



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

Contact

October 2017

In this issue:

Lecture Supper
British Hospital
Medical Column
Anglo Institute
Crosswords
Simon's Cat
Link o' the month
And more...

**The White Garden
at Kensington Palace
In Memory of Princess Diana**

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BSU Lecture Supper

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BSU CONTACT Newsletter
www.britsoc.org.uy
www.facebook.com/BritSocUy
Montevideo, Uruguay



PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear members,

Spring is here, and with it the desire to go out and enjoy life as the winter cold slowly recedes. The British Society has tried to take this into account and will be having several events for you lined up for this month and the next. For starters, our October lecture-supper will feature former Uruguayan Ambassador to the US Álvaro Diez de Medina telling us about Sir Geoffrey Jackson's lessons from his ordeal in Uruguay, a review of the turbulent days of the Tupamaro uprising. Near the end of the month we will have our annual croquet tournament, and Ambassador Ian Duddy is looking to host a garden party for Society members. November will bring even more fun events and activities... so watch this space for further news in that regard.

It was a real shame that most of you missed our after-office talk on robotics. Pedro Sales, our lecturer, is as interesting as he is young, and I am sure most of our younger members (and many of the not-so-young as well) would have enjoyed his review of his experiences in the high-tech field of design, construction, operation, and use of robots. We have since learned that the time of the talk (18:30 – 20:00) clashed with university students' classes, so we may revisit the topic at a later date and at a different time to give those who were unable to attend another chance. Especially in light of the fact that Pedro has just won the Ibero-American Physics Olympiad!

The update of The British Society members' database continues apace. If you have not yet been contacted by any of the Executive Committee officers, expect a call or an e-mail soon. Once we have completed the exercise, we will be publishing the list of updated members in this newsletter to let anyone who has fallen through the cracks let us know, but you can be proactive and contact us directly, in case we have somehow overlooked you or lost your contact details.

Richard A. Empson





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 4th at 12:15 hrs **Lunch Invitation**

Hotel NH Columbia, Rbla. Gran Bretaña 473
Organised by: CUB

Weekend, 7th & 8th **starting at 15:00 hrs** **Heritage Day**

British Cemetery, Av. Rivera 3868
Organised by: British Cemetery

Thursday, 12th at 19:30 hrs **Lecture Supper**

The British Schools' Pavilion,
Máximo Tajes 6400
Organised by: BSU

Saturday, 14th at 20:30 hrs **Caledonian Ball**

Punta Carretas Golf Club
Organised by: St. Andrew's Society

Wednesday, 18th at 15:00 hrs **British & American Hospital Guild Tea**

Top floor Policlinas BH Central
Organised by: British Hospital Guild

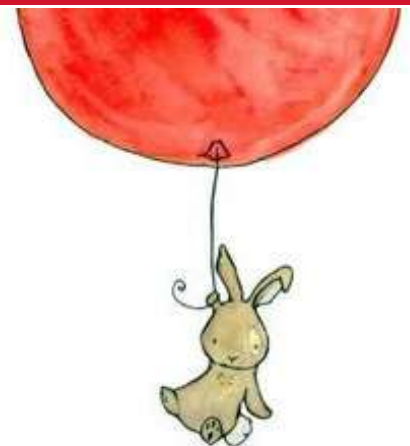
Saturday, 21st from 9 to 13 hrs **Seminar: English Literature**

Crystal Tower Hotel, Dr. Aquiles Lanza 1323

SOCIAL NEWS

October's Birthdays:

1 st - Richard Empson	16 th - James Coubrough
1 st - Pilar Arocena	21 st - Sally Cooper
1 st - Lisa Biddulph	22 nd - Maureen Pierce
2 nd - Alexander Beare	22 nd - Diane Budd
2 nd - Charlotte Johnson	23 rd - José Güelfi
3 rd - Marcela Dutra	23 rd - John Frank Hubber
7 th - Teresita Crespi	24 th - Nicholas Gordon-Firing
10 th - Christopher Pool	27 th - Emma Prevett
15 th - Stella Mazzucchelli	27 th - Nerina Ward
16 th - Kenneth Prevett	29 th - Facundo Salvo Davies



New Members:

José María Barrabino
Nicholas, Patrick, Andrew, Clara, John and Alexa Hobbins
Julio, Keoni and Victoria Guridi
Silvia, Leonardo and Anne Symonds

COVER



The White Garden at Kensington Palace, 2017. In Memory of Princess Diana.

Image: Historic Royal Palaces/Richard Lea-Hair.



Diana with William and Harry.

Picture: AG Carrick.





LECTURE SUPPER

Don't miss The British Society's next lecture-supper on Thursday 12 October starting 19:30 hrs. at The British Schools' Pavilion! (Máximo Tajes 6400)

Álvaro Diez de Medina will enlighten us on **"Sir Geoffrey Jackson's lessons from his ordeal in Uruguay"**, a talk about the turbulent days of the Tupamaro uprising. A lawyer, journalist and author, Diez de Medina was head of several representative offices at international financial institutions. A former Ambassador to the USA and now a lecturer at the University of Montevideo and columnist for daily El Observador, his most recent book, "Mapa de un Engaño", delves into the Tupamaro era, revealing interesting aspects of those difficult times for Uruguay.

Come and enjoy an interesting talk in a friendly atmosphere on a still-controversial topic followed by a delicious home-cooked supper - on this occasion, Marinated Summer Chicken with Greek salad and a delicious Blueberry Cheesecake for desert - especially prepared by volunteers from the British community who always surprise us with their delicious recipes.

**Are you going to miss it?!
Book your place now at
secretary@britsoc.org.uy
or by calling 099123906.**

**Pricing:
\$300 for members of the Society and
\$450 for non-members.**



by Álvaro Diez de Medina
Lawyer, Journalist and Author

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 12TH
19.30 HOURS**

**Sir Geoffrey Jackson's
lessons from his ordeal
in Uruguay**

**at The British
Schools' Pavilion**



THE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME



The 5th of September was the football match between Uruguay and Paraguay for the 2018 Fifa World Cup.

There was much interest at the Home and the residents and staff tried to predict who would win the match.

We had 3 winners who said that Uruguay would beat Paraguay 2-1!!! Congratulations Joan, Ana and Mayra who were photographed at the prize giving ceremony!



With spring coming up, last week our residents went to the Jardín Japonés and were able to admire the beautiful gardens. The azaleas were in full bloom!!!



Then all went to the Hotel del Prado for a well deserved rest and a delicious tea!



THE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME

...Continued

*Happy
Birthday
Ernesto!!!*



We celebrated Ernesto's birthday!
Here with his grandson!



With spring coming up, the balcony is a lovely place to sit in the afternoon.
Peter harvested lots of lettuce!



Contact us at:
SWCH@britsoc.org.uy

BRITISH EMBASSY

EXPO PRADO



The Embassy was present at Expo Prado for the fourth consecutive year with a pavilion focused on business, education, gastronomy and culture. A delegation from the Falkland Islands was present to promote tourism and with the aim of expanding their commercial contacts with Uruguay. During the first week, a Trade Delegation of British companies (ATL, Nick Young Tractor Parts, Britain & Latin America Logistics and Harper Adams University) visited the Expo Prado and held meetings at the British Pavilion and at various farms. Over 70,000 people visited the UK Pavilion.

HACKATHON AGRO



The Embassy, ARU, CUTI and Fundación da Vinci co-organised the second Hackathon Agro at Expo Prado. The objective for the nine teams participating was to resolve - through the use of technology - one of four challenges presented by the organisers. Each challenge focused on an issue that has an impact on the Uruguayan agricultural sector. The winning team was formed by Agronomy student Juan Francisco Kniazev, International Business student Carlos Capana and IT expert Agustín Ackermann. The prize for the team members is a trip to London with four nights accommodation in early October where they will attend the conference "Game Changing Technologies for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy". They will also visit Harper Adams University and meet both with the University staff as well as agricultural sector entrepreneurs.

BRITISH EMBASSY ...Continued

200 YEARS OF LINKS

Ambassador Ian Duddy and Consul Rossa Commane attended a special Parliament session which paid tribute to Uruguay's first Free Trade Agreement signed 200 years ago, which was with the UK. This was an initiative by Diputado Jaime Trobo and supported by Parliamentarians of all the political parties.



UN WORKSHOPS



Ambassador Ian Duddy and a Foreign Office colleague, Matt Preston, hosted a series of workshops with postgraduate students, NGOs and civil society to explain how the UN Security Council and UN Human Rights Council work. Drawing on their experiences as UK negotiators, they presented case studies to explain how UN resolutions are negotiated and agreed. Over 3 days they hosted over 150 guests in 6 separate workshops.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

BRITISH HOSPITAL



WE ARE HISTORY, MAKING HISTORY



To commemorate its 160th anniversary, the British Hospital has inaugurated a museum that traces its rich history by presenting a collection of objects that give account of its different epochs, the evolution of medicine and technology and changes in local customs and habits over time.

The ground floor of the main building at the British Hospital now features dozens of objects on display, ranging from documents to medical instruments invented by past medical professionals at the hospital, to uniforms and nurse accessories.

Some of the objects on exhibit are from the 19th century and have survived to this day in perfect condition thanks to the commitment and care of the hospital staff over time. These also form part of a wider collection, which amount to around 200 treasured and inventoried items.

In this way, the museum allows British Hospital users and visitors to enjoy its history as told by these objects and their accompanying information cards.

We invite you to visit the exhibition on the ground floor of the King Eduard VII Building.



Tel: 24871020 ext. 2740 - www.hospitalbritanico.org.uy - Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BritSocUy)



ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

ANGLO Diploma in TEFL Graduation Ceremony 2017



On Friday 15th September our yearly Graduation Ceremony for Anglo Diploma trainees who graduated in 2017 was held at the Millington Drake Theatre. The ceremony was attended by the new graduates and their families and friends, Anglo Diploma tutors and mentors, members of the Anglo Board of Governors and authorities from the British Embassy.

Mr Rossa Commane, British Consul to Uruguay attended the event on behalf of the British Ambassador Mr Ian Duddy, and was the first one to address the graduates. He was followed by Daniel Supervielle, on behalf of the Anglo Board of Governors and the Institute's Director General, Gerardo Valazza.

During the event, we had a musical performance by The Read Half, with Tamara Ferraro, Anglo teacher, and Esteban Borges. This was a surprise for our graduates, many of whom had done part of their training with Tamara as a classmate.

There was also a very moving Photo Gallery which tutors had prepared for the graduates, showing different academic and social instances shared during the 2-year teacher training course.

A highlight of the ceremony was when Diego Correa addressed the audience on behalf of graduates, giving a vivid, humorous and at the same time moving account of their teacher training years.

Following the Ceremony we had a cocktail in the foyer of the theatre. Graduates were joined by their family, friends and tutors to celebrate this crucial moment in their professional lives, which we hope will be fruitful and enjoyable ones.



ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE ...Continued

SPRING THEATRE SEASON AT THE ANGLO

This spring you can come to The Anglo Theatre Arts Complex and enjoy the following plays:



- **El Futuro del Amor – 9:00pm / Millington-Drake Theatre**
A dramatic comedy which seeks to raise questions about love and its future, in a world where technologies are imposed. What is the future of love?
Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, October



- **No tenés goyete – 7:00pm / William Shakespeare Theatre**
A one-woman show. Aunt Libi returns with new tales and funny characters.
Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, October
Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, November



- **Los Monstruos – 9:00pm / Millington-Drake Theatre**
A musical about the relationship between parents and children.
Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, October

- **Dinamita y La Factory Swing Band – 9:00pm**
Millington-Drake Theatre
Concert.
Sunday 1st, October

- **Supermercado – 9:00pm / William Shakespeare Theatre**
5 thirty-year-old artists live together in an apartment with more uncertainties than certainties and no money for rent.
Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, October
Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, November

For further information, please contact:
teatro@anglo.edu.uy



ANGLO



www.anglo.edu.uy



BRITISH-URUGUAYAN CLUB




LUNCH INVITATION

WEDNESDAY
4TH OCTOBER
12:15 HOURS

THE URUGUAYAN
POLITICAL SCENE AFTER
THE SENDIC EPISODE

CLAUDIO PAOLILLO

HOTEL NH COLUMBIA
RAMBLA GRAN BRETAÑA, 473
DRESS CODE: BUSINESS

MORE INFORMATION 



ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF URUGUAY

CALEDONIAN BALL



The **Caledonian Ball** will take place this year at the **Punta Carretas Golf Club on Saturday October 14th.**

The Caledonian Ball, an event held by every Scottish community around the World, **includes typical Scottish country dancing, performances by The City of Montevideo Pipe Band, high land dances by the Scottish Dancers, and traditional music and songs** together with other more international music form a very delightful evening.

Dinner, which consists of three courses, will be served at 20:30 hrs. To drink there will be whiskey, wine and soft-drinks. **This ticket costs \$1,850 for 30 years old and over, and \$1,600 for under 30.** There will be special performances during dinner.

Also available is a ticket without dinner, which apart from drinks will include dessert, some time after midnight. **This ticket costs \$1,200 for 20 years old and over, and \$850 for under 20. Entrance for this ticket is at 22.30 hrs.**

The Grand March will be at 22:30 hrs sharp.

Between sets of Scottish dances, there will be popular music at the dance floor, performances by the pipers and dancers, and more. Door prizes will be raffled throughout the evening.

Hope to see you there!

Invitations can be acquired from **Michael Warren**
Tel. 091 048 937, Mariana Billotto Tel. 091 295 601
or any member of the Committee.



BRITISH CEMETERY



Guided Tours
15:00 and 16:00 hrs

“THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE”

Closing Activities

7th October from 17:00 to 18:00 hrs

“The masculine and feminine in Gardel’s tangos”

Psyc. Andrés Caro Berta

8th October from 17:00 to 18:00 hrs

Homage to RENEE BONNET de PIETRAFESA
25 years after she passed away.

By Prof. Alicia Pietrafesa
Musical Presentation

HERITAGE DAY 2017

7th and 8th OCTOBER 2017
La Cumparsita, Patrimonio vivo y universal.

Encuentros a la puesta del Sol V.

**BRITISH CEMETERY OF
MONTEVIDEO**

RIVERA Nº 3868 AV. & PIAGGIO ST.

INFORMATION :

encuentros@cementeriobritanico.com.uy

www.cementeriobritanico.com.uy

PHONE. 2622 3071



6 al 10 de Noviembre - 2017
Montevideo XVIII Encuentro
Iberoamericano de Valoración y
Gestión de Cementerios
Patrimoniales.



Patrimonio Uruguay
COMISIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL DE LA NACIÓN

Proyecto Cultural Declarado de Interés por el MEC DNC 287/2017



**CEMENTERIO
BRITANICO**

THE BRITISH CEMETERY SOCIETY



BRITISH CEMETERY ...Continued



Membership is open to everyone and it is free.
You don't need to be British to join.

All those interested in our events are welcome.



SILVER RIVER LODGE

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 1429 Canelones Street, Montevideo.

For further information please contact us at secretarysr1995.876@gmail.com or call Mr. Martin Macadam at 096 001 995.



BRITISH HOSPITAL GUILD

by Maureen Hyland
President of the BHG

BRITISH AND AMERICAN HOSPITAL GUILD TEA



Wednesday, 18th October - 15.00 hours
At top floor Policlínicas BH Central



Will be celebrating the Hospitals' 160 years
with a lovely presentation of historical photos and stories,
following our new Chairman Christopher Golbys welcoming speech.

We will be serving a delicious tea and selling raffles for fun prizes!!

Hope you can make it!



UPON MY WORD

by Richard Cowley
racowley@gmail.com

7. SPRING IS SPRUNG (THE GRASS IS RIZ)

The wretched Lyse Doucet, she of the unplaceable accent who masquerades as a BBC foreign correspondent, once remarked: “The Palestinian area began as quite a large area, and then it shrunk and shrunk and shrunk”. Three times the same mistake!!! What is the dear old Beeb coming to? It has also produced, in recent months “The ship sunk...” and “The Lutine Bell rung three times...” amongst many, many others.

This is an error concerning one group of irregular verbs. The mistake is accidentally to interchange the simple past and the past participle of a verb. Here is the list of these verbs that present the same problem, and they all follow the I-A-U pattern

Base Form	Past Simple	Past Participle
Begin	Began	Begun
Drink	Drank	Drunk
Ring	Rang	Rung
Shrink	Shrank	Shrunk
Sing	Sang	Sung
Spin	Span	Spun
Spring	Sprang	Sprung
Stink	Stank	Stunk
Swim	Swam	Swum

Look at these:

I rang the bell. I have rung the bell.

The ship sank. The ship has sunk.

She sang the hymn. She has sung the hymn.

Not difficult, is it? Unless you're Lyse Doucet.

Lyse Doucet
BBC's Chief International Correspondent





MEDICAL COLUMN

by Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS

A few months ago, a person my age, who had been my patient for 29 years and that had suffered from multiple acute and chronic illnesses, visited a specialist colleague of mine, who was attending in an adjacent office, to follow-up on some imaging tests he had ordered. He summoned me and we reviewed the images on the computer screen and were surprised that, even with normal scans done a half a year earlier by the patient's oncologist, what we had in front of our eyes was absolutely unexpected. The patient's chest scan showed multiple shadows that unequivocally pointed to only one diagnosis: disseminated cancer. The patient was admitted and the following day a full-body scan showed an archipelago of tumours in the chest and abdomen; only the brain and bones were spared.

The patient had had cancer before, but had been pronounced cured or at least in long-term remission by the oncologist. The case was presented at one of the twice-weekly oncology rounds and the conclusion of all present was unanimous: this was a new rapidly-advancing cancer originated in the abdomen, with widespread metastases and for which any further diagnostic procedure or attempt at treatment would make things even worse and that palliative care was the best we could offer in these circumstances.

How to deal with these situations is one of the hardest parts of being a doctor, especially if you have a long-standing relationship with the patient. More so, the fact that the patient was my age, with a living

spouse, adult children and grandchildren like myself, made professional detachment from my emotions no easy feat, but the news had to be stated as fully as feasible to the patient and family, plus exposing myself to the uneasy questions that obviously would be triggered and deserved truthful answers. After reviewing the *'Serious Illness Conversation Guide'*, I booked myself a full hour and a half with the patient in the hospital room, the spouse and their children present, where I sat down and answered all questions, after stating, in the best possible way, what the clinical situation was. Even trying not to sound dismal, the patient understood the situation 'loud and clear' and was more concerned about symptom relief (shortness of breath, pain, insomnia) and what we were going to do about it. An important point to state to the patient is that the usual medical team will still be in charge and will guide all steps until the end, making sure that the patient's priorities will always top the list.

Fortunately, symptom relief, both physical and psychological, is to a great extent possible when working jointly with a Palliative Care team. Symptoms improve to a degree of tolerability and anxiety is reduced, without resorting to full sedation, at least for a significant while. As the guide states, patient preferences come first and should be inquired, even if not stated spontaneously. As I usually tell their immediate family: *"The main actor in this scene is the patient, not the family or the health care team."*



MEDICAL COLUMN

...Continued

by Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

We respected the patient's wishes to be able to communicate with the family, as long as symptoms allowed and it was the patient's choice that, after a few days, we were asked to increase the sedation to make the inevitable transition as peaceful to all, patient, family and staff included.

Serious Illness Conversation Guide

CLINICIAN STEPS

□ Set up

- Thinking in advance
- Is this okay?
- Hope for best, prepare for worst
- Benefit for patient/family
- No decisions necessary today

□ Guide (right column)

□ Act

- Affirm commitment
- Make recommendations about next steps
 - Acknowledge medical realities
 - Summarize key goals/priorities
 - Describe treatment options that reflect both
- Document conversation
- Provide patient with Family Communication Guide

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Understanding What is your understanding now of where you are with your illness?

Information preferences How much information about what is likely to be ahead with your illness would you like from me?

FOR EXAMPLE:

Some patients like to know about time, others like to know what to expect, others like to know both.

Prognosis *Share prognosis as a range, tailored to information preferences*

Goals If your health situation worsens, what are your most important goals?

Fears / Worries What are your biggest fears and worries about the future with your health?

Function What abilities are so critical to your life that you can't imagine living without them?

Trade-offs If you become sicker, how much are you willing to go through for the possibility of gaining more time?

Family How much does your family know about your priorities and wishes?

(Suggest bringing family and/or health care agent to next visit to discuss together)

Draft R4.3 5/22/15

© 2015 Ariadne Labs: A Joint Center for Health Systems Innovation (www.ariadnelabs.org) and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



SEMINAR

English Cultural Background Series

SEMINAR INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE

By Ms Lynn Welburn

Academic Consultancy by Dr Gabriel Inzaurrealde.
Doctor in Literature – University of Leiden (Holland)

**“THE LANGUAGE PROVENANCE”**

**Early Modern Literature - The Neoclassic Era
Enlightenment and Renaissance - Victorian Literature**

Saturday 21st October, 2017

9 am to 1 pm

Crystal Tower Hotel

Dr. Aquiles Lanza 1323 – Montevideo

Cost: \$1.400 (Giro redpagos 1.933.246-4)

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE – VERY LIMITED PLACES

For further information: 096204385



Lynn

Welburn is a British-Canadian citizen and Uruguayan resident who has studied English language and literature at Vancouver Island University in BC and Sir George William University in Quebec and who has made language and literature the focus of her career in varied forms and places over the decades. She has taught English as a second language to new Canadian immigrants, taught English and literature to secondary students in Nigeria for seven years and has been teaching English to primary and secondary students in Uruguay for the past two years. For decades, in between various teaching positions, she has worked for more than two decades as a journalist and editor, writing and editing weekly and daily newspapers and writing freelance for magazines including Chatelaine, Flare and Costco Connector and for a variety of travel websites. A reader from a very early age, she devours police procedurals, science fiction and classic literature indiscriminately, always seeking out different storytelling talents. She is most at home in libraries and used book stores and has always viewed lengthy waits in government offices and airports not as boring marathons to be endured but rather as marvelous opportunities to dip into a new book without fear of immediate interruption. Currently she is an English teacher at Montevideo's Colegio Inglés where she fearlessly takes on adolescent angst and rebellion, offering her students tried and true methods to weigh the world, answer their questions and feel less alienated by seeing the past, present and future through the probing and profound vision of skilled authors.



DICKENS INSTITUTE

Cambridge latest news

From Cambridge English Language Assessment to Cambridge Assessment English



Cambridge Assessment English



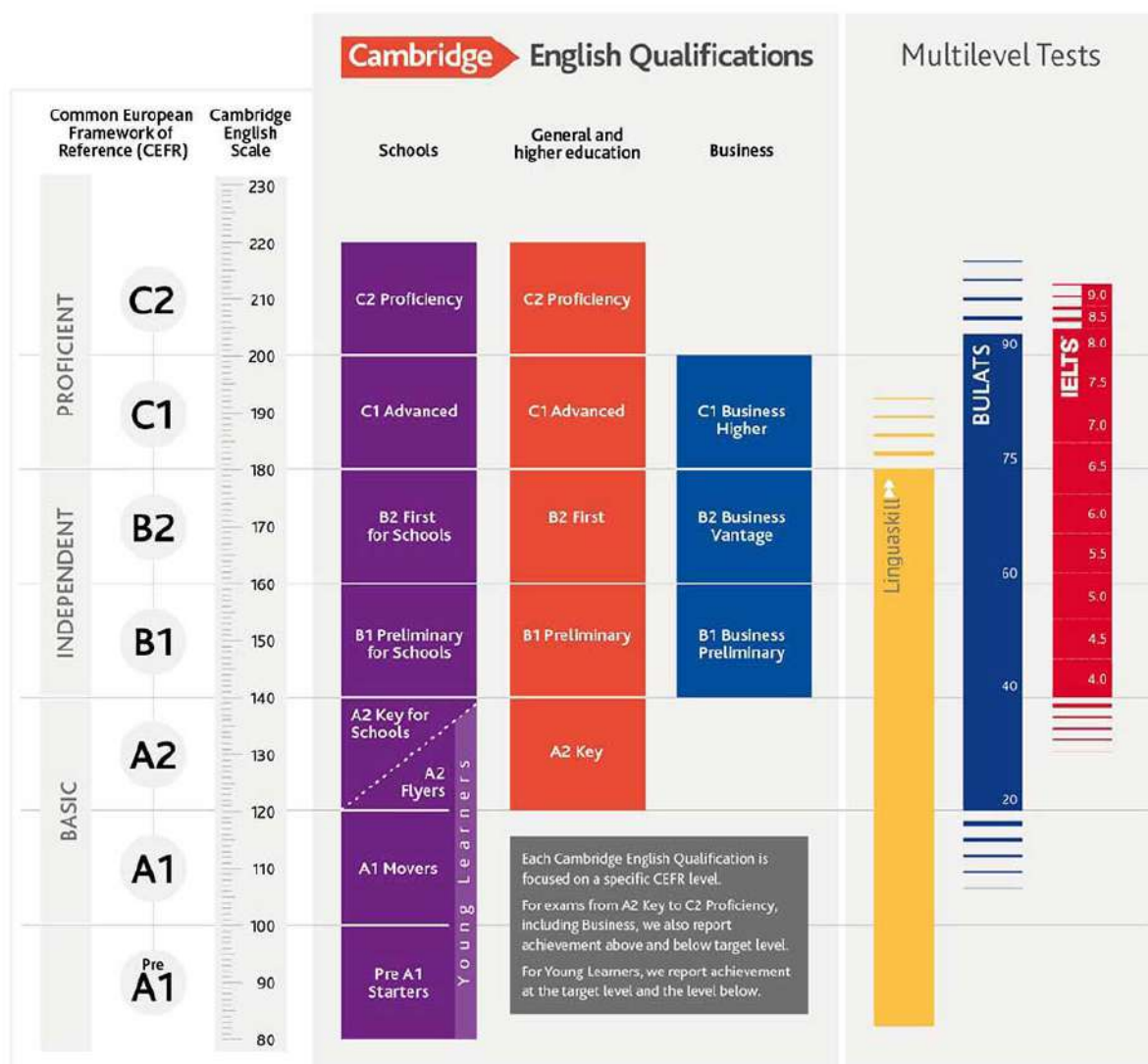
"We are changing our name to explain more clearly who we are and what we do. We have also changed the way we describe our exams to make them easier to understand." Saul Nassé, CEO.

In the video below he explains the changes they are making:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoLZfNsTsFU>

Making things clearer

"We are also simplifying the way we present our exams. Based on consultation, we are introducing Cambridge English Qualifications as a new way to describe our in-depth exams and present a clear path to learning English, step by step."





DICKENS INSTITUTE

...Continued

From Cambridge International Examinations to Cambridge Assessment International Education



Cambridge Assessment International Education



"As our educational offering expands, we are changing our name to Cambridge Assessment International Education. While our core activity remains examinations, our work now also encompasses a broader suite of education services." Michael O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, talks more about the change here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIW42NUMHsw&feature=youtu.be>

Cambridge Pathway

"We are also introducing a new name to talk about our whole programme. The Cambridge Pathway puts each of our education stages in the context of a clear, progressive, coherent path for education success from age 5 to 19. As part of this we have also changed two of our stage names to Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary to help indicate where they fit in the Cambridge Pathway."

Cambridge Pathway



As a department of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge Assessment has 160 years of expertise and an unrivalled depth of experience in working within national education systems, international education and English language learning.

Dickens Institute officially represents Cambridge Assessment International Education and Cambridge Assessment English.

We wish to congratulate Cambridge on its contribution to worldwide education and to express our pride in working closely with such a prestigious department of the University of Cambridge.





BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

HOT AIR RISES

For Mary Hobart Key

We lifted off at daybreak and drifted away on the first breath of morning. The light from the rising sun spilled over the horizon, chasing away the darkness and scattering shades of crimson, purple, and gold across the fields. Alabama lay beneath us, and above us, the sky.

The air was still cool—the ideal condition for a balloon ride. Gerard, our splendid balloonist, fired the burner and we rose up to an altitude of three hundred feet. Standing in the sturdy wicker basket, we could see a patchwork of fields and country lanes spreading out for miles in all directions. Once we reached the desired altitude, Gerard cut off the burner and with it the roar of the propane jet that filled the balloon with hot air. We were suddenly floating in total silence. I had never experienced soundless flight before, and imagined I was finally embarked on the magic carpet ride I had longed to take ever since I was young enough to read about them.

People were waking up in the houses below us and coming outside to fetch the newspaper, or drink their coffee, or walk the dog. Some didn't even notice us as we coasted past, several hundred feet above

their heads, peering down at them from our airborne perch. But some looked up, and their reactions ranged from startled jumps (not a good idea when holding a cup of coffee!) to curious stares and waves. We waved back and drifted on.

The ground crew followed us as best they could in their truck, getting directions from Gerard over the radio and zigzagging down roads and lanes and bumpy trails. Their job was to be as close as possible to wherever the balloon eventually landed so that they might collect us, and the balloon, and drive us home. Their ride was far more erratic than ours, and their views were nowhere near as dramatic.

One of the few facts I seem to have retained from my high school science class is that hot air rises. It was thus relatively easy for me to grasp the idea that a balloon goes up when the propane burner heats the air inside it, and comes down when the balloonist opens the valve at the top of the light bulb shaped nylon envelope. Other than those two functions, it is carried along horizontally on the wind. The balloonist's challenge is to find the air current that will take him to his destination, so he goes up and down, looking for breezes at different altitudes until he finds one going in the right direction. When we were high up, we had magnificent views and moved as gracefully and serenely as a summer cloud. At lower altitudes it felt as though we were moving much more quickly, scudding along just a few feet above the tree tops.





BACK IN TIME ...Continued

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

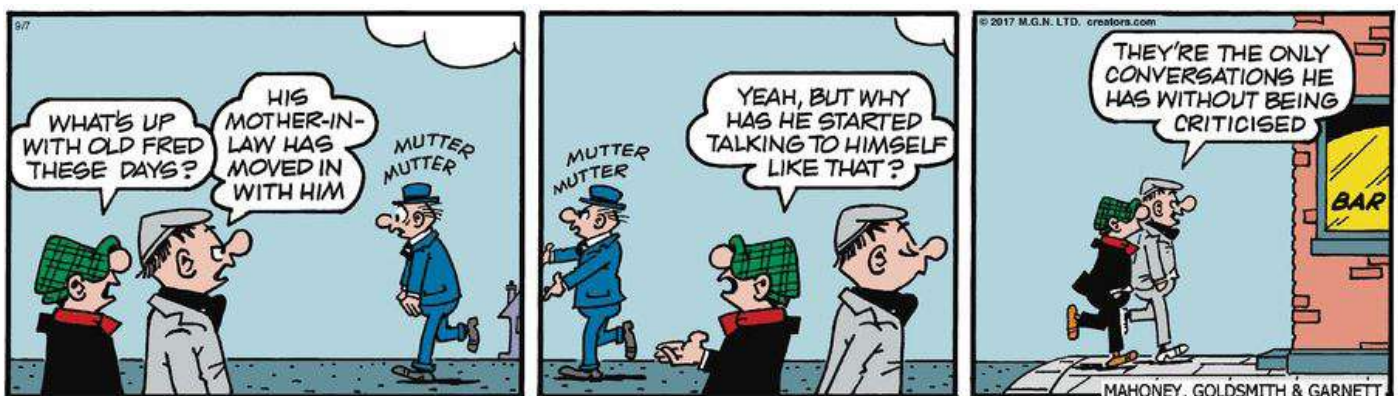
The roar of the burner and the sight of the balloon scared every horse we flew over. Whether standing alone or in groups, they all immediately wheeled around in a panic and galloped off at top speed, trying to get away from the strange apparition. Cows, on the other hand, were utterly fascinated and followed us as far as they could, clustering along fence lines and gazing longingly at us as we left them behind. Gerard said this always happened, all over the world. We speculated that cows might feel a certain reverence towards the balloon, thinking they were in the presence of the Great Udder in the sky.

After about an hour or so aloft, Gerard brought us down expertly in a large field. The basket landed with a gentle bump, and we climbed out onto the grass. While we waited for the ground crew to arrive, Gerard opened the bottle of ice-cold champagne he'd brought along in

a cooler. He explained that in the early days of ballooning, in France more than a hundred years ago, farmers were not always pleased to see their land invaded by strange flying contraptions that dropped out of the sky and threatened their crops and their livestock. Some grabbed their trusty shotguns and did some threatening of their own. As a precaution, balloonists took to carrying champagne with them, which they were quick to produce as a peace offering whenever they encountered a trigger-happy landowner after putting down in his field. A tradition was thus born, and today's balloonists still pack a bottle of bubbly when they take to the skies. It is seldom used for its original purpose, however, and instead is offered to mildly euphoric passengers like us, to delay ever so slightly their return to the planet Earth.

ANDY CAPP

by Reg Smythe



GEOFF THE CHEF'S CORNER

by Geoffrey W Deakin
gwdeakin@gmail.com



Egg-in-the-hole bacon sandwich

This breakfast buttty involves cutting a hole into a pan-fried sandwich in which to crack an egg. Sound complicated? It really isn't. The trick is to use a lidded frying pan to help the egg set perfectly. If bacon isn't your thing, you could fill your bread with avocado or smoked ham instead.

Ingredients:

- oil, for frying
- 4 rashers smoked streaky bacon
- 2 thick slices bread
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 small egg
- 1 tbsp ketchup or brown sauce, to serve

Method:

1. Heat a splash of oil in a large, non-stick frying pan.
2. Fry the bacon until crispy, then put on a plate covered with foil to keep warm.
3. Using a cookie cutter, cut a hole in 1 slice of bread, then spread mayonnaise on one side of both slices.
4. Fry the bread in the same pan. When browned on one side, flip both over and crack the egg into the hole. Fry for 2-3 mins, then turn down the heat and cover the pan until the white of the egg is set but the yolk is still runny.
5. Remove everything from the pan.
6. Spread the non-egg slice with the sauce, add the bacon, then top with the egg slice.
7. Halve and tuck in.

Tip o' the day... How to boil an egg perfectly.

Use large hens' eggs dropped into boiling water. When done, scoop them out and into cold water (if you're not eating them straight away) to prevent them cooking any further. The colder the water, the easier to peel the eggs.

By the way... Fresh eggs boil up just fine; but they are really, really, dreadfully hard to peel. I use 10-day old eggs for boiling - they are still very good - so creamy tasting. And they peel much better.

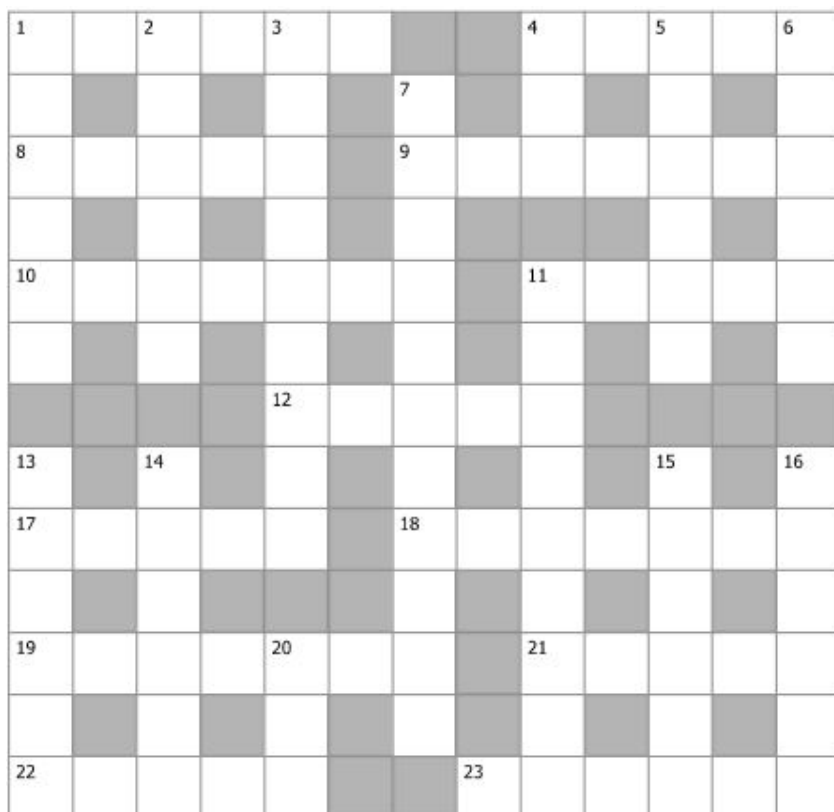


CROSSWORDS TIME!

from Independent
<http://puzzles.independent.co.uk>

Print this page and start playing!

The solution will be revealed in the next issue.



ACROSS

1. Large country (6)
4. Circular (5)
8. Woody plant (5)
9. Begin a voyage (3,4)
10. Gigantic (7)
11. Thrown (5)
12. Egyptian city (5)
17. Paved area (5)
18. Embarrassed (7)
19. Indignation (7)
21. Small and charming (5)
22. Surround (5)
23. Flight of steps (6)

DOWN

1. Begin anew (6)
2. Be economical (6)
3. Confusing situation (9)
4. Furrow (3)
5. Planet (6)
6. Great flood (6)
7. Suffocated (11)
11. Heavens (9)
13. Self-possession (6)
14. Standing (6)
15. Look (Slang) (6)
16. Handsome young man (6)
20. Appropriate (3)

September Crossword solution:

1	P	I	2	C	K		3	K	4	N	I	5	C	K	6	E	R	7	S
	A		A			8	I		U		I			Y				P	
9	S	P	R		I	N	K	L	E	R				10	E	A	R		
	T				V			L		C			S					I	
11	O	R	12	I	G	A	M	I		13	A	S	H	E	N				
	R		M		I		F						A				T		
		14	A	M	O	N	T	I	L	15	L	A	D	O					
16	M		U					C		I		O				17	A		
18	A	L	T	A	19	R		20	A	L	L	O	W	E	D				
	S		A		I		T		I									A	
21	S	O	B		22	G	U	I	N	E	A	23	P	I	G				
	I		L		H		O		S			A						I	
24	F	L	E	E	T	I	N	G		25	A	L	S	O					

ACROSS

1. Select (4)
3. Female underwear (8)
9. Lawn-watering device (9)
10. Organ of hearing (3)
11. Paper-folding art (7)
13. White-faced (5)
14. Medium dry sherry (11)
18. Communion table (5)
20. Permitted (7)
21. Weep (3)
22. Rodent (6,3)
24. Rapid and transient (8)
25. Too (4)

DOWN

1. Clergyman (6)
2. Motor vehicle (3)
4. Cancelling out (13)
5. Around (5)
6. Coloured cosmetic (3,6)
7. Run fast (6)
8. To no avail (2,4)
12. Unalterable (9)
15. Perennial plants (6)
16. Compact group of mountains (6)
17. Slow musical movement (6)
19. Correct (5)
23. Friend (Informal) (3)



LINK O' THE MONTH

THE WHITE GARDEN AT KENSINGTON PALACE



The historic Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace has been temporarily transformed into the White Garden in celebration of the life of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The garden has been designed and created by gardeners at the palace inspired by memories of the Princess's life, iconic image and style and will flower through spring and summer this year.

[Watch the video here!](#)

SIMON'S CAT

by Simon Tofield
<https://simonscat.com>



Watch the
episode
HERE

