



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

-Contact

June 2016

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Big
Lunch
time!



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THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



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PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear members,

At the new Executive Council's first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the following distribution of posts was decided upon:

Jeanine Beare – Vice-President
 Geoffrey Deakin – Newsletter Editor
 Ivan Zimler – Treasurer
 Susan McConnell – Secretary
 Joanna Hambrook – Webmaster

These posts were subsequently confirmed by the British Society Council on 25 May. The Council meeting itself was very satisfying, most attending British institutions having given positive reports and having a healthy outlook for the year ahead.

The only slight exceptions seem to be the pipe bands. With Riverside PB having presented the Council a slightly downcast report and City of Montevideo PB not even in attendance, the Executive Committee is growing concerned about the future of piping in this country. On the one hand, a very positive and well-attended Shamrock Cup (South America's top solo piping competition, which took place at The Shannon Irish pub in mid-May) reveals that interest in the Scottish bagpipes in Uruguay is still present. On the other, dwindling numbers of active pipers and drummers, with precious few new recruits appearing to replace them, paint a cloudy scenario for the country's two pipe bands. It is my personal opinion that the English-speaking schools could provide a way out, if they decided to include Scottish piping & drumming as an optional subject in their curricula. School pipe bands are popular in most of the English-speaking world, so why not in Uruguay?

On a sadder note, it would seem that the British Hospital Guild and the Women's Diocesan Association are slowly winding down. Both these erstwhile-vibrant institutions, who served the British Community well in their heyday, will be sorely missed. Our most sincere gratitude goes to all those selfless people who gave of their time and effort to make the BHG and the WDA such noble endeavours over many years.

The British institutions of the Council have committed to a more active participation in Contact (i.e. this newsletter), the Community's main source of information on Community activities, to help keep you all well-briefed of what each institution is up to. We look forward to this in coming months.

As you will have noticed in the Coming Events section, June brings us the Big Lunch and the second lecture-supper of the year. We hope this year's Big Lunch will bring more of you together than any previous edition of this family event. Remember that all you need bring is food to share (an equivalent amount to what you and your attending family are likely to consume), your own cutlery and plates, and plenty of good cheer.

The second lecture-supper will be by economist Laura Raffo – well-known for her insightful appearances on Channel 12's news programme Telemundo – whose recently-published book "La Economía al alcance de Todos" has been selling like hot cakes; hopefully she will be able to give us some insights to help counter recent announcements by the government.

I look forward to seeing you at one or both of these events.

Richard A. Empson





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 1 June at 12:15 pm

Lunch Invitation

Club Uruguayo Británico
Hotel NH Columbia

Sunday, 12 June at 12:00 pm

Big Lunch

British Society in Uruguay
British Schools Pavilion

Tuesday, 7 June at 7:30 pm

Cancer: Fighting to Win!

Christ Church
Lieja 6437

Thursdays, 9 and 23 June

Informal Scottish Dancing

St Andrew's Society in Uruguay
The Alpen Club

Saturday, 18 June at 13:30 pm

Junior Caledonian Competition

St Andrew's Society in Uruguay
Gymnasium of The British Schools

Thursday, 23 June at 7:30 pm

Lecture Supper

British Society in Uruguay
British Schools Pavilion

Friday, 24 and Saturday, 25 June

Cultural Project 2016

British Cemetery

ADVERTS & SOCIAL NEWS

Maria Pia Ciasullo Campomar

Psychotherapist - Jungian Analyst

Member of SUPA, GAP and IGAP

International Association for Analytical Psychology

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New Members

Maria Pia Ciasullo Campomar

Birthdays

Arturo González Alambarri ...17 June

Prince William21 June



When is your birthday?

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



BRITISH SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING 2016



On the evening of 25 May at The British Schools' Conference Room, the British Society Council had its regular annual meeting. The meeting was chaired by Society President Richard Empson, assisted by the other members of the Society's Executive Committee.

Representatives from 13 of the 20 institution which currently make up The British Society Council, representing all walks of community life, gathered to report on the outcome of the past year, share relevant news and discuss their plans for the remainder of 2016.

At the close of the meeting, British Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns, The British Society's Honorary President, congratulated the Council on the healthy state of British institutions in Uruguay. This was the Ambassador's last Council meeting, since he will be departing the country and returning to the UK later this year, so he took the opportunity to wish all Council institutions all the best for the coming years.

The British Society Council institutions are currently the following:

- Anglican Church
- Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute
- British Cemetery Society
- British Hospital Society
- British Schools Old Boys & Old Girls Club
- British-Uruguayan Chamber of Commerce
- British-Uruguayan Lunch Club
- Christ Church
- City of Montevideo Pipe Band
- English Club
- Graduates of British Universities Association
- Montevideo Cricket Club
- Montevideo Players
- Riverside Pipe Band
- Silver River Lodge
- Sir Winston Churchill Home
- St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay
- The Allies
- The British Schools Society
- Women's Diocesan Association





BIG LUNCH 2016



When? Sunday 12 of June

What time? From 12 noon to 5 pm

Where? The British Schools Pavillion

What to bring? Food to share, plates and cutlery

Who? You, family and friends!

Our Society will be hosting this year's Big Lunch next Sunday, 12 June 2016 at The British Schools Pavilion starting at 12 noon until 5pm.

Come along with your family or a friend and bring some food to share!

Drinks, tea and coffee will be on sale so there is no need to bring your own.

As for entertainment we will have music and a great array of games for all ages and a special raffle with many prizes!!!

Entrance tickets will be \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.

Children under 10 do not pay.





JUNE LECTURE SUPPER

June Lecture Supper



Her new book addresses economic issues we need to master to make decisions, to participate in a conversation or simply to interpret newspaper headlines, in a clear and enlightening way.

The Economy within everyone's reach

Economist Laura Raffo

Board Member of Endeavor Uruguay

**Thursday
23 June
19:30 hs**

British Schools Pavilion

\$400 for Members

\$550 for Non-Members

**Seating is very limited, so
please, book your place now
at secretary@britsoc.org.uy
or call Susan McConnell at
094 384 020**

The British Society in Uruguay warmly invites you to our June Lecture Supper.

Everyone is welcome; especially those who are interested in a cordial talk about the economy of Uruguay, those that want to share with our British Society members and even English students who wish to spend some time in a British atmosphere, practicing their language skills.

Our very special guest, Laura Raffo, will enlighten us with a splendid lecture on various economic issues we want to comprehend.

Afterwards, we will all sit down to a wonderful supper personally prepared by our Volunteer Cooks who always delight and surprise us with their delicious recipes.

Are you going to miss it? Your loss!
Thursday 23rd June at 19:30 hrs.
Book your place now!





SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME

The residents take every opportunity to sit out on the balcony on the bench donated by the Day Family in memory of Richard and Phyllis Day, devoted members of our Community.

We would also like to express our warmest gratitude to Mr. José Brignoni who came on Saturday to show films to the Residents and will continue to do so every fortnight.

His proposal was a success; he carefully selected some films, took into account the volume and the captions and he asked them what they would like to see next time. Thank you for the generous gift of your time.

The SWCH Committee





BRITISH EMBASSY

BRITISH PAVILION IN EXPO PRADO FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

At a breakfast at the residence of Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns on May 25th, the Embassy and the Rural Association of Uruguay (ARU) presented the proposal for the British Pavilion at Expo Prado 2016. Representatives of several companies that have ties with the UK, many of which already formed part of the pavilion in 2014 and 2015, attended the event. The aim is to promote British exports and provide British companies operating in Uruguay a platform to sell and promote their products or services.



HARRY POTTER IN READING MARATHON

The Ambassador read an extract of the first book of the renowned and much loved Harry Potter series to children from Elbio Fernández School. He was invited to take part in the Reading Marathon to celebrate Book Day in Uruguay on May 26th. Students also interviewed the Ambassador about his favourite authors and he spoke about the relevance of reading.





BRITISH EMBASSY

TECH MISSION TO UK



UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and the Uruguayan Chamber of Information Technology are jointly organising a mission for Uruguayan companies and entrepreneurs to attend London Technology Week 18-26 June.

The aim is for them to learn about British expertise in the field and explore business opportunities. The delegation will participate in networking events, visit technology hubs and attend various meetings and conferences.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo





CHRIST CHURCH



Cancer: Fighting to Win!

Claudia Dalebout will share personal insights and experience from her family's long battle against cancer.

Most people are unprepared emotionally and uneducated in terms of the various treatment paths and their implications.

Claudia wants you to know that some options are clearly better than others, but they are not always the ones you learn about first.

This evening seminar will give you energy and information to defend your family and friends better.

Tuesday, 7 June at Christ Church, corner of Lieja and Arocena in Carrasco. 7:30pm. (English)



Interdenominational Service in English weekly at 11am. Join a Bible Study or discussion group in English or Spanish at different times during the week.

Contact
Pastor John Hamilton
094 368 761

We have a fun, young, dynamic community of people with varying levels of interest and commitment gathering to develop friendships and pursue personal spiritual growth. People from every continent, multiple languages groups, and all walks of life. You are welcome to visit any time and are invited to volunteer to make a difference in the community through encouraging and serving others.

THANKS!!!





THE BRITISH SCHOOLS



THE BRITISH SCHOOLS
Founded 1908

Proudly Present



August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



SILVER RIVER LODGE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEMASONRY IN URUGUAY

AN ADDRESS GIVEN IN "ACACIA" LODGE, No. 876
19th JULY 1937 by Bro. H. DANIEL, O. R. WOR. MASTER

Brethren,

About 130 years ago there were four military Lodges warranted by the Grand lodge of Ireland attached to four Regiments of the British Army. Lodge N° 227 was in the 46th Regiment of Foot, Lodge N° 192 in the 47th, Lodge N° 218 in the 48th Regiment of Foot, and Lodge N° 895 in the 71st Highlanders.

Irish military Lodges were permitted to initiate civilians, a privilege denied to military Lodges warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, and these four Irish Lodges were responsible for the earliest Masonic activities of which we have any record in the countries of Uruguay, Argentina, and Australia.

Lodges N° 227 and 218 were stationed in Australia in the early part of last century, and initiated a number of civilians during their stay at Sydney, NSW. In 1819 twelve of these civilians sent home a petition to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, recommended by Lodge N° 218, for a warrant to form a Lodge at Sydney. This petition was granted, and on 12 August 1820 Lodge "Australia Social", N° 260 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was consecrated at Sydney. This Lodge is still in existence as "Australian Social Mother" Lodge No 0 on the register of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

Lodge N° 895, attached to the 71st Highlanders, came out to Buenos Aires in 1806 with the ill advised and unfortunate British Expeditionary Force sent to capture the Spanish Colonists in the River Plate. This Lodge initiated a number of colonists at Buenos Aires.

It is also reputed to have been instrumental in forming two Lodges in that city, the "Estrella del Sud" and the "Sons of Hiram". These two Lodges do not appear to have had any lengthy existence. The regalia and several papers and certificates of Lodge No 895 were found in the Reconquista fort after the British troops had evacuated the place, and were later found as ornaments on the altar of a local church, and were purchased and returned to the regiment by a Brother who discovered them. This Lodge ceased to work about 1835.

The Irish Lodge N° 192 in the 47th Regiment of Foot was also with that expedition, and landed at Montevideo in 1806. The Spanish garrisons of Montevideo were not too popular with the colonists, and while the regiment was encamped without the city walls, some of the Spanish colonists were initiated in the Craft by this Lodge. We have on the West wall (Today the South wall) of our Lodge room a record of such initiation in the form of a certificate issued by Lodge N° 192 to Bro. Miguel Furriol, initiated in the Lodge in 1807, which certificate was presented to "Acacia" Lodge N° 876 by his grandson.

This Lodge, N° 192, later went to Canada with the 47th Regiment, and eventually joined with other Lodges in forming the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, with which it was absorbed.

The initiation of the colonists by this Lodge in 1807 is the earliest record we have of Masonic activities in Uruguay.

This address will continue in our next issue...





CLUB URUGUAYO BRITANICO



LUNCH INVITATION

WEDNESDAY

1ST JUNE

12:15 HOURS

ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES OF URUGUAY

ECONOMIST

IGNACIO MUNYO

HOTEL NH COLUMBIA

RAMBLA GRAN BRETAÑA, 473

DRESS CODE: BUSINESS

MORE INFORMATION





THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF URUGUAY

COMING EVENTS:

Informal Scottish Dancing

For those who want to have a bit of fun come and do a bit of Scottish Country Dancing on every 2nd and 4th Thursday of June and July at The Alpen Club, Mateo Vidal 3228 from 8pm to 10pm. The cost is \$100 for Adults and \$50 for under 21's. The cost includes a glass of refreshment and a snack.

So remember 9th and 23rd of June and 14th and 28th of July.

Junior Caledonian Competition

This year the Junior Caledonian Competition will take place on the 18th June as from 13:30 hrs. at the Gymnasium of The British Schools.

During the last few years we have had an average of 480 children participating, this year, as two more schools are going to participate we expect well over 500.

Junior Caledonian in Paysandú

This year The St. Andrew's Society is holding the first Junior Caledonian Competition in the Provinces. After a couple of hints from teachers of bilingual schools in the provinces, whose students normally participate in the Junior Caledonian in Montevideo and with them doing the local organization, we said, "Why not?" This Year Liberty School of Paysandú took up the gauntlet.

Next year Northlands of Tacuarembó seem to be interested.

So on the 20th August at Paysandú, in the afternoon Junior Caledonian Competition and in the evening a Ceilidh for those a wee bit older.

Caledonian Ball

This year the Caledonian Ball will take place on 1st October at the Golf Club. Further details as well as place and time of practices will be given nearer the date.





BRITISH CEMETERY



**New lighting at the
British Cemetery
gardens!**

PROGRAMME

Friday, 24th June – 19:00 hrs.

“Albion, 1891 -2016, 125 years of the first Uruguayan football club” - A live and glorious story, will take place at the Chapel.

How much of our history has to do with football?
Speech to be delivered by researcher and writer
Mag. Juan -Carlos Luzuriaga

Saturday, 25th June – 15:00 hrs.

Circuit: “Cortita y al Pie” - It is called like this because he was the first football player to implement this tactic instead of the long and aerial passes.

Tour following the footsteps of the
founders and players.

Memorial - A plaque in memory of Enrique Lichtenberger who at the age of 16 founded a football club 125 years ago.





MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

A VENTURE INTO THE PATIENT'S SIDE OF THE HEALTHCARE STORY

Two months ago during a weekend, I noted a painful swelling under the left side of my jawbone, that increased and decreased in size as I was having my breakfast (rosca con chicharrones from a bakery on ruta 9 and queso artesanal from a dairy farm on ruta 15 - both very tasty). After an initial scare (we docs believe the worst when we're suddenly patients!) commonsense medical student knowledge made me aware of the most probable diagnosis: a stone partially obstructing the duct of my left submandibular salivary gland. It's analogous to a kidney stone: the flow of fluid pushes it towards the opening at the end of the duct, but it gets stuck and obstructs the flow as soon as the duct gets to a narrow part. I suddenly reverted into 21st-century patient mode, looking up the internet for information on my condition and what to expect and do about it. Even the fact of being a physician doesn't make this part easier or comfortable: you can easily soak up and get swamped by information from many sources. Some of the sites were scary: they emphasised the risk of infection and the probable need for emergency surgery to remove the gland, under cover of broad spectrum and powerful antibiotics. Some were number-crunching: statistics on the incidence of salivary stones (mine was by far the most frequent - a textbook case) and yet another site described the differential (alternative) diagnoses including malignant tumours, infection by mumps or other viruses and immunological disorders, none of which had a reassuring prognosis.

I did what most of my patients have learned to do: contact your doctor. Present-day communications technology via smartphones gives us the means to do so in 24/7 mode either by voicecall, voicemail, e-mail, SMS, WhatsApp or even Facebook and Twitter messaging. A call to one of my trusted ENT (ear-nose-throat) specialists resulted in reassurance, recommendations and a booking for early Monday to meet him. The tests ordered confirmed the diagnosis of a salivary gland stone, but its size certainly mandated that it be removed by surgery: it would never come out on its own through and along the duct to its orifice and the risk of infection in case it got badly stuck was going to be ever-present.

Already destined and deadlined for an operation under general anaesthesia, I decided to revert as much as I could into full patient mode and to get all the preoperative workup done and recorded into my history. There would be no on-the-go curbside consultations. I also wanted to look, feel and sense, as much as I could, what the patient experience was like. What I discovered was tremendously reassuring and comforting: all the colleagues involved in my care were kind, professional, and humane. All answered my questions and responded to my fears in full. I took the advantage of comparing my style to that of the doctors who saw me. One of them was very thorough in making sure all the data was entered into the electronic record; it was at the expense of eye contact, but I felt reassured that no relevant information was left to





MEDICAL COLUMN

...Continued

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

memory or guessing later on. Some felt more distant, but were very meticulous in their history-taking and physical examination. Others were very warm and understanding, as if they were to some extent trying to be in my shoes (or mouth!).

The day of the operation finally arrived. I was admitted early on a Thursday morning (the operation was scheduled to start at 08:30). The Admissions personnel were kind, smiling and helpful. The nursing staff were attentive, thorough and professional. I was aware that patient safety was one of their main concerns, as they inquired about any medications, allergies or other active problems that needed their attention. An hour later, as I was gurneyed to the operating theatre, I experienced the upside-down view of the hospital, with the inverted faces of those around me projected against the route of moving ceilings above.

Once in the pre-anaesthesia area, I was visited by the anaesthetist and the ENT's who would do the procedure and the complex airway intubation (not to be described here...) that was the part I most dreaded. A while later, an intravenous shot of propofol (the same drug which heavily overdosed killed Michael Jackson) sent me into Morpheus' dreamworld.

Once back in my hospital room, the nursing staff took care of me very professionally and kindly, always concerned about my level of pain and comfort. Before leaving the hospital, an unhurried visit by the ENT who had



done the operation was very informative and glad that the operation had gone well. As had been planned beforehand, I was discharged home that same evening and resumed my clinical work the next Monday.

Many major healthcare organisations in North America, the UK and continental Europe are not only emphasising being patient-centred, but are nowadays focussing on what is called the 'patient experience'. Although some jeer at the concept as 'keeping patients happy', the patient experience movement has to do with what is called the 360° view: everything matters. Patients who are not themselves healthcare professionals (as in my case) are, most of the time, unqualified to measure what's clinically and technically important to their care and will use proxies to best guess what's going on. Attentive and caring personnel, anywhere from the parking lot, admissions, receptionists, nurses, doctors, specialists and surgeons, plus clean and pleasant surroundings, are rated, compared and judged according to their expectations. The quality of the food, both for the patient and what the family eat at the cafeteria, have to do with the patient experience. But the basic rule is: what is not immediately transparent, which is patient safety and care quality, cannot be compromised at the expense of 'satisfaction'.

I had a full 360° excellent patient experience. The stone in the plastic bottle labelled with my ID wristband on the shelf in my home library attests to this.






INDÍGENA

Explore Uruguayan native flora and fauna
in their natural habitat
ECOTOURISM



INDÍGENA is offering special prices for members of the British Society for guided nature tours along White or Green trails and native plant nursery. Present your **MEMBERSHIP CARD** and request the discount: **6FR+(2x1)**
First 6 pay full rate, then 2 for the price of 1 – June to November 2016.



 **THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY**
John Henry Donovan
Sociedad Británica en Uruguay
www.britsoc.org.uy

All visits are guided and must be previously coordinated:

Phone 4438 1074 - informa@areaindigena.com - www.areaindigena.com

INDÍGENA, Balneario Bella Vista, Maldonado

COLABORAN:





SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

by Mark Teuten
mteuten@teutenabogados.com

FANCY GOING OUT FOR A (LONG) WALK?

Next time your spouse/partner/better half says they are going out for a walk you might like to check exactly how far they are planning on going.

We were visited recently by Lord Michael Bates, a peer from the UK, who has taken a 6-month break from his work in the House of Lords to walk from Buenos Aires to Rio, arriving just in time for the closing ceremony of the Rio Olympics. That is a total of just over 3000 km in case you wanted to know or want to follow in his footsteps.

Michael's walk is intended primarily to promote the Olympic Truce and secondly to raise money for Unicef's work with Children in Danger.

So what is the Olympic Truce you are probably asking? It arises from the tradition at the ancient Olympics that there would be a truce enabling all athletes to compete without fear of being killed or injured either before, during or after the Games. The idea of the Truce was resurrected at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and has been signed this year by more than 180 nations. It calls for the signatories to:

'take concrete actions at local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen the culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce' and 'to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic & Paralympic Games.'



Lord Michael Bates

Michael's aim is both a simple personal one – to do something concrete himself to promote these aims, which in his case is by the simple(!) act of walking – and a more ambitious long term one of getting each signatory country to actually do something in recognition of the document they have signed.

At the same time he is also raising money for charities and hopes to raise over U\$250,000 by the time he gets to Rio. Below is information about how to make a donation if interested.

At the time of writing Michael is making steady progress and has already got as far as Fray Bentos, averaging about 30Km per day. He has lost a couple of days due to the thunderstorms of the last few days, but still has time to make those days up over the next four and a half months.

He also reports only positive experiences with all the people he has met so far and absolutely no attempts of robbery or theft.

Some of you may wonder, as I did, how he managed to get 6 months off from his job as a Tory peer. Obviously being a peer is not an ordinary job and has its privileges, but having said that it still seems that his boss would rather he was back in London doing his day job, if I understand him right from this exchange in [last week's Prime Minister's Questions](#):

If you want to follow Michael on his walk and/or donate to one of the charities for which he is walking then you can visit [his website](#) or follow him [on twitter](#)





BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

UFOs

“You’ll be able to use your languages,” they said. “Every day you’ll be talking to people of many different cultures,” they promised. “It will be the experience of a lifetime!” And they were right.

It was summertime, and the marketing department of the Nivea Company had hired a team of three women and two men, all of us young, multilingual and enthusiastic, to tour the beaches of the Costa Brava. Our job was to promote Nivea tanning lotion to the sun worshippers of Europe who came south to Spain every summer in search of the perfect bronze. Our mission was to drive two station wagons—the Caravana Nivea—from the French border down to the town of Sitges, just south of Barcelona.

Under normal circumstances we could easily drive this distance in less than a day. But since we were to stop overnight at every village and town along the way, our journey would take a whole month.

We pulled into a different town every afternoon, nosing through sleepy, narrow streets and along the coastal road bordering the beach. Each vehicle had a large, menacing loudspeaker mounted on the roof. With broadcast equipment set to maximum volume, we bombarded residents and tourists with loud (some would say obnoxious) music interspersed with adlibbed

announcements in seven languages. Five sensitive linguists took turns shattering the peaceful siesta hours with amplified voices, feeling entirely justified by the credo: ‘You hear me, therefore I am.’ Our message was simple. “Bring some Nivea suntan lotion to the beach tomorrow and receive an incredibly exciting gift from you-know-who.”

It was July 1969, the month that mankind took a “giant leap” and landed on the moon. Anything to do with space travel had the public’s full attention and Nivea had provided us with the perfect gimmick. Everyone is familiar with Frisbees now, but at that time they were unknown in Spain. Nivea introduced them



that summer along the Costa Brava, under the name OVI (meaning Identified Flying Object—a play on the Spanish acronym OVNI, the equivalent of the English UFO). The Frisbees were dark blue, with “Nivea” stenciled across the top side in white letters, making them look just like the lid of the company’s signature

moisturizing cream. It was a well-thought-out campaign.

During the summer in those days the Costa Brava was a mosh pit of hedonism and carefree fun. The nations mingled on the beaches, everyone’s true skin color revealed for all the world to





BACK IN TIME

...Continued

see. Champagne of extremely modest pretensions flowed like water. There was more paella per square foot here than anywhere in the world. Nightclubs were like asylums where the crazy ones danced till sunup then ran naked into the sea.

In the late morning, Team Nivea stood—slightly wilted—at water's edge, in our white slacks, dark blue polo shirts, and espadrilles, tossing the OVIs up against the onshore breeze. We had been trained by the marketing boys in the fine art of throwing the Frisbee, and as the discs returned to our hands like graceful boomerangs, the crowd gathered. Everyone on the beach wanted an OVI: they were the Beanie Babies of 1969. People implored us to hold one for them while they ran to buy some Nivea at the nearest store. "Please keep one for me! I'll be right back! I beg you! My son will die if he doesn't get one!" As the purveyors of this latest fad, we were the center of attention on the beach, and felt like rock stars onstage, or dictators on a balcony. But when our day's stock of OVIs had all been given away our show was over, and it was time for lunch.

Then we'd move on to the next town and do it all over again. It was an excruciating schedule. We lived under a contractually-imposed regime that required us to spend our evening hours cruising the bars and nightclubs, talking to people of many different cultures, encouraging everyone to come to the beach the following day and receive the most exciting trinket they'd ever seen. This demanding work kept us up till all hours, and on more than one morning we watched the sunrise as

we stood up to our chins in the deliciously cool sea.

The campaign was a huge success; sales rocketed in coastal areas that summer. We were supplied with OVIs by the truckload and scattered them by the thousands along the ancient Mediterranean shore where Phoenician traders once peddled their goods. Though everyone enjoyed playing with this new toy, the long-suffering residents of the towns along our route were no doubt relieved when we moved on and the deafening soundtrack of the Caravana Nivea faded into the distance. Now, all these years later, when I remember that trip, I wonder about the hearing loss I've noticed lately, and think maybe the Costa Brava and I are about even.





TONGUE IN CHEEK PRODUCTIONS

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Look forward to seeing you there!

Jack Sprigings
Producer



CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde
carolinaconde@teachers.org



Potato Skins

Ingredients

6 small to medium-sized potatoes
Olive oil
Salt
Freshly ground pepper
6 strips of bacon
100g cheddar cheese
1/2 cup cream cheese
2 green onions, thinly sliced, including the greens of the onions

Instructions

Scrub the potatoes clean and bake them. Pierce a few times with a sharp knife, rub with olive oil and bake in a 200°C oven for about an hour until the potatoes are cooked through and give a little when pressed.

While the potatoes are cooking, cook the bacon strips in a frying pan on medium low heat for 10 to 15 minutes, or until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Let cool. Crumble.

Remove the potatoes from the oven and let cool enough to handle. Cut in half horizontally. Use a spoon to carefully scoop out the insides, leaving about 1/2 cm of potato on the skin.

Increase the heat of the oven to 230°C. Brush or rub further oil all over the potato skins, outside and in. Sprinkle with salt. Place on a baking rack. Cook for 10 minutes on one side, then flip the skins over and cook for another 10 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool enough to handle.

Arrange the potato skins skin-side down on the rack. Sprinkle the insides with freshly ground black pepper, cheddar cheese, and crumbled bacon. Return to the oven. Broil for an additional 2 minutes, or until the cheese is bubbly. Remove from oven. Add a dollop of cream cheese to each skin, and sprinkle with green onions.

Enjoy!



LINK O' THE MONTH

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Click on the image to embark on a journey that takes you all over the world or go to:

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PS

Your Editor scored 17,513 points in a practice run...

Can you beat that score?

ANDY CAPP

by Reg Smythe



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