

Contact

May 2016

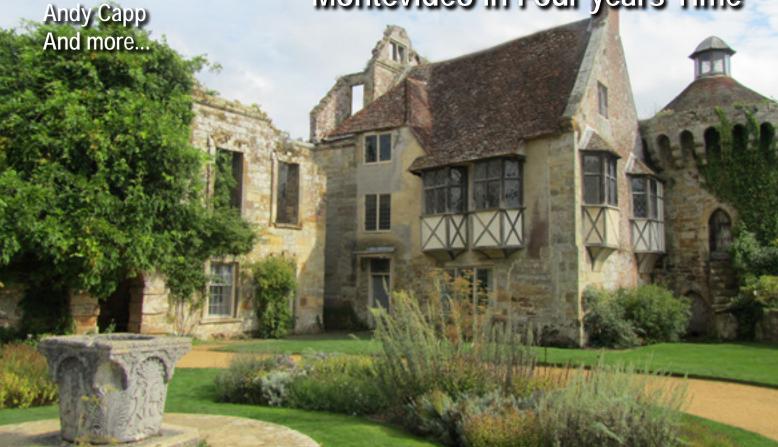
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THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

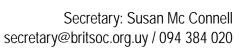


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PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear members

At the Annual General Meeting on April 29th the Community saw fit to elect me to the Presidency of The British Society once again. I was honoured to accept, and will strive over the next two years to be worthy of your trust.

Much has been done over the last decade to improve and modernize the Society, but much remains yet to be done. With your help, this Executive Committee will work hard to continue in this vein. Uniting the Community and interesting the younger generations in our Society remain our top priorities on which we will centre our efforts.

I plan to preserve and improve events which have proven popular – the lecture-suppers, the Big Lunch, the croquet tournament, the annual trip – and will endeavour to create new ones that serve the above-stated purpose of drawing in the young.

The coming weeks will see the first British Society Council meeting of the year. I am counting on hearing what our many sister associations have been up to, since I will be seeking their active involvement in our Society's events, and ours in theirs. It is clear that all sides benefit from reciprocal promotion of activities, and since Contact – our newsletter – is the Community's main communication tool, we are well-positioned to help in this respect.

I am hoping for more active participation by you, our member, too; not just in Society events and activities, but in letting us know how you think we can improve: the newsletter, our activities, etc. After all the Executive Committee is here to represent you and our work should always be towards making our Society what you want it to be.

I look forward to staying in contact with you throughout my time in office and to seeing you as often as possible at our events.

Richard A. Empson

Remember!

All society members are very welcome to contribute to our monthly newsletter, "Contact".

Please, send us your stories, articles, news, memories, anecdotes, etc. to editor@britsoc.org.uy in text format before the 25th of each month.

Images may be attached in JPG or PNG format.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 4th May at 12:15 pm

Montevideo in the next four years CLUB Lunch Uruguayo Británico Hotel NS Columbia

Friday, 6th May at 7:30 pm

Mothers and Daughters Supper Christ Church Lieja 6437

Monday, 9th May at 8:30 pm

European Folk Festival European Union Delegation Anglo Theatre 12th - 18th May

European Film Festival
European Union Delegation
Life Cinemas Alfabeta, Pocitos

Wednesday, 25th May at 3:00 pm

First Meeting of the Year
British Hospital Guild
3rd floor of British Hospital Policlinic

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS



The annual **Mothers and Daughters**

Supper

will be on

Friday, 6th May, at 7:30 pm at

Christ Church, Lieja 6437.

Please reserve places with Betty Gordon – 2600 4513

or

Margaret McConnell – 2695 8331.



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SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME NEWS

LETTER AND ENVELOPE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

I can hear this story over and over again and never get tired of it. This time it coincided with the Queen's 90th birthday; I asked Joan if she could tell me the story again. "Joan, can you tell me the story of the time you threw cornflowers to the Queen?"

Joan: "I went to Windsor to visit Gem, my mother's teacher. I was with my friend Dobby and we went for a walk. We knew that the Queen was coming to Windsor so at ten o'clock in the morning Dobby and I were standing at the entrance of Windsor Castle where there was a stand where the Queen was going to meet the Borough. In front of us were the men of the British Legion with the chord. There were three rows of guards to prevent people from going onto the road. The Queen was due at twelve o'clock so Dobby decided to walk around and then when she returned, it was my turn to go for a walk. I thought that it was very dangerous to throw flowers to the Queen but I was determined to do so. A few metres away I saw a wheelbarrow full of flowers I asked for red, blue and white cornflowers and asked him to keep them until I came back. I went to Walmart or Marks & Spencer to buy a metre of red, blue and white ribbon. I went back, got the flowers and went with Dobby. We managed to make a nice bunch. I wrote on the label: Loyal Greetings to your Majesty from Uruguay. I put my name and address on it. I got a little girl to step out from the crowd to give the flowers to the Queen. The little girl threw the flowers and Prince Philip caught them and waved at me.

Afterwards we went to Gem's house and told her the story.

Next morning the story was on the newspaper. A few weeks later I went to Liverpool to visit Elthea Robinson when my mother phoned to tell me I had received an envelope. The Royal Crest was on it. She took it to La Platense to have it framed. The girl at La Platense said that she knew very little but it was enough for her to understand that it was from the Queen."

Bertha Jackson heard the story too and she took a picture of the letter and envelope that is hanging in Joan's bedroom.

Andrea



CLUB LUNCH URUGUAYO BRITANICO NEWS



Lunch Invitation

Wednesday 4th of May 12:15 pm

Montevideo in the next four years

Mayor of Montevideo Daniel Martínez

Hotel NH Columbia Rambla Gran Bretaña, 473 Dress code: Business

SOCIAL NEWS

New Members

James Potts

Birthdays

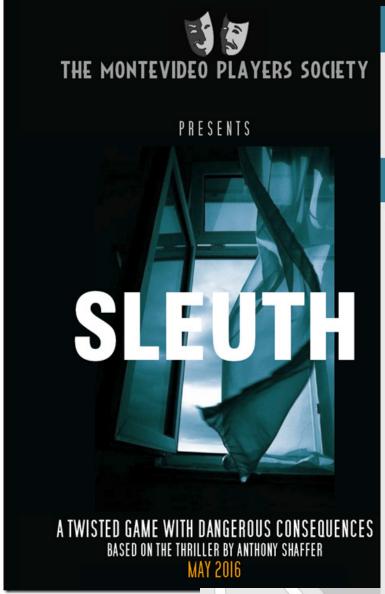
Prncess Charlotte 2 May Sir David Attenborough...... 8 May When is your birthday?

Do you know any member's birthday that we can publish here and celebrate together?





MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS



SHOWS IN MAY:

THU 5TH THU 12TH THU 19th FRI 6TH FRI 13TH FRI 20TH SAT 14_{TH} SAT 21st SAT 7th

ALL SHOWS 21:00 HS

Bookings exclusively through: montevideoplayers@gmail.com

TICKETS:

Adults - \$ 250.-Students & OAP's - \$ 150.-Members - FREE!

Our bookings/payment system works as follows:

- 1) Book with us by mail indicating which show you want.
- 2) We confirm the seats and hold them for 48 Hrs.
- 3) You go to any RED PAGOS branch within the 48 Hrs. and pay the ticket/s under a name into

RED PAGOS COLECTIVO Nº 44275

- 4) We confirm your booking.
- 5) Pick up tickets at the Box Office before the show.

BOOK NOW!

The Pub will be open as of 8:30 PM, during the interval and after the show serving real English draught beers.

Yours

The Committee



BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90™ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We are delighted to have welcomed over 500 people to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's II 90 years at the Ambassador's Residence on 28 April. Authorities, the Diplomatic Corps, members of the British Community, press, friends and contacts

Guests enjoyed British food and music and actors in Shakespearean costumes and a magician contributed to create an enjoyable event for all.







BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

SUCCESS STORIES: DOING BUSINESS WITH THE UK

Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns was a guest speaker at the Uruguay Energy & Infrastructure Summit held 5-6 April.

He talked about the British expertise and opportunities for collaboration on energy and infrastructure to authorities from the public sector and top players from the private sector who attended the event.



REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE EU REFERENDUM

You can vote in the EU referendum on 23 June if you register by 16 May. Find all the info below.

UK citizens living

overseas should

register to vote by

May 2016

things you need to knowabout registering as an overseas voter

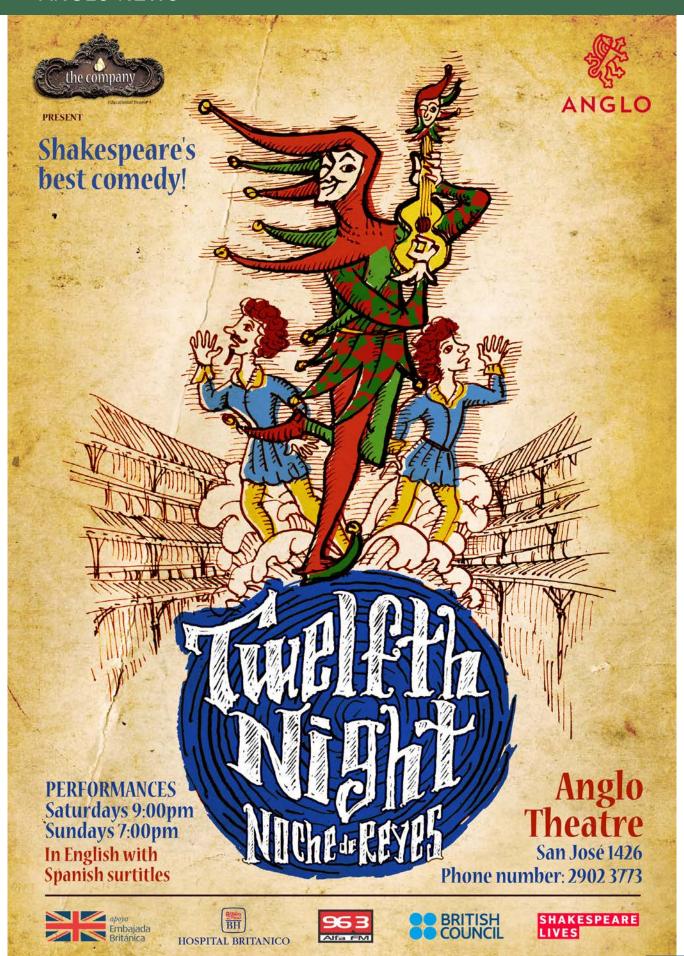
- 1. UK nationals who have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years can register as an overseas elector, to be able to vote in UK Parliamentary General Elections, UK-wide referendums, and European Parliamentary elections.
- 2. To participate in the EU Referendum taking place on 23 June 2016, UK citizens living overseas will have to register to vote in good time.
- 3. UK citizens living overseas should apply to register to vote by 16 May 2016, and once registered must apply to vote by post or proxy in order to be able to vote from outside the UK.
- 4. You can apply to register to vote in five minutes at gov.uk/registerto-vote.
- 5. You will need to know your National Insurance number and date of birth, and have your passport to hand if you have one. If you don't have a National Insurance number you can still register, but you may have to supply more information to show who you are.
- 6. If you can't or don't want to register online, you can still download and post back paper forms. But remember to return your completed form as far in advance of the deadline as possible.

- 7. You have to sign an annual declaration once you are registered, to renew your registration every year. So if you were registered to vote for the 2015 General Election you will have to renew your registration with your local Electoral Registration Officer in the UK or register again.
- 8. You can choose how you wish to vote. You can vote by post, by proxy (voting by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf), or even in person at your polling station. Go to aboutmyvote.co.uk
- The Electoral Commission, British embassies, consulates, and expat community hubs are working together to encourage voter registration among British nationals living overseas. Take five minutes to visit gov.uk/register-to-vote and let others know too.

Lots of UK citizens overseas might not know they are still eligible to vote. Pass the message on that your vote matters! #yourvotematters #UKexpat #passthemessageon



ANGLO NEWS





SILVER RIVER LODGE NEWS

All our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month, from March through November, at the William G. Best Masonic Temple, located at calle Canelones 1429, Montevideo.

For further information please contact us at secretarysrl876@gmail.com or call Mr. Martin Macadam at 096 001 995.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ABOUT FREEMASONRY IS:

Q How much does it cost to be a Freemason?

A It varies from lodge to lodge but anyone wishing to join can find a lodge to suit his pocket. On entry, there is an initiation fee and an apron to buy. A member pays an annual subscription to his lodge which covers his membership and the administrative cost of running the lodge. It is usual to have a meal after the meeting; the cost of this can be included either in the annual subscription or paid for at the time.

It is entirely up to the individual member what he gives to Charity, but it should always be without detriment to his other responsibilities. Similarly, he may join as many lodges as his time and pocket can allow as long as it does not adversely affect his family life and responsibilities.

THE OTHER NEWS

STANTON WINS CROQUET TITLE TO QUALIFY FOR MELBOURNE

Ian Stanton beat Jonathan Lamb 7-6 in the final of the Uruguayan Golf Croquet Championships on 9 April to become the national singles champion. Earlier Charles O'Neill had dashed the hopes of former titleholder Peter Hoyer, and the tournament had lost Fernando Bonilla, Leo Boeing, Leonor Stanton, Nicholas Hanna and Camilla O'Neill.

Stanton is now entitled to represent the country at the 2017 World Championships in Melbourne, Australia.



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MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE jorgestanham@yahoo.com

THE DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMA

In medical school, we were taught about the functioning of the human body in a stepwise fashion. We started with anatomy and it's breakdown into systems, organs, cells, intracellular bodies, DNA, RNA, molecules and atoms. We then learned how these parts worked together, putting together physics, chemistry, biology and electricity. In the end, we had an idea of what an out-of-productionline, well-functioning, human product was lurking out there, working as intended by the manufacturer or simply by the laws of nature. No guarantee was included in the package on delivery; there was no return policy (the product was provided 'as-is') and in the event of any malfunction, authorised servicepersons called 'doctors' would try to find out the nature of the problem and fix it. As happens with a new TV set or a kitchen, where self-check and self-repair checklists would appear at the end of the manual (ie: self-diagnosis and self-treatment) most major tinkering 'under the bonnet' had to be done by authorised and qualified persons: doctors.

When persons feel unwell, they become patients. A rapid guess at what being a patient means usually leads to think about 'patience': waiting for a booking, in the waiting area, for getting tests and the turnaround time for the results to get back to the doctor, plus waiting for the effect of the treatment prescribed, and so on. In reality, the term 'patient' comes from the latin 'padecere', which means 'to suffer' or 'to bear' and patience as we usually understand it in this case means that

the time to recovery usually takes some time and that the patient must alter his or her usual activities for a while, maybe longer... or a lifetime. Because of this, unless something absolutely evident as a broken bone or a bruise is the problem, most of the time patients have to provide their own story to the doctor, as the initial clue to what's happening. It's important to note that I used the word 'story': patients try to make sense of what's happening to them by telling a plot with a timecourse to a qualified listener. Unfortunately, poor training by doctors in narrative techniques and inevitable time pressures, frequently change the 'story' into a 'history', a doctor-edited version of the plot, to make it fit into the categories of organ systems, so as to pinpoint a list of potential diagnoses that may be clarified by physical examination, further testing or follow-up.

The present status of diagnostic technology, its ready availability and the widespread knowledge of it by patients, make reliance on 'batteries' of tests as an initial step in workup. Besides, although the chances of a serious diagnosis may be slim, negligible or zero, many doctors shift into 'CYA mode' (please guess the meaning!) and order unnecessary computed tomographic scans, magnetic resonance imaging and endoscopies, which have their own risks of complications, plus the chance of non-significant false-positive findings unrelated to the patient's symptoms, which lead to further cascade-effect testing.



MEDICAL COLUMN

...Continued

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE

Experienced teachers of medicine throughout the past century have always taught to listen to the patient: "The patient is telling you the diagnosis." Sir William Osler, probably one of the greatest clinicians of all times, would personally do the history (or story) taking and only then would ask his residents to do the physical examination. In the early 20th century, laboratory, imaging and functional testing was very limited by our present standards. In spite of this, his insistence on careful story-listening and history-taking still is and will be the cornerstone of medical diagnosis. Although testing has tremendously enhanced our diagnostic capabilities, it needs to be guided by the patient's story and the doctor's history. 'Buckshot' and 'blanket-bombing' testing rarely leads to accuracy; more so, it can be misleading... and sometimes dangerous.

Patience also means that patient and doctor must learn at times to deal with uncertainty. Symptoms more than often are not accompanied by abnormal physical findings or tests. Fortunately, most of these situations are self-resolving with 'tincture of time', but repeat close listening to the patient's story as it unfolds over days, weeks or months, is the safest way to go. We surely wouldn't tolerate uncertainty from our TV repairman: we want to see that film or sports event... now!



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SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

This site provides enough and detailed information about all embassies around the world, as well as all embassies' location maps.

It would be a great resource to include in that section of your Website

Cheers,

Francine Carris



Editor's Note:

Thank you Francine for your contribution. It will be published soon in our Website.

MUTT GORDON MEMORIAL

Mutt Gordon-Firing passed away March 16 at the age of 97. Born in 1918, she grew up in England, studied art and volunteered as a librarian for the convalescing soldiers during World War II. She met Freddy during the war who brought her to Montevideo to get away from war-torn Europe, not knowing a word of Spanish. That didn't stop her from learning a new language (she spoke perfect Spanglish), bringing up 5 children, teaching art at the Sacred Heart and later the British Schools. while pursuing her passion for watercolour painting. As a teacher, she taught many children and teenagers how to appreciate art, including her own children. She had a lovely sense of humour, taught us good values, was extremely generous, and was always fair and never pushy. The word "bored" did not exist in her vocabulary; up until 6 months ago, she was still creating art in some form or another.

Unfortunately, she lost her husband Freddy and two sons, Paul and Sasha.

She soldiered on, never complaining and always smiling or worrying about everyone else except herself. Her son Robert and daughters Yvonne and Sandra, 8 grand-children and 7 great-grandchildren will always remember her as a generous and beautiful person. Her children are thankful for opening their eyes to the world and letting them follow their own chosen paths so far away from her.

May she rest in peace.





BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith tony@tonybeckwith.com

SPANGLISH

English was my first language, my mother tongue. It's what my family spoke at home and in our social circle while I was growing up. But outside that circle we spoke Spanish because we lived in Montevideo, Uruguay. We were *ingleses*, members of a multicultural community made up of people like my parents, whose own parents came out from England just before the First World War. There was also an assortment of expats from many different countries, and English was the lingua franca at our social gatherings, sports events, clubs of various kinds, and the local British Schools.

At school—affectionately known as *El Breeteesh*—we were forbidden to speak Spanish. Most of the teachers were imported from England, and valiantly struggled to instil in us the basics of a classical Cambridge syllabus. In the playground, however, we spoke a language of our own, a hybrid concoction called Spanglish.

Spanglish—the name just rolls off the tongue!—was a brilliant blend, a splendid synthesis of our two languages. It wasn't until much later in life that I came to understand that the linguistic gymnastics involved in speaking Spanglish transported me to a level somewhere beyond the venerable Arthur J. Hobson's grammar class. He taught us the rules, but Spanglish taught us how to bend them. You might say he gave us an instrument, and Spanglish taught us how to play it. In retrospect I realize that, by deconstructing two languages and assembling a hybrid version out of the parts, I learned something about how language functions. While my brother was taking motorcycles apart to see how they worked, I was dismembering languages, syllable by syllable.

As in border regions all over the world, our linguistic frontier inevitably led to an overlapping that not only produced the usual code-switching and word substitution; it also created half-breed words and unwritten rules that governed their use. This whole exercise provided an outlet for those subversive forms of expression that are so essential to adolescence, and gave us the delicious sense that "they" could not understand what "we" were saying. This was, of course, nonsense since most of the adults had learned how to fracture the languages in pretty much the same way when they were kids. A decent command of both English and Spanish is really essential to a thorough appreciation of the scope and beauty of Spanglish. I won't go into much technical detail here, since anyone who speaks more than one language is perfectly familiar with the idea.

I should mention that the Spanish we spoke at that time and place was the Uruguayan version, which is similar to the Argentine; both were strongly influenced by Italian migration during the growth of these neighbouring countries in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Some words are actually spelled differently in this kind of Spanish. But the main difference is in the inflection, which falls closer to the end of words like "decime" ("tell me") and "escuchame" ("listen to me"), compared to the emphasis favoured in Spain and other parts of Latin America where one says "dime" and "escúchame" instead.

Spanish verbs end in "ar," "er," and "ir". "Caminar" means "to walk," "comer"





BACK IN TIME ...Continued

means "to eat," and "escribir" means "to write". English has many verbs that end in "ate," such as translate, emulate, pontificate, and concentrate. When this ending is cobbled onto a Spanish verb, "caminar" morphs into the Spanglish "caminate," keeping the same meaning. It is conjugated thus: I caminate, you caminate, she caminates, etc. We can also say "caminat-

ing" and "caminated" and so on. By a happy twist of serendipity, English words like contemplate and accommodate are also fullfledged Spanglish words, though there is little serious doubt about which came first. In certain forms of the American English spoken in southern states, one occasionally hears the noun "conversation" transformed

into the verb "to conversate" (as in "I enjoyed conversating with you"), but that's a different story altogether.

Verbs are the most fertile ground for outbreaks of Spanglish. For example, the Spanish verbs "dejar" and "jorobar" have various shades of meaning, but for our purposes here we will use "to quit" and "to pester," respectively. The Spanglish for "quit pestering me, will you!" borrows the reflexive and the syntax from Spanish and becomes: "Dejate yourself from jorobating, do you want!"

Spanglish offers endless opportunities for entertainment in other areas as well. It permits the speaker to stubbornly translate words in an intentionally literal way, to ignore conventional syntax, and to manipulate the spelling of words in one language to create new ones that masquerade as real ones in the other. This produces sentences of haunting beauty such as: "the tranquil doesn't come well to me;" "they want to independizate themselves;" "a splinter off the old wood;" and "there would arm itself a scandal of the first." These are the immortal words of

> Basil Thomson, to whom Spanglish is deeply and permanently indebted. Thomson, under his initials de plume "B.T." wrote a humorous column—"Ramon Writes"—in the Buenos Aires Herald for almost 30 years during the mid-twentieth century. He was born in the Argentine province of Tucumán and, like many of his generation, volunteered

to fight in the Second World War and was commissionated by the British Army. What that experience did to his command of language, and to his sense of humour, has been the subject of much speculation ever since.

When I left school I stopped speaking Spanglish regularly, and these days I only speak it once in a while. But I still think about it. I was recently in touch with an old companion of class, one of that bar beloved of those times, and after saludating ourselves and putting ourselves to the day, we put ourselves of accord in that if we festejated our birthdays this year we would invitate ourselves, without fault. I wish I could tell B.T. that Spanglish lives on.





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EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

British Council Uruguay are happy to be supporting the 4th EU Film Festival taking place at Life Cinemas Alfabeta in Pocitos from 12th to 18th May 2016.

Don't miss the opportunity to see the British film High Rise on Friday 13th May (22:00) or Wednesday 18th May (19:45), a new and critically acclaimed adaptation of a novel by J. G. Ballard.

This is the first time this film is being shown in Uruguay.



BRITISH HOSPITAL GUILD



British Hospital Guild invites you to their first meeting of the year, to be held, on Wednesday, 25th May, at 3pm, 3rd floor of British Hospital Policlinic. We will be showing a lovely compiled film of the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the meeting, a delicious tea will be served to our members.

We will also be collecting the annual fee which still stands at \$100.

Feel free to bring visitors for which the cost of the tea will be \$100.



PRINCESS CHARLOTTE

New photographs of Princess Charlotte, taken by her mother the Duchess of Cambridge, have been released to mark her first birthday.

The four photographs were taken in April at their family home in Norfolk.

The princess, who turns one on the 2nd of May, is seen walking for the first time.

Kensington Palace said the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were "delighted" to share the new pictures of Charlotte.

The princess was last seen in public at her christening last July - the first time the Cambridges had been seen as a family of four.



CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde carolinaconde@teachers.org



Gold Cake

This classic and simple cake is perfect for an afternoon tea or coffee break, served warm from the oven with cream or ice-cream.

Ingredients

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup butter, at room temperature
1 cup sugar
1/4 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup milk
1 egg yolks, beaten
1 icing sugar, for dusting
1 cream or ice-cream, for serving

Instructions

Preheat oven to 180°C. In a bowl, sift together flour and baking powder. In another bowl, cream together butter and sugar. Add salt and vanilla. Stir in sugar, milk and sifted flour mixture. In a separate small bowl, beat egg yolks until light. Add eggs to creamed mixture and stir to combine.

Pour batter into a greased 20-cm cake tin and bake for about 40 minutes. Check doneness with a wooden skewer in the centre; it should come out clean. Allow cake to cool in the baking tin for 5 minutes before turning onto a wire baking rack.

While the cake is still warm, dust with icing sugar and serve with cream or vanilla ice-cream, or sprinkle with fresh berries and a drizzle of sweet creamy sauce.

Enjoy!





LINK O' THE MONTH

London's Big Ben to fall silent for repairs

Click on the image below for more information.



ANDY CAPP

by Reg Smythe





Newsletter Design by www.boskejo.com

