother and me. The four of us moved to Montevideo shortly thereafter, but we frequently visited Buenos Aires and on those trips we almost always stayed with my grandparents at their house in Coghlan.

My grandfather had a talent for saying things in a colourful way. When I was being a difficult little boy he would say, "Next time I bring you I'll leave you at home." When I asked him his age he replied, "I'm as old as my tongue, and a little older than my teeth." He was a natural communicator, one who seemed to have an almost magical gift for both understanding and being understood. This story is about him.

He was a tall man and still held himself straight even though he was now seventy years old. His two grandsons held his hands as they walked slowly along the open platform at the railway station. It was a cold, cloudy morning and they all wore overcoats and gloves and hats. His was a stylish dark fedora as usual, and the little boys wore the brightly coloured woollen mittens and scarves their mother had knitted for them.

The station was on a suburban line in Buenos Aires and there would be no trains coming through until the twelve-forty-eight to the city. The platform was deserted and looked drab in the grey light. It had rained earlier and the boys looked sideways at the puddles glistening between the tracks. The old man would have liked to step into the waiting room, to sit for a while and smoke his pipe, but he didn't want to let go of his grandsons' hands. And he did want to get to where they were going. They all did.

At the end of the platform they stopped and turned to look across the tracks at a building a couple of hundred yards away. Square and simple and three stories high, the building itself was unremarkable. But on the roof was a sign that said, in large, red metal letters, 'Adams Chiclet's Factory.' The little boys stood quite still, their eyes shining, not saying a word.

He let go of their hands and reached into his coat pockets for just a second. Then he raised his arms above his head with both fists tightly clenched and slowly, rhythmically moved them from side to side. "Abracadabra," he said in a deep, serious voice, drawing out the syllables. He threw his head back and spoke the word again, and then a third time quite loudly, his eyes closed and his arms stretched up till he almost seemed to touch the clouds. The boys kept staring at the sign on the roof of the building, their mouths half open, blowing little puffs of steam with every breath.

Then the old man stepped back a pace, opened his eyes and lowered his arms. He knelt down and held out his hands, slowly unfolding his fists. In each one, on the shiny black leather of his glove, lay a small yellow box with the words 'Adams Chiclets' printed in red. The boys shrieked and grabbed the boxes, excited smiles flashing across their little pink cheeks. They tore open the flaps and poured the two shiny white pellets of sugarcoated gum straight into their mouths, chewing and grinning.

He took their hands again and led them back towards the station. The older boy looked over at his brother and said, "See? Grandpa *is* a magician." The old man squeezed their hands and smiled, blinking in the chilly morning air.



Lamb Chops

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Grumpy one this month. First things first: several people divined in April that the bus employee who was struck by lightning was a CONDUCTOR, that the flasher was JENNY TAYLIER, and that the African capital not for people with cat allergies was MOGADISHU. The first one to send in a correct answer was Susan Drever.

This month, just two conundra (actually it's conundrums): what was the first name of the French beach-sandal maker whose surname was Flope? Eight letters beginning with P. And – trickier, this – what was the first name of that famous British suitor whose surname was Arrimi? 7 letters beginning with W. Answers below. See you in November.

Nine Pet Hates

Readers please supply the tenth. References to this column not accepted.

1) *Teapot Lids That Fall Off*

You're pouring someone a second cup of tea. The 200-dollar Herend cup and saucer are held out over the priceless Persian carpet. Near the end of the pouring the teapot lid falls forward, smashing the 200-dollar cup and staining the priceless rug. Shards of the porcelain fly off, into the eye of your languid Afghan hound, which, no longer languid, hares off through the French window, dragging its leash, the tea table the leash was attached to, the remains of the Herend tea service, the walnut sponge cake and the winning lottery ticket your visitor had brought. The remains of the cake are found but the lottery ticket is never seen again. The Afghan hound has to be put down, after hurtling into the street and causing a multiple crash. All because of a badly-designed teapot. Why does this happen? Here's the brief: design teapot. Ensure a) it doesn't drip, and b) the lid doesn't fall off. It's not rocket science, is it?

2) *Men Who Wear Their Ties Tucked Into Their Trousers*

No real reason for this one, just instant revulsion.

3) *Airport Farewells*

Ghastly rituals at which you all stand round weeping in a neon funerarium and wait for the body to be taken away. Best to rip the plaster off with a quick car drop at departures. Airports are for greeting, not grieving.

4) *Clocks In Churches*

Just wrong. Also houses made out of ex-churches.

See 2).

5) *Car Alarms*

What a waste of time. Proper ones are bad enough – in urban areas at least a thousand people must be affected each time one of these things goes off – but at least they cut out after twenty minutes. Drivers who buy the cheap Chinese ones, that just go on and on, deserve all they get. Waah waah waah deep deep deep woo woo woo: steal this car immediately please, and drive it a long way away. Hands up those who would like to start a pressure group called Citizens Against Car Alarms, and scratch its acronym on offenders.

6) *La Barra*

Irritating ribbon development of irritating boutiques, with irritating speed bumps and irritating pedestrians trying to cross when you're in a car, and irritating streams of cars that stop you crossing when you're on foot. Contains an irritating vegetarian restaurant with an Indian name and Indian music, but, irritatingly, no spicy sauce. It shall remain nameless, as the author of this column once wrote a review of fish and chip shops in Bradford and was chased down the street by a Pakistani gentleman in a grubby tunic, brandishing a knife and shouting 'You *****! My chips aren't greasy!'

7) *Joss Sticks*

Horrid vitiators of fresh air. Only acceptable for mosquitoes and adolescents aged from fifteen to fifteen and a quarter.

8) *Priorite a droite*

Traffic systems where cars coming onto a roundabout have priority over those leaving, causing immediate thrombosis and defeating the whole point of the blasted roundabout. See rocket science, 1).

9) *Have you got...? Yes i do.*

English is hard enough to teach without Americans coming in and mucking up the tag answer rule. 'Do you cook? Yes, I do.' (I cook.) 'Did you cook? Yes, I did.' (I cooked.) 'Will you cook?' Yes, I will.' (I will cook.) 'Have you got a cook? Yes I have' (I have got a cook) not 'Yes, I do', for heaven's sake. Who says 'I do have got a cook?'



Future Events

▶ Saturday 7th June

- ▶ St. Andrew's Society Junior Caledonian Ball, 14:00 hrs. at The British Schools Gymnasium.

▶ Wednesday 18th June

- ▶ Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Celebration, lunchtime at HMA's Residence

▶ Saturday 4th October

- ▶ St. Andrew's Society Caledonian Ball.

▶ Friday 28th November

- ▶ WDA Bazaar, 14:00 hrs. at Lafone Hall.

Link Of The Month

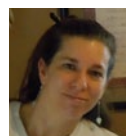
So maybe we're all creative after all!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16p9YRF0I-g>



The Society At A Glance

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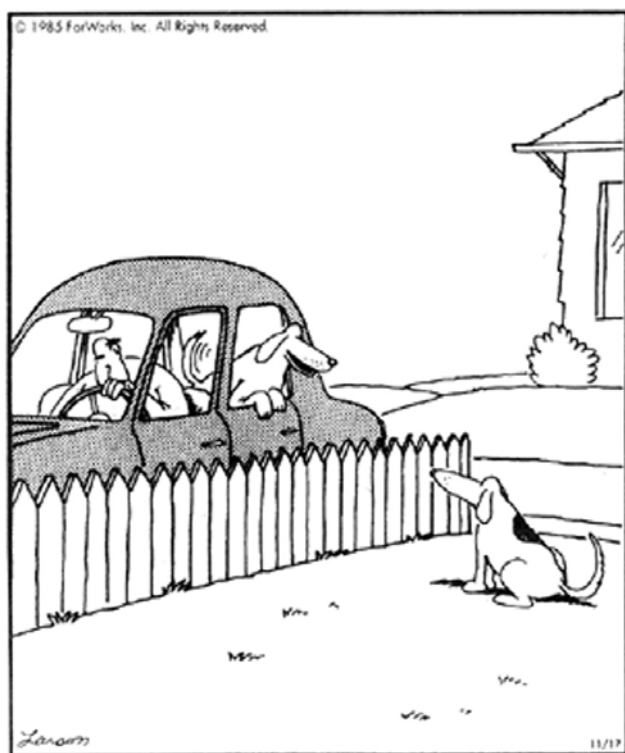


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The Far Side

by Gary Larson



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."