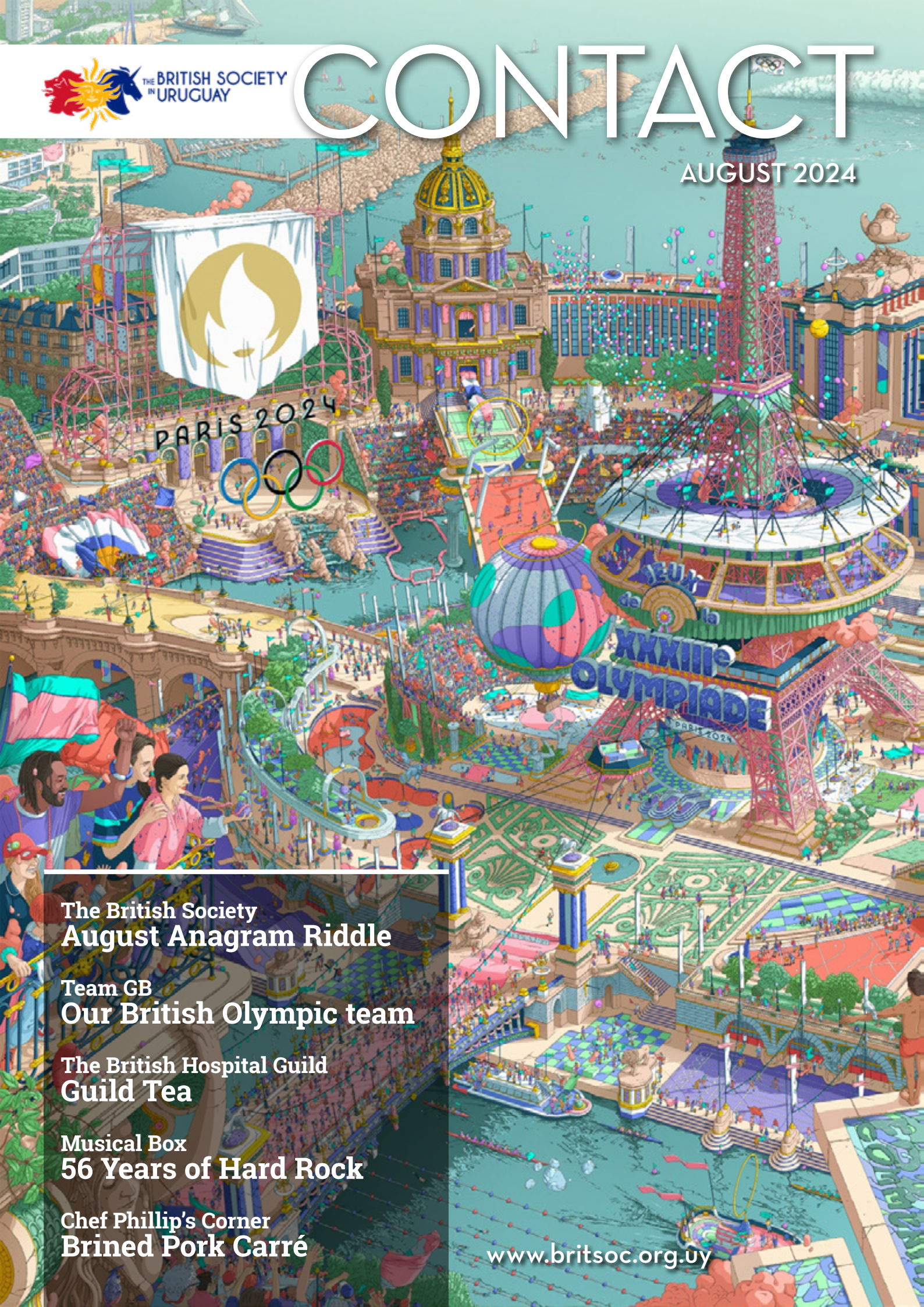




THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# CONTACT

AUGUST 2024



PARIS 2024



XXIIIe  
OLYMPIADE  
PARIS 2024

The British Society  
August Anagram Riddle

Team GB  
Our British Olympic team

The British Hospital Guild  
Guild Tea

Musical Box  
56 Years of Hard Rock

Chef Phillip's Corner  
Brined Pork Carré

[www.britsoc.org.uy](http://www.britsoc.org.uy)





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## BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER

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Montevideo, Uruguay



Dear Members:

As we enter August, with days gradually becoming longer and Spring just around the corner, we have much to reflect on.

On Saturday, 27th July, the Scottish Rugby team triumphed over the Uruguayan Teros with a score of 31-19 at the Estadio Charrúa. Congratulations to the winners and to the Teros for a captivating match!

I was delighted by the number of members who submitted solutions to last month's anagram. I hope to see even more participants this month.

The correct answer was: **BRITISH CEMETERY SOCIETY**

The riddle referenced the foundation of The British Schools, as it was the British Cemetery Society that played a crucial role in its creation. Congratulations to all the puzzle solvers!

In July, I had the pleasure of being invited for tea at the Winston Churchill Home with its residents. We had a wonderful time! My heartfelt thanks to Carolyn Cooper for the invitation and for all she does for the residents. I truly enjoy spending time with everyone there; they teach me so much, share beautiful memories, and gift smiles.

August promises to be an exciting month in the performing arts. The Montevideo Players Society has a new play opening titled "Why," which promises an entertaining and fun evening. Additionally, The British Schools' Senior School will present their play "Flashdance," which is sure to be a resounding success!

I hope those of you with rose bushes remembered to prune them. A special thanks to Carolyne Prevett, who did an amazing job pruning mine.

As we still have some cold days ahead, it's good to remember those who are less fortunate. There are many ways we can help: feeding a stray cat or dog, donating warm clothes or blankets to people in need, or contributing to a good cause. Every little bit makes a difference.

We also bid a heartfelt farewell to Faye O'Connor, the British Ambassador. Her leadership and dedication have been invaluable to our community. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Lastly, please remember to update your details in our database. All information must be complete and accurate. If you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact us. Additionally, I kindly remind you to check your dues. Once your database information is updated, you will easily be able to view your past payments. [Member Login](#)

Wishing you all the best, good luck with this month's anagram, and take care!

Warm regards,

Ximena Williamson





## THIS MONTH'S COVER

# The iconic posters for the Paris 2024 Games

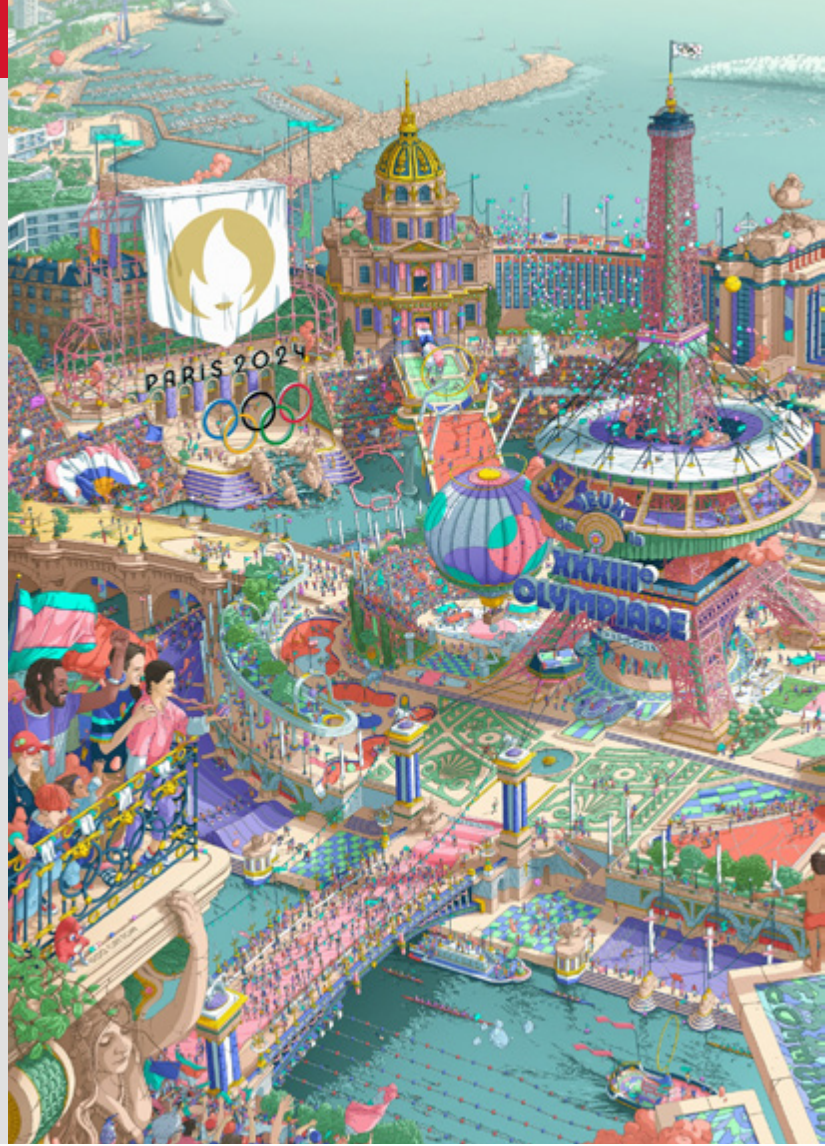
Designed to illustrate the Games which they represent, the posters are a tradition: since the Stockholm Games in 1912, every Organising Committee has highlighted its symbols through them.

The Paris 2024 posters were created in conjunction with French illustrator Ugo Gattoni. With their rich details, they are the dream-like portrayal of a stadium-city, echoing the slogan "Games Wide Open" and reflecting the project's ambition: to bring sport into the city.

The Paris 2024 posters depict a fantasy city that also serves as a gigantic stadium, within which sit the capital's monuments, symbols of France, various Paris 2024 competition venues and several different sports and key figures. This spectacular landscape invites spectators to dive in and discover an entire range of different details and miniature scenes that, combined, form a fascinating and extremely colourful whole.

Poster number 2 is this month's [Back Cover](#)

[Read about the posters online](#)



## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can pay your 2024 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

We have also implemented recurring payments so you no longer have to remember to pay your fees. You do not need to have a MercadoPago user, by clicking [HERE](#) you can choose to enter your details as "Invitado", you are 3 clicks away of never having to remember to pay again! This recurring payment is very easy to cancel if you wish to do so in the future.

You may also pay by transfer or a direct deposit to the account of The British Society in Uruguay at Banque Heritage (account number 62582-03). Please email your transfer/deposit slip to our Treasurer.

If you forgot to pay any previous annual fees please email our Treasurer at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy) to learn about ways to pay past dues.

If you wish to become a member first fill in [this form](#).

**Your membership will be updated once this is done.**



**MercadoPago  
Annual Fee - \$700**



**MercadoPago Recurring  
Payments - \$650**



# Birthdays

in August

- 3 Vivian Lee Wilson Escondeur
- 4 Santiago Ramón Theoduloz Duarte
- 6 David Ebenezer Rennie Noble  
Silvana Lourdes Pérez Bonavita
- 7 Clara María Hobbins Llovet  
Aureliano Aguirre Baccino  
Patricia Emily Prevett Gomensoro
- 9 Alejandro “Ale” Daniel Diharce Chavasco  
Mariana Billotto Arhancet
- 10 Gerardo Valazza Furest
- 11 Jose Brignoni Annibali
- 12 Andrés Alberto Bentancourt Cabrera
- 17 Malena Mendioroz Cobham  
Lucía Mendioroz Cobham
- 20 Laura Bertini Serena  
Kim Marie Davies Reyes
- 21 Andrew Martin Grierson Velloso
- 22 Richard Hobbins Vilar del Valle
- 24 Facundo Asbjørn “Greater Loky” Espinosa Holtermann
- 26 Emily Silvia Symonds Cooper
- 29 Roberto Juan Mountford Hawes
- 29 Juan Pablo “JP” Milessi Sancoff



Dear Members,

If your birthday does not appear in this section, it is because we do not have it registered in our Member database.

Please use the [Member Login](#) to register or update your birthday.

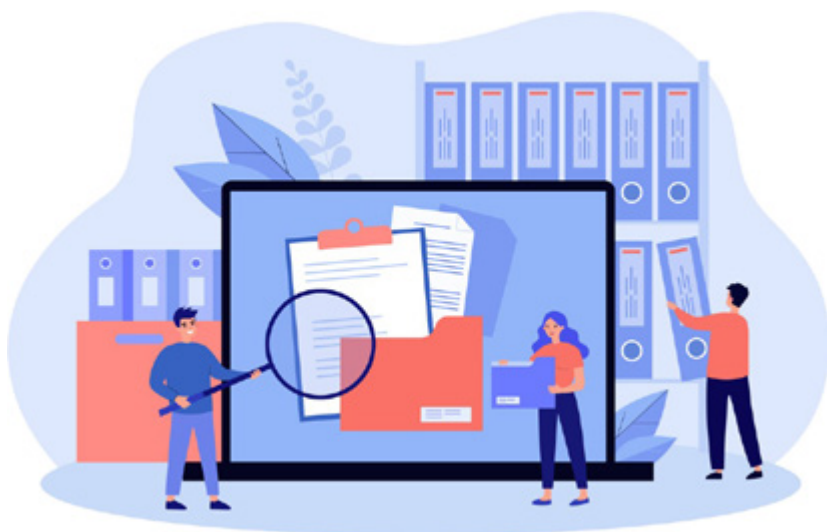
If you have any problems logging in or updating your information, please get in touch with me at

[editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy).

Thank you!

Geoffrey W Deakin

Editor



The views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of The British Society in Uruguay or any individual associated with the creation or distribution of this newsletter. The editorial team assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the content of this newsletter.



## August

### 13 Tuesday

The British Hospital Guild  
**British Hospital Guild Tea**  
BH Policlínica 3rd floor

### 17 Saturday

Anglo Insitute  
**Anglo Congress, 20 Years**  
Radisson Victoria Plaza Hotel



## September

### 5 Thursday

British Society in Uruguay  
**Meet Delegation from Falkland Islands**  
BH Policlínica 3rd floor

## October

### 13 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay  
**Big Lunch**  
British Schools Pavilion

  
**THE MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS SOCIETY**  
(timidly) presents

**WHY**

**SHOWS IN AUGUST**

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup></b>
	<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	

**AT THE NEIL FAIRLESS CENTRE** Acevedo Díaz 2324

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members,

Please note that being subscribed to our mailing list does not grant you membership status. To verify your membership status, [click here](#).

The Society's Board is currently updating the Members' database and filtering out those with incorrect or incomplete information. To ensure that dues and event payments go smoothly, we need your information to be complete.

One crucial piece of data is your birthdate. Without this, you might miss out on special benefits the Society will offer in the coming days.

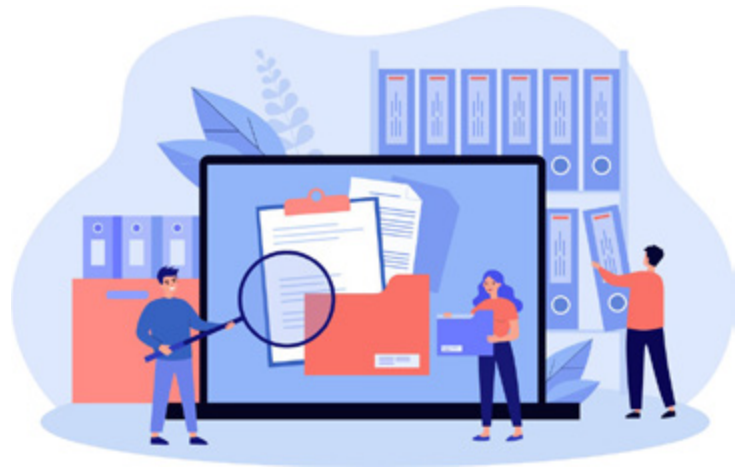
Unfortunately, if your information is inadequate, the Board might be required to remove you from the Member database.

We would like to extend our gratitude to those who have already updated their personal information, and we thank in advance those who will complete their information soon.

You may verify and bring up to date your information here: [Member Login](#)

Best regards,

Executive Committee



[MEMBER LOGIN](#)



## AUGUST ANAGRAM RIDDLE

Too easy the first riddle? You asked for a tough one?... here goes!  
Send your answer to [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy)

**In a city of spires where the castle stands tall,  
And the Royal Mile weaves through the old city's call,  
A hidden passage from history's embrace,  
Holds secrets and tales in a hidden space.**

**Named for a lady with a past deeply sown,  
What's the name of this place where the echoes call home?**

**GARLICKY MESONS**



July's Anagram Solution:  
**BRITISH CEMETERY SOCIETY**

**July's Anagrammatists:**

Adriana Pagani  
Elizabeth Cowley  
Jorge Arjona  
Paul Beare  
Richard Empson  
Stephanie Jelks

Veronica-Ann Rossi van Domselaar





**Sylvia celebrated her 81st birthday last week, with family and friends accompanying her.**

**Happy birthday Sylvia!!**



HMA Faye O'Connor came to say good bye to us some weeks ago. It was lovely to have shared so many happy moments with her. Many thanks Faye for inaugurating our Visitor's Book!!



**Ximena and Liam having fun with the residents.**  
**PS Nobody was bamboozled...**







## HMA Faye O'Connor's farewell

Our Ambassador left the country on 29th July, after four years of service. At a small farewell event for key contacts held at the Residence, she showcased some of the achievements during her tenure, in a football-themed speech. Over the past few weeks, we have shared a series of videos and photos in our social media, wrapping-up our work in different areas. In case you have missed them, we invite you to watch them here:

[Business and Trade](#)

[HMA visits to all 19 Uruguay's departments](#)

[Our work in Gender and Education](#)

[Climate and environment](#)

[Ambassador's favourite moments](#)

A few days before departing, the Ambassador was interviewed by El Pais newspaper where she shared trade and business achievements. In a more light-hearted interview we saw her expertly serving tea and mate in a live show with Channel 4's Vamo Arriba.

Sandy Domaingue will be the Embassy's Chargée until our designated Ambassador, Mal Green, arrives on 30 August.



## Rugby Time!

At her last public event (besides enjoying Scotland-Teros match on Saturday 28th), the Ambassador took part in rugby training at Montevideo's women's prison, together with members of the Scotland national rugby team.

The Embassy, through British NGO SOS Kit Aid, and Scotland team, donated rugby kits which will be used by the National Prisons Rehabilitation Program.

You can read more about it in [El Pais](#)



Follow us online: [www.gov.uk/fcdo](http://www.gov.uk/fcdo)



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came to the **Annual Pruning of Roses at the British Cemetery**.  
Your collective effort will make a wonderful difference.  
We appreciate the time and care invested.  
Warm regards  
Carmen and Carolyn



**BRITISH  
CEMETERY**



## A remarkable journey: our form 4 students' memorable graduation trip to the UK

As is now a tradition at The Anglo School, our Form 4 high school students have just returned from their 3-week graduation trip to the United Kingdom. The trip was designed to give the students a taste of British culture and history, while at the same time providing a unique opportunity to strengthen the bonds created after so many years together. Accompanied by teachers, they embarked on a long-awaited trip full of excitement for the days ahead.



As soon as the group landed in London they headed to York, where they discovered the highlights of the city by visiting the York Viking Museum and a memorable city treasure hunt. On their way to Edinburgh, they stopped at Gretna Green and visited Inverness. When in Edinburgh, they had the chance to admire the amazing Scottish Highlands and take a boat cruise around Loch Ness. Although their attempt to see the Loch Ness monster was not successful this time, they did enjoy the beautiful scenery and the fresh air. On the five days they spent in Edinburgh, the group visited its main highlights, such as Edinburgh Castle, the Museum of Scotland, Stirling Castle, and even had some time to go shopping on Princess Street.

After leaving Edinburgh, they set off to Stratford-upon-Avon, where they encountered the heart of British literature: a guided Shakespeare walking tour, a visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace and to Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

Their journey continued to London, where they stayed at a student accommodation in Camden. During twelve remarkable days, students and their teachers could expand on their knowledge of British history and culture, by attending lessons that worked as a trigger to experience the visits to the most renowned British landmarks: the London Eye, the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, the Natural History Museum, the British Museum, the Science Museum, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Westminster and Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Globe Theatre, to name just a few. At the Harry Potter Studios, the group could revive the best known Harry Potter films.



Weekend day trips to Stonehenge and the historic cities of Bath and Cambridge were also cherished visits that helped our students embrace the heart of British culture. There was also time to experience British theatre, by enjoying the world-famous plays Mamma Mia and Matilda.

After enjoying all these stunning places, the students returned home with a wealth of new experiences and memories that they will cherish for a lifetime. This unforgettable trip is the perfect closure after the many years our students have spent at our school. Sharing such a remarkable experience with long-life friends and teachers will etch this trip into their minds and bring smiles to their faces whenever they remember it.



# Strengthening the Anglo Network: Insights from Gabriela Gorriti's Tour



Taking the opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the reality of the Anglo network, our new general manager, Gabriela Gorriti, visited all the Anglos in our vast network.



She took the opportunity to get to know the directors, teachers, and members of the boards of our Anglos more closely.

The visits aimed to better understand the realities and needs of each location and to establish even closer ties among all members of our communities.

“During April and part of May, we traveled across the country to visit all the ANGLO centers in the network. This was something I had been eager to do since I took on the role. We were warmly welcomed at every visit. The network that ANGLO has woven throughout the country has enormous potential, as it adapts to the reality of each territory. The variety of course offerings at different levels and in various formats facilitates access to English learning, thereby opening doors to the world for students all over the country.” Gabriela Gorriti

Last May, Gabriela—along with Carolina Clavier, Anglo Network Coordinator—toured our 34 Anglos in the interior of the country. Mark Teuten, the President of our Board of Governors, was also present during some of the visits.





## Anglo Seminars

We had an exceptional experience at our recent seminar at the Anglo, which was filled with insightful presentations, engaging discussions, and plenty of fun.



### *Leveraging AI for Effective EFL Teaching*

Jenifer Goldblum kicked off the event with a session on how AI tools like ChatGPT can revolutionize English language teaching. Participants learned about personalizing learning, enhancing exam preparation, and streamlining administrative tasks, leaving them excited about AI's potential to simplify teaching.

### *Exams and Their Role in Learning and Development*

Nora Ramos presented the second talk, exploring the importance of exams and highlighting their role in



enhancing memory, critical thinking, and resilience. The discussion focused on integrating Cambridge English exams into Uruguay's school curricula and their impact on both teachers and students.

### *The Importance of Professional Development in ELT*

Teresita Curbelo concluded the event with a talk emphasizing the necessity of continuous professional development for educators. She discussed various growth pathways and highlighted the Anglo's professional development programmes, inspiring attendees to enhance their teaching skills and student outcomes.

### *Coffee Break and Raffle Prizes*

A relaxing coffee break provided a chance to relax and connect, while our raffle added extra excitement with fantastic prizes for the lucky winners.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to the vibrant discussions. Stay tuned for more events and opportunities to connect with The Anglo community!





# Debunking myths for safer training

Dr. Mateo Gamarra, a specialist in sports medicine, discusses the importance of sports, common myths, and frequently asked questions among young people.

## What is sports medicine?

Sports medicine focuses on the physical condition of individuals, aiming to help them achieve optimal levels based on their goals and age. It addresses not only competitive sports performance but also physical capacity for everyday activities such as traveling, bending or playing.

## Impact of Nutrition

Physical fitness is shaped by a range of medical and non-medical fields. Professionals such as dietitians, physical education specialists and general practitioners all play a vital role in ensuring the body performs at its best.

## The Importance and Benefits of Physical Activity

Physical activity is essential for our biological well-being, helping us meet daily demands. For instance, immobilizing a joint leads to muscle atrophy, which highlights the importance of maintaining physical stimulation. The World Health Organization recommends that adults engage in 2.5 hours of moderate to vigorous activity per week, while children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 should aim for one hour of physical activity per day.

## Myths and truths

Social media spreads many myths, therefore it is vital for young people to consult professionals to assess the accuracy of information. A common misconception is that supplements are essential. In reality, a balanced diet is usually more beneficial, as supplements are often artificially processed and their effects can be influenced by the placebo effect. Another myth is the idea that "no pain, no gain" is necessary for effective training. Physical fitness encompasses various abilities, including strength, flexibility and balance. Excessive sweating and other quick weight-loss methods only lead to dehydration, not fat loss.



## Warning Signs

Young people need to learn to listen to their body's signals. Recurring or persistent pain is always a reason to consult a professional. Muscle soreness after exercise should decrease over time; if it persists, it could be a cause for concern.

## Trends in Nutrition and Sports

Marketing and imagery greatly influence perceptions of diet and physical activity. It is essential to adopt a strategy that promotes physical, emotional and social well-being. Health professionals should guide young people through this process, steering them away from extreme behaviours.

## Advice for Young People

Embrace movement and nutrition as essential aspects of daily life. Explore different activities and enjoy them with friends. Physical activity should be enjoyable rather than viewed as a strict obligation. Cultivating a positive relationship with both exercise and food is crucial for a healthy lifestyle.

---

*Article written from a podcast from Humana by Dr. Mateo Gamarra.*





## Competing in Catan

Following a fun-filled few hours at the Uruguay-Scotland Rugby match, a group of young adults from Christ Church gathered in our apartment to compete in Catan, Seafarers Expansion version. It was Olympic! There were eight qualified participants from six different countries. Unfortunately for two of us, Catan is a table game for six players.

I immediately disqualified myself in favour of securing pizza. The lone Uruguayan joined the Scottish player to provide psychological support in keeping with her vocation. The other five players each formed an independent team. A South American skilfully moderated, assisted by an African. The Central American was fairly new to the game and brought me in as a qualified consultant. The European brought comic relief and the North American enforced rules. The winner was a quiet North American who has long lived in Uruguay.

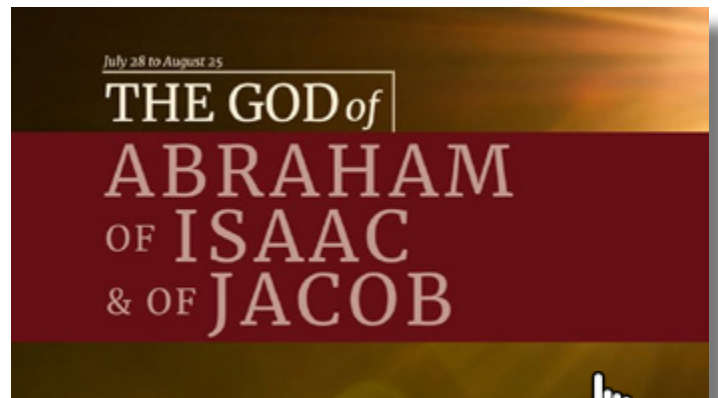
Catan might not interest you, but how about the idea of creative and enjoyable social connections?

The Christ Church community is intentional about creating spaces and opportunities for people to interact. When you visit Christ Church, expect to meet people who are older and younger than you. They might be Uruguayan, but they might not. They might move in a different social circle, but they might also be your neighbour. They might have fewer privileges and possibilities in life than you, or they might have more. They might come in a personal vehicle or an Uber, a bus or a bike, or even walking.

It is not easy to risk the uncertainty of the unknown or to engage with new friends who might not stay here forever. However, if you are intrigued, you should come and visit three to five times over the course of two months. You might surprise yourself and choose to continue.

The Christ Church website highlights some opportunities, but they are a starting place to many creative connections like competing in Catan!

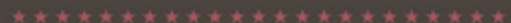
**John Hamilton**  
Pastor, Christ Church



[www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)

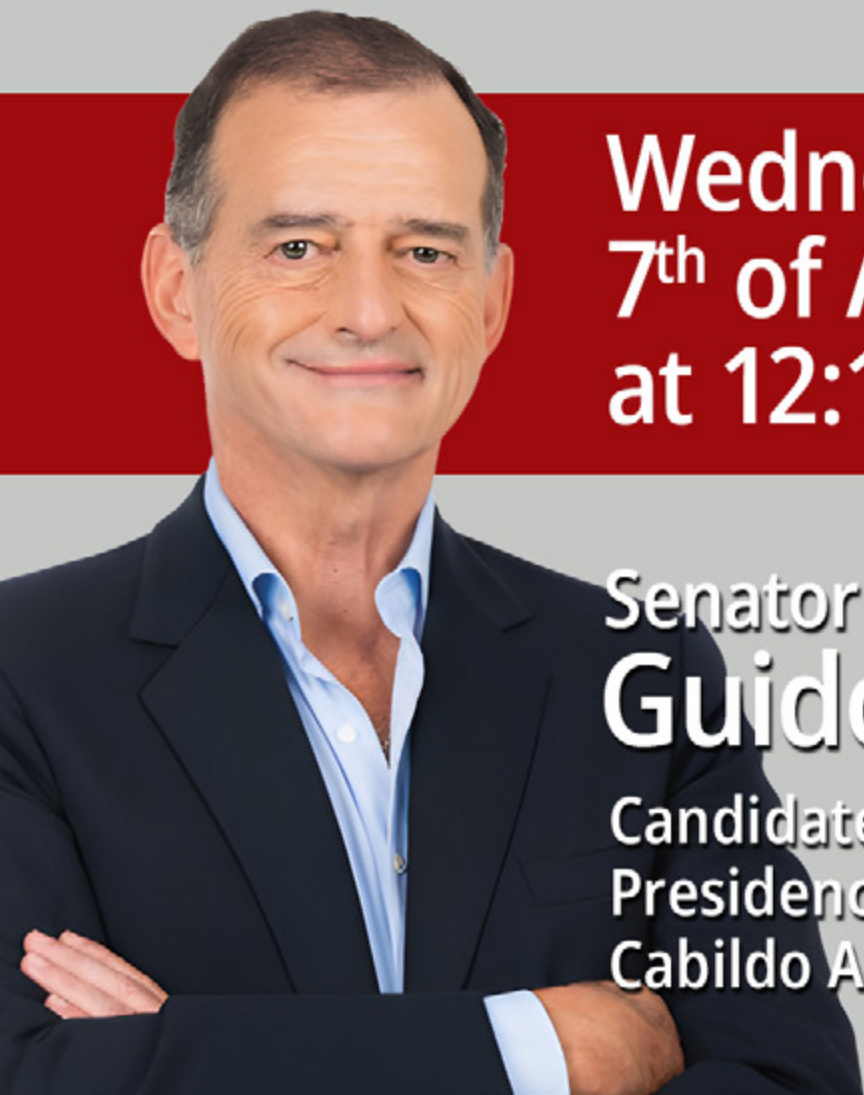


*We're a local Uruguayan church with a global community and family*





# LUNCH INVITATION



Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> of August  
at 12:15 PM

Senator  
**Guido Manini Rios**

Candidate for the  
Presidency of Uruguay for the  
Cabildo Abierto Party

Parva Domus, Punta Carretas  
Bvar Artigas 136, Esq. Parva Domus

Those in need of a special menu (celiac, diabetic, vegetarian, etc.)  
please notify the Club Secretary in advance to attend to your requirement.

More Information

[www.cub.com.uy](http://www.cub.com.uy)







**T**eam GB, the collective term for athletes representing the United Kingdom at the Olympic Games, has a rich history dating back to the modern Olympics' inception in 1896. The British Olympic Association (BOA), established in 1905, oversees the preparation and participation of British athletes in the Olympic Games. However, British athletes had already been competing since the first modern Olympics, bringing a strong tradition and competitive spirit to the global stage.

In the early years of the modern Olympics, British athletes were dominant figures. The 1908 London Olympics marked a significant milestone, as the Games were held in London, and Team GB achieved an impressive haul of 146 medals, including 56 golds. This event cemented the United Kingdom's reputation as a powerhouse in various sports, from athletics to rowing and boxing.

The mid-20th century brought challenges for Team GB, particularly during the World War II era when the 1940 and 1944 Olympic Games were cancelled. Post-war, British athletes faced increased competition from emerging sporting nations. Despite these challenges, there were standout performances, such as Roger Bannister's historic sub-four-minute mile in 1954, which, although not an Olympic event, symbolised British athletic prowess.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries witnessed a resurgence for Team GB. The turning point came with the investment in sports infrastructure and athlete development. The National Lottery, introduced in 1994, provided substantial funding for elite sports, revolutionising training and facilities for British athletes.

The 2000 Sydney Olympics was a testament to this transformation, with Team GB winning 28 medals. This

success continued in the 2004 Athens Olympics, where they secured 30 medals, demonstrating consistent improvement and a strong presence on the global stage.

The 2012 London Olympics was a defining moment in the history of Team GB. Hosted in the UK, the event showcased British culture and sportsmanship. Team GB delivered a stellar performance, finishing third in the medal table with 65 medals, including 29 golds. Memorable feats included Mo Farah's double gold in the 5,000m and 10,000m, Jessica Ennis-Hill's heptathlon victory, and the dominance of the cycling team led by Sir Chris Hoy and Bradley Wiggins.



Building on the momentum from London 2012, Team GB continued to excel in subsequent Olympics. At the Rio 2016 Olympics, they achieved their best overseas performance, securing 67 medals, including 27 golds. Notable achievements included Adam Peaty's world record in swimming, the dominance of the track cycling team, and the remarkable success of the rowing team.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021) saw Team GB maintain



## TEAM GB

its competitive edge. The team matched the medal tally of 65 from London 2012, with standout performances from athletes like Tom Daley in diving, Jason and Laura Kenny in cycling, and Charlotte Worthington in BMX freestyle.

Team GB's greatest feats are marked by a combination of individual brilliance and collective strength. Some of the most iconic moments include Steve Redgrave's five gold medals: rowing legend Sir Steve Redgrave won gold medals at five consecutive Olympics from 1984 to 2000, an unparalleled achievement in the sport. Chris Hoy's six gold medals: cyclist Sir Chris Hoy became Britain's most successful Olympian with six gold medals, showcasing his dominance in track cycling. Jessica Ennis-Hill's heptathlon triumph: Ennis-Hill's gold medal in the heptathlon at London 2012 epitomised her resilience and versatility as an athlete. Mo Farah's long-distance double: Farah's double gold in the 5,000m and 10,000m at both London 2012 and Rio 2016 solidified his status as one of the greatest distance runners in history.

The journey of Team GB is a testament to the power of dedication, investment, and the unyielding spirit of athletes. From humble beginnings to becoming a global sporting powerhouse, Team GB's history is rich with iconic moments and legendary athletes. As the team continues to inspire future generations, the legacy of Team GB will undoubtedly endure, celebrating the unity and excellence that define British sportsmanship.



# TEAM GB







THE MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS SOCIETY

(timidly) presents



SHOWS IN AUGUST

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>

CREATED BY  
**RODOLFO PRESNO**  
**LUCCA HOFMAN**  
**FEDERICO HELLER**

DIRECTED BY  
**FEDERICO HELLER**

2024

AT THE **NEIL FAIRLESS CENTRE** Acevedo Díaz 2324

At the pub you can order Davok craft beer, wine, spirits or soft drinks, and have pasties and pizza.



## DICKENS MID SUMMER DREAM 2024



Mid Summer Dream 2024 was a great success! More than 200 teachers participated in this enriching seminar. Teachers from all over the country came to share this meeting with colleagues.

In addition to the presentations by distinguished speakers, there was a very enjoyable lunch to be shared by all attendees. This and the breaks were good opportunities for the exchange of ideas, news and so many activities enjoyed by teachers at large.







There was a very exciting event which was the possibility of winning a trip to the UK. Analía Buffa was the lucky winner congratulated by one and all.



Great thanks to all our sponsors for believing once again in Dickens and Mid Summer Dream.

Thank you all for sharing our success!





## The Beautiful Game

by Tony Beckwith  
[tony@tonybeckwith.com](mailto:tony@tonybeckwith.com)

Soccer was everywhere in the last few months. Two international tournaments were being played simultaneously, one in Europe and one in the Americas, featuring the best national teams and the finest players in the world. I'm not a sports fan, but when there is that much soccer going on I have to watch a few games. I can't help it; I was bitten by the soccer bug as a child. You couldn't get away from it in Montevideo in those days. Wherever you were on game days—in a café, a restaurant, a taxi, just walking down the street—you could hear the *partido* blaring over the radio (no one had TV yet). The radio was usually played at full volume, especially in public places where fans gathered to follow the game.

Modern soccer began in England in the mid-1800s. As it gained popularity, people started calling it “the beautiful game” because of its innate simplicity and elegance, the teamwork involved, the unpredictability, and the sheer joy it brings to fans and players. The British started coming to Uruguay at about that time, mainly to farm and raise cattle and sheep, but also as entrepreneurs and adventurers. In need of recreation and a place to socialize with their fellow *ingleses*, they started the Montevideo Cricket Club (MVCC) in 1861 and imported soccer, among other sports, from “home.” The game caught on among the local population and soon became the national sport. Uruguayan fans are passionate about *fútbol* and flock to the Estadio Centenario on game days. That stadium in Montevideo was built in 1930 to commemorate the centennial of Uruguay's Constitution. The very first World Cup tournament—anywhere in the world—was played there that year and, when Uruguay won, the whole country erupted in victory celebrations. Some years later the broadcasting star, Heber Pinto, proposed a toast: “To the English, who gave us soccer, which we then made ours!” He was spot-on.

But there was more to the beautiful game than the actual event. It was also an integral part of the British ethic which held that sports should be part of every child's education. I recently watched *Chariots of Fire*, a film about two British

athletes who compete at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. One of them is studying at Cambridge, and there is a scene in which the university's Master of Trinity (splendidly played by Sir John Gielgud) says: “Here in Cambridge, we're always proud of our athletic prowess. We believe, we've always believed, that our games are indispensable in helping to complete the education of an Englishman. They create character, they foster courage, honesty, and leadership. But, most of all, an unassailable spirit of loyalty, comradeship, and mutual responsibility.”

These words rang a bell and sent me back to the Centennial history book published by my alma mater, the British Schools in 2008, in which the introduction to the chapter on Sports has this to say: “In addition to simple enjoyment, sport allows the students to learn its inherent key values such as fair play, teamwork, trust, discipline, resilience, sportsmanship, grace under pressure, as well as an appropriate attitude towards both winning and losing. These character-building codes instil essential life-long values and habits in young men and women which are often acquired more easily on the games fields than in the classroom.”

These are some heady concepts for girls and boys in high school. But they were idealistic seeds planted in successive generations of students who then went out into the world inspired by these noble values to do their best to live by these principles. As I watched game after game in the Copa América and the Euro 2024 I was reminded of these ideas and glimpsed a somewhat wistful vision of what the example of soccer could teach. In our complicated world where conflict and violence are on the rise, the metaphor of the playing field acquires great significance and points to a more peaceful way. How deeply satisfying it is to watch two teams, both firmly committed to winning, play against each other according to a set of rules that are respected by all and honourably accept the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat as fundamental parts of the contest. A beautiful game indeed.





by Juan José Castillos  
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## Sir Winston Churchill

Great men are always revered by their accomplishments, in spite of the sometimes unavoidable mistakes they made, part of our fallible human nature. In British history names like Henry V, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Nelson, Wellington, make us admire them by the results of their policies and brilliant reforms and other ways in which they made the British Empire possible, the greatest and largest in human history, so as to expand the British language and traditions far beyond their very small island.

But from my personal point of view, one name stands high above all British heroes, Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill. He was steadfast in his defense of the British Empire and later commonwealth of nations, and never for a moment considered submitting to the overwhelming domination of Hitler and his nazi regime. Although many traitors were conspiring in Britain at the time to accept German oppression and military intervention as a necessary and unavoidable evil, Churchill observed that the British people wanted nothing of the sort and were ready to accept devastation and deprivation as the price for a victory, that at first seemed most unlikely in view of German superiority in resources and determination.

What many people ignore in their admiration of German and other Axis initial successes is that in a dictatorship all resources are aimed at war, that in a democracy cannot be implemented due to other expectations people have, but once a democracy is turned into a war economy, the willing concerted effort of all, finally prevails. His Turn Europe Ablaze policy during German occupation was costly in lives but paved the way to liberation when the time was ripe.

He tried to warn from the minor positions available to him as

to the Hitlerite danger, but mostly unsuccessfully, and when the Second World War began, Britain was not ready to meet the challenge. Regardless of these shortcomings, as soon as he came to power as the Prime Minister, he became like a rock, sure of final victory against all odds, fully conscious of the strength of a British Empire, fully mobilized for the purpose.

It is true that wrong decisions in the past and at that time, like at Gallipoli and Singapore, weighed heavily against him, in the latter case hundreds of thousands of British and other empire troops were captured and then used as slave labour by the Japanese under inhumane conditions, troops that if evacuated, could have been used in North Africa and elsewhere, once the defense of Singapore was understood to be an impossible feat.

The entry of the United States in the war convinced most people that victory was not only possible, but almost certain. When the war in Europe ended, celebrations proved Churchill to have been right all along but shortly after, in a display of incredible ingratitude, the people voted Labour into power. Churchill said nothing at the time, but I can't even begin to understand his disappointment at not even having been allowed to continue as Prime Minister for a few years as a show of gratitude.

He returned to power later on and continued to fight for the values he held to be so precious, a whole life devoted to the well-being of his country, in a display of patriotism that extended through his whole life, against all odds and against the resistance of aristocratic and other nazi collaborators. That is why I hold his memory as so inspiring and almost unique in British history.





## Einstein in Uruguay

by Juan José Castillos  
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**A**lbert Einstein visited Montevideo in 1925 and it seems that he was very interested in meeting our philosopher, Vaz Ferreira. Apparently, they walked through the center of the town and when they reached the square that we know today as Of the Thirty-Three, they sat on a bench and had a conversation. Commemorating such a significant event, there is even a monument there now with statues of who were supposedly engaged in profound disquisitions, perhaps on the famous theory of relativity.

But what is the reality of all this? In Einstein's travel diary there is only a brief mention of a walk taken with Vaz Ferreira where it is commented that he seemed to be a shy and nervous man, who spoke even worse French than Einstein, which must have made communication difficult.

The idea is that both had discussed Einstein's famous theory of relativity, something absurd and that sought to enhance the cultural and scientific level of our country, but that had nothing to do with reality, since everything that had to do with such a theory was miles beyond what Vaz Ferreira could understand.

Here is a shorthand published version of what it seems they talked about:

Einstein - My concept of the universe is circumferential. Starting from a point the line seems to move away from it, but in reality, it approaches it and ends there. I mean, that what goes away comes closer, that what goes away comes, that what is here is really there; that the light is the shadow; that what is, is not...

Vaz Ferreira - I don't think so much of that; but if that what is moving away may actually be getting closer; that what is here, can really be there; that the light, it may be what it is, and it may be that it is not...

Einstein - Look at the sunlight...

Vaz Ferreira - And who can affirm that light is from the sun, and that the sun is what it seems to be!?

Einstein - Surely not even the sun is a sun nor is the light the light. I'm not even seeing it, it's not me...

Vaz Ferreira - I don't get to be that radical. I do not confirm. I'm not claiming that I'm not me, but I'm saying that it's possible that I was not, or that I was.

Einstein - You say what you say, but for my theory, it

really doesn't say anything...

Vaz Ferreira - And for mine. You may be saying something, and you may not.

Einstein - Am I talking to Vaz Ferreira?

Vaz Ferreira: - According to my theory. it could be. And me, do I talk to Einstein?"

What, far from being a profound dialogue, resembles Einstein's discreet irony dealing with such inconsequentialities and banalities, fully aware of his companion's inability to grasp the facts of relativity. In other words, a whole current monument in Montevideo celebrating... a series of nonsensical exchanges.

In certain texts about the visit of the eminent scientist it is stated that a letter written by Einstein to Vaz Ferreira praises the content of a book written by Vaz Ferreira on pragmatism (more empty Uruguayan academic arrogance), when in reality, in that letter, Einstein states just the opposite, that he rejected Vaz Ferreira's ideas about pragmatism, while telling him that he cannot expand on these concepts 'due to the numerous social obligations' of his visit.

Einstein was very impressed by the Uruguayans, who seemed humble and not very ostentatious, as well as by the social laws of the time in this country, but what he tries to avoid mentioning is that at a reception offered by the president of Uruguay and other high-ranking authorities to Einstein and the German ambassador, a German song was played by a band, instead of what was supposed to be the anthem of that country. Great embarrassment that made Einstein and the ambassador exchange a look and a smile.

In other words, in Montevideo there is a monument that seeks to exploit Einstein's global reputation by engaging in a dialogue with someone who had not the slightest idea of what Einstein could be saying, who disagreed with the philosophical ideas of Vaz Ferreira in a book that he had given Einstein, as Vaz Ferreira himself confessed, with great humility and trepidation. Therefore, we are here in the presence of a monument that in an attempt to make us proud of our intellectual and scientific reality in Uruguay, it really falsifies history, providing an adulcorated and incorrect view of an event that was quite different from what they would have us believe.





## A Reversal of Fortune

by Juan Pablo Milessi  
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Nationalism, in its various forms, often fosters division and competition among nations. Yet, in a world that increasingly demands cooperation and mutual support, it's becoming essential for countries to collaborate and work together for the common good of our species.

However, the narrative of history is frequently dominated by powerful nations, leaving smaller or less influential countries feeling overshadowed and insignificant. This phenomenon is particularly pronounced when traveling abroad, where the cultural and historical dominance of countries like the United States, France and Great Britain is palpable.

In many so-called "third world" countries, the history taught in schools often mirrors the perspectives and achievements of these powerful nations I have mentioned. Consequently, there's a pervasive sense of inferiority and marginalization, as if our contributions to global history are negligible or nonexistent. This sentiment can lead to a collective feeling of smallness, as our nations seem perpetually relegated to the sidelines of world events.

Yet, when it comes to football, the dynamics shift dramatically. In the realm of the beautiful game, countries like Uruguay and Argentina ascend to the status of global powerhouses. South American footballers who migrate to Europe for professional opportunities earn high salaries and are highly respected. The tables turn, and the historically dominant nations look to us for expertise and inspiration.

The influence of powerful nations on global history is undeniable. From shaping international politics to driving technological advancements, countries like the United States and the U.K. have left an indelible mark on the world. This dominance extends to cultural hegemony, where Hollywood films, Western literature, and European art often overshadow the rich cultural tapestries of other regions.

For many South Americans, this historical overshadowing can be disheartening. Our achievements and contributions

are frequently overlooked or minimized in the grand narrative of world history. This feeling of being perpetually in the shadow of more powerful nations is a common experience, exacerbated by the global reach of American culture and the historical legacies of European colonialism.

However, football offers a unique and powerful counter-narrative. On the football pitch, nations like Uruguay and Argentina command respect and admiration. The world turns to us for talent, strategy, and passion. Footballers from these countries are celebrated as heroes, and their successes on the international stage bring a profound sense of pride and identity.

When it comes to football, Uruguay and Argentina are among the elite. Our teams are revered, our players are sought after, and our coaches are consulted by the very nations that often overshadow us in other arenas. In the world of football, we are the developed nations, the G7 of the sport. This reversal of fortune offers a refreshing perspective and a much-needed boost to our national identities.

The success of South American football on the global stage has far-reaching implications. It challenges the traditional power dynamics and offers a platform for our nations to shine. This success fosters a sense of belonging and significance that transcends the football field, influencing how we perceive ourselves and how others perceive us.

For many South Americans, football is more than just a sport; it's a symbol of our resilience, talent, and potential. It proves that we can compete with and even surpass the world's most powerful nations in certain arenas. This realization can inspire confidence and ambition in other areas, encouraging us to pursue excellence and recognition beyond football.

In football, we find a powerful metaphor for our broader aspirations and achievements, reminding us that we too have the power to shape history.



# British Hospital Guild Tea

Tuesday 13th August at 14:30 hs

BH Policlínica 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

\$ 500, payable with Mercado Pago link  
up till Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>,  
or at the door with previous reservation

RSVP necessary as space is limited so call or text  
Linda Brady 098 875 226  
Vivien Morton 094 416 255  
Susan Drever 099 866 782



We will be enjoying a brief summary on the  
History of the Guild itself and where it stands today.  
After which we will have an interesting and  
entertaining talk by Richard Cowley  
"Sir Eugen and Me".

Following this, a delicious tea will be served, and a  
lovely gift will be given to each person in attendance.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

## Said The Penguin

A hexalogy in 6 issues

2.

So, the penguin and I go to the cinema  
To see a film. The woman next to me  
Gives me an astonished look.  
'I can't believe that penguin  
Is watching this film!', she says.  
'Neither can I', I tell her.  
'He hated the book'.



Signed and dedicated gift copies of Jonathan's two books, 'The Ugly Baby' and 'Speaky Stuff', can be ordered by mailing [vozinglesa@gmail.com](mailto:vozinglesa@gmail.com). Actors from Fawlty Towers, Downton Abbey and the Harry Potter films can be heard performing extracts at [www.jclamb.com](http://www.jclamb.com)



John Adams

## Brighton-Upon-Plata

by Alvaro Cuenca  
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Britons during the Late XIX Century acknowledged the therapeutic advantages of the water baths. First in the spas of the continent and the British Isles, but soon the sea waters were added as healthy activities for the summer season. The city of Brighton became the number one seaside resort and the Brighton Pier was a socialisation addition that nearly became a reason in itself to travel to that southern city. Uruguay had its own seaside hotel, built and administered by the British owned tram company, the Pocitos Hotel, with its own famous pier. The story of the Pocitos Hotel deserves its own article, but its mention just serves as the introduction to the story of the most important native of Brighton that arrived to Montevideo during the days of the British Informal Empire in Uruguay.

John Adams was born during the late 1860's in Brighton. Son of a well to do family, he attended Primary school in Weybridge and later studies in construction and architecture at Bath and the school of Arts & Crafts of South Kensington. He started to work as a student with the London architects Jordan and Lowether; and after getting his degree of architect with the construction company W.S. Lascelles & Co, with which he worked for five years. In 1890 he travelled to Buenos Aires as an employee of the Maples construction company that had offices in that city, with a contract to build the Buenos Aires, Rosario and Montevideo branches of the Bank of London and the River Plate; and later the branches of Buenos Aires and Montevideo of the English Bank.

Four years after his arrival to the River Plate, Adams moved definitively to Montevideo where he revalidated his architecture degree and started a prolific construction career in our capital. The list of his projects is impressive, and the buildings designed by himself or built by his company, in association from 1910 onwards with Carlos Sarthou, where the most important of the Montevideo of the beginnings of the XX Century. A short list of them include: Bank of London

and the River Plate (Cerrito & Zabala), Banco Comercial (Zabala & Cerrito), Victoria Hall – Teatro Victoria (Rio Negro & Uruguay), Standard Life Building - London Paris (18 de Julio & Rio Negro), Palacio Urtubey - Residencia del Embajador del Brasil (Bulevar Artigas & Rivera), British Hospital (Avenida Italia & Bulevar Artigas), Pocitos Hotel (Rambla & Marti), Palacio Taranco (Plaza Zabala) and the British Residence (Jorge Canning & Avenida Ricaldoni).

From his long building list, let us stop at the British Residence, inaugurated in Montevideo coinciding with the Kings' Birthday Party in May, 1928; sharing some of the words of the architectural historian James Stourton.

Cecil Simpson [senior architect in the Office of Works]... engaged a local firm of British architects, Messrs Adams Broad & Co. The Residence is a rectangular neo-classical villa in white stucco, which would not be out of place in Belgravia... the final cost of the building was £33,000. The furnishings came from Maples... The entrance is at one end of the building and leads into a corridor down its spine which, at the heart of the house, opens into a staircase hall. Lord Castlereagh hangs on the stairs, but the wonder of the Residence is a panoramic view of Montevideo c1845 by Juan Manuel Besnes e Irigoyen.

Adams became an outstanding member of the British community in Montevideo, being a usual member of the committees of the most important British societies in Uruguay. Prominent Mason, he was fundamental part of the arrangement to buy the land adjacent to the Victoria Hall where the Acacia Lodge had its headquarters until 1948. He returned many times to England, once to study the British Telegraph Offices in collaboration with Uruguayan Government communication officials. After his final return to the Old Country in the 1920's he became Commercial Aggregate at the Uruguayan Consulate in London, post he held until his death in 1938.





## Nine Marks And 56 Years of Hard Rock

by Richard Empson  
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**F**rom the very start, the story of Deep Purple is one of business over friendship, a fact that has epitomised and hounded this remarkable band throughout its long existence. Since the release of their first album, the band has weathered nine different line-ups – which they dubbed “Marks” – making them one of the most changing bands in rock history... as well as one of the most successful.

In 1967, former Searchers drummer Chris Curtis contacted businessman Tony Edwards and asked him to manage a new band he was putting together, to be called Roundabout. Curtis' vision was a “supergroup” where band members would get on and off, like a musical roundabout. Impressed with the idea, Edwards agreed to finance the venture. Curtis put together a group comprised by keyboardist Jon Lord, guitarist Ritchie Blackmore and bassist Nick Simper. However, Curtis's erratic behaviour and lifestyle, fuelled by his use of LSD, caused him to display a sudden lack of interest in the project he had started, thus becoming its first casualty. He was replaced by drummer Bobby Woodman.

The group began to practice as they began the search for a vocalist. They finally settled on Rod Evans, who came to the audition with his band's drummer, Ian Paice. Given that Woodman had started to be vocally unhappy with the direction of the band's music, Paice was auditioned and Woodman became the second casualty. However, now Roundabout's line-up was complete.

During their first tour of Denmark and Sweden in early 1968, Blackmore suggested they change the band name, which he found uninteresting. He proposed Deep Purple, after his grandmother's favourite song, “Deep Purple” by Peter DeRose. The name stuck and the band's Mark I line-up moved on.

Deep Purple's first album, *Shades of Deep Purple* (1968), included an interesting cover of Joe South's “Hush”, which became an instant hit in the US, reaching N°4 on the Billboard Hot 100. But their next two albums, *The Book of Taliesyn* (1968) and *Deep Purple* (1969), failed to gain traction, and the band seemed in danger of becoming a one-hit wonder. Mounting business, personal and creative differences thus brought them to a premature career crossroads.

Blackmore, Lord and Paice agreed that changes in both sound and personnel were needed for there to be any hope of relaunching Deep Purple's career. Thus, they replaced Evans and Simper with singer Ian Gillan and bassist Roger Glover, whom they felt were better equipped to pursue a new heavier direction. So came about the band's line-up known as Mark II. Their next albums, *In Rock* (1970), *Fireball* (1971) and *Machine Head* (1972), are still lauded as cornerstones of heavy metal. In fact, along with Led Zeppelin's *Led Zeppelin II* and Black Sabbath's *Paranoid*, *In Rock* codified the budding heavy metal genre. Moreover, *Machine Head*'s single “Smoke on the Water” is considered the band's signature song, its guitar riff being one of the most iconic in all of rock history. However, the group would soon buckle under the pressure of non-stop work and creative differences, and after cutting the clearly less inspired *Who Do We Think We Are?* (1973), Gillan and Glover left the band.

Another pair of musicians were selected to replace them, bassist/vocalist Glenn Hughes and relatively unknown singer David Coverdale, who brought vocal harmonies and elements of funk and blues, respectively, to the band's music. This completed the line-up known as Mark III. With them, Deep Purple recovered their top form recording their next albums, *Burn* (1974) and *Stormbringer* (1974), and performing before their biggest audience ever as headliners of the famed California Jam festival. Unfortunately, interpersonal bickering would soon surface again. This time, the issue was Blackmore, who did not care for the new musical influences permeating Deep Purple, and decided to start fresh setting up his own band, Rainbow, leaving the remaining members to face their stiffest challenge yet.

After extensive auditions, Deep Purple recruited American guitarist Tommy Bolin. He brought boundless stores of talent and unimpeachable versatility to the band, but also a crippling heroin addiction that would eventually contribute to both his own and the band's tragic demise. Along the way, the short-lived Mark IV line-up delivered a highly respectable, if unconventional, 10<sup>th</sup> album, the soul-and-funk-injected *Come Taste the Band* (1975), over which fans remain divided. The band stumbled through a heavily-criticized world tour that reached catastrophic lows in Japan (due to

## Musical Box

Bolin's drug issues) and Indonesia (where corrupt authorities literally murdered one of the band's roadies), then promptly broke up. Coverdale set up his own (highly successful) band, Whitesnake, with Lord and Paice. And only months later, Bolin died from a drugs and alcohol overdose.

The now-defunct Deep Purple began to gain a type of mystical status, with fan-driven reissues and compilation albums being released throughout the late 70s and early 80s. This prompted the musicians of the celebrated Mark II line-up to reconvene nearly a decade after the band's break-up. Their suitably titled comeback album *Perfect Strangers* (1984) so thrilled fans that most overlooked the likelihood that it would all go pear-shaped once again. Five years later, it did. Ian Gillan, who'd led Deep Purple both to jam-packed arenas and a widely panned follow-up album, *The House of Blue Light* (1987), was once again pushed out of the band by his long-time antagonist Ritchie Blackmore.

Blackmore's handpicked replacement was one-time Rainbow frontman, Joe Lynn Turner. A fine vocalist and competent songwriter in his own right, Turner nevertheless sparked a firestorm of criticism. Deep Purple's *Slaves and Masters* (1990) album was predictably dismissed by critics and fans as "Deep Rainbow", the worst of both worlds. The band embarked on a world tour in an effort to make the line-up stick, but record and ticket buyers were simply not having it. By 1992, Blackmore was forced to re-admit Gillan into the Deep Purple fold, and the Mark V was no more.

Thus, the Mark II line-up returned for a third (and final) go-round. The result was their appropriately named next album, *The Battle Rages On...* (1993), which reflects the irreconcilable musical and personal differences compromising all of Deep Purple, but Blackmore and Gillan in particular. An ensuing world tour was meant to mark the band's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but there was little to celebrate. Blackmore abruptly resigned after a concert in Helsinki, forcing the remaining bandmates to call in a pretty big favour in order to fulfil their remaining touring commitments.

(continued...)

Deep Purple roped in famed American guitarist Joe Satriani to complete the tour, and this was the short-lived Mark VI line-up. But any chance of Satriani joining permanently was harpooned by his standing commitment to Epic Records, and he would never record as a member of Deep Purple. Still, his stay gave the band enough time to find a long-term solution for their high-profile guitar position.

Deep Purple found a worthy replacement in veteran American guitarist Steve Morse, and this was Mark VII. Their next album, *Purpendicular* (1996), hardly sounded like vintage Deep Purple, but nonetheless delivered a strong selection of tunes. They followed it with *Abandon* (1998), and some of the most intensive touring of the band's career, which unfortunately prompted Lord's retirement.

Lord (who passed away in 2012 from pancreatic cancer) was replaced by keyboardist Don Airey. This Mark VIII line-up would become the longest-running Deep Purple ever, spanning two decades. The band remained a steady touring act during this era, while also delivering six more studio albums: *Bananas* (2003), *Rapture of the Deep* (2005), *Now What?!* (2013), *Infinite* (2017), *Whoosh!* (2020) and covers album *Turning Into Crime* (2021).

In 2022, Morse announced he was leaving Deep Purple to be with his wife Janine as she battled cancer. He was replaced by guitarist Simon McBride, who made Deep Purple's Mark IX line-up entirely British once again. The band has now released its 21<sup>st</sup> album, curiously titled *=1* (2024), which marks a return to its sound of the early 70s, as can be heard on the hit single "Portable Door".

After 56 years, Deep Purple remains current and active, making them one of the longest-lasting bands in rock history. Along with Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, they are cited as the pioneers of hard rock and heavy metal, and have influenced the music of countless musicians.







## A Fire in the Sky

“**Smoke on the Water**”, a song by British rock band Deep Purple released on their 1972 studio album *Machine Head*, was the result of unforeseen events occurred in Montreux, Switzerland. Its lyrics chronicle the fire that destroyed Montreux Casino in 1971. The song became the band’s signature tune and its guitar riff is considered one of rock music’s most iconic of all time. However, its genesis was complicated and its success unexpected.

### Here’s what happened:

On 4 December 1971, Deep Purple were in Montreux, Switzerland, to record an album (*Machine Head*) using a mobile recording studio rented from the Rolling Stones at the entertainment complex that was part of the Montreux Casino. On the eve of the recording session, a concert by Frank Zappa & the Mothers of Invention was held in the casino’s theatre. This was the theatre’s final concert before the casino complex closed down for its annual winter renovations, which would allow Deep Purple to record there.

During Don Preston’s synthesiser solo on “King Kong”, the place suddenly caught fire when someone in the audience fired a flare gun at the rattan-covered ceiling. Although there were no major injuries, the resulting fire destroyed the entire casino complex, along with all the Mothers’ equipment. The ‘smoke on the water’ that became the title of the song refers to the smoke from the fire spreading over Lake Geneva (i.e. Lac Léman) from the burning casino as the members of Deep Purple watched from their nearby hotel.

The ‘funky Claude’ referred to in the lyrics is Claude Nobs, Director of the Montreux Jazz Festival, who helped some of the audience escape the fire. Left with an expensive mobile recording unit and no place to record, the Deep Purple was forced to scout the town for another place to set up. Initially they tried a local theatre, the Pavilion, but soon after the band started recording, neighbours took offence at the noise.

The band only recorded the tentative backing track for one song they labelled “Title N°1”, before local police shut them down. After about a week of searching, the band rented the nearly empty Grand Hôtel de Territet and converted its hallways into a makeshift studio, where they laid down all the planned tracks for *Machine Head*, which became their most commercially successful album (and is dedicated to Claude Nobs).

### Song lyrics:

*We all came out to Montreux  
on the Lake Geneva shoreline  
to make records with a mobile  
we didn’t have much time.*

*Frank Zappa and the Mothers  
were at the best place around,  
but some stupid with a flare gun  
burned the place to the ground.*

*Smoke on the water, a fire in the sky  
smoke on the water...*

*They burned down the gambling house  
it died with an awful sound,  
funky Claude was running in and out  
he was pulling kids out the ground.*

*When it all was over  
we had to find another place,  
Swiss time was running out,  
it seemed that we would lose the race.*

*Smoke on the water, a fire in the sky  
smoke on the water...*

*We ended up at the Grand Hotel,  
it was empty, cold and bare, with  
the Rolling truck Stones thing just outside  
making our music there.*

*With a few red lights and a few old beds  
we made a place to sweat,  
no matter what we get out of this  
I know, I know we’ll never forget.*

*Smoke on the water, a fire in the sky  
smoke on the water...*

In the ensuing chaos of being evicted from the temporary studio at the Pavilion theatre, the track recorded while the Swiss police hammered on the door of at 2:00 a.m. to try and get the noise stopped was almost forgotten. It was only when a sound engineer pointed out that the band was one track short for a complete album that drummer Ian Paice reminded them of "Title N°1", they listened to it again, thought it sounded good enough, and decided to include it. However, they realised there were no words to it, so vocalist Ian Gillan was given the task of thinking something up. It was then that bassist Roger Glover thought of looking back at notes he had written of his impressions as he saw the flames going up at the casino, when the downdraft from the mountains pushed the smoke down across the lake. Smoke on the water: that's where the song's title came from. He suggested to Gillan that he write lyrics about the making of their record, Gillan did, and that is how "Smoke on the Water" got completed, and ended up on the Machine Head album. Otherwise, it could well have been lost as a sound check. Moreover, it was included as something to play to their Montreux host and hero of the fire, Claude Nobs, who had told the band "Title N°1" was far too good to leave in the can.

Included on Machine Head mostly as a filler, "Smoke on the Water" was not released as a single until May 1973, a year after the album's publication. The band have admitted that they never expected the song to be a hit, but the single reached number 4 on the US Billboard pop singles chart and number 2 on Canada's RPM charts during the summer of 1973, propelling Machine Head to the top 10 in both countries more than a year after its release.

The tune is easily identified by its central riff, developed by guitarist Ritchie Blackmore. It is a four-note blues scale melody in G minor, harmonised in parallel fourths. Played by Blackmore on a Fender Stratocaster electric guitar (usually using a finger pluck), the riff opens the song, later joined by hi-hat and distorted organ, then the rest of the drums, and then the electric bass parts before the vocals start. Blackmore has claimed the riff is an interpretation of the

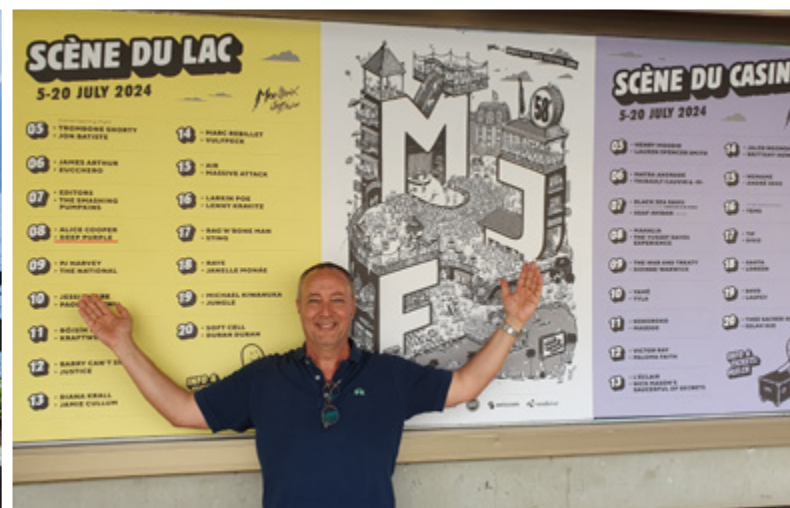
inversion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 5th Symphony, and has stated "I owe Beethoven a lot of money!"

Blackmore has often stressed that his band mates were initially not fans of the "Smoke on the Water" riff, which they thought too simplistic. However, it went on to become the quintessential heavy rock guitar riff and serves to this day as a metal-melody primer for burgeoning rock guitarists everywhere.

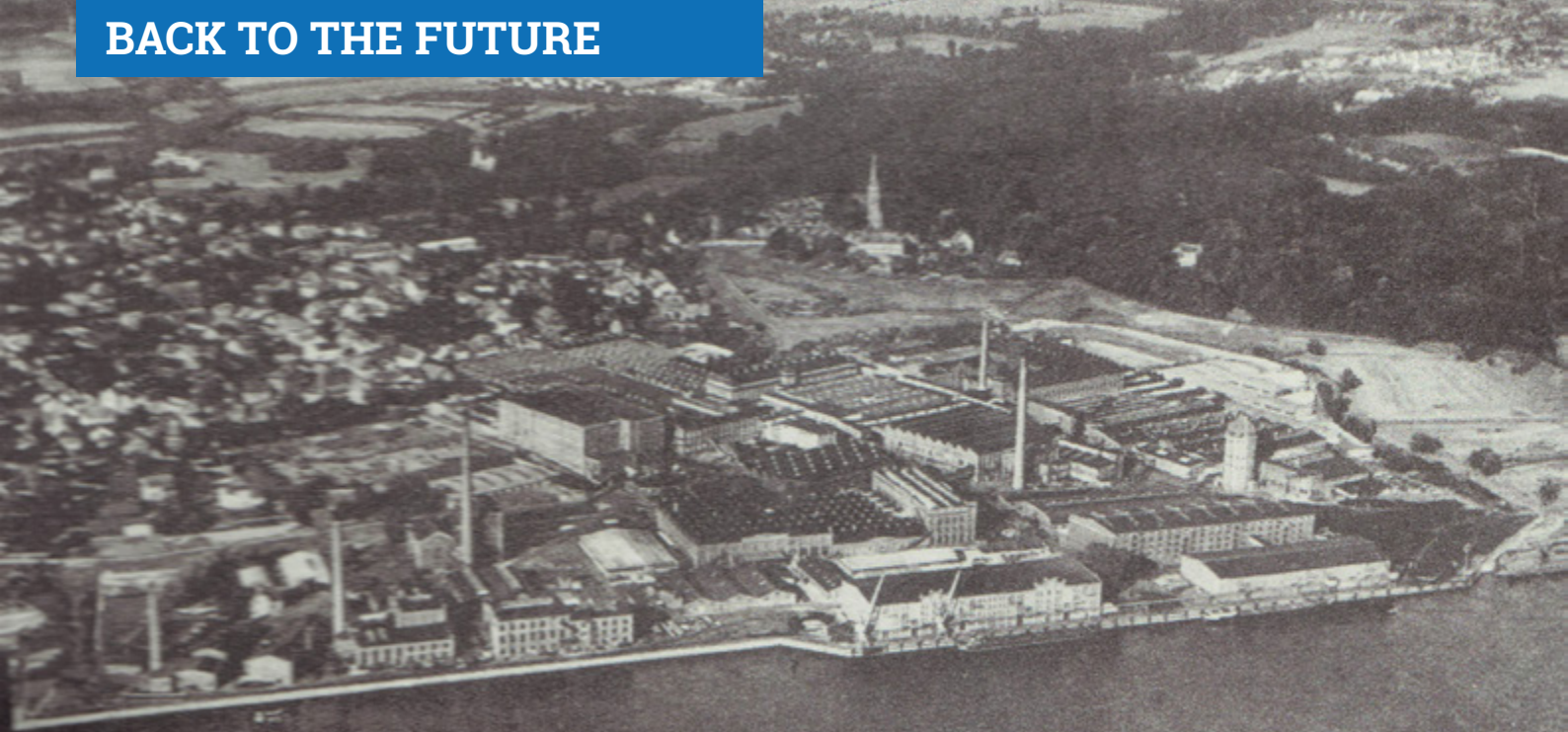
Live performances of "Smoke on the Water", featuring extended interplay between Blackmore's guitar and keyboardist Jon Lord's Hammond organ, became a centrepiece of Deep Purple's concerts, as in the version found on the band's live album Made in Japan. And during Gillan's stint in Black Sabbath in 1983, "Smoke on the Water" was performed regularly on encores, making it one of very few cover songs that Black Sabbath have ever played live.

Because of the incident and the exposure Montreux received when "Smoke on the Water" became an international hit, Deep Purple formed a lasting bond with the Swiss town and have played there many times. The song was honoured in Montreux by a sculpture placed by the lake shore (close to the statue of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury) on the concrete wall right below the Marché Couvert, with the song's title, the band's name and the guitar riff in musical notes. Sadly, this monument was removed during remodelling in 2016 due to deterioration. However, the new Montreux Casino displays the notes from the riff as decoration on its balustrade facing the gambling hall, and a plaque with the song title still stands outside the back entrance of the former Grand Hôtel de Territet. Your author was recently in Montreux and was not surprised to find Deep Purple among the bands scheduled to play at the 2024 Montreux Jazz Festival.

Asked how he feels about the song today, Gillan has said, "Like all narrative songs, by playing it you can place yourself there. It's fantastic. I love singing it. And the important thing is everyone in the audience is always so involved in the song: they know every word and the groove. It's a shared experience. It's like a congregational euphoria."







## Back to the Future XVI

by Carl Sloth Knudsen  
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**A**fter my experience with the blind passenger, I went on shore at Vigo Harbour in Spain with a few other young passengers who came from Chile and Argentina with more or less the same program as mine, though in Germany. We only had a few hours to visit the city, so we did not see much of the place. I recall the houses were very old, the streets very narrow, with railway for the tram in the middle.

We stopped at a small wine grocery and bought a couple of local cognac bottles for the rest of the trip. We reached back to our ship in time, and off we sailed towards Hamburg, where we arrived the next day. I could not believe my own eyes; we docked exactly at the same place as we did with my family in 1949. This time we were also called to go to deck, but this time with our passport and our luggage for custom control. One of the German officers speaking loudly and hard, said something about coffee/ Brazil, and where I was heading for.

One of my companions who spoke German jumped to help me as translator. I told the officer no coffee, but one bottle of cognac, and heading for Copenhagen directly by train, and this is my Danish passport issued by my father General Consul of Denmark in Uruguay. He stamped my document without any comments, and together with my friend we took a taxi to the railway station where he helped me book the ticket to Denmark same night at 23.00 hrs. All this happened at midday, so, he invited me to come and visit a family member, where he would be staying, and we could have lunch. Before going to the Central Railway Station (Hauptbahnhof) we took a quick tour through the city that in 1949 still was not rebuilt, but now looked as if nothing had happened. A wonderful family.

Unfortunately, I lost contact with them. Sitting in the train, and before going to sleep, I said to myself: how strange a

city could be rebuilt so fast after a war, but what stroke me most was the fact that the swans, in the river Alster, had an enormous come back after 1949, when only a few were still alive at -the time my father showed us the place- This reminds me that later on in the year 1960 I was sent to Germany for a 3 months training at “ Bremen Wool Combing Factory” along the river Vesser. Here I was told that the swans were protected centuries ago, by a local Hamburg law, which was very hard against transgressors, who killed them, or even insulted them. Swans represented the city’s freedom.

By the way there I met a Uruguayan citizen, Emilio Canepa Santos, undergoing the same training. He became one of my best friends. In the meantime, much to my regret nature has left us without him. His widow Ivone Garcia Lagos, refreshes old stories every time there is a chance to visit her.

Well; back to the train towards Denmark, I felt asleep, and was awaked by officers onboard the train asking for my Passport. Arrived early Sunday morning at the Central Train Station of Copenhagen, where I took a taxi to my aunt Thyra Sloth (my father’s older sister) who was expecting me. I had met her before in Uruguay when I was 7 years old, and played together and I enjoyed her presence, which tranquilized me in a way, difficult to explain. She didn’t have children of her own which could be a reason, but no, it was her character and way of being, by the way, first woman graduated Dermatologist Doctor in Denmark.

Her husband Ole Brun was also a doctor (paediatric). I asked for permission to stay a few days until I found a place to which she answered: If you do not mind living with two elderly people, you are welcome to stay with us, as long as you want. We embraced each other, and I stayed there until I got married with Anne, 5 years later, only with a pause of 1½ year of obligatory Military Service.





## In Search of The British Legacy in Paraguay

by Carmen Alvarez  
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**T**he old Central Train Station in Asunción (1861), Paraguay's capital city, a fine Victorian style building in the Historic Centre whose construction was under the direction of the English architect Alonzo Taylor, has been converted into a museum dedicated to the railway. Many of the old railway artifacts from bygone years are on display.

From 1889 to 1961 the train association belonged to a consortium of English investors (FCCP) and as in many countries in South America, the British, from an early era, supplied the technology of rail transportation.

In the main platform you can find old railcars and locomotives. Also, there are thousands of pieces related to it, many of them originally from Britain: an old telephone exchange, ticket machines, a range of station clocks and a large collection of photos as well as an old steam engine. The best, in my opinion, is the chance to board a dining car and a refurbished sleeping car with a separate lounge area.

But a fundamental part is that the visitor has the opportunity to learn more about the real contribution of the British to the Paraguayan society in general, for example, that the Robertson brothers were the first British to travel to Paraguay after its independence and they even wrote a successful book called "Letters on Paraguay".

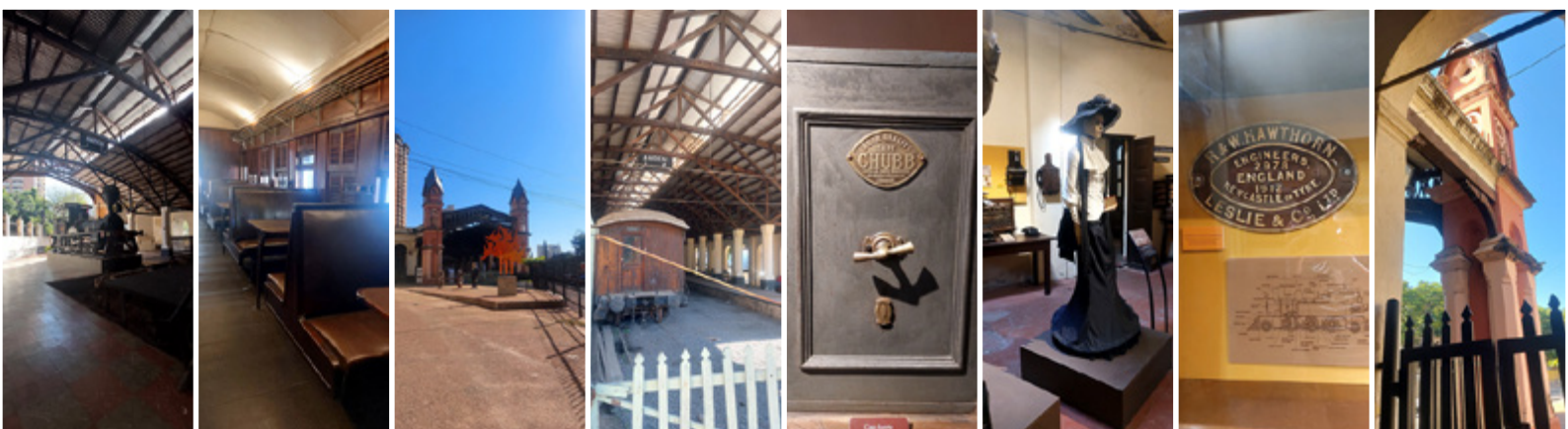
Also, that in 1853 Paraguay and England signed a friendship and trade treaty due to which about 200 engineers settled in the country, being the largest presence of professional foreigners at that time, contributing decisively to its industrialization.

But what is even more relevant and maybe unknown for the majority is that many British stayed to stand by Paraguay and defend it in the Triple Alliance War. British surgeons and an apothecary were in charge of the medical services. Since some of them died in the war, President Francisco Solano López ordered to pay honors to the deceased and ordered the construction of the English cemetery.

Last but not least the architect Alonzo Taylor also arrived in Paraguay in 1858. His experience was essential for the construction of admirable heritage architectural works such as the train station that we are talking about and the impressive presidential palace (Palacio de López) which was considered one of the finest buildings in South America.

The museum is worth visiting and cheap.

It's a National Cultural Heritage property protected by UNESCO.





## Laboratory-Grown Meat, Fossil Fuels and Racist Footballers

by Dr Jorge C Stanham OBE  
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Once again, at the yearly Palermo agricultural show in Buenos Aires, the animal-rights movement paraded into the arena to create awareness of the suffering of cattle bred to feed humans. This movement is indirectly linked to the need to control greenhouse gases, of which cattle contribute with methane mainly from belching during digestion, plus the effect of their dung contaminating underground water reservoirs. Additionally, the emission of carbon dioxide generated by growing grains used as their fodder adds to this issue. The estimation of the amount of greenhouse gases produced by cattle rearing and agriculture is approximately 15%, depending on how it's calculated. The greater part of emissions is related to heating, transportation, and energy generation, as well as commercial and residential uses.

A spin-off of the animal rights movement is the possibility to grow animal protein in the laboratory. This is presently a reality, and some have even described the taste and consistency of the product as similar to natural beef. Many of the arguments in favour of artificial meat overlap with what vegetarians and vegans feel about animals, especially large mammals, as sentient beings, and that killing them for food is cruel and unethical. However, present-day slaughtering methods are much more 'humane' than in biblical times. Besides, where is the 'sentient being' limit? The use of pyrethrin-based household insecticides is more akin to asphyxia by poisoning, as was used in concentration camps prior to and during World War II. I still recall a National Geographic article on human evolution from some decades ago which described that one of the main factors in the development of our present brains was feeding on the fatty marrow of large mammals like mammoths – killed by our ancestors. One could speculate that avoiding food from animals would make humans backtrack on our evolution, becoming hominid primates again!

The artificial meat industry is still in its beginnings, but the potential effect on the economies of cattle-rearing countries like Uruguay cannot be overemphasised or neglected: in the medium to long term, it may have lasting consequences. A backlash against laboratory-made meat happened recently in the state of Florida, where Governor Ron DeSantis has directly banned it to “save our beef from the global elite and its authoritarian plans to force the world to eat meat grown on a petri dish or bugs” – a good example of politicisation of an issue to conspiracy proportions.

The main emitters of greenhouse gases are still China, the USA, India, the EU, Russia, and Brazil. Uruguay is one of the leading per-capita emitters of methane (thanks to the numerator of a lot of cattle divided by a not-so-large population). The issue of global warming is real: climate catastrophes are happening year-round as I'm writing, and nobody can claim zero responsibility. However, when international organisations or the mainstream media confront rulers in the underdeveloped world on these issues, acid responses like those of Guyana's President Mohammed Irfaan Ali to Stephen Sackur last March in a HARDtalk (BBC) should be expected: [Guyana president blasts journalist when discussing country's oil reserves](#)

In the same vein, the post on X/Twitter by Argentina's Vice President Victoria Villarruel also pits the less-developed South against the nations of the industrialised North, in this case, France, when she supported the racist locker-room song made viral by their national team player Enzo Fernández. Patronisation has no place as a path to a solution.

**Welcome to a brave new world dominated by polarisation and politics.**

## Brined Pork Carré With Creamy Butter Bean Sauce

**P**ork carré (boneless pork loin) can be notoriously dry, but brining the meat before cooking takes it to the next level adding a significant amount of liquid and flavour which results in a juicier, more tender steak.

A brine solution is nothing but water and salt dissolved in it. Chefs however often add extra flavours such as white or brown sugar or honey, garlic, herbs and spices, lemon juice or vinegar, etc. \*

When the pork is left to marinate in the brine it not only becomes more tender because of the action of the salt and lemon or vinegar in the solution, but it also absorbs the liquid, which increases its weight by up to 15 per cent and helps the pork remain juicy and more flavoured during the cooking process.

Brining times are determined by the weight and thickness of the meat, but also by the grain of the meat. Underbrining will not have a negative effect on foods, but overbrining can be disastrous. Either using too much salt or brining for too long will leave you with a cut of meat that is too salty to eat.

### Brine solution – Ingredients

- 1 lt water
- 4 tbsp table salt
- 4 tbsp brown or white sugar
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp black pepper corns
- 3 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 sprig rosemary
- Thyme

### Method

Bring all the ingredients to the boil and allow to cool. Pass through a sieve and chill.

### Pork with butter bean sauce - 4 portions

- 1 kg pork carré (boneless pork loin) cut in 1 ½ cm thick slices
- 1,2 lt brine
- 30 ml vegetable oil
- 150 g smoked bacon, finely chopped
- 100 g onion, finely chopped
- 1 leek cut in half lengthwise or sliced
- 3 cloves garlic finely chopped
- 1 heaped tsp paprika (pimentón)

- 500 ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 150 ml double cream
- 1 tin white beans
- 100 g grated parmesan type cheese
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard or wholegrain mustard
- 1 small bunch spinach leaves – washed and roughly chopped

### Method

Place the pork slices into a bowl or oven tray and cover with the brine solution. Leave in a cool place for between 2 to 3 hours.

To make the sauce with the beans, which should be made before the pork is cooked, add the bacon, onions and leeks into a saucepan with a little oil and sauté for five minutes before adding the garlic and paprika. Cook a few seconds more, add the stock, cream and rinsed beans and cook until the sauce begins to thicken, and the taste becomes more concentrated. Add the grated cheese, mustard and spinach leaves and bring to the boil while stirring. Taste and add salt and pepper if necessary.

Remove the pork from the brine solution and rinse under the cold water tap before patting dry with kitchen paper. Heat a frying pan until extremely hot, add the oil and quickly add the pork before the oil can burn. Fry until nicely browned and the juice begins to rise from the surface of the steak and turn over. Cook a little longer but take great care not to overcook. A blush of white/pink should remain in the centre.

Remove the steaks. Add a splash of stock or water to the pan and stir with a wooden spoon to help release the sediment from the base of the pan which has an amazing flavour. Add the sauce and the cooked steaks and reheat together without allowing them to boil, to prevent the meat from drying out.

To serve, place the pork in the centre of the plate and spoon the beans and sauce around the outside.

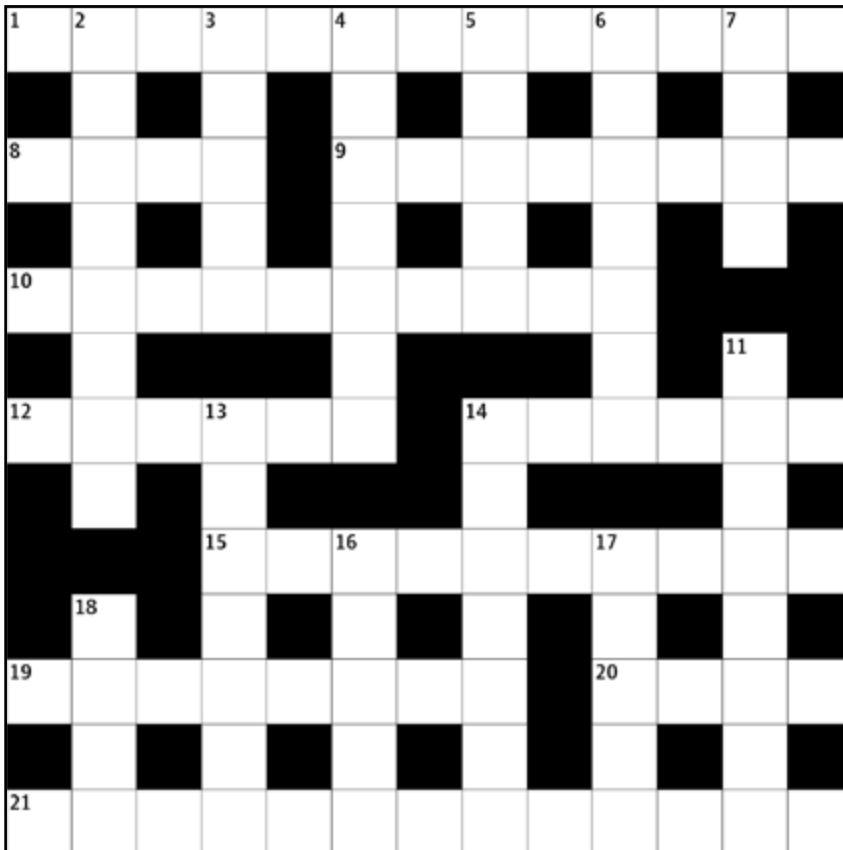
To make the dish even more memorable, add a sprinkling of salsa verde over the pork -recipe to be published next month, sorry!

\*Brining is suitable for lean cuts of meat, such as pork carré and chicken breasts. It is not necessary to brine chicken thighs or pork shoulder, which have a higher fat content. You can, for example, brine a whole chicken before roasting. In this case brine between six and eight hours.



# COLOURING TIME





Print this page and start playing!  
Solution in our next Contact issue.

July solution:



## Across

- 1 Writer's right to take liberties (6,7)
- 8 Small lump, e.g. of butter (4)
- 9 Signal that danger has passed (3,5)
- 10 Unworldly academic's dwelling? (5,5)
- 12 Small quake (6)
- 14 Roman emperor (6)
- 15 Suspenseful (4-6)
- 19 The \_\_\_ table (8)
- 20 Cunning (4)
- 21 Politically unscrupulous, as in The Prince (13)

## Down

- 2 Consumer of plants and animals (8)
- 3 Potato, say (5)
- 4 Part of a book (7)
- 5 Relative by marriage (2-3)
- 6 Blow up (7)
- 7 Show appreciation of (4)
- 11 Tree which may have white or pink flowers (8)
- 13 Masculine (7)
- 14 Small, walled-off part of a room (7)
- 16 Location of Lucknow and Bhopal (5)
- 17 It gets wetter as it dries (5)
- 18 Queen of the Olympian gods (4)



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