



Carmen Álvarez
The Elizabethan Heritage

The British Society
September Lecture Supper

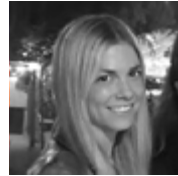
Back in Time
The Night Watchman

Medical Column
Uruguay's Health Care

Bits and Pieces
Memories



President:
Ximena Williamson
president@britsoc.org.uy



Vice President:
Dominique Capurro Hyland
vp@britsoc.org.uy



Secretary:
Solveig Schandy
secretary@britsoc.org.uy



Treasurer:
Alexander Beare
treasurer@britsoc.org.uy



Events Coordinator:
Susan McConnell
events@britsoc.org.uy



Newsletter Editor:
Geoffrey W Deakin
editor@britsoc.org.uy



**Chair of The Sir Winston Churchill
Home and Benevolent Funds:**
Carolyn Cooper
swch@britsoc.org.uy

Contents

President's Words	3
Member News	5
Upcoming Events	6
Important Announcement.....	7
September Anagram Riddle.....	7
British Embassy	9
Anglo Institute.....	10
British Hospital.....	13
Christ Church.....	14
British Uruguayan Club.....	15
British Cemetery	16
Montevideo Players	17
Dickens Institute	18
Back in Time.....	20
Medical Column	21
Literature Matters	22
Bits and Pieces	23
Corned Beef Sandwich.....	25
Advertisement	26
Lamb Chops	26
Tidbits & Trivia	27
Era Britons.....	28
Musical Box	30
Back to the Future	32
Heritage.....	33
Chef Phillip's Corner	34
Kids Corner.....	35
Speedy Crossword Time.....	36
Back Cover	37

BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER

 www.britsoc.org.uy

 [/BritSocUy](https://www.facebook.com/BritSocUy)

 [/BritSocUy](https://www.instagram.com/BritSocUy)

 [/company/britsocuy/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/britsocuy/)

 [+598 96 021 918](https://wa.me/59896021918)

Montevideo, Uruguay

Greetings, lovely members!

As the days grow longer and the first signs of Spring begin to stir, we welcome September with open arms. Joyful, blossoming days lie ahead, bringing with them a host of exciting activities for our Society. But before diving into all that's on the horizon, I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of keeping your data up to date in our database. Soon, you'll be able to check your membership dues directly on our website, and up-to-date information is essential to make this feature work smoothly—and to ensure we can celebrate your birthdays too!



A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated webmaster, Geoffrey Deakin, for his outstanding work on the website and the database. If you haven't visited the site recently, I highly recommend you do—it's looking fantastic!

This month, we are delighted to welcome Mal Green, the new British Ambassador, to Uruguay and The British Society. We are honoured to have him join our community, and I very much look forward to meeting him personally in the near future. His arrival marks the beginning of an exciting chapter, and we wish him a fulfilling and enjoyable experience during his tenure here.

I'd also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in The British Schools' Senior School Musical Production. It was an extraordinary performance, and your hard work truly shone through!

This year is a very special one for the Montevideo Players Society as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. If you haven't yet had the chance to attend one of their plays or events, I encourage you to do so—they have an array of special activities lined up in honour of this milestone.

Looking ahead to our Society events, this month we will be hosting a lecture supper at the British Hospital, where we'll explore the stunning Falklands. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about life in these South Atlantic islands and satisfy your curiosity with questions you've always wanted to ask.

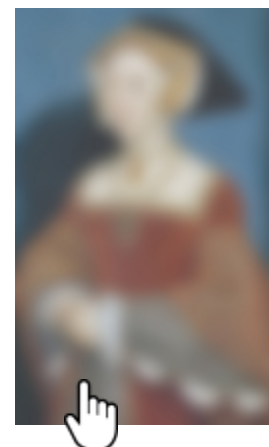
Later, we'll gather at Christ Church for another lecture supper, where Jeannine Beare will treat us to a talk on native wildflowers. I, for one, am excited to put this knowledge to use on nature walks in the coming beautiful season.

And, of course, don't miss out on our Spring Croquet Tournament! With fabulous prizes up for grabs, it's the perfect occasion to enjoy a fun day with family and friends.

Wishing you all a splendid September—enjoy, as Spring is just around the corner!

Warm regards,

Ximena Williamson



Clue for September's Anagram

Inside Burghley House

This month's front and back covers are images related to our contributor Carmen Álvarez's article about Elizabethian Heritage ([Page 33](#)).

Burghley House is a still existing magnificent architectural site, built by William Cecil as home to the dynasty that he founded.

Burghley is one of the largest and grandest surviving houses of the sixteenth century and a wonderful example of the great Elizabethan 'prodigy' houses, built to honour the Queen.

Conceived by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I and built between 1555 and 1587, Burghley is a testament to the ambition and vision of the most powerful courtier of the first Elizabethan age.

You can read the whole article [HERE](#).

The front view of Burghley House is the [Back Cover](#)



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 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 September

- 01 José "Joe" Ollé González
Cecilia Silvosso Lozano
- 04 Alexa Hobbins Llovet
Victoria Stanham Méndez
Daniela Caraballo Molina
- 05 Malena Barrios Campbell
Maureen Hyland Adkins
- 08 Nicole "Nikki" Funch-Thomsen M.
- 09 Daniel "Danny" Pereira Pierce
Laura T. Rovira Ferroni
Sean Summers
- 13 Luciana "Lula" Bossano Caraballo
Nicholas Teuten Ponzoni
William Beare Caraballo
Julio Guridi Archer
- 14 Simon Roberts
César Correa
Nicolás Hobbins Llovet
- 16 Alexandra "Ale" Williman Curochquin



- Neil Morrison
- 16 Pedro Prevett Vera
María Prevett Vera
- 20 David Caig Rickaby
Gustavo "Chueco" González Alonso
- 21 Alberto Wilson Escondeur
Lucie Beare Jorge
- 23 Luciano "Lucho" Chinelli Gandini
- 25 Ira "Sole" Baison Montiel
Mirtha "Lourdes" De Avila Andrada
María Barrabino Hobbins
- 26 Stephanie Cooper Bastarrica
- 29 Manuela Shaw Blanco

Dear Members,

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

Should you wish for your birthday to be private, not published on our Website or here in our Newsletter, you can chose this option in your Member's Profile.

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

If you have any problems logging in or updating your information, please get in touch with me via WhatsApp at **099 422 999** or at editor@britsoc.org.uy.

Thank you!

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor



New Member

Roberto Diego Symonds Marquisa

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.

September

5 Thursday

British Society in Uruguay
Falkland Islands - Atrip of a Lifetime
BH Policlínica 3rd floor

20 Friday

Christ Church Montevideo
Trivia Night
Christ Church



24 Tuesday

British Society in Uruguay
Embracing Native Wildflowers - Jeanine Beare
Christ Church

28 Saturday & 29 Sunday

Montevideo Players Society
Rehearsal for Murder
Neil Fairless Centre

29 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay
Spring Croquet Tournament
Anglo School Carrasco

October

13 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay
Big Lunch
British Schools Pavilion

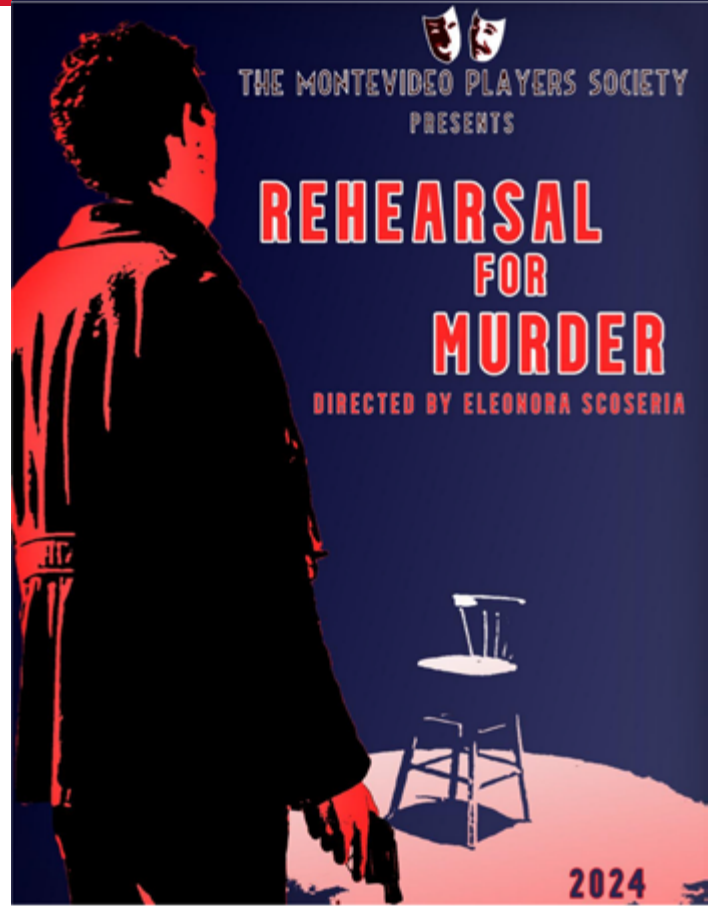
November

3 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay
Feria de las Colectividades
Parque Batlle

9 Saturday

British Society in Uruguay
National Tea Table Competition
Community Organization Conchillas



September 12 & 14 – sold out!
Sept. 15 & 20 – 40 % booked
Sept. 21 – 50 % booked
Sept. 22 – 40 % booked
New shows:
Sept. 28 & 29

To book
please scan
the QR code



Shows at
8:30 PM.
Except
Sundays at
7:00 PM



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](#)



SEPTEMBER ANAGRAM RIDDLE

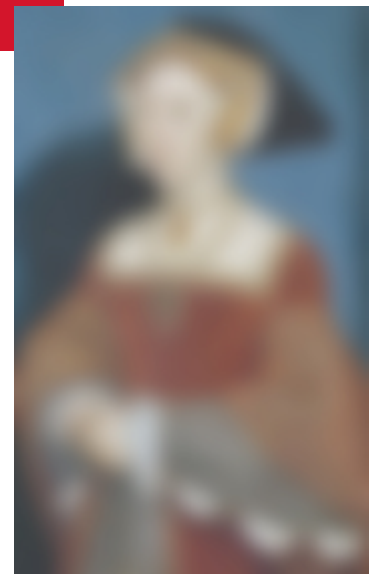
Remember, please send your answer to editor@britsoc.org.uy
Answers sent via WhatsApp tend to be lost in time... or somewhere

**From the land of poets, I hailed with grace,
But my portrait painted a misleading face.
I am...**

CLOE FANS VENE

PS

**My anglicized version.
Thanks, Richard!**



August's Anagram Solution:
MARY KINGS CLOSE

August's Anagrammatists:
Liz Cowley
Marcela Dutra

EMBRACING NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

LECTURE SUPPER WITH
JEANINE BEARE

24TH SEPTEMBER, 7:00 PM
CHRIST CHURCH
LIEJA 6437

MEMBERS
\$750

NON MEMBERS /
OVERDUE MEMBERS
\$1250



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

FOUNDED 1918

SAVE THE DATE!





Welcome Ambassador!

Our new Ambassador, Mal Green arrived on Friday, 30 August. He will have a busy week of introductory calls and familiarisation. The Ambassador is looking forward to meeting the British Society associations as soon as his schedule allows.



Visit the British Pavilion at Expo Prado!

The British Pavilion is getting ready to welcome visitors for the eleventh consecutive year, from 6 until 15 September. British and British-affiliated companies and organisations will showcase and sell their products and services.

This year, our Embassy pavilion will highlight British music. There will be karaoke every day between 6 and 7pm.

Come and enjoy a pint or play darts in our Pub! We look forward to seeing you!

Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo



Dear Mr President,

As you and the people of Uruguay celebrate the special occasion of your Independence Day, my wife and I have great pleasure in conveying our heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and the Uruguayan people.

I value the bond between our nations, and hope that our countries can continue to work closely together on important global issues, whether they be peace and prosperity, or environment and climate change, which will benefit our future generations for years to come.

My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to send you and all Uruguayans our warmest good wishes for the coming year.

Charles R

Message from His Majesty The King

We are honoured to share HMTK's message to President Luis Lacalle Pou on 25 August, Uruguay's Independence Day. Our Chargée d'affaires, Sandy Domaingue, had the pleasure to attend this year's Independence ceremony in Florida.



Falkland Islands Delegation Visit

In September we will welcome a 12-strong delegation from the Falklands to take part in Expo Prado and explore opportunities in areas including agribusiness, tourism and education.

Don't miss the British Society lecture supper to know more about tourism in the islands and do come and talk with them at their stand in the British Pavilion at Expo Prado!

Learning, playing, and growing together at The Anglo School

At The Anglo School, we understand that the early years of your child's life are precious. That's why our foundation years are all about creating a nurturing environment where children can flourish emotionally, physically, and academically. From the moment your child steps into our classrooms, they are embraced by a warm and supportive atmosphere that feels like a second home. Here, your child will feel safe, valued, and confident—ready to explore the world around them with curiosity and joy.

A Bright Start with Cambridge Early Years

Our newly adopted Cambridge Early Years programme ensures that your child gets the best start possible. This child-centred, play-based approach doesn't just teach—it's designed to help your child thrive. Imagine your child developing self-confidence as they make their own choices, act independently, and discover their unique talents. As they hit key early milestones, they won't just be preparing for the next step in their education—they'll be building a strong foundation for lifelong success.



Inspiring a Love for Learning

At The Anglo School, we believe that learning should feel like an adventure. From exploring our vegetable patch and learning to cook healthy meals with fresh ingredients, to becoming immersed in the magic of theatre and storytelling, your child will experience education that excites and inspires. Each day is filled with hands-on activities that spark creativity, foster independence, and build a deep sense of

accomplishment. Watch as your child's face lights up with pride when they share their freshly picked crops or delight in the stories they help bring to life through art and play.

Technology with a Purpose

We know that the world is changing fast, and so is the way we learn. That's why even our youngest learners benefit from personal devices and engaging technology, whether they're exploring robotics or using interactive tools to make learning fun. Your child will not only develop essential tech skills but will also experience learning in a way that feels natural and enjoyable - skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.



Cherished Memories

Childhood is about creating unforgettable moments, and at The Anglo School, we make sure every child has plenty of those. Whether it's celebrating a birthday with friends, enjoying the magic of the performing arts, or visiting a nearby farm to connect with nature, your child will create memories that they will treasure forever. These joyful experiences don't just build happiness; they strengthen friendships, inspire creativity, and foster a love for the world around them.

A Holistic Education for Life

At The Anglo School, we welcome children as young as two, ensuring they embark on a journey of discovery, learning, and growth. Our commitment to bilingual education, coupled with a curriculum that nurtures emotional and social development, the arts, and physical activity, ensures that your child not only learns but thrives. With our focus on values like respect, responsibility, empathy and self-esteem, your child will grow into a well-rounded individual, ready to take on the world with confidence and kindness.



Anglo Congress, 20 years

On Saturday 17th August, the 20th edition of the Anglo Congress was held at Radisson Victoria Plaza hotel. The event gathered about 350 participants from Uruguay and abroad, who all contributed to making this celebration a very special occasion.

The opening plenary by Ben Goldstein dealt with questions about how teachers will fit into today's new learning environments, especially considering AI's increasingly active role. Ben's talk examined these questions and concluded with an empowering message for the future. Following this first presentation, participants had the chance to attend talks on a wide variety of topics: from how to help our students build more powerful listening skills, how visual tools can make learning more engaging, accessible, memorable and fun, how to effectively sustain our inspiration throughout our teaching career, different ways of using AI tools to assess students' written production, the importance of the synergy of reading and writing instruction, to how to Improve Mental Flexibility and Teacher Well-being and how singing together can help us foster a sense of community with you students.



Like last year, participants had the opportunity to share a meal at the Arcadia restaurant, located on the 25th floor of the hotel. This special experience not only allowed them to strengthen their connections but also to relax with friends and colleagues while savouring delicious food and enjoying the breathtaking views of the city.



We are grateful to our speakers and sponsors and above all, to the almost 350 teachers who joined us again for a very special edition of our Congress, which marked both the 20th anniversary of the Anglo Congress and the 90th anniversary of our institution.



We look forward to meeting again in 2025 for the 21st Anglo Congress to be held on **Saturday 16th August** at Radisson Victoria Plaza Hotel!





Professional development at NILE

A group of Anglo teachers travelled to the UK in July to attend professional development courses in Norwich (UK), delivered by NILE (Norwich Institute for Language Education). The Anglo is one of NILE's Language Partners, and together they carry out several joint projects, including the moderation and validation of our two teacher training courses: Anglo Diploma in TEFL and Anglo Certificate in TEFL.



The group spent two weeks immersed in British culture, staying with local families or at the University of East Anglia. Beyond the intense study days, there was time to explore the city, as well as to visit Cambridge, London, and the Norfolk coast.

It was a unique and unforgettable experience, both personally and professionally, which we hope to repeat in 2025. Both Anglo teachers and those outside that institution are welcome to join us.



The British Hospital intensifies its cervical cancer prevention programme

As part of its ongoing commitment to health prevention and education, the British Hospital, in line with international guidelines, is reinforcing its HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination programme by introducing a new HPV test to replace the Pap smear. The Ministry of Public Health will soon enforce this new requirement.

Preventing cervical cancer is essential throughout a person's lifetime. Proper implementation of these measures could nearly eradicate it, addressing a major global health concern and the second most common gynaecological cancer in our country, after breast cancer.

As a leader in this field, the British Hospital initiated an HPV vaccination campaign focusing primarily on adolescents but also including women and men up to 26 years of age.

The hospital promotes primary prevention through HPV vaccination before the age of 15, which is the optimal time to receive it. In line with the latest recommendations from the World Health Organization, the vaccine is also encouraged for teenagers and youths aged between 16 and 26 who have not received it, as benefits have been proved in this age group as well.

The British Hospital has adopted the HPV test instead of the Pap smear for secondary prevention, and the Ministry of Public Health will soon require all healthcare institutions to implement this change.

Dra. Luciana Bertolino, Assistant Professor of the Department of Gynaecology at the Facultad de Medicina (Udelar), President of the Society of Lower Genital Tract Pathology, Cytology and Colposcopy of Uruguay, and a top specialist at the British Hospital in this field, highlighted that implementing this change has brought significant advantages for patients in terms of prevention.

However, the specialist emphasized the importance of ensuring that women are properly informed about the high prevalence of this virus, even if all previous tests were negative, and they should understand that having the virus does not mean having a lesion, much less cancer.

It just indicates a higher risk of developing a lesion later on, which requires closer monitoring, emphasizing one of the key benefits of this method: ongoing surveillance and the early detection of potential lesions.

Dra. Bertolino noted that while the transition to the new methodology might initially cause some anxiety, the long-term benefits for prevention and timely HPV detection are substantial. She estimated that about 15% of women taking the test will test positive, but assured that most will clear the virus naturally.

She explained that a negative HPV test would require repeating the study in 5 years. However, patients should continue with their annual gynaecological check-ups, where the doctor will evaluate if any additional tests are necessary before the 5-year period, based on the patient's history and physical exam.

The British Hospital's top expert emphasized that cervical cancer is highly preventable and highlighted that the test is fast, easy, and painless.

"At the British Hospital we promote a culture of health prevention and education, adopting guidelines and procedures that benefit our patients," summarized Dra. Bertolino. "In this case, the shift from the Pap smear to the HPV test is driven by the importance of early HPV detection in preventing cervical cancer, which has a significant impact on our population."

Article written from a podcast from Humana by Dra. Bertolino.

Visit our Website!

We warmly invite you to visit our Church's Website and explore the Events section. You'll find a variety of fun and useful activities for the whole family. From community gatherings to educational workshops, there's something for everyone.

Come and be a part of our vibrant community!



www.christchurchmvd.org



LUNCH INVITATION

Wednesday
4th of September
at 12:15 PM

Professor
Yamandú Orsi

Candidate for the
Presidency of Uruguay for the
Frente Amplio 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





Saturday, 7th September 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Paths of Symbology

Join us for an enriching experience as we delve into the fascinating world of symbols, guided by a renowned specialist. This Saturday, for our Sunset Meeting, we are honoured to host a distinguished guest from our neighbouring country. We warmly welcome Dr. Graciela Blanco from Argentina, a specialist in symbology and psychology. Dr. Blanco has travelled here specifically for this event and she will lead an insightful tour of our grounds, exploring tombs and revealing the hidden meanings behind their symbols.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to engage with an expert in the field of symbology. Expand your knowledge and exchange ideas in a one-of-a-kind event!



IMPORTANT

**This events is in Spanish
and open to the public.**

Event Schedule

3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Guided Tour: Paths of Symbology
A tour of 12 tombs, revealing and interpreting their symbology. Led by our special guest, Dr. Graciela Blanco (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Talk in the Chapel: "The Girls Mausoleum"
A presentation based on research conducted at the San Isidro Cemetery in Buenos Aires. Presented by Dr. Graciela Blanco.



THE MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS SOCIETY
PRESENTS

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER

DIRECTED BY ELEONORA SCOSERIA



2024

September 12 & 14 – sold out!
Sept. 15 & 20 – 40 % booked
Sept. 21 – 50 % booked
Sept. 22 – 40 % booked
New shows:
Sept. 28 & 29

To book
please scan
the QR code



Shows at
8:30 PM.
Except
Sundays at
7:00 PM

Centre Strategy Meeting



We were in Cusco!

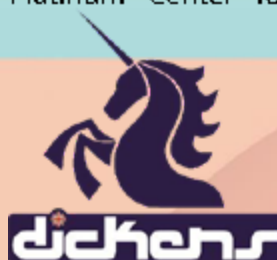
Participating in a new meeting as Cambridge English an Authorized Centre.

Representatives of the most important centers in South America were present in Peru to exchange, share and continue learning.

Dickens is proud to be a Platinum Center for Cambridge English



Platinum
Authorised Exam Centre



Enrolment for the upcoming exam period is currently open! We invite you to discover the new **Cambridge Digital Exams**. We are excited with this new option which we believe will provide a greater and more personalized experience for students.

A new way to get a Cambridge English Qualification

Taken on a computer, these exams give students control over elements of the listening, writing and reading, helping them to do their best in their own way. Each candidate receives a randomised set of questions, all equal in terms of task types and difficulty. This means that everyone can focus fully on their own exam and the risk of any answers being copied is minimised. Cambridge English Qualifications Digital are designed with benefits that maximise preparation time, but minimise waiting time.

The same quality exam, but with digital benefits



Fast

Results will be delivered in 5-10 working days.

Give students the tools they need take to control of their next step sooner.



Flexible

Exam sessions are available up to 365 days a year.

Put more students forward when they're ready. Talk to your chosen exam centre about their schedule.



Preferred

Digital features for focus and control.

The same trusted exam, with the digital experience candidates expect.

CERTTESOL

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

The CertTeSOL equips trainees with the skills and knowledge needed to start their career as English teachers in Uruguay and around the world. Candidates learn about the theory and practice of English teaching and get an insight into the challenges they will face in the role.

WATCH THESE TESTIMONIAL VIDEOS



**ABOUT
CERTTESOL**



**WHY
RECOMMEND
CERTTESOL**



**TESTIMONIAL
FROM
AUSTRALIA**



info@dickens.edu.uy
27107555

 098118098

 @dickens.edu.uy

www.dickens.edu.uy



The Night Watchman

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

Calle Españoleta is a very short street in the fashionable Almagro neighbourhood in Madrid. I lived there in the late 1960s, in the top floor apartment of a three-storey house that was built when that part of the city was developed, in the latter part of the previous century. The descendants of the original owners still lived in the house, but their circumstances were much reduced compared to the comfortable lifestyle they had enjoyed in days gone by. The family had once lived off its lucrative investments in Cuban sugar plantations, but that arrangement came unravelled in 1959 when Fidel Castro's revolutionary forces entered Havana, took over the country, and put an end to that sort of absentee exploitation. Blindsided by that unexpected turn of events, the family was forced to make some unpalatable changes, one of which was to rent out the top floor of their home.

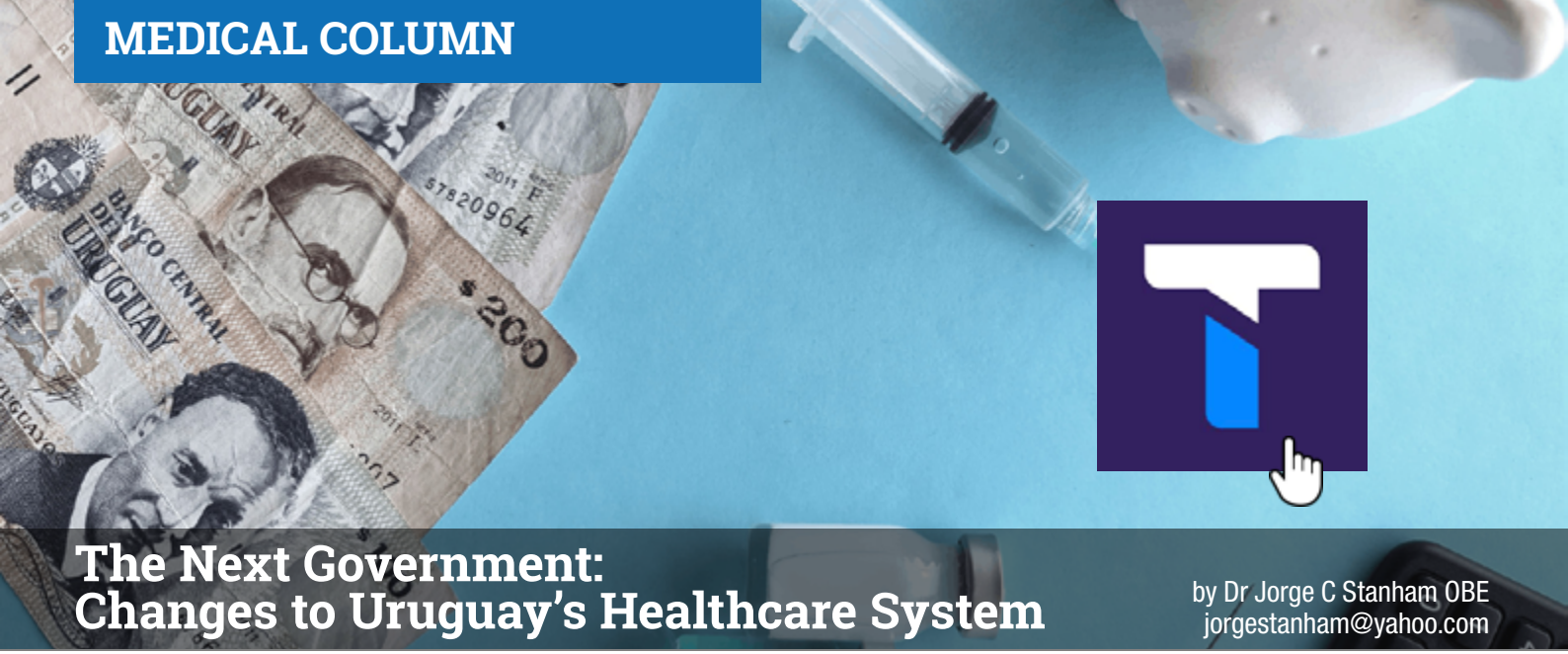
Family houses in that neighbourhood, all built at roughly the same time, had large, heavy doors giving onto the street. The keys to those doors were also large and heavy, and very inconvenient to carry around. That was not a problem during daylight hours, when servants were available to admit residents and guests. But those who came home late at night had to rely on the services of a night watchman, a tradition that had been around for a couple of centuries.

Neighbourhoods were arbitrarily divided into sections, each of which spanned a few blocks. Each section had its own *sereno*, or night watchman, who carried the keys to the front doors of every house on his beat. In theory, these men were supposed to be "between twenty and forty years of age, at least five feet tall, have no police record and a loud, clear voice." They were on duty every night, no matter how cold or wet it might be, from about 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Their job was to patrol the streets, keep an eye on things, enforce standards of "public morality," and intervene when necessary. They were equipped with a whistle to blow if they spotted any burglaries in progress or acts of violence or fires. The whistle was supposed to alert other *serenos* in

the vicinity who would rush to their colleague's assistance. The local municipality provided them with a military-style peaked cap and a heavy overcoat to wear in the winter when Madrid could be bitterly cold. They were given no salary and were expected to live off the tips they received from grateful residents whose front doors were opened for them in the middle of the night. When night owls arrived home in the wee small hours of the morning, they would clap their hands a few times and call out "*sereno!*" At that hour all was still, and voices carried far. Ideally, the man would hear them and shout back as he ran to meet them, his large keyring jangling to announce that he was on his way. On frosty winter nights things didn't always go that smoothly as *serenos* sometimes tucked themselves into a sheltered spot somewhere and residents might have to clap several times before being heard.

Serenos carried a big stick with which to threaten nocturnal miscreants and strike them if necessary. My friend Voro was once staying with me for a while and came home late one raw January night with a young lady he was dating at the time. He clapped his hands, wrapped his arms around his girlfriend, and waited for the *sereno* to arrive. They were doing their best to keep each other warm when he appeared and demanded that they stop their "outrageous behaviour" immediately. Voro asked on whose authority this demand was being made, and the man raised his stick in a most threatening manner and growled, "*This* authority!" When he told me about the incident later, Voro, who was vehemently anti-Franco, said it was a typical fascist ploy. "They offer security, and in return expect you to surrender some of your personal freedom."

But times changed. The modern world, with its emphasis on independence and mobility, and new devices like doorbell phones, gradually drove this custom into extinction, and Madrid's last *serenos* handed in their keys in the 1970s and faded into the pages of history.



The Next Government: Changes to Uruguay's Healthcare System

by Dr Jorge C Stanham OBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

In August, Telenoche 4 journalist Viviana Ruggiero moderated a debate on 'Todas las Voces' between the former director of ASSE, Dr Leonardo Cipriani (Partido Nacional), and former Public Health Minister, Cr Daniel Olesker (Frente Amplio). The discussion took place in front of a panel that included Rodolfo Fattoruso, Tomás Friedman, and Raúl Castro. The primary focus was on the current status of the Sistema Nacional Integrado de Salud (SNIS) and the adjustments and reforms that should be on the agenda for the next government, starting in March 2025

My post in this Newsletter last March focused on the free market and healthcare provision, written in the context of the libertarian economic approach that Argentina's recently elected President, Javier Milei, was, and still is, imposing. This includes self-imposed challenges for our neighbours across the rivers that separate us. I felt—and still feel—rather sceptical that a fully free market and minimal state intervention are beneficial in healthcare.

The Frente Amplio proposes 'a second generation of reforms' to the SNIS, while the Partido Nacional believes that 'specific adjustments' are necessary, although the campaign slogan of 'a second tier of reforms in the state and the economy' is advocated by its presidential candidate, Álvaro Delgado. The three panel members mainly voiced their concerns as users and patients, describing the issues they believed plagued the system, particularly waiting lists for specialists and surgeries, as well as the copay costs of certain medications and services. A significant concern raised by one of the panellists was the cost of rescuing private providers (namely Casa de Galicia and, more recently, CASMU) with taxpayers' money, due to a combination of poor administrative practices and systemic imbalances, such as the proportion of elderly members relative to the total number of covered lives, and the presence of excessive or unnecessary employees in certain areas. There seems to be a consensus, however, that major providers are 'too big to fall'.

Unsurprisingly, Cr Olesker was clearly inclined to favour increased state intervention by regulating the creation and

provision of certain services, the need for sharing services (the buzzword is 'complementation') in certain locations to avoid duplications and inefficiencies, as well as increasing the cost of tickets (copays) for those affiliates in the higher income percentiles. He was particularly concerned about the creation and promotion of VIP services by mutualistas, as this may be diverting resources away from the general population base in favour of niche 'boutique care'. He emphasised that the current administration has been rather lax in enforcing limits on waiting lists, whether for specialists or procedures such as necessary surgeries. In typical fashion, Dr Olesker insisted on reframing the term 'deficit' concerning the amount the State needs to contribute to the SNIS each month, preferring to call it 'investment', as no health system in the world is free from red ink on its balance sheets and budgets.

Dr Cipriani outlined the many initiatives and investments in infrastructure undertaken by the current government, contrasting them with those implemented during the fifteen years that Uruguay was governed by the Frente Amplio. Both agreed on the need to re-examine and modify the capita-system calculations to keep pace with population changes. However, no significant differences beyond emphasis on the role of the state in regulating healthcare provision were noted.

In a world that is becoming increasingly politically polarised, it was reassuring to observe that these two mainstream representatives of the two major parties or coalitions avoided extreme proposals, such as full-scale socialist-style nationalisation or a deregulated free-market liberalisation. Despite being in the midst of an election year and campaigning, healthcare appears to be an area of consensus. It is possible that the immediate effects on healthcare of the shock-therapy reforms being implemented in Argentina are serving as a deterrent. On the other hand, the welfare state, as revered in the 20th century, is being questioned by many politicians and thought leaders. The path of consensus seems to be the way forward, at least in healthcare.



Joseph Conrad 1857-1924

by Lindsey Cordery
lcordery@gmail.com

August 3rd this year marked the 100th anniversary of the death of one of the greatest novelists and short-story writers in the English language, Joseph Conrad. Born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski in Ukraine, into a family of the Polish nobility. His first language was Polish, later French. His mother died when he was 8, his father when Conrad was 11, so he was brought up by his uncle. As he was an indifferent scholar, interested mainly in geography, though well-read in literature and history, at 16 his uncle sent him to Marseilles, for a planned merchant-marine career on French merchant ships, and it was as a sailor that he travelled all over the world. In 1878 he joined the British merchant navy and not only continued roaming the world, but he also learned English. One of the places he visited (before changing his name to Joseph Conrad and settling in England) was the Caribbean coast of South America, where he was (it seems) involved in gun running for a group of revolutionaries. Many years later he would describe the location of his great novel *Nostromo* in such detail that, although he changed the names of places, years later Gabriel García Márquez had no difficulty in recognizing the Republic of Costaguana as Colombia; and in his novel *El amor en los tiempos del colera*, a character named Joseph Conrad makes an appearance.

In 1890 Conrad joined an expedition to the Belgian Congo, sailing up the Congo River, an experience which would inspire his novella, *Heart of Darkness*. There too he met Roger Casement, who investigated Belgian abuses in the Congo (and later in Amazonian Peru), before joining the IRA.

In 1894 Conrad settled in England to devote his life to writing. His first novel, *Almayer's Folly* set in Borneo, appeared in 1895. Many short stories followed, as well as essays and his great novels, such as *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* (1897); *Heart of Darkness* (1899); *Lord Jim* (1900); *Typhoon* (1902); *Nostromo* (1904); *The Secret Agent* (1907); *Under Western Eyes* (1911); *The Rover* (1923).

Conrad's works are early modernist in their opening up new

ground for fiction and breaking away from nineteenth century realism; thus, his work is closer to his younger modernist contemporaries like Woolf, Joyce and Eliot. Although he is celebrated as a great writer of prose in English, nevertheless the fact that he was not English allowed him to see the world with a perspective different from most English people. For example, in 1904 *Nostromo*, with its symbolic English-owned silver mine, he signals the end of the British Empire and the coming of the new world order with the US at its head: a millionaire American investor voicing the manifest destiny policy says:

"Of course, some day we shall step in. We are bound to. But there's no hurry. Time itself has got to wait on the greatest country in the whole of God's Universe. We shall be giving the word for everything: industry, trade, law, journalism, art, politics, and religion. And then we shall have the leisure to take in hand the outlying islands and continents of the earth. We shall run the world's business whether the world likes it or not. The world can't help it—and neither can we, I guess."

Nostromo is to me his most complex but also most fascinating of all his novels. In 1997 it was adapted by BBC TV, while many of his novels and stories were made into films, the most famous perhaps being Coppola's rendering of *Heart of Darkness* as *Apocalypse Now* (1979). It affirms the key message of its source, that the imperialist mindset continues to significantly affect international interactions even in modern times. While the original novella reflects and criticizes contemporary British imperialism in Africa, the adaptation shifts the setting to Vietnam in 1968 and primarily satirizes the American army's actions during the war, while preserving Conrad's core message – that all humans can fall into their inner darkness and doing despicable things. Both stories also engage with the racism that permeates imperialist thought, criticizing the dehumanization of African and Vietnamese people respectively.

All the films are easily available and so are Conrad's books.



Justice Is Often Just an Illusion

by Juan José Castillos
juancast@yahoo.com

We all know that only in some cases justice is done in the world, as well as that there are two kinds of justice, one for the poor and one for the rich. But so that no one is deluded that there is justice, it is enough to think that the greater the crime, the lower the possibility that justice will be done.

On the rather mild side, when we read in the local news that a woman who swindled several old people out of their life savings, exposing them to untold hardships at a time when they are most vulnerable, was condemned to just two years in prison, that could be replaced by freedom under certain restrictions, then you start to doubt.

More serious examples abound. In Cambodia, after the years of terror under the atrocious dictatorship of Pol Pot, in which more than a million people were tortured and murdered, this criminal, after being arrested, many years later, died of a heart attack, without having atoned for his appalling crimes.

In that same country, the commander of a torture and extermination camp, notorious for his sadism, not only hid his identity and spent 20 years free, but after being arrested and tried, proven his tens of thousands of crimes, received the penalty of only 19 years in effective prison. In South Africa, the hundreds of white torturers and murderers, after the end of the apartheid system, were freed from prosecution, with the only requirement to publicly confess their horrific transgressions.

In Germany, after the Second World War, Nazi and non-Nazi criminals, guilty of atrocities of all kinds, were sentenced in many cases by international courts to death or long years in prison, only to see their sentences later commuted by the German government and be free. Many of them went on to occupy important positions in the federal government.

A lot of these criminals were rescued from retribution by the US, so as to have their knowhow, such as the notorious case of rocket expert Wernher Von Braun, who used slave labour under appalling conditions during the war. Many Ukrainians, fierce and pitiless guards in Nazi concentration camps, found refuge and escaped punishment by later

going into exile in the US and Canada. Then they funded and encouraged the notorious David Irving and his holocaust denial worldwide activities. In Japan, after the war, criminals guilty of terrible crimes, escaped punishment due to the US interest in currying favour with the Japanese at the beginning of the cold war against the Soviet Union. Even today there is a shrine in Japan that honours the memory of such war criminals, considered as true patriots,

In Uruguay, torturers and murderers escaped punishment with an amnesty law, which was modified only after many years to allow some punishments, but in many cases due to advanced age or alleged illness, they began to enjoy house arrest, with which their true penalties were transformed into derisory punishment for their unspeakable crimes.

Also in Uruguay, a famous case of adults having sex with minors has been dragging itself through the courts for years without any clear result yet, perhaps due to the accused being people of substance, able to use many tricks to delay the inevitable outcome. A family of bankers responsible for defrauding many who lost their life savings, with this situation leading to suicides, were imprisoned for only a few years and some of them are free now to enjoy their ill-gotten fortunes.

Lawyers often tell us, half-jokingly, half serious, that between the law and justice there is a big difference. Very often lawyers resort to all sorts of tricks to get their clients off the hook, and lying is the least serious offense they commit, without being held responsible for it. Of course, our representatives in parliament make the laws to the best of their knowledge and good judgment, but there is a whole system from prosecutors, defence lawyers and judges, where things can, and often go, very wrong.

We cannot take justice into our own hands, since it is alleged that the social contract is thus threatened, but when for one reason or another grotesque crime go unpunished, or only get a mild punishment, then we must not be fooled by the legal profession, politicians and media personalities, that justice exists and is real, since in many cases it is nothing more than a tragic illusion.



Memories

by Juan José Castillos
juancast@yahoo.com

As a part of life, we do good and bad things, being imperfect human beings. Remembering the latter is necessary to try to avoid similar situations, although most people prefer to forget about them, which being our nature to trip over the same stone many times, such forgetfulness ends up doing us harm. Once in a while we do things that make us feel proud of ourselves, even if it involves the loss of substantial amounts of money that we consider not to be entitled to. On the one hand, greed is usually a very bad influence, as well as also groups of professional people, eager to generate an income by means of spurious motivations and procedures.

I remember that while living in Canada my employers provided us with full health, dental and other coverages including a substantial life insurance. Needing a lot of dental work, I chose a native-born Canadian dentist who was also a professor at the local College of Dentistry, who took care of all my needs. He was also a skilful and pleasant fellow. As usual, in spite of being well looked after, I always keep an eye on things and told him that I had a persistent swelling in my gum and was a bit worried about it. He said it was all right, not to worry, that it would go away in a short while. It didn't and the next time I went to see him, he at once referred me to St. Michael's Hospital where two surgeons told me that an urgent operation had to take place and warned me that they might also need to take a piece of bone from my thigh. After a 45-minute surgery, that was fortunately not necessary and after a few weeks I fully recovered.

When I returned to my dentist for treatment, I noticed he

treated me with extra care, almost as if he were walking on eggs. After a while and fully aware of the mania in Canada for people suing one another for the least possible reasons, I thought I had to address this subject. I confess I was disgusted by such ambulance chasing shysters and other such people, for instance, if in winter someone forgot to remove the snow in front of a house and you fell and broke a leg, you could sue the homeowner and almost force him to sell his house to pay for the damages.

So, I sort of took pity on my dentist and told him that I thought he had made an honest mistake, no negligence there as far as I could see, I had no plans to take any legal action at all, that in such cases all you get is make insurance rates go up and the cost of medicine follow accordingly. The look of relief on my dentist's face was something to behold, from then on he charged me very reasonable fees and treated me with velvet gloves. I know that by suing him I could have made a very substantial amount of money, but somehow I felt I would be abusing a system meant for other purposes, such as malpractice and negligence, which was not clearly my case. The memory of my behaviour at the time makes me feel good although most of those I told them about it, considered me a fool.

There are procedures and regulations that are there to compensate for misdeeds, but the moment we misuse them, then the fabric of society starts to crumble by the abuse of those seeking what they are not entitled to. We should be the judges in those occasions, without following the advice and self-interest of greedy professionals.

Received Pronunciation

by Juan Pablo Milessi
juanpablomilessi@hotmail.com

In England's not-too-distant past, accents were powerful indicators of social class and education. The way a person spoke could determine their social mobility, job prospects, and even their perceived intelligence. Speaking in what was known as Received Pronunciation (RP)—often referred to as “the Queen’s English”—was seen as the hallmark of the educated and elite. Those with regional accents were often viewed as less refined or less capable, leading many to adopt RP in formal settings, especially if they aspired to prestigious careers or roles in the media.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), as a case in point, historically preferred presenters who spoke with RP. This created a situation where individuals with regional accents, when given a microphone, often felt pressured to alter their speech. The emphasis was not on what was being said, but how it was being said. Speaking with a certain accent was synonymous with credibility, authority, and professionalism.

Across the Atlantic, a similar phenomenon occurred in the early to mid-20th century. Hollywood films often featured actors and actresses speaking in a Mid-Atlantic accent—a blend of American and British English. This hybrid accent was cultivated to sound sophisticated, cosmopolitan, and neutral, avoiding the regionalisms of American English while retaining the perceived elegance of British English. It signified a level of class and universality that was seen as desirable in the entertainment industry, a middle ground that could appeal to both American and British audiences.

This focus on accents and the prestige attached to them extends beyond native English-speaking countries. Among those learning English as a second or foreign language, there has traditionally been a strong inclination to emulate either British or American accents, depending on the regional influence and teaching style. In many countries, students are often taught to value and strive for these native accents, believing that sounding more like a native speaker equates to greater proficiency or success.

However, people’s attitudes towards accents have evolved significantly. As more people with regional accents gained access to higher education and prominent positions in public life, the stigma attached to these accents began to fade. It became increasingly evident that one’s intelligence or abilities were not defined by their manner of speech.

Universities and workplaces became more inclusive of linguistic diversity, recognising that regional accents are a reflection of cultural heritage and personal identity.

Today, it’s not uncommon to hear a variety of accents on the BBC or in other professional settings, demonstrating a broader acceptance and appreciation for linguistic diversity. The shift in attitude signifies a move towards authenticity over conformity. The emphasis is now placed on clarity of communication rather than the accent with which one speaks.

Lessons for English Learners

For those learning English as a second language, this shift in attitude is equally significant. The objective should not be to mimic the accent of native speakers from Britain or the United States but rather to develop a clear, understandable form of English that respects one’s linguistic background. The value of a person’s speech lies in the substance of their message, not in how closely their accent aligns with a native standard. In a world that increasingly values inclusivity and diversity, authenticity in communication is more important than ever.

Discrimination based on accents is akin to judging someone by their choice of clothing. Just as clothing styles can reflect personal or cultural identity, so too can the way a person speaks. Historically, both have been used to categorise and stereotype individuals unfairly. In the past, if one did not conform to the ‘right’ accent or attire, they could be perceived as less competent or less valuable. However, as society’s values shift towards inclusivity and the celebration of diversity, such superficial markers are losing their discriminatory power.

In today’s world, the focus has rightly shifted from accents as a measure of worth or intelligence to the effectiveness and clarity of communication. We are moving towards a society where what is said holds more weight than how it is said. This is a positive development, one that not only embraces linguistic diversity but also promotes a more authentic and inclusive way of engaging with others. For native and non-native English speakers alike, this means that authenticity and clarity should be the guiding principles in communication, ensuring that every voice, regardless of its accent, can be heard and valued.

PAUL McCARTNEY GOT BACK

Sir Paul McCartney
Concert

1st October 2024

3 tickets

Platea Preferencial I

Row 10 Seats 6/7/8

\$12,305.- each

Angela Bell:

099 175 925



LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Said The Penguin

3.

The film I saw in the cinema with a penguin
Was about the Titanic. The penguin was unmoved.
He'd been in the film himself
As an extra, until the producers discovered
There are no penguins in the Northern Hemisphere.
He said, 'The free coffee was a nice perk,

But there was lots of waiting around
And swapping stories. The polar bears told me
They'd gone to the shipping office
The day after the Titanic sank
To ask if there was any news of the iceberg.'



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



Drink Coffee Before Going Shopping?

by Geoffrey W Deakin
gwdeakin@gmail.com

The Caffeinated Shopping Spree: A Wake-Up Call for Consumers

Picture this: You're strolling through the mall, a steaming latte in hand, feeling invincible. Little do you know, that innocent cup of joe might be turning you into a retail juggernaut. Brace yourselves, shoppers, for the British Psychological Society (BPS) has dropped a bombshell that'll make you think twice before sipping that pre-shopping espresso.

In a TikTok video that's brewing controversy faster than you can say "grande," the BPS revealed a startling discovery: caffeine-fueled shoppers are spending a whopping 50% more than their decaf counterparts. It's like your wallet grows wings after just one espresso shot!

But wait, there's more! This caffeinated chaos isn't limited to one study or country. Scientists went on a global shopping spree, conducting experiments in various stores across multiple nations. Their weapon of choice? A seemingly harmless 50ml shot of espresso, offered free to unsuspecting customers.

The results? Shocking, to say the least. These miniature jolts of java were correlated with not just increased spending, but a particular weakness for "hedonic items." That's right, folks – your coffee might be conspiring with that buttery popcorn and chocolate to stage a coup against your bank account.

The culprit behind this shopping madness? "Energetic arousal," a state of heightened excitement induced by caffeine. It turns out that just 25-30mg of caffeine – less than half the content of a typical espresso – is enough to transform you into a retail daredevil.

Now, before you swear off caffeine forever, consider this: retailers are rubbing their hands with glee. "Overall, retailers can benefit financially if shoppers



consume caffeine before or during shopping," the scientists gleefully reported. With coffee shops and energy drinks lurking around every corner, it's a wonder we haven't all shopped ourselves into oblivion already.

So, the next time you're about to embark on a shopping adventure, ask yourself: is that pre-shopping pumpkin spice latte worth the risk? Or will you join the ranks of the decaf defenders, guarding your wallet against the siren song of caffeine-induced impulse buys?

Remember, shoppers: in the battle between your brain and that enticing cup of coffee, your budget hangs in the balance.

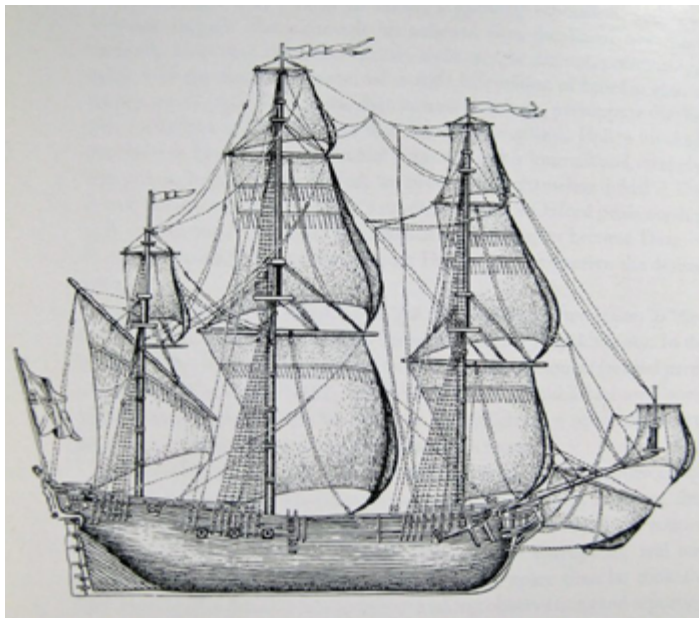
**Choose wisely,
and may the froth be with you!**



H.M.S. MONTEVIDEO (I)

by Alvaro Cuenca
acuena66@gmail.com

As far as I know there never has been a Royal Navy ship christened with the name of our country's capital, but HMS Montevideo refers to Britain's naval service custom of awarding that type of names to naval facilities or bases adjacent to ports and coasts. For example HMS Raleigh in Cornwall is the base where cadets start their training in the naval profession, and HMS Clyde in Scotland the main submarine depot of the Royal Navy. In this sense, Montevideo has been the scene of so much Royal Navy activity during the last three hundred years that it would be plausible and logical to call the port of Montevideo and the waters surrounding our republic that way. I will enumerate some of the ships that roamed our coasts, the famous and the not so well known, though they all shared the driving force of Britannia on their officers and crews.



HMS KINGSTON

The HMS Kingston was built in Hull and launched in 1697. A ship of the line of 60 canons that participated in several engagements of the War of the Spanish Succession (Gibraltar 1704, Málaga 1709, Gaspé 1711 and Toulon 1744). During the Seven Years War it was involved in the invasions of Menorca and Louisbourg in 1756 and in the astounding victory of Quiberon Bay of 1759. So far the HMS Kingston had a fine record of fights against Spanish and French in European waters, but its fate will soon change. An English/Portuguese funded expedition of the East India Company has set its eyes on Spanish America, now that the Seven Years War has transformed itself into the first global war. The ship is leased by the Royal Navy to the East India Company. Being now part of a private enterprise the name of the ship is changed to Lord Clive. What more fitting than the name of the company's most successful general.

The Lord Clive is the ensign ship of the ill-fated expedition. As a rehearsal of the attack on Buenos Aires, and to appease the Portuguese who have invested a lot of resources and men on the enterprise, the English accept to attack and recover Colonia de Sacramento, Portuguese enclave taken over by the Spanish at the start of the Seven Years War, on the way to the Spanish viceroyalty's capital. A lucky shot by one of the few canons of the Colonia defenders ignites a powder barrel and starts a fire that will consume the Lord Clive in a few minutes. The ship founders in front of Colonia taking to the muddy bottom the money to pay the armies and the Buenos Aires merchants' allegiances. The East India Company's invasion of South America ends even before it began.



HMS AGAMEMNON

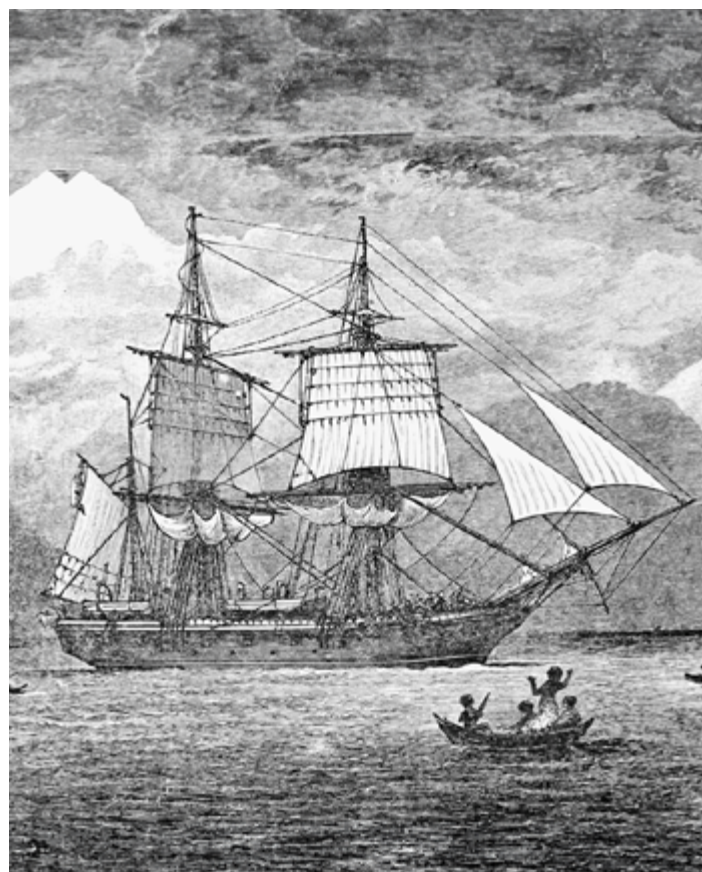
Built in 1777 it served with distinction in the Royal Navy until its demise on the waters of Maldonado Bay in 1809. The HMS Agamemnon participated in the American Independence and the Napoleonic wars with its culmination at the iconic battle of Trafalgar where she captured the Spanish ship of the line *Santísima Trinidad*. It was later dispatched to the South Atlantic station with base at Río de Janeiro and sunk while on manoeuvres in a gale near Isla Gorritti, its remains found and salvaged a few years ago.

The HMS Agamemnon is an important ship of the line because it participated actively at Trafalgar and one of its canon was returned to England as "the canon of Trafalgar"; and most important of all, because Horatio Nelson, Britain's most famous naval hero was her captain prior to Trafalgar, and always referred to HMS Agamemnon as his favourite ship.

HMS BEAGLE

While the two first ships mentioned are famous for their military exploits, HMS Beagle stands out for its passenger and scientific importance. Launched in 1820 in London, build by the Woolwich shipyard, it was selected as the ship that would take the naturalist Charles Darwin on its ground breaking trips of 1826-1830 and 1831-1836. Darwin's evolution theory would be always linked to his travels in the HMS Beagle. The ship, under the not less famous captaincy of Robert FitzRoy, was stationed in the River Plate and Montevideo in 1829 and allegedly FitzRoy took one of the few Uruguayan flags available to decorate his ship while in port and departed with it. The missing flag would be needed few months later for the *Declaración de la Independencia* event of 1830.

During its stay in Montevideo the HMS Beagle's crew participated successfully in the repression of a slave mutiny, Montevideo being back then a logistical hub for the slave trade of southern Brazil.



To be continued.




Lots of money, but it was all for nothing

by Richard Empson
rempson@gmail.com

Mark and David Knopfler were born in Glasgow, Scotland, to an English mother and a Hungarian Jewish father. The Knopflers moved to Blyth, near Newcastle, when the boys were still very young. They attended Gosforth Grammar School in Newcastle. Originally inspired by their uncle Kingsley's harmonica and boogie-woogie piano playing, the brothers became familiar with many different styles of music, and soon owned their own guitars, piano and a drum kit. By their early teens, both were playing and singing their own compositions in folk clubs. Despite this, the Knopflers furthered their education, Mark graduating from the University of Leeds with a degree in English, and David graduating from Bristol Polytechnic with an honours degree in Economics.

Upon graduation in 1973, Mark moved to London and joined a band called Brewers Droop, appearing on their album *The Booze Brothers*. It was there that – when forced to play on an old acoustic guitar with a badly warped neck, which he found impossible to play normally – he developed his signature fingerpicking playing style. After a brief stint with that band, Mark took a job as a lecturer at Loughton College in Essex. Throughout his three years there, he continued playing in local pub bands. In the mid-70s, Mark decided to form his own band with drummer David “Pick” Withers, which he named the Café Racers. Around this time, his brother David moved to London to take a job as a social worker, sharing a flat with John Illsley, a guitarist who had switched to playing bass. In early 1977, Mark moved in with them. Inevitably, they began playing music together and soon after Mark invited David and John to join the Café Racers.

Deciding to make a career out of music, the band recorded a five-song demo tape, which included their future hit single “Sultans of Swing”. They took it to MCA, but were turned down. It was at this time that one of Pick's musician friends

coined the phrase ‘dire straits’, supposedly a reference to their financial situation. The band liked it and changed their name to Dire Straits, unaware of the irony it would imply in the future.

They then approached DJ Charlie Gillett, presenter of programme ‘Honky Tonk’ on BBC Radio London. The band simply wanted advice, but Gillett liked their music so much that he began to play “Sultans of Swing” on his show. Two months later, Dire Straits signed a recording contract with the Vertigo division of Phonogram Inc. and recorded their debut album, titled simply *Dire Straits* (1978). By the end of 1978, they had released their self-titled first album worldwide, which reached N°5 in the UK charts and N°2 in the US charts. The single “Sultans of Swing” soon went to top chart positions in the UK, the US, most countries of continental Europe and a great number of other countries around the world. Bob Dylan, who saw the band play in Los Angeles on their first US tour (opening for Talking Heads), was so impressed that he invited Mark and Pick to play on his next album, *Slow Train Coming*.

Dire Straits then recorded their second album, *Communiqué* (1979), which also reached N°5 on the UK album charts. The album continued in a similar vein to the first, and displayed the expanding scope of Mark's lyricism. However, the stress of composing, arranging songs, recording and touring took its toll on the brothers, and during the recording of their third album, *Making Movies* (1980), David left the band. The remaining trio finished the album, and *Making Movies* received positive reviews (it reached N°4 on the UK charts), featuring longer songs with more complex arrangements, a style that would continue for the rest of the band's career. After the album's release, Californian guitarist Hal Lindes and keyboardist Alan Clark joined Dire Straits, turning the band into a quintet.

Musical Box

Dire Straits' fourth studio album, *Love Over Gold* (1982), whose songs were filled with lengthy passages featuring Alan Clark's piano and keyboard work, was well received and reached N°1 in the UK. Interestingly, among the tunes written by Mark Knopfler at this time was "Private Dancer", which did not appear on the album, but was eventually given to Tina Turner for her comeback album of the same name. Shortly after the album's release, Pick Withers left the band saying that the band had become 'too loud' and he wanted to try new things. He was replaced by drummer Terry Williams.

Mark expressed his interest writing film music, and in 1983, he wrote and produced the music score to the film *Local Hero*, to which the other Dire Straits members contributed. The closing track is the instrumental "Going Home: theme of the Local Hero", which remains very popular among the football fans of Knopfler's home town club, Newcastle United, as it is played when the team runs out before every home game. The track thus became a popular live staple for Dire Straits. Mark followed this up by writing and producing the music scores to the films *Cal* and *Comfort and Joy* in 1984.

In late 1984, Dire Straits returned to recording for their fifth studio album, *Brothers in Arms* (1985). Early on during the recording sessions, Hal Lindes left the band and was replaced by Pennsylvanian guitarist Jack Sonni, a longstanding friend of Mark's. Guy Fletcher, who had worked with Knopfler on the *Cal* and *Comfort and Joy* soundtracks, also joined Dire Straits as a permanent second keyboardist. *Brothers in Arms* entered the UK albums chart at N°1 and spent a total of 228 weeks in the charts, selling over 4.3 million copies and becoming the best-selling album of 1985 in the UK. It was similarly successful in the US, peaking at N°1 for nine weeks, going multi-platinum and selling 9 million copies there. The album spawned several big chart singles, including "Money for Nothing" (which featured guest vocals by Sting) and title track "Brothers in Arms"

(continued...)

(written during Britain's involvement in the Falklands War of 1982, which deals with the senselessness of war). The album was the first to be recorded entirely digitally (because of Mark pushing for improved sound quality) and is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the first compact disc (CD) to sell a million copies. It has been credited with popularising the CD format. In 1986, it won three Grammy Awards. And it became one of the music industry's greatest money makers of all time.

Exhausted after all the touring and hype of *Brother in Arms*, Dire Straits went on a three-year hiatus. During this time, both Terry Williams and Jack Sonni left the band. In 1989, over a meal at a Notting Hill wine bar, Mark Knopfler formed the Notting Hillbillies, a country band, with Guy Fletcher and other friends, which released a single album, *Missing... Presumed Having a Good Time* (1990), containing the hit single "Your Own Sweet Way".

Dire Straits reunited in late 1990 and recorded their sixth studio album, *On Every Street* (1991), which turned out to be their last studio release. It was met with more moderate success and mixed reviews, though it went straight to N°1 in the UK charts and reached N°12 in the US. The subsequent world tour lasted nearly two years and made mountains of money, but it drove Dire Straits into the ground. By the time it was over, both Knopfler's marriage and his band were gone. Mark spent two years recovering from the experience, which took a heavy toll on his creative and personal life. He later recalled, "I put an end to the band because I wanted to get back to some kind of reality. It was self-protection, a survival thing. That scale of touring is dehumanizing".

Dire Straits were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2018. They have sold over 120 million albums. They remain one of the most popular British rock bands of all time, as well as one of the world's most commercially successful. But it was that same success that marked their end.





Back to the Future XVII

by Carl Sloth Knudsen
csk1@netgate.com.uy

Same Sunday I arrived in Denmark; I made a big effort to speak Danish to my aunt and uncle, as I didn't fully master the language. Understood yes but couldn't reply. Quite a challenge, which took me several months to overcome. We had lunch, and they showed me the cellar, where an old bicycle was at my disposal. Monday morning after a good night's sleep, I had some breakfast and off I drove, with a map of Copenhagen, towards what would be my future. I arrived at 8 a.m. at the office of Bloch & Behrens A/S, wool merchants owned by The East Asiatic Company of Denmark and was introduced to the managers of the different sectors, buying, selling, custom clearance, accountancy and so on - a pride of a well-organized enterprise.

I signed a contract with them and was immediately enrolled at the Commercial and Merchant school in Copenhagen for a 3-year term, which ended, to my surprise, with outstanding results, completely the opposite of my previous experience in Montevideo. I loved the school, the teachers, the different themes, and I really enjoyed what I was learning and doing, although nothing came the easy way. After working 8 hours in the office, I had a hot dog on my way to the Commercial School, which I attended from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., which now brings me back to "Don Fransisco", who sold frankfurters in front of the British School at 12 o'clock, in my younger days. I also exchanged with him, points of view regarding life in Uruguay. (I am not sure, but I think he was a Polish or Check descendant). Back at home, a late dinner waited for me, as well as further homework to be handed over next day.

There was no time for fishing, fun, sports and so on, but still I managed to go, now and then, to a cinema Saturday evening a few blocks from where I lived. My aunt used to ask: are you on your way to the Temple?

Oh yes! For me it was like getting fresh air, off the grid, and cleaning my mind, and by the way, I reminded her that next day, Sunday, we had a church to visit. Small words for great believers. Doesn't mean I am one of them, but... Once my aunt asked me: What do you expect from life? To which I replied: To keep myself alive and enjoy what nature will place in front of me in all its contexts, and strength enough to withstand difficult moments, when they show up. She used to call me "Blue Boy", never knew why, and never asked. A year later, she put up a dinner for my 18th birthday, church confirmation, and for having obtained my first driving license. I had by the time been driving cars since I was 12 years old in Atlántida -no license or accidents- but this time I couldn't run the risk, and my aunt told me it was out of question to drive in Denmark without a license, -only bicycles-. By the way, it took me some time to get used to this kind of traffic. For me it looked like they were all born on a bike. For them it was all fluid, but for me it looked chaotic until I got used to it.

I understood what was said in Danish, but still could not speak or write the language. After some months, one Sunday morning, I went to town to visit the National Museum in order to have a clear picture of my origins. This brought me to the Viking era, and my curiosity was so immense that I suddenly realised I was speaking Danish to the museum inspector, who was showing me around. How brain behaves is magical and this fact makes it easy for me, to walk "back and forth", and tell my story, while still here. I have never been a keen book reader, only read and studied what I found interesting, and here I remember Socrates, who said: "By means of studying, I acquire comprehension, and this knowledge permits me freely to do, what others do obliged by necessity". A rule, I have followed since.



The Elizabethan Heritage

by Carmen Alvarez
carmentele@gmail.com

A new breed of successful self-made men in Elizabethan England wished to display the wealth they had acquired and therefore set themselves to create houses that were enormous in comparison to previous domestic buildings and established their homes as a status symbol.

They were, of course, supported by a queen who had inherited her father's restless energy and who conducted her famous royal progresses around the kingdom and she and her entourage would be entertained at colossal expense in the palatial homes of her wealthier courtiers.

The queen was, of course, the great Elizabeth I, often called Gloriana, and who reigned in dazzling majesty over an exciting age of artistic brilliance, architectural achievement and foreign conquest.

Let's have a closer look to some of these fantastic architectural sites. Some of them survive, others regrettably don't.

Burgley House, in Lincolnshire, took William Cecil more than 30 years to construct, is still lived in by the Cecil family and Grade I listed.

Longleat, near Bath, was begun by John Thynne and the queen was lavishly entertained there in 1574. Today is widely regarded as an outstanding example of English Renaissance architecture. It is a Grade I listed building and the seat of the Marquesses of Bath.

Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds, also Grade I listed, was the last home of Catherine Parr, where Elizabeth lived for a brief time. It was greatly enlarged using building material from nearby Winchcombe Abbey.

Elizabeth's other childhood home, the famous Hatfield Palace, where she held her first Privy Council, was opulently rebuilt by her most successful minister, Robert Cecil. It has been the home of the Cecils ever since and contains a wealth of material relating to Queen Elizabeth including the celebrated 'Ermine' and 'Rainbow'. The present Marchioness has been largely responsible for the restoration of the fantastic gardens.

Montacute, in Somerset, is a typical Elizabethan house with tall, delicate chimneys, pinnacles, balustrades and huge glittering windows. It also contains the largest surviving Elizabethan long gallery in England.

Nonsuch Palace in Surrey originally built for Henry VIII was designed to be a celebration of the power and grandeur of the Tudor dynasty. It was a favourite palace of queen Elizabeth but unfortunately has been demolished in 1683.

Burton Agnes Hall in Yorkshire, Mapledurham House in Oxfordshire and Long Melford and Kentwell Hall both in East Anglia, were all built in brick, a favourite building material of the period which was also called the Tudor period. They are fine examples of Elizabethan architecture: confident, assertive, exuberant and impressive reminders of a magnificent period of England's history.





Green Sauce

Green sauce has a long history and many versions from different countries which make it difficult to define. My intention this month is to show some of the different versions of this now popular sauce and share a couple of recipes to enjoy with family and friends.

Green sauce is widely used in modern Italian cookery and is usually an uncooked cold sauce featuring tender green herbs, oil and an acid medium, all of which results in an herbaceous, garlicky, sharp fresh taste perfect for brightening up boiled pasta, roast vegetables

The Spanish have a couple of popular green sauces which differ from the Italian version. One of them is from the Canary Islands and is called “Mojo Verde”, traditionally made with fresh cilantro, cumin, garlic, vinegar and olive oil.

Mexico, meanwhile, has its own version of green sauce which dates back to the Aztec Empire and is based on tomatillo and green chili.

Perú also has a green sauce called “ají verde”, which is made with fresh cilantro, yellow chili pepper, mayonnaise and lime juice, often served with grilled chicken.

The following recipe is actually not related to the interesting historical context of the Peruvian cuisine, which has evolved over the centuries through the fusion of their own indigenous culture with that of the Spanish conquerors as well as the Japanese, Chinese and African slaves. It was in fact invented in the 1950's by a Swiss immigrant who owned a chicken farm near Lima, the nation's capital, and decided to open a restaurant based only on barbecued chicken. It became so popular that it was not long before others opened similar types of restaurants which are popular to this day.

This chicken dish is typically served with chips and Green Sauce.

Peruvian Grilled Chicken with Green Sauce – 2 portions

- 1 small chicken

For the marinade:

- Juice and zest of 3 limes
- 30 ml olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp oregano
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- Splash of soy sauce and sesame oil (optional)

For the sauce:

- 1 chili pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 bunch coriander leaves, roughly chopped
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp ají amarillo paste (In Montevideo it can be found in Mar Austral and Samud)
- Juice of one lime
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 75 ml mayonnaise

Preparation

“Butterfly” the chicken by cutting through the backbone with a pair of scissors or a sharp knife and opening it out. Mix together all the ingredients for the marinade. Place the chicken into a plastic bag and add the marinade, shaking well to ensure the chicken is evenly coated. Leave in a cool place for 3 to 6 hours to allow the flavours to be absorbed.

Meanwhile, to make the sauce simply add all the ingredients to a food processor and mix until smooth.

Grill the chicken on a barbecue or on a tray in a hot oven until crispy and nicely coloured, making sure it is well cooked. Serve with the green sauce and chips (French fries) or rustic oven-roasted potatoes.

Italian Salsa Verde

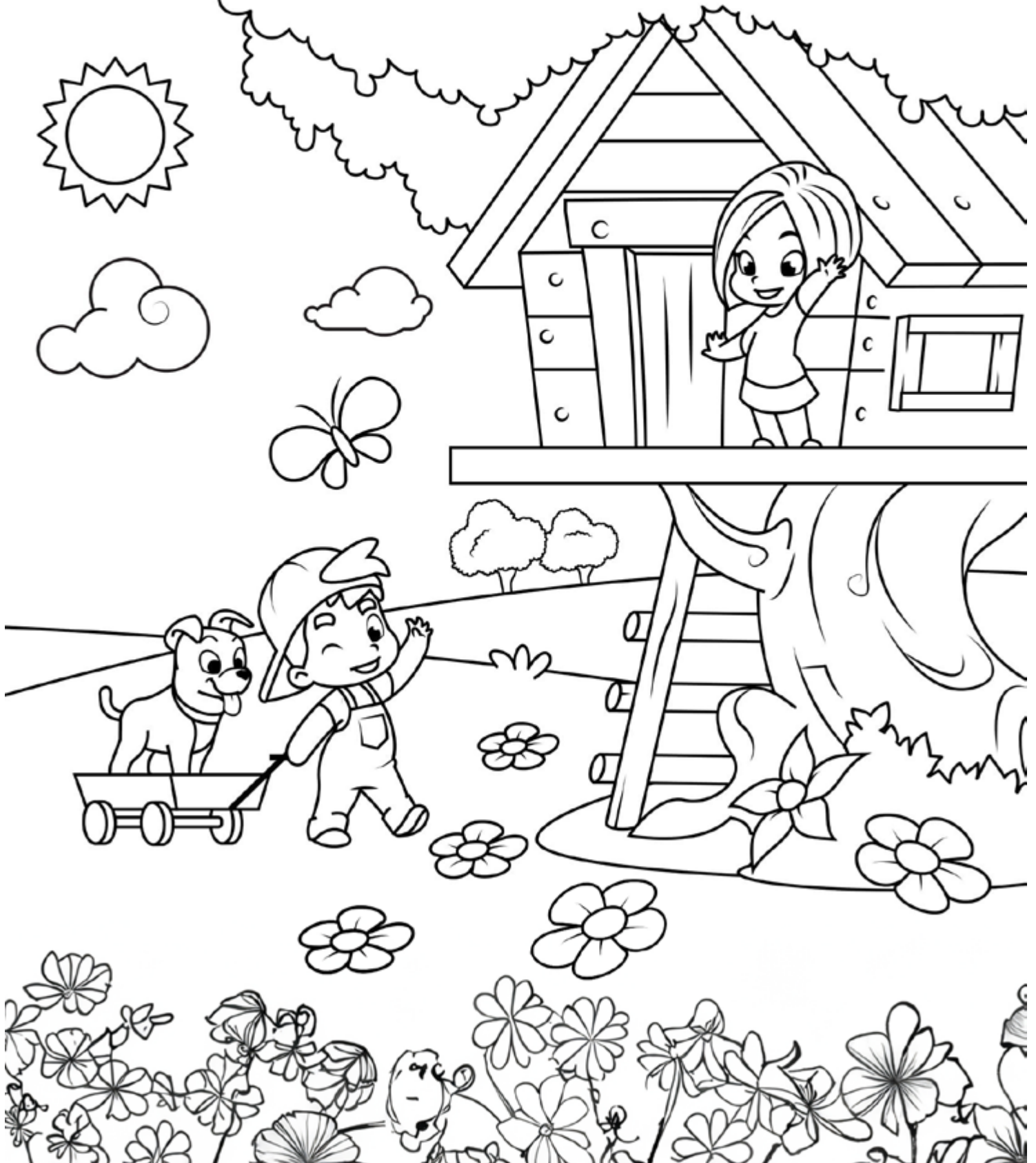
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 anchovy fillets packed in oil
- 1 tbsp capers
- 1 bunch parsley roughly chopped
- 1 bunch basil or chives roughly chopped
- 75 ml olive oil
- 2 lemon juice and zest
- Salt and pepper

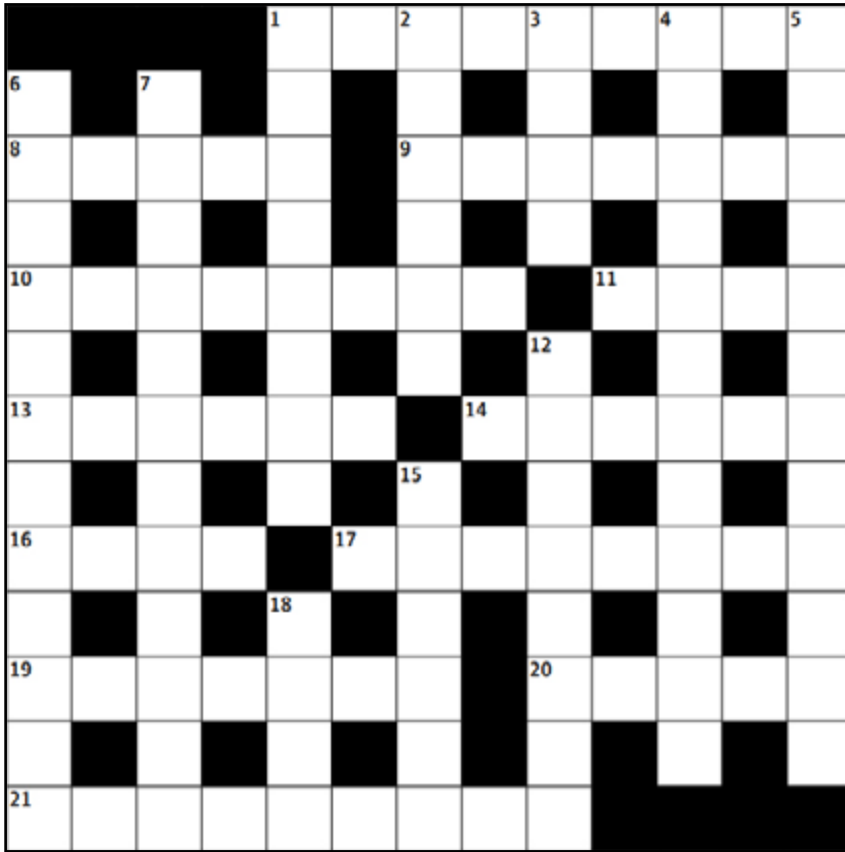
If you want to be old school, you can use a mortar and pestle to make the sauce: add the garlic, anchovy and capers and pound and grind until you have a smooth paste. Next add the green herbs and smash and grind to your desired texture. Add the olive oil and lemon juice and zest and stir in. Season with salt and pepper. Or... you can also use a food processor 😊

Be careful with the salt because the capers and anchovy can be salty. It can be kept covered in the fridge for several weeks or frozen for up to six months.

COLOURING TIME

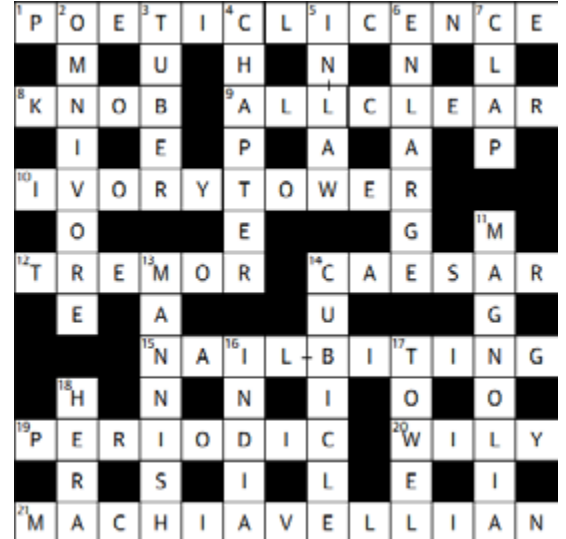
SPRING IS COMING!





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

August solution:



Across

- 1 Dummy or scarf (9)
- 8 Waking call – sudden fear (5)
- 9 Particular (7)
- 10 Kebab dish – Shah’s ilk (anag) (8)
- 11 Opposed (4)
- 13 Oddball – singular (3-3)
- 14 Blabbermouth (6)
- 16 Former US president – cross (stream) (4)
- 17 Man-eater! (8)
- 19 Howl and wail (7)
- 20 Punctuation mark (5)
- 21 Overwhelming rise (of water) (5,4)

Down

- 1 Part of piston engine (8)
- 2 Flattish bun (6)
- 3 Hog sound (4)
- 4 Incomprehensible scientific literature (12)
- 5 ‘Porkies’ for ‘lies’, or ‘syrup’ for ‘wig’ etc (7,5)
- 6 Four pianists (anag.) (7,5)
- 7 March area (6,6)
- 12 Sticker on ship’s hull (8)
- 15 Brazilian slum (6)
- 18 High-rise (4)



Burgley House in Lincolnshire

