



**BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
OF
NORTH AMERICA**



IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

26th April, 2015, Sunday, between 3 & 5 PM in Annapolis.

Daughters of British Empire put on "The Roaring 20s Fashion Show & English Tea:" Master of Ceremonies will be Malcolm Edwards of the British Players. Price is \$38.00/ticket All profits donated to charities.

410-729-3614 or dbeladyanearundle@verizon.net

2nd May, 2015, Saturday, evening between 6:00 to 9:00 PM onwards.

Put on by the "All Canada University."

Come and join friends and family for a wonderful evening of Indian music, a bit of Indian dancing and Indian cuisine at Indique located at 3512-14 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008 (301) 467-6793. Cost is \$55.00 (covers cost of dinner, tax, gratuity and tea/coffee).

POC: is Deepak Malhotra 20326 Swallow Point Road, Montgomery Village, MD, 20886

9th May, 2015, Saturday, European Union Embassies' (including UK & Ireland,) open house from 10:00 am—4:00 pm.

Admission is free, but photo ID may be required. For details see web (www.europenhouse.org)

29th and 30th May, 2015, Friday & Saturday night, Dinner Theater in Lorton, VA. Meal & Music Hall with Barry as : Mr. Chairman. This is a tentative event, with more information in a future flyer.

POC: barrykelly@gmail.com & or 703-403-8785. **Postponed from March 28th, 2015**

12th - 21st June, 2015, British Players Music Hall, Kensington MD. More details in a future newsletter including which afternoon and which evening will be B&CSNA discount times.

28th June 2015, Sunday, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Annual Commonwealth/AGM Super Champagne Brunch

Fort Myer Officer's Club, 214 Jackson Avenue, Fort Myer, Virginia 22211. **You MUST have picture ID with you to get into the Fort!**

Election of Board—can we get some volunteers for the B&CSNA Board?

Very short AGM, it's mostly enjoyment.

Cost: \$29.00 for members and \$33.00 for nonmembers.

Cheques must be received NLT June 22nd 2015, no refunds after June 22nd 2015.

POC: Elizabeth (mdeso@starpowet.net) 301-731-0752 (9:00 AM – 9:00 PM). Send cheques to Elizabeth (made payable to B&CSNA) at: Elizabeth Davis, 6314 Martins Lane, Lanham, Maryland 20706-1122

Editorial Note:

Articles with By-Lines, sources, items made available to the Editor are published as submitted, no punctuation changed, warts and all.

Commonwealth Corner (continued)

MALAYSIA

Malaysia ( /məˈleɪzə/ mə-LAY-zha or  /məˈleɪsiə/ mə-LAY-see-ə) (Malaysian pronunciation: [məlejsiə]) is a federal constitutional monarchy located in Southeast Asia. It consists of thirteen states and three federal territories and has a total landmass of 329,847 square kilometres (127,350 sq mi) separated by the South China Sea into two similarly sized regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo). Peninsular Malaysia shares a land and maritime border with Thailand and maritime borders with Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia. East Malaysia shares land and maritime borders with Brunei and Indonesia and a maritime border with the Philippines. The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya is the seat of the federal government. By 2015, with a population of over 30 million, Malaysia became 43rd most populous country in the world. The southernmost point of continental Eurasia, Tanjung Piai, is in Malaysia, located in the tropics. It is one of 17 megadiverse countries on earth, with large numbers of endemic species.

Malaysia has its origins in the Malay kingdoms present in the area which, from the 18th century, became subject to the British Empire. The first British territories were known as the Straits Settlements, whose establishment was followed by the Malay kingdoms becoming British protectorates. The territories on Peninsular Malaysia were first unified as the Malayan Union in 1946. Malaya was restructured as the Federation of Malaya in 1948, and achieved independence on 31 August 1957. Malaya united with North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore on 16 September 1963, with *si* being added to give the new country the name Malaysia. Less than two years later in 1965,

Singapore was expelled from the federation.

The country is multi-ethnic and multicultural, which plays a large role in politics. The constitution declares Islam the state religion while protecting freedom of religion. The government system is closely modelled on the Westminster parliamentary system and the legal system is based on common law. The head of state is the king, known as the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*. He is an elected monarch chosen from the hereditary rulers of the nine Malay states every five years. The head of government is the prime minister. Since its independence, Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia, with its GDP growing at an average of 6.5% per annum for almost 50 years. The economy has traditionally been fuelled by its natural resources, but is expanding in the sectors of science, tourism, commerce and medical tourism. Today, Malaysia has a newly industrialised market economy, ranked third largest in Southeast Asia and 29th largest in the world. It is a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the East Asia Summit and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Nations, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Source: Wikipedia



LIMESTONE PINNACLES



PERDANA PUTRA HOUSES THE OFFICE COMPLEX OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA.



MALAYSIAN COAT OF ARMS



MOUNT KINABULU



A WAU—MAKERS SHOP



RAFFLESIA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST, THE HEAVIEST, THE RAREST AND THE ONE OF THE MOST STINKIEST FLOWERS IN THE WORLD. IT GROWS TO 1 METRE WIDE AND WEIGHS ABOUT 10 KGS.

**UK'S LONGEST SERVING POLICE OFFICER
RETIRES FROM MET POLICE
AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Passing the baton: the 64-year-old joined the Met the day after his 19th birthday.

Britain's longest-serving police officer today hung up his truncheon after 47 years on the beat.



PC Robert Brown, 64, who joined the Met the day after his 19th birthday in 1968, was given a ceremonial guard of honour as he arrived at Croydon police station in a vintage Morris Minor patrol car for a final tour of duty.

In a career spanning six decades, he has witnessed the transformation of the force from the days when officers were armed only with a wooden truncheon and a whistle, and had to ring in every two hours from Tardis-style police boxes.

In 1973, PC Brown was one of the first officers on the scene when Venezuelan terrorist 'Carlos the Jackal' shot the then Marks and Spencer boss, Joseph Sieff in St John's Wood.

He also supported Special Branch during the arrest of Astrid Proll in 1978, part of the notorious revolutionary terrorist group, the Baader-Meinhoff gang.

In 1981, he faced bricks, bottles and burning buildings during the Brixton riots, spending almost 72 hours on duty.

His darkest came in 1994 when a colleague was stabbed to death in a post office raid in New Addington. PC Brown desperately fought to give Sergeant Derek Robertson first aid.

Over the years PC Brown served at stations in Brent, Norbury, Addington and Sutton, before joining Croydon borough in the late nineties, where he remained until today.

Source: Evening Standard

**ROYAL FLUSH: PRINCE CHARLES VISITS
LONDON SEWAGE TUNNEL**

LONDON - Prince Charles got down and dirty Wednesday, donning a hard hat and protective glasses to visit a sewer tunnel 75 meters (250 feet) under east London.

The heir to the British throne was marking the 150th anniversary of the city's sewers, created by engineer Joseph Bazalgette to erase the "Great Stink" caused by sewage and effluent that was being dumped into the River Thames.

The Houses of Parliament, hired Bazalgette to find a solution. His sewers, a wonder of Victorian engineering, were designed for use by 2 million people but now struggle to serve more than 6 million people. The prince visited the ornate Abbey Mills Pumping Station, a central part of Bazalgette's network, wearing a high-visibility jacket to inspect a new tunnel designed



to reduce the 39 million tonnes (43 million tons) of untreated sewage that is still released into the river each year. Tony Brown, one of two young apprentices who showed Charles around the 7-meter (23-foot) wide concrete tunnel, declared the prince "down to earth and a real nice guy."

The 7-kilometer (4.4-mile) Lee Tunnel, the deepest ever built under London, is due to go into use in December as part of efforts to deal with the flow of waste from London's 8.6 million inhabitants.

The sewage not only taints the Thames but often creates "fatbergs," - blobs of congealed fat, baby wipes and other waste that can weigh tons and clog sewers.

King Edward VII, opened Bazalgette's sewer network when he was heir to the throne in 1865.

Source: Herald-Whig

**MARGARET THATCHER STATUE UNVEILED
IN THE FALKLANDS**

The bust is at the end of Thatcher Drive, next to the Liberation Monument, which honours 255 UK servicemen and three Falklands civilians who died in the conflict.

The tribute to the former Prime Minister - who led Britain to victory in the 1982 conflict to defend the islands - was revealed in the island's capital Stanley on Saturday.

After Baroness Thatcher died in 2013 the population of the Falkland Islands were consulted about how they wished to commemorate the leader.

The overwhelming response was for a statue which was unveiled at a ceremony on what is Margaret Thatcher Day on the island by her son Sir Mark Thatcher.

Local sculptor Steve Masson was commissioned to carry out the work which cost around £40,000 and stands eight



foot high on a stone plinth.

The bronze statue bears a brass plaque with a quote from Baroness Thatcher on April 3, 1982: "They are few in number, but they have the right to live in peace, to choose their own way of life and determine their own allegiance."

Last month Argentina's ambassador to Britain Alicia Castro condemned the statue "in our Malvinas Islands" as a provocative move.

The Mail On Sunday reported she said: "What the UK is doing is celebrating war."

Source: The Telegraph

JOKE TIME

The fight we had last night was my fault, my wife asked me what was on the TV and I said dust.

FLIPPIN' MARVELLOUS: WHERE TO EAT THE BEST PANCAKES IN LONDON

Happy Pancake Day, London! If your homemade attempts look like tired scrambled eggs, check out the cream of the capital's crêperie crop instead, whether you fancy a thick American stack or crispy Parisian galettes this Shrove Tuesday

LA CREPERIE DE HAMPSTEAD

This Parisian crêperie van has been a north London institution since it parked up on a Hamstead Village street in 1980. Go for one of its excellent savoury crêpes that weigh down its specially designed cone wrappers with generous helpings of toasty-hot ingredients. The ham, cheese and egg wrap is spot on. **Find it:** 77 Hampstead High Street, NW3

M1LK

The pancakes are all made from gluten-free buckwheat, and past toppings have included: honey mascarpone, raspberries and whey crunch, and Yorkshire forced rhubarb with strawberries, Sussex Downs creme fraiche and coconut sugar.

Find it: 20 Bedford Hill, SW12 9RG, m1lk.co.uk

PAVILION CAFE

One of our favourite [park cafes in London](#), the Pavilion does every kind of breakfast well — we're a sucker for its take on the full English — but sometimes you just gotta have a stack of the sweet stuff. Its pancakes come with praline, banana, pear, a dollop of creme fraiche and a smothering of organic maple syrup. **Find it:** Corner of Old Ford Road, Victoria Park, E9 7DE, the-pavilion-cafe.com

JACKSON + RYE

Brunch is a big deal at the weekends here so come hungry for a stack of pancakes topped with ricotta, maple syrup and optional bacon. Our choice, for a hair of the dog would be the eakfast Sour: Buffalo Trace, lemon egg white, apricot preserve and pear bitters.

Find it: Soho; Chiswick; Richmond, jacksonrye.com

RIDING HOUSE CAFE

US-style buttermilk stacks. Deliciously soft and doughy, three hefty pancakes (£7) come with vanilla clotted cream, blueberries and your own jug of maple syrup (yup, we hate it when people scrimp on the maple too) to drown your plate in.

Find it: 43-51 Great Titchfield Street, W1, ridinghousecafe.co.uk

THE DELAUNAY

The Delaunay does sweet pancakes with gusto. Add maple syrup and bacon, cranberry and pear compote or blueberries and crème fraîche to their buttermilk pancakes for under a tenner.

Find it: 55 Aldwych, WC2, thedelaunay.com

Traditional: American-style pancakes with blueberries and maple syrup



CREPERIE NICOLAS

The Real Food Market behind the Royal Festival Hall every weekend to serve up French crêpes and traditional Breton buckwheat galettes. We know it's a safe option, but the Nutella and banana version will knock your, er, nuts off.

Find it: Real Food Market, Southbank Centre Square, SE1, creperie-nicolas.com

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club cafés serve up US monty with eggs, sausage, home-style fried potatoes, streaky bacon and maple syrup, or treat your sweet tooth with berries and vanilla ice cream.

Find it: various venues, thebreakfastclubcafes

SHUTTERBUG

Cocktail and crêpe bar Shutterbug isn't pedalling the same old lemon and sugar pancake story. Think red velvet with mascarpone and strawberries, salted caramel or, if you're feeling carnivorous, pulled pork with cheese and pickles.

Find it: 1 Rivington Place, EC2A 3BA, shutterbug-london.com**SHUTTERBUG**



KENSINGTON CREPERIE

All pancakes are freshly made to order and can be soft or crispy to your taste, check out the specials board to see which exotic fruits and vegetables are available that day. We recommend the Tartiflette Galette — bacon, cheese, cream, onion and white wine on a buckwheat crêpe — with a decent bottle of red.

Find it: Kensington; Soho, kensington-creperie.com

CREPERIE DU MONDE

Crêperie du Monde offers a globetrotting selection of pancakes. from the Caribbean, Japan, Try the "Of the World" number: chistorra (a member of the chorizo family), red peppers, aubergine, courgette and rocket with melted camembert. Sit outside, Parisian-style, if the weather allows it.

Find it: 51 Chatsworth Road, E5 0LH, creperiedumonde.co.uk

THE BLUES KITCHEN

American pancakes with traditional topping like blueberry and vanilla cream, banana, pecan and caramel, or maple and bacon.

Find it: 111–113 Camden High Street, NW1 7JN, theblueskitchen.com
Source: Evening Standard

SOUTHERN RAIL'S 7.29AM BRIGHTON TO VICTORIA TRAIN FAILED TO ARRIVE ON TIME AT ALL IN 2014

A morning commuter train to London failed to ever arrive at its destination on time last year, damning statistics have revealed.

Southern Rail failed to get the 7.29 am train to London Victoria within its scheduled time on any of the 240 occasions last year.

The Brighton to London Victoria service is essential to commuters, some of whom pay up to £5,000 a year for a season ticket, as it is scheduled to arrive in London at 8.35am - just in time for a 9am start at work.

Trains either side of the 7.29 to London Victoria, the 7.14 and the 7.44, only arrived in the capital on time one per cent and two per cent of the time respectively.

Southern Rail deputy managing director David Scorey said the service was not delivering on performance but work was underway to improve it.

He said: "I don't think we're delivering the level of performance customers expect.

"We expect to deliver a better level of service in the coming year, but we're not satisfied with what we've delivered over the tail end of last year, since the end of August."

"We are delivering in a lot of areas, including investment and innovation, but not on performance."

"We're doing more in that area, that's a major area we're focusing on."

Source: Evening Standard

REBECCA SEAL'S TOP THREE BEER BARS IN LONDON

Rebecca Seal's quest for the best beer sees her weave from Euston Road to Lewisham

Best for people-watching Euston Tap

Now that dry January is almost over, it's high time for a pint. The ever-changing range of beers (and ciders) here runs close to 200 options with 27 on draught. Located in one of the old lodge entrances to the original Euston station, it's the place to go for hard-to-find US imports and local London brews.

190 Euston Road, NW1 (020 3137 8837; eustontap.com)

BEST FOR RARE BEERS CRAFT BEER CO

The expansion of this group since 2011 shows just how popular good beer has become. The range includes house favourites from brewers such as Thornbridge, Ilkley and Dark Star. Look out for takeovers, too, by the likes of Magic Rock and Sierra Nevada, plus pop-ups and one-off food-pairing nights.

Best for beer 'n' burgers



London Beer Dispensary

Owned by the Late Knights Brewery (based in Penge) it serves other beers as well, such as Brew By Numbers' Grapefruit & Ginger Saison or Weird Beard's Sorachi Face Plant. The small, old-fashioned bar hosts jazz nights on Mondays and you can soak up the beer with a hot dog, burger or chicken wings (from £5).

389 Brockley Road, SE4 (020 8694 6962)

Source: Evening Standard

NICK GOODWAY: BEER DUTY MUST BE CUT AGAIN IF WE ARE TO KEEP OUR PUBS ALIVE

Nick Goodway: George Osborne needs to listen to the pub industry when it comes to beer duty. There is one thing which you can normally expect Members of Parliament to agree on then it is the fact that taxes on beer should not go up faster or as fast as the cost of living.

While Chancellor George Osborne may not spring immediately to mind when you think of a pub full of ale-swilling girls and boys he has actually been nice to the brewing and pub industries for the past couple of years.

In 2013 and 2014 he has actually cut the duty on beer and scrapped the punitive beer escalator, which linked duty rises to inflation.

Now, with one month and a day to go until his final Budget of this

Parliament, George should consider going even further and make a record third cut.

There is plenty of evidence that the beer and pubs industries give back to the economy considerably more than the Treasury takes out of them through tax and duty.

A recent study by Oxford Economics, commissioned, of course, by the British Beer & Pub Association, drew out some very interesting facts:

The UK brewing industry sustains some 100,000 jobs;

The UK's 47,000 pubs give jobs to 770,000 people;

Of those, 44% are under the age of 25; The two industries pay just over £13 billion in total taxes. Together they add £22 billion a year to the economy. Impressive stats, as the Chancellor well knows.

Yet British beer drinkers are still among the most heavily taxed on their pints of any drinkers in Europe.

We account for 40% of all duties specifically levied on beer across Europe yet, despite my best efforts, we account for just 12% of the beer drunk across the EU. That doesn't seem right.

Unlike Harold Wilson, Osborne does not need to cut beer duty or pin the level of duty on pipe tobacco to ensure a healthy turnout from his core older voters at the general election. (He has already done that with his pensioner bonds!)

But he does need to listen to the industry. At the moment, brewers and pub-cans are going through something of a sweet spot in terms of macro-economic factors.

Inflation is low so prices for drinks and more especially the ingredients for pub meals are keeping pretty steady.

Transport costs and energy bills are the same if not lower than this time last year. Even rates bills are not up by quite so much as they have been.

But the consumer environment is not so benign. Pub goers are still very much looking for the big meal deals.

Restaurants are faring better than pubs, which outside London have seen sales decline since the New Year.

Pubs are still closing at the rate of 29 a week, well down from the peak of 52 a week in 2009 but still too many.

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NICK GOODWAY

Yet when I checked the latest Early Day Motion (No 625) calling on the Government to consider a further beer duty cut today it had attracted just 83 signatures. That means there are 567 MPs who have not bothered to sign up.

Source: Evening Standard

BATTLE OF BRITAIN CHAPEL TO 'THE FEW' THREATENED WITH CLOSURE

The MoD has said that funding St George's Chapel of Remembrance at Biggin Hill is no longer an "appropriate use of defence resources"

A Second World War memorial chapel to the aircrew who died protecting Britain's shores from German attack is threatened with closure because the Ministry of Defence has decided to stop funding it.

Winston Churchill said St George's Chapel of Remembrance on the site of the former RAF station at Biggin Hill in Kent should be a permanent shrine to 'the few' who gave their lives during the Battle of Britain.

But the MoD has said its £50,000-a-year running cost is no longer an "appropriate use of defence resources" after the ministry has been hit with sweeping cuts.

Campaigners now fear the chapel will be closed without new funding.

Gp Capt Patrick Tootal, secretary of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, said: "If you look at it through the eyes of the bean counters, the chapel is not war fighting and the MoD is about war fighting."

The chapel commemorates 454 Biggin Hill aircrew who died during the war, when the station played a key role during the **Battle of Britain**.

The chapel floor is made of wood from wartime aircraft propellers and stained glass windows commemorate the dead, whose names are inscribed in a roll of honour.

Geoff Simpson, a Battle of Britain historian, said: "It's a very historic place and a very moving place and it was certainly the hope of Winston Churchill that it should remain forever. "Many people regard it as one of the major memorials to 'the few' and just



RAF SPITFIRE PILOTS SCRAMBLE TO GET AIRBORNE AT BIGGIN HILL

to walk inside the door it's an experience that anyone with an interest in the battle should have."

The chapel commemorates Commonwealth and allied aircrew who died, including Poles and Czechs, as well as Britons.

Jo Johnson, Conservative MP for Orpington which covers Biggin Hill, and head of the Number 10 Policy Unit, said it was "unthinkable that the chapel would cease to be." "It's a vital point of remembrance to the Battle of Britain and I am delighted that the Ministry of Defence is dedicated to its preservation."

Source: The Telegraph

SCOTLAND YARD IS SET TO TRAIN HUNDREDS MORE OFFICERS AS A RESERVE FIREARMS UNIT TO DEAL WITH A POSSIBLE TERRORIST GUN ATTACK ON LONDON.

Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said the force was reviewing the number of armed officers in the wake of the Paris outrages.

He admitted the number of police marksmen had fallen in recent years and said one option was to train members of the Territorial Support Group as a firearms reserve.

Referring to broadcasts of the Paris police operations, he said: "We want to ensure our ability to respond is not restricted by live coverage."

Sir Bernard said the Met had deployed more armed officers on London's streets to protect key sites. He added that there are ongoing discussions with the Government over more funding for counter-terror operations. Police need "tens of millions" of pounds more.

He told the Police and Crime Committee at City Hall today that the terror threat remained "severe," meaning an attack was highly likely — though there was no intelligence of an imminent threat. Sir Bernard said "If you have multiple suspects, we can't follow all of them all the time."

He said there had been "really good support" from the London community since the Paris attacks. More parents of children at risk of being influenced to travel to Syria were coming forward to police.

Deputy Mayor for Policing Stephen Greenhalgh repeated a call for an extra £20 million of Home Office money to fund city counter-terror operations.

Currently, 2,700 officers are authorised to carry guns in London.

On the broadcasting problem, Met officials are now talking to TV stations amid fears that live coverage of police raids could compromise operations.

In Paris there was live TV coverage as officers engaged in near-simultaneous raids on two terror hostage sites.

Source: Evening Standard

JOKE TIME

Do you know why a room full of married people looks so empty and deserted?

There's not even a "Single person" in it.

In what way are a woman and a magnet different?

Magnets have a positive side!

What's the reason for the stoplight turning red?

Wouldn't you if you had to change in the middle of the street?

FORGET MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING, ONE DEPARTMENT STORE IS GOING UNISEX

Men's and women's clothing departments? That's so *passee*. The word for today is unisex.

Selfridges, the big British department store, announced new lines of gender neutral clothing and three floors of unisex apparel at its flagship store in



London. With gender neutral mannequins.

"It may seem extreme, but in terms of what's really on the runway right now in the fashion world, it's very fashion forward and trendy," says Jo B. Paoletti, an associate professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland, where she studies fashion and gender. This trend towards androgyny and unisex clothing is nothing new, she says. "When women started wearing bell-bottom jeans in the late 1960s — I would say they but actually it was we because I was one of them — we went to the Army/Navy surplus store and bought men's jeans."

More than a century ago unisex clothing for young children was the norm. The distinction of boys wearing blue and girls wearing pink doesn't come into fashion until the early 20th century, she says.

"That comes around the same time as women start wearing pants more often for sports and little girls are wearing overalls for play."

However, Paoletti points out that there have been cultural movements against this overwhelming trend. Many people might remember the short story published in Ms. Magazine in 1975 about Baby X, a fictional child raised without gender and the "Free to Be You and Me" movement of the 1970s.

"In the 1970s there was huge interest

in unisex clothing for children, unisex child-rearing and trying to create a less gender future by starting with the very beginning with neutral clothing for kids," says Paoletti.

So while Selfridge might be jumping on just a current fashion trend, perhaps the store is on to something a bit deeper about the ways in which we think about gender and clothing.

"It's always been more acceptable for girls to dress like boys but to say that a boy is like a girl is still considered a putdown," says Paoletti.

Source: PRI

WANTED: DRIVER WHO IS 'CALM UNDER PRESSURE' TO WORK AS THE QUEEN'S CHAUFFEUR

The Royal Household is on the hunt for a new chauffeur to ferry the Queen and her family to official engagements. The Royal Family is looking for a "motivated" chauffeur with good time-keeping and route planning skills, and



the ability to remain "calm under pressure".

The role is based at Buckingham Palace and comes with a salary of £24,000, as well as live-in quarters, meals and 33 days of holiday.

The online advert on the Royal Family's website says: "As chauffeur you will work as part of a busy and supportive team tasked with driving members of the Royal Family, Household officials, guests and official visitors..."

The role falls within The Royal Mews, which supplies all coaches and cars for official occasions as well as caring for and training the Queen's carriage horses.

Source: Evening Standard

DAGENHAM CHIP SHOP IS NAMED AS BEST IN THE UK

UK best: Restaurant manager Jason Aiken called the award a 'real honour' A chip shop in east London has been named the best in the UK.

The Golden Fish in Dagenham was given the accolade by the Potato Council this week after beating off competition from 900 restaurants.

The 40-seat restaurant, which serves about 5000 people per week, has previously been voted the best fish and chip shop in south east England.

Aiken said: "Being crowned the best chippy in Great Britain is a real honour, and we would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated team of workers and of course, to our loyal customers who voted for us to win."

After being awarded its latest title, a spokesman for the restaurant, which has been serving up fast food for more than 40 years, posted on Facebook: "We are really proud to have been voted as the UK's number one and we are so grateful that you've helped us make Dagenham proud!"

Winner: The Golden Fish



Source: Evening Standard

JOKE TIME

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

We live in a society where pizza gets to your house before the police.

Q: Are you a scratch player?

A: I sure am - every time I hit the ball I scratch my head and wonder where it went.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

CANADIAN COURT UPHOLDS REQUIRING OATH TO QUEEN FOR CITIZENSHIP

Canada's Supreme Court has rejected an appeal to remove the country's citizenship oath, which requires applicants to swear allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II.

The appeal was launched by three permanent residents who wanted to obtain citizenship but not want to pledge allegiance to the royal family. Native-born Canadians do not have to take any oath.



The plaintiffs say the vow violates religious and conscientious beliefs.

Simone Topey, a Rastafarian from Jamaica, and Dror Bar-Natan, an Israeli Jew, say their religion forbids them from taking an oath to any person.

"I can't do something that I don't believe in," Topey, told reporters outside a Toronto court on Tuesday according to Canadian TV News. "I want to be real to Canada, I want to be loyal to the country. I'm trying to become a citizen not a subject."

Michael McAteer, a staunch republican from Ireland, says he believes the oath is unnecessary and would violate his conscience.

The trio's lawyer Peter Rosenthal told the Court of Appeal on Tuesday that allowing would-be citizens to opt out of the oath doesn't cause any harm.

"Someone who wants to be a citizen is being forced to say, 'I support the constitutional monarchy,'" he said. "How repugnant must that be to someone who's a staunch anti-monarchist?"

'Literal approach'

Australia, also a constitutional monarchy, scrapped its pledge to the monarchy 20 years ago.

Government lawyer Kristina Dragaitis argued the monarchy symbolizes the Constitution, the rule of law and the right to dissent. She said, the appellants are taking a "literal approach" to the oath.

The Supreme Court, as is customary, gave no reasons for refusing to hear the appeal.

Source: BBC News

TINY SWEATERS ARE SAVING THE LIVES OF TINY PENGUINS!

Alfie Date began knitting in 1932 but it wasn't until 2013 when Australia's oldest man started knitting sweaters for Phillip Island's little penguin population.

The penguins, who were still being affected by an oil spill that occurred in 2001, had been unintentionally swallowing dangerous chemicals as they attempted to clean the oil off their feathers. When he heard about the Penguin Foundation of Phillip Island's call for knitters to create "jumpers" for the flightless birds, the 109-year-old Alfie put his eighty-plus years of experience to work.

Phillip Island is home to about 32,000 little penguins. They are the smallest penguins in the world, and the only species with blue (rather than black) and



white feathers as an adult.

Read more at <http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/penguin-sweaters/#Ti2t6oIQi4gr4wqH.99>

Source: TheAnimalRescueSite.com

15-YEAR-OLD COMES HOME FROM SCHOOL TO FIND KOALA TRYING TO DRIVE A CAR



A 15-year-old Australian boy had a hilarious and confusing encounter with a koala when he got off his school bus and saw the furry creature "trying to drive" his family's Land Rover.

After snapping the pictures, Sam Box attempted to force the koala to flee by making noises, but the koala didn't seem to want to leave the car and wasn't afraid of the teen. Finally, Sam Box opened the door and the koala calmly walked out.

"We see them a fair bit here but never in the car," Sam Box explained. "It was checking me out as much as I was checking him out. I opened the door and he just got out and walked away."

Sources: [Mad World News](#),

DID KING JOHN ACTUALLY 'SIGN' MAGNA CARTA?

The Royal Mint has been criticised for featuring a picture of King John signing Magna Carta with a quill on a coin celebrating its 800th anniversary. A wax seal was actually used, but does the mistake really matter, asks Justin Parkinson?

The £2 coin shows King John holding Magna Carta in one hand and a large quill in another. The meaning is obvious - he signed it.

Actually, he didn't. John, like other medieval monarchs, used the Great Seal to



put his name to the document, making concessions to England's barons in
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1215, following years of arguments over royal power.

No quill was used, but was the Magna Carter still "signed" in a sense? The Oxford English Dictionary defines the verb "to sign" in this way as by King John's son Henry saying a document was "sened wip vre seel (signed with our seal)". To put a seal (a letter or document) as a means of identification or authentication; to stamp with a seal or signet; to cover with a seal."

The wording of Magna Carta, a verbal agreement between the king and the barons, was written down later and the seal added by officials. So he didn't seal it himself either. The contents of the copies made were to be read out in public in what was still more of an oral official culture than our own.

The wax seal helped validate the understanding that Magna Carta was the King's true will. "The seal was the conventional way of authenticating a document at that time," says Claire Breay, medieval manuscripts curator at the British Library.

Source: BBC

16-YEAR-OLD BRITISH BOY GOES MAGNET FISHING, REELS IN STASH OF IRA WEAPONS

A 16-year-old James Cork, of Somerset, England, made the discovery while out magnet fishing, in Greylake on the Somerset Levels, according to the [Daily Mail](#). That's when he and a friend stumbled upon a 40-strong haul of weapons, which an expert suspects may have belonged to the IRA and could have been dumped when they were meant to be declaring their arms in 2001.

Speaking to the [Daily Mirror](#), Cork said: "I was shocked. I've never found anything like this before. There were a few whole weapons, but not many. Some were machine guns, pistols and revolvers. And there was a massive machine gun on a stand."

Among the deadly weapons were parts of a Nazi MG42 light machine gun, which has a 660m killing range, and a Czech SA23 9mm submachine gun. Cork and his friend threw a majority of the guns back into the water, but took a 1930s Smith & Wesson .38 home to

play with. When his mother, Katherine, saw him playing with the gun, she immediately contacted the police. The next day, officers recovered the rest of the arsenal from the water. "None of the weapons were complete, and they were extremely rusty and very old," a spokesman for Avon and Somerset Police said. "All of the weapon parts have been or are being destroyed."

Source: Opposing View

Tower Bridge shut after 'unexploded bomb' found on building site.



AN ARMY EXPLOSIVES EXPERT WORKS ON THE BOMB AT THE BUILDING SITE IN BERMONDSEY

Tower Bridge was shut earlier and 1,200 homes were evacuated after an unexploded Second World War bomb was found on a building site in south



TOWER BRIDGE

London. Tower Bridge was closed. Grange Road shut at its junction with Tower Bridge Road following the discovery of the bomb at about 9.40am, while bus routes 1, 42, 78, 188, C10 and RV1 were also diverted. People who live within 200m of the site - about 1,200 households according to Southwark Council - are being directed to "rest centres" in Canada Water Library and Seven Islands leisure centre. Source: Evening Standard

ROOF RIPPED OFF DOUBLE-DECKER IN CRASH WITH RAIL BRIDGE IN WEST LONDON

A double-decker bus has had its roof ripped off in a crash with a railway bridge



in west London. Emergency services were called to the crash on St John's Road in Isleworth shortly before 4pm. The bus appears to be a private hire vehicle and in pictures posted on social media is marked "rugby special". England play Scotland at nearby Twickenham stadium. London Ambulance Service official Chris Hawkswell said the top deck of the bus was empty and there were no casualties. Source: Evening Standard

JOKE TIME

"I think Congressmen should wear uniforms, you know, like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors .."

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

What lies shivering on the seabed? A nervous wreck.

How do you make an egg laugh? Tell it a yolk.

Suggestion Survey

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

It would be most helpful to the planning committee to gather ideas from our members for planning future trips, meals out, exhibitions, tours, or anything else which may interest the group.

Please send your suggestions to:

Marilyn White, 7117 Catlett Street, North Springfield, VA 22151-3426 or email darjeeling.marilyn@gmail.com phone: 703-256-4330, with your contact information.

BRITAIN'S THIRST FOR TEA WANES

LONDON,— "Tea?" mused Christopher Wheeler, a young British stockbroker. "I never touch it."

At Rudland & Stubbs, a bustling lunch spot for London's young well-fixed strivers, the general manager, Peter Tolaini, said. "Our customers don't drink tea at all.

"Tea's fading popularity is attributed to faster-paced living, a generation gap and a stodgy image." Derek Cooper, who is 62 years old, is a well-known British food writer and a confirmed tea drinker said. But he admits that his two children, both in their 30's, prefer coffee. "We're a graying bunch, we tea drinkers, I'm afraid," Mr. Cooper said. "Tea has an old-fashioned, dowdy image," conceded Illtyd Lewis, executive director of the United Kingdom Tea Council, a trade group that seeks to spur tea sales. "It is unfortunately viewed as a down-market drink."

To Dr. Samuel Johnson, reputedly a 40-cup-a-day man, it was a lubricant of thought and speech. As his biographer, James Boswell, noted, the "old philosopher" was given to "swallowing his tea in oceans." At Dr. Johnson's old London hangout, the Cheshire Cheese Pub, however, they serve no tea these days, only coffee.

Although a preference for tea in the United States has risen slightly, about 4 percent, over the last 10 years, more than twice as many Americans still drink coffee regularly over tea.

The leading tea-drinking countries, besides Britain, are the Middle Eastern nations, China, Japan and Britain's former colonies. The great exception to the post-colonial preference for tea was the United States, of course. In 1773, Britain, by an act of Parliament, retained its tax on tea to the Colonies, prompting first the Boston Tea Party and then the American Revolution. Yet, as one tea history recounts sadly, "So England lost an empire to oblige the East India Company, and a great republic was born with a prenatal disinclination for tea."

The tea trade also turned the British into opium runners in the 19th century. Britain bought tea and silk from the Chinese, but the mandarins wanted only sterling in return since they had

"no need of the manufactures of outside barbarians." Desperate to husband its sterling reserves and still keep the tea coming, the British traded with opium, the bedrock of the great trading houses of Hong Kong, such as Jardine Matheson.

Source: New York Times

(More information at FT.Com US shows thirst for tea imports beat UK 18th March 2015)

A COFFIN FIT FOR RICHARD III: KING'S REMAINS TO BE REINTERRED IN LEICESTER

- Richard III's remains were found beneath a car park in Leicester in 2012.
- Long-lost King's skeleton is to be reinterred in the city's cathedral. Bones will be buried in a coffin made by Richard III's descendant, Michael Ibsen *London (CNN)* Cabinet-maker Michael Ibsen has just put the finishing touches to a coffin; built of highly-polished, honey-colored English oak and yew. Because this isn't any ordinary commission: the casket will be the final resting place of one of Ibsen's distant relatives, Richard III, who died more than 500 years ago.

"It is a unique privilege," says Canadian-born Ibsen, whose DNA was used to establish the identity of the English King. "There's a wonderful serendipity in a sense that someone involved in the identification of the remains should happen to be furniture maker who can do this.

Ibsen says he's been on an "extraordinary journey" in the two-and-a-half years since he gave a DNA swab to genetics specialist Turi King on the off chance that experts searching for the burial place of his seventeen-times great-uncle might strike it lucky.

"When we were planning the project, I never made any secret of the fact I thought it very unlikely we'd be successful," Archeologist Richard Buckley told CNN. "The chances of hitting the right spot were very slim."

Richard III's skeleton was found on the very first day of the dig, in the first trench dug by the team.

At the time, all the experts knew was that they'd found a set of leg bones, chopped off at the feet by building work at some point in the intervening centuries.

It wasn't until days later, as archaeologist Jo Appleby carefully exhumed the rest of the skeleton that she spotted the distinct curve of its spine, and the devastating damage medieval weapons had left on its skull.

For Philippa Langley, founder of the "Looking for Richard" project, who stood watching with bated breath as the bones were uncovered, the discovery was a vindication of the years she had spent trying to get people to search for the King's remains -- and to look again at his reputation.

Say the name Richard III to many people, and the image which will spring to mind is that of Shakespeare's villain, hunchbacked and murderous, who met a grisly end on the battlefield at Bosworth after killing his nephews, the Princes in the Tower.

DNA evidence suggests that the King was blue eyed and fair haired -- in contrast to portraits and written descriptions which painted him "as a hunchback, with a withered arm and a crippled gait, with 'evil' dark eyes and hair" -- had "blow[n] the mythology out of the window." This weekend, Richard III's skeleton will leave the laboratory at the University of Leicester, where it has been kept since it was found, and be taken back to Bosworth, scene of his death in 1485, for a commemoration ceremony, before being returned to Leicester ahead of its reburial next week. Well-wishers are expected to line the route as the cortege winds through the Leicestershire countryside, stopping at several churches along the way for prayers and religious services before making its way back to Leicester Cathedral, near the site of the archaeological dig, where a new tomb has been built for the King.

Historian John Ashdown-Hill, who discovered the genealogical link between Richard III and Michael Ibsen, says it is important that the King's Catholic beliefs are recognized in the ceremonies. Ashdown-Hill, who shares Richard III's faith, has had a rosary, featuring the white Yorkist rose and a crucifix like one thought to have been owned by Richard III's mother, made to be placed inside the coffin.

Source: CNN



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