



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

Contact

April 2019

HAPPY EASTER

BSU
AGM

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PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear members,

Last month's Scavenger Hunt was another big success, particularly among non-members, proving that the Society's renewed calendar of activities is managing to attract people from outside to British community events. About 50 people took part, and all enjoyed the prize-giving at Montevideo Players' which closed the event, further proof that good collaboration among British community institutions benefits all.

This month brings the first after-office talk of the year on 11 April, featuring Máximo Gurméndez – a British Schools' graduate – enlightening us on the benefits and perils of big data at a new venue for British Society events: the main conference room at 'Piso 40', on the top floor of Montevideo World Trade Center's tower number 4, across from Montevideo Shopping Center. I can assure you that both the topic and the view will be equally interesting!

Later this month, on 25 April, we will be having our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which all members are cordially invited to attend. If you want to have a say in Society affairs or simply be informed first-hand of relevant developments you should make a point of coming; it is your Society, so we are interested in hearing your views.

A significant number of you have started to use our electronic payment method through RedTickets, both for keeping up to date with your annual membership fees and to pay for events. The feedback we have received regarding this has been encouraging, so we will continue using it throughout the year. I remind those of you who have not yet tried it, that you can now pay for all Society activities and fees using any local bank debit card using any smartphone or computer. This year's annual membership fee can be paid by clicking here → [RedTickets-Membership2019](#), any backward subscriptions you still owe can be paid here → [RedTickets-Membership2018](#), and anyone wanting to pay their 2020 membership fee in advance before prices are put up at this month's AGM can do so here → [RedTickets-Membership2020](#). Events tickets can be easily found at [RedTickets.uy](#) by simply entering the event name in the search window, though we make a point of sending you the direct link to every event in the special mailings we send out before each.

I look forward to seeing you before the month is through at some community event, and hopefully at our AGM.

Richard Empson





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 3rd at 12:15 hrs.

Lunch Invitation: The Brexit

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

Thursday, 25th at 18:30 hrs.

AGM

British Schools Pavilion
Máximo Tajes 6411.
Organised by: BSU

Thursday, 11th at 19:00 hrs.

After-Office Talk

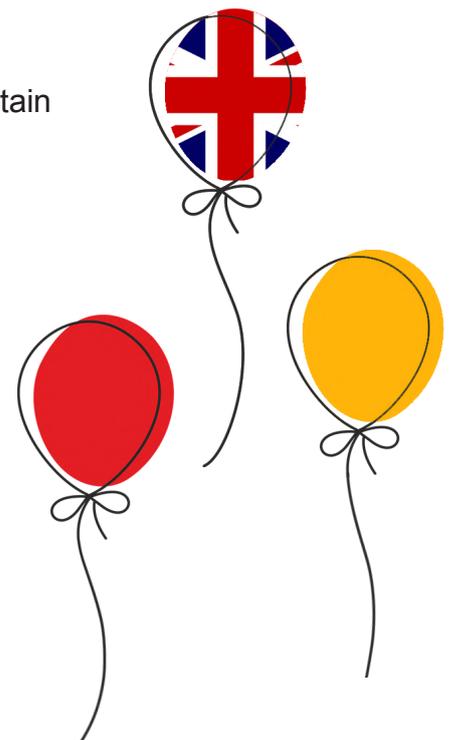
Piso 40, WTC
Dr Luis Bonavita 1266, Piso 40.
Organised by: BSU



SOCIAL NEWS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 4 th - Paula Coates | 17 th - Anna Beare |
| 6 th - Patricia Alvarez | 19 th - Joyce Gepp |
| 6 th - Zelmira Velasco | 20 th - Jonathan Lamb |
| 7 th - Martin MacAdam | 21 st - Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain |
| 8 th - Geoffrey W Deakin | 21 st - Beatriz Di Pace |
| 8 th - Marc Beare | 22 nd - María Aenlle |
| 9 th - Robin Cooper | 23 rd - Prince Louis of Cambridge |
| 10 th - Joaquín Salhón | 25 th - William Hambrook |
| 16 th - Carolina Vernengo | 26 th - Rosina Otegui de Perrier |





AFTER-OFFICE TALK



AFTER-OFFICE TALK

“Big data: how machines are making decisions on our behalf”

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL

19:00 hrs.

SPEAKER

Máximo Gurméndez

PISO 40, WTC

*WTC Montevideo 4
Dr Luis Bonavita 1266
Piso 40*

About the Speaker: A graduate from The British Schools, Máximo Gurméndez holds a computer science engineering degree from the Universidad de la República and a master's degree in artificial intelligence from Northeastern University (USA) where he attended as a Fulbright Scholar. He is the founder and director of Montevideo Labs, an international data science, big data & engineering consultancy firm specializing in real-time decisioning using machine learning models. Additionally, Máximo is a computer science professor at the University of Montevideo and director of its data science for business programme.

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SCAVENGER HUNT

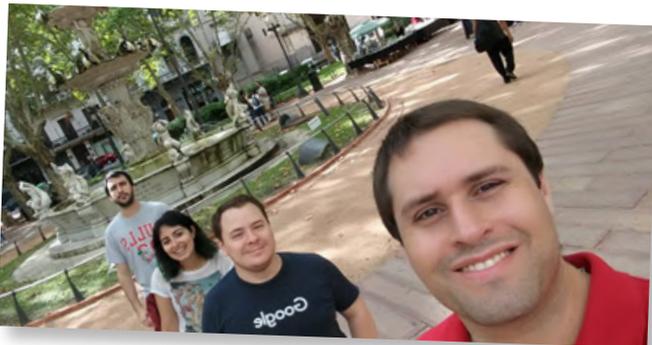
The British Society Scavenger Hunt 2019 was an all-round success. 14 teams registered, of which 10 ended up taking part due to the unstable weather conditions. Regardless of this slight setback, around 50 brave participants took to the streets of the Ciudad Vieja as from 14:30 to figure out the route, decipher the many clues, solve the puzzles and carry out the assigned tasks in a bid to win the final prize.

After 2½ hours of work and fun, all but one of the participating teams made it to the finish line, handed in answers and requested tasks and headed home for a rest.

At 19:00 all teams met at the Montevideo Players' pub. There the answers to all clues and puzzles were revealed and the top five teams were announced. Team Unicorns Reloaded (an all-female group) took third place with 121 points, Team Walthamstow (a family of four) were runners up with 133 points and Team Reptile were the winners with a heroic 150 points out of 180.

The runners up were presented with British Society mugs, and the winners received the prizes granted by the event's sponsors: an array of Lipton teas, bags of skincare goodies from Unilever, home décor artifacts from Constantina O Maison and a free lunch for the entire team at Say Cheese deli market.

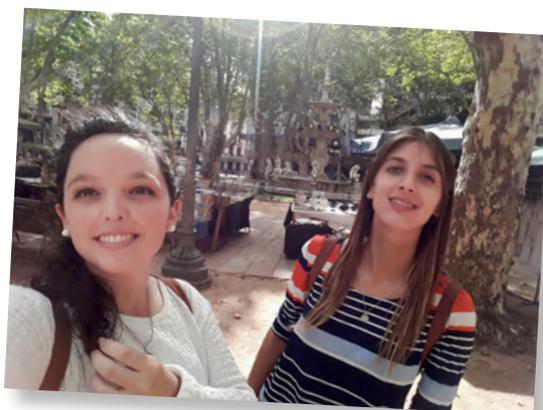
Team Reptile will now be responsible for organizing next year's Scavenger Hunt. Our congratulations to them and our thanks to our sponsors.





SCAVENGER HUNT

...Continued





THE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME



We are happy to welcome Valerie & Elaine into the Home!



Vivi, Valerie and Elaine.



Happy moments for Peter! His sister Bunty was in Montevideo for a few days with Tony and Clare and they visited Peter several times.



The residents received a surprise visit from Patricia Stanham which was much appreciated!

Contact us at:
SWCH@britsoc.org.uy





BRITISH EMBASSY

FALKLANDS VISITS

Uruguayan parliamentarians from the Frente Amplio, Partido Nacional, Partido Colorado and Partido Independiente were invited by the Falkland Islands Government to visit the Islands in the first week of March, in order to strengthen links and identify new opportunities for bilateral exchanges. You can watch a video of their impressions on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

At the same time, the Falkland Islands Agriculture Department hosted a visit by an agribusiness delegation composed of Uruguayan Rural Association authorities, rural producers and agro journalists, who travelled to the islands to identify business and exchange opportunities and share best practices. [El País](#), [Los Agronegocios](#) and radio programme Agronegocios in Sarandi shared media pieces about the visit and the ovine sector in the Islands.

This month the Embassy was also very happy to welcome Carolina Da Silva, the new Falkland Islands Adviser, who will be working on improving relations and opportunities between Uruguay and the Islands.



VISIT OF HMS PROTECTOR

The Royal Navy's Antarctic Patrol, HMS Protector, stopped at Montevideo Port for two days on her way back to the UK from Antarctica. During a reception for authorities and officials from the Uruguayan Navy, Ambassador Ian Duddy expressed his thanks for the participation of two female Uruguayan Lieutenants who served aboard for the past three months. During this time they carried out research on hydrography and cartography, and helped to strengthen Antarctic cooperation between our two countries. Read an article by el País newspaper [here](#).



Embajada Británica
Montevideo



BRITISH EMBASSY ...Continued

WORLD ANGUS SECRETARIAT

The Embassy was delighted to support the World Angus Secretariat, held in Uruguay for the first time, 18-29 March. A UK branded bus, highlighting UK agricultural links with Uruguay, took 200 delegates from 20 Angus Associations worldwide including from the UK, on a farming tour around Uruguay visiting Angus breeders. The Embassy also had a stand at the Punta del Este Convention Centre, where the conference was held over six days, in order to support British producers and companies with meetings to develop new opportunities.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

BRITISH HOSPITAL



BRITISH HOSPITAL



Adolescence and drug use

Adolescents in Uruguay account for 24% of the population. The adolescent stage involves many changes: physical, sexual, psychological and social. There's a personal crisis.

According to WHO in 1.2 million adolescents died in 2015, mostly from preventable or treatable causes. The main cause of death is traffic accidents. In Uruguay, according to a census in 2017, traffic accidents and suicides share the first place as the cause of death in adolescents. Excessive consumption of alcohol appears as a key factor in these traffic accidents.

According to the VII National Survey on drug use in high school students in 2016, drug use has been on the rise, and shows that two out of three students had used drugs in the last 12 months, and one in four experienced an episode of acute alcohol poisoning in the last 15 days. Alcohol is the main drug, but all the others, marijuana, cocaine and ecstasy, show an increase.

THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF DRUG USE because the adolescents are at a stage where there is neural plasticity. The brain is constantly developing from the womb till 21 years of age. For an adolescent, the stage of neurodevelopment occurs when the constantly growing brain stops growing to specialize and improve in some aspect or functionality. But with drug use many of these capabilities are neutralized. If drug use is stopped those capabilities can be recovered.

We are talking about drug use and not drug addiction since a 16 or 17-year-old teenager will probably not end up becoming an addict. The problem is that the teenager can die from an overdose.

Pregaming is the practice of consuming alcohol by adolescents who gather before a party. Parents can take advantage of this instance as an ally to monitor their children's behavior, approach

and to talk to them. It's important to know how to listen to them. The chat must be sought before they go out, and not after, to be able to take any preventive measures and to briefly pose important issues.

Dealing with substance misuse

The important thing is to work at it daily, devote time to know about their activities, know what and who they play with. Encourage the use of their free time. The things parents do are more important than what they say to their teenage children. According to scientific studies, parents who do not drink or use drugs with their children and who get angry if they do, have a positive influence and substance misuse decreases in teenagers to 48% compared to 70% with more permissive parents who, for example, let their children drink at home. This is a mistake because they are being supplied with the substance. The availability of alcoholic beverages at home, the amount of drinking and overdrinking can directly make them believe that their own substance use and misuse is a natural practice.

Cannabis intoxication isn't fatal, but it can impact on recent, short-term and learning memory. The increase in the frequency of cannabis use was also associated with a decrease in performance in these areas.

The National Drug Administration provides a 24-hour telephone service. By calling * 1020 you can receive advice on substance misuse.

Workshop conducted by: Dr L. Maurente and Psychiatrist G. Rossi.



CHRIST CHURCH MONTEVIDEO

Christ Church is a multicultural community as global as we are local with bi-lingual Worship Services, Community Bible Study, Alpha Groups and diverse connections for involvement throughout the city, country and continent and world. The best way to connect is to visit. The next best is to connect online where you can register for our monthly newsletter posted under resources. www.christchurchmvd.org



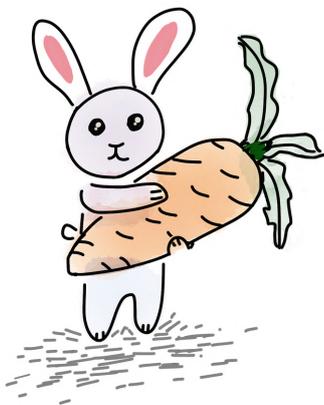
Sign up for the newsletter especially if you want updates about our Easter events, upcoming teaching series or opportunities to participate in a small group.

We are evaluating and will soon be renovating our website to synch with other social media expressions where our family and friends engage.

Just this month, Christ Church hosted an event sponsored by Arigatou Int. It was a two day multireligious regional consultation on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child as

part of a global report to be finalized in Geneva later this year. We also hosted a three-day training opportunity for people learning “Godly Play”, a Montessori-based paradigm for spiritual development, experiencing “circles of safety”, spaces for silence, and wonder in the face of mystery. Oh, we also had an awesome and well attended asado with vegan options.

Our monthly “POT LUCK” or shared meal is every last Sunday of the month following the 11 am service. Come hungry, but bring food to share and a willingness to set-up or clean-up or both. We often have 60-70 people join in the fun!



happy
Easter



URUGUAYAN-BRITISH CLUB



LUNCH INVITATION

WEDNESDAY
3RD OF APRIL
12:15 HOURS

BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY
IAN DUDDY

THE BREXIT

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

MORE INFORMATION 





ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

'Let them know you're coming....' The Dresser, Ronald Harwood



Lighthouse Theatre are currently starting production work on our spring tour. As we put schedules in place, source rehearsal spaces and draw up contracts it seems fitting to turn our attention in this article to one of the great mainstays of theatre development in the Victorian era – that of the actor-manager.

At Lighthouse, we're quite used to wearing multiple hats in the process of getting shows on the road; fundraising, booking venues and organising tours, developing texts and then performing and promoting them, and sometimes these roles feel quite contradictory, so it's interesting to consider how lengthy the tradition of the actor-manager is in making theatre.

The clichéd image of a producer-corpulent, cigar chomping and artistically moribund- is largely the product of twentieth century Hollywood, even though as early as 1919 the formation of United Artists (Mary Pickford, DW Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin) was premised on finally allowing actors to control their own interests, financially and artistically. With theatre, the actor-manager role is the one that comes with similar connotations; egotistical, self aggrandising and in charge of everything from the lease of the theatre to where the actors stand on stage (behind him!). You serve his art, or you don't get to work.

In theatre, the roles of business and art have always been conflicted- a portrait only needs one patron or purchaser, but a play usually needs hundreds in its audience; and so public performance has always needed a commercially savvy business brain in the mix, however much the actors might deny it! The position of the actor in society has also always been negotiated too, and often outside normative structures. As far back as Shakespeare's contemporaries, the actor might be celebrated for performance, but wasn't 'quite one of us', and yet

the great actor of Shakespeare's day Edward Alleyn, through judicious theatre management and star performance value was able to leave a substantial legacy including the founding of Dulwich College in London.

The eighteenth century sees the real emergence of the combined actor-manager in great theatre legends such as David Garrick. Garrick, who built a career as an actor and writer in 1747 took over the lease of the Drury Lane Theatre in London's West End and changed the shape of the English stage. All artistic innovations aside, Garrick truly understood that the actor and the manager had to co-exist, his opening show containing an ode to the theatre (written by Samuel Johnson) which opined "The drama's law the drama's patrons give,/For we that live to please must please to live." This then is the ethos of the actor – manager; artistic integrity AND bums on seats. Garrick also understood the network and marketing aspects of putting a play on stage. The substantial number of paintings that exist of him created by some of the big hitters of his era (Reynolds, Hogarth, Zoffany) can to a certain extent be read as an early attempt at Instagram, but also reflect the changing, and constructed status of the actor socially and economically.

David Garrick, (born February 19, 1717, Hereford, Herefordshire, England—died January 20, 1779, London), English actor, producer, dramatist, poet, and co-manager of the Drury Lane Theatre.





ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

...Continued

'...Let them know you're coming...' The Dresser, Ronald Harwood



The mercantile economy of the Victorian business world and increasingly the industrial one, as changes the notion of the business man with the dawning of the 19th Century. Theatre, with its unambiguously commercial prospects, becomes significant because so many people attend, and it's part of accepted, upper class social activity. The notion of celebrity as a new exploitable attraction takes hold in this era, as we see both politicians and actors used in scurrilous cartoons, printed engravings and newspapers. The emerging actor-manager sits perfectly here; he is socially, economically, intellectually and artistically significant; highly visible to the public, subject to critical scrutiny and reliant on popular acknowledgement reflected at the box office.



Sir Henry Irving (1838-1905). Born in Somerset in 1838, the year of Victoria's Coronation, Irving's rise to prominent as an actor-manager was a slow and torturous one. Against his Methodist mother's wishes he chose a profession still much tarnished with the stigma of rogues and vagabonds.

how you did things artistically; self aggrandising was vital if you need to pull in both the punters and high society, and controlling everything was indeed important if everyone's pay relied on the attractiveness of what today we'd probably call a celebrity brand.

There are obvious counter arguments here; any theatrical performance is and should be at its heart collaborative. At lighthouse we spend a lot of time building a team of like-minded creatives whom we know and trust to do a good job as part of a team. Being a small team we all have to pretty much do everything – from loading a truck to selling the programmes. And all the time without going into debt. Being popular (and more so, populist) can get in the way of artistic skill judgement and ambition. It's in that tension between the creative and the commercial that innovation often appears within companies. Artistic integrity AND bums on seats, now that really is the challenge.



So let's go back to those criticisms of the actor-manager; ego was necessary, otherwise how else did the public get to identify who you were and

Article written by Sonia Beck @ Adrian Metcalfe



Sonia is co-director of Lighthouse Theatre. Lighthouse Theatre are a touring theatre company based in Wales, UK. They have been delighted to make regular visits to The Anglo Institute, running workshops and performing a number of shows in the theatre. They will be contributing monthly articles to the newsletter, looking at different British writers and playwrights.



Adrian Metcalfe is co-director of Lighthouse Theatre Company in Wales and is known to several readers of this newsletter. His solo performance of Dylan Thomas' Reminiscences of Childhood was nominated for a Fringe First in Edinburgh and is performed all over the world.



ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

...Continued

THE ENDURING APPEAL OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

1719-2019

Date:

Wednesday 24th April

Time:

7.00 pm

Venue:

Library Anglo Institute

———— LIMITED PLACES ————

Abstract

The Life and Strange Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York, Mariner:" was an instant hit going through 4 editions in the first year. It was read by a wide audience who found it amusing but instructive; a real life experience both for children and adults alike who could read it "with pleasure but also with profit" as critics of the time put it.

However, Robinson Crusoe is much more than that. Not only is the tale written in an innovative way, reworking the literary traditions of the time, but it touches upon many themes and issues still discussed today: Colonialism, political economy, religion and Providence, psychological alienation and most of all Survival, the triumph of human achievement and enterprise. The novel has influenced many thinkers like J.J. Rousseau as well as spin-offs or Robinsonade.

In these themes we find the enduring appeal of the novel as it portrays the skill and endurance of a survivor on a far-away-island. Robinson Crusoe lives on in our imagination and has become one of the great Myths of our culture.

Biodata

Carmen Gomensoro (TTC, AUCI) is a bilingual English teacher, specialized in Anglo-American Literature (BA in English, University of London), with a successful record teaching both junior and senior IB students in bilingual schools in Montevideo (Woodland's School, St. Brendan's, The British Schools).

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...Continued

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ANGLO-URUGUAYAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

...Continued

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DE ROLAND SHIMMELPFENNIG

¡Y USTED CREÍA QUE ESTABAN MUERTOS!

DIRECCIÓN DE JORGE DENEVI



ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF URUGUAY

PICNIC





MEDICAL COLUMN

by Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Last month I mentioned Yuval Noah Harari's mind- and imagination-challenging book *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (New York: Spiegel & Rau, 2018) which I certainly recommend as excellent reading. This is the same author of the best-sellers *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*, which describe the history and potentialities of humankind. In *21 Lessons*, of which a full one fifth at the end of the book is researched references, the author tries to imagine what our present civilisation will look like, not in the next century, but barely three decades, from now – 2050 – a year that by a slim chance I may be still alive (but maybe not aware of my space-time coordinates at nearly 98 years old). The speed at which changes are taking place globally will affect every one of us and all our activities and relationships.

One of the major changes has to do with the progressive digitalisation of everything. Everything – we included – will have a digital identity (or more than one). As connectivity between everything upgrades from 4G to 5G (and eventually 6G) networks, the IoT (internet of things) will be our new reality. The catch here is 'our'... who is going to be the able to say he or she belongs to this Brave New World? In his book, Harari is very concerned that a digital divide will separate those who have access and can use the new techno-informational tools from those who don't. This will happen, we like it or not, because the changes are already outstripping what our educational systems are capable of doing to catch up, plus the changes in what the meaning of work will be for the present or immediate generation entering the workforce... or what will 'workforce' mean? This goes beyond what Karl Marx described nearly two centuries ago, when he viewed that the dispossessed and impoverished proletariat would eventually

take over to establish a new just social order. Harari describes those who'll be outside the digital world as relegated to what he describes as 'irrelevance' – which leaves them powerless and excluded from a world controlled by a few, who produce for the few and focus on the future of the few.

Healthcare will not be foreign to these changes. Buzzwords as 'personalised' and 'precision' medicine, which appear in the medical and lay press, hold promise and hope for controlling many diseases and maybe even stretching our lifespan to more than 100 years for the majority – but who's going to benefit? The concept of 'hospital' will be shattered by the tools of telemedicine, remote monitoring and care provided at home or anyplace. Assembly-line medicine, with waiting lists and waiting room will mean nonsense – at least for those who have access to the digital tools – but may live in diehard mode for those left behind by the digital divide.

This is not going to happen in the future – it's taking place gradually and steadily as we speak and as I type this article. It's also occurring with the backdrop of global warming, climate disasters and political backtracking to somewhat irrational nationalisms and extremisms that marked the first half of the 20th Century. Healthcare can be both a commodity and a right, but the divide will make this contrast cruel.

In mid-March, I gave my fourth yearly presentation to students of Computing of the Facultad de Ingeniería (UdelaR), on my pet subject 'Impact of the Information and Communication Technologies on the Doctor-Patient Relationship'. Up to last year, my presentation was built on the slides of the prior years, but this time I revamped the whole show.



MEDICAL COLUMN

...Continued

by Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

My first slide stated in bold letters: 'MEDICINE AS WE PRACTISE IT NOW IS OBSOLETE' – certainly mind-boggling but I hope was a stimulus for out-of-the-box thinking. Unfortunately, Healthcare Informatics as a subject, is taught not at the Facultad de Medicina, but at the Facultad de Ingeniería and nationally is well advanced by AGESIC-Salud.uy, the think-tank that is nested within the Presidency. Healthcare professionals are being trained for the past – like playing Mario Bros instead of Fortnite.

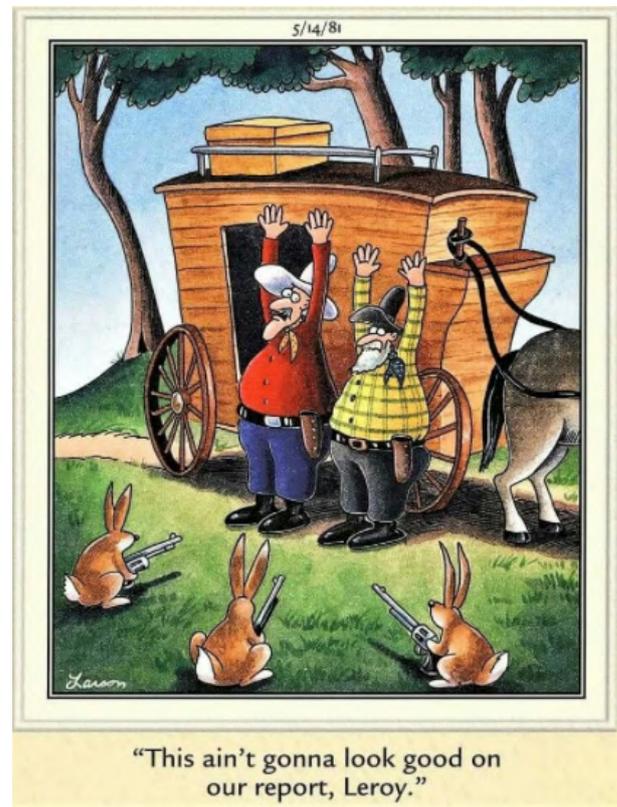
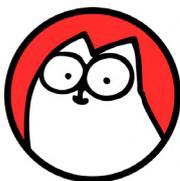


SIMON'S CAT

by Simon Tofield
[Youtube.com/user/simonscat](https://www.youtube.com/user/simonscat)

THE FAR SIDE

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





BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

JUST PASSING THROUGH

Business was bad in Britain when I first arrived, at the age of twenty, in 1965. There were no jobs to be had in the advertising business, and that was all I knew how to do.

I didn't realize at the time that I was just another immigrant, an unremarkable newcomer at the bottom of the pile. Back home in Montevideo my status as a second-generation Englishman had granted me a relatively privileged life. I suppose I'd nurtured vague illusions about being welcomed as a prodigal son when I arrived in the land of my forefathers. "We're so chuffed you're finally here!" I thought they'd say. "What can we do for you, old chap?" But they didn't.

My grandparents sailed from England in the early years of the twentieth century, like so many Europeans who went looking for a new life, hoping to ride the economic boom in the Río de la Plata region. One of my grandmothers never stopped missing London, however, and her rose-coloured reminiscences of *Home* influenced my youthful vision of England, making it indeed seem a green and pleasant land. But by the mid-1960s London's streets were not as clean as she remembered them. Busses didn't always run on time, as she'd told me they did, and people were not unfailingly polite. The halcyon days of Empire were already a distant memory.

I roamed the foreign streets of the City looking for employment, trudging past massive buildings that seemed forbidding and inhospitable. Nothing looked familiar. I wasn't used to the low, grey skies, or the flat, metallic light that faded so early in the day. Oh, how I missed my hometown! I had just learned to carry a *brolly* at all times when the Daily Telegraph classifieds finally led me to a job at the BBC. I immediately pictured myself purring into a microphone in a soundproof studio, speaking such immortal lines as: "This is the British Broadcasting Corporation. Here is the news."

But that wasn't quite what "Auntie" was looking for. I was hired to be a filing clerk and worked deep in the lower basement of Broadcasting House, in a room that felt as though it had been hewn from the bedrock, like a tomb. Metal shelves lined the walls and stood in orderly rows, stuffed with thousands of files in folders, all the way to the ceiling. I sat on a wooden chair, at a wooden table, utterly alone. In front of me was a pneumatic chute that came from somewhere unseen, upstairs, far away. Every now and then, with a whooshing sound, a metal canister crash-landed at the bottom of the chute. Inside the canister was a sheet of paper with a number scrawled on it.

London, 1960





BACK IN TIME

...Continued

by Tony Beckwith
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I'd search for the folder with that number on it, sometimes dragging a short ladder down the aisles to reach the top shelves. Then I'd take the file back to the table and open it. Whatever papers were inside had to be rolled up and slipped into the canister. Then I'd send it back up the chute, to some office up there somewhere, maybe with a window. Maybe with other people nearby.

The room, my tomb, was lit by fluorescent lights. The walls were painted a shabby shade of yellow. The floor was tiled. The silence was overwhelming. There was a stillness, as unto death, until a canister clattered to the bottom of the chute. And that didn't happen very often.

The first three days went by so slowly that I thought I would go mad. I tried to read and write letters but couldn't concentrate. I paced the aisles back and forth in every conceivable permutation. I counted all the shelves and the floor tiles, then multiplied them together and arrived at a number that made no sense. The shelves towered above me, rising up like steep coffin walls, boxing me in, stifling my spirit.

On the fourth day, with no regrets, I resigned and walked out into the street, literally overflowing with a delirious sense of freedom. I held a few more mind-numbing, self-esteem crushing positions, and then, in September, the miracle I'd vaguely prayed for finally happened: I heard that an international advertising agency in Madrid was looking for someone just like me. I applied and was flown over for an interview, and from the moment I set foot in Spain, I felt that I'd come home.

The lazy chaos at the airport was comforting. Downtown, the air was heavy with the full-bodied smell of exhaust I knew so well. People laughed out loud and embraced each other in the street. The sky was blue, and the sun was shining. My eyes misted up behind my sunglasses as I was driven along busy boulevards and avenues. Much later that night I swayed on my chair in a dimly lit flamenco bar, my head full of wine and guitars and the pounding of the dancer's heels. Within a month Madrid became my home and I lived there happily for several years. I soon stopped missing Montevideo. And once in a while I'd listen to the BBC and thank my lucky stars.

Madrid, 1960





DICKENS INSTITUTE



Cambridge & Dickens distinguen

April 5th, 2019



Cambridge Assessment English

Authorised Exam Centre

1st Cambridge Assessment English and Dickens Institute Awards Ceremony



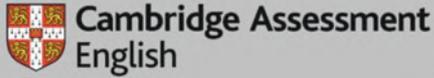
It's time to celebrate your success in English. We're proud of you and what you have achieved, and we're with you every step of the way.





DICKENS INSTITUTE

...Continued



Authorised Exam Centre



1st Cambridge & Dickens Awards Ceremony

On April 5 Dickens & Cambridge Assessment English will be holding a ceremony to celebrate the pursuit of excellence.

We wish to congratulate students and their preparation centres on having achieved the highest scores in the 2018 exam sessions. Winners have been selected by considering **the top scores reported in the statements of results**, which are based on the *Cambridge English Scale*, a very detailed and straightforward report of students' level in alignment with the CEFR.

We want to thank Students, Teachers and Preparation Centres for being part of Cambridge Assessment English & Dickens Institute. We recognize the time they put in and the hard work to reach the full potential in the examinations and beyond.

On this very important occasion we wish to congratulate them all for having achieved outstanding results in the Cambridge Assessment English Examinations 2018 in Uruguay. Quite a feat which they should be very proud of.

We are very pleased to be able to accompany students and teachers in the progression from one exam to the next and in every step of their learning process.

Well done to all of them!

Cambridge English Qualifications
For every learner, every step of the way

1st Cambridge Assessment English and
Dickens Institute Awards Ceremony





DICKENS INSTITUTE ...Continued

DICKENS: A 47 YEARS OLD FAMILY



Last Friday March 22nd was a very special day for Dickens. Every year, sometime in March, we celebrate the Dickens Anniversary, in this case the 47th. But this time the date was chosen for a special reason: Mónica Harvey, the Dickens Founder and up to a few years ago its Director General, celebrated her 80th birthday. In spite of the fact she has retired and now is on the Dickens Board, she is often with us and a motivation for us all.



This year our celebration was truly special as not only the Dickens Staff was present but also other people who had worked at the Dickens or with the Dickens and had left their mark in some way or other. The Dickens is like a big family and it grows bigger as time goes by. The people who no longer work with us will always be members of this family. This is the Dickens feeling that prevails.



I shall quote Monica's words at the celebration: "I cannot tell you what I feel for all of you. For me you will always be the Dickens People. I cannot express how grateful I am to all of you for being what you are, for how much you have given me and the Dickens all these years. I hope that the day I am no longer with you, the Dickens Spirit will live on each one of you for ever. This is my legacy for the future."

Mónica started the Dickens 47 years ago, in 1972, in a small garage with very little more than great courage, a love for teaching and a big smile that made people feel immediately happy and at ease.

Since then, the Dickens has grown into the well known Institute that it is, working in Montevideo and all over the country. It has become a Trinity College London Teacher Training Centre, a Cambridge Assessment International Education Associated Centre, a Cambridge Assessment English Authorised Exam Centre, coordinates an important number of Schools in Montevideo and the Country, assesses a great number of Private Institutes as well as External Teachers and countless other academic activities along the year.

On top of all this, the Dickens Institute is alive and thriving with more and more students attending each year. Quite a success story and much to celebrate!



Mónica is and will always be an inspiration to the Dickens and its People!



GEOFF THE CHEF'S CORNER

by Geoffrey W Deakin
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PERFECT POTATOES AU GRATIN

Something nice and warm for the beginning of Autumn this is a "throw-together" dish because it's so quick and simple. You just dice up potatoes (without peeling them!), mix them with a cream and butter mixture and then bake.



Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 8 large russet potatoes, scrubbed clean
- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups freshly grated sharp Cheddar
- 2 green onions, sliced thin (white and light green parts only)

Tip of the Month

Another example of a typical passive aggressive work correspondence!

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.
2. Butter a large baking dish with the butter.
3. Slice the potatoes into sticks, and then cut the sticks to create a dice.
4. Combine the cream and milk in a bowl. Add the flour, salt and some pepper. Whisk it together well so that the flour is incorporated into the milk/cream mixture.
5. Add the diced potatoes to the prepared baking dish and pour the creamy mixture all over the top.
6. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 20 to 30 minutes. Remove the foil and bake 15 to 20 minutes more.
7. Just before serving, sprinkle on the grated cheese and return it to the oven until the cheese is melted and bubbly, 3 to 5 minutes.
8. Sprinkle on the green onions and serve it hot. Creamy, dreamy and divine, perfect for the upcoming cool nights.

"Friendly reminder..."

It's nowhere near friendly. This had to be done yesterday!

To all my readers, remember that you will attract the energy that you are giving off. So spread good vibes, always give a lot of love and think positive!

Enjoy life!

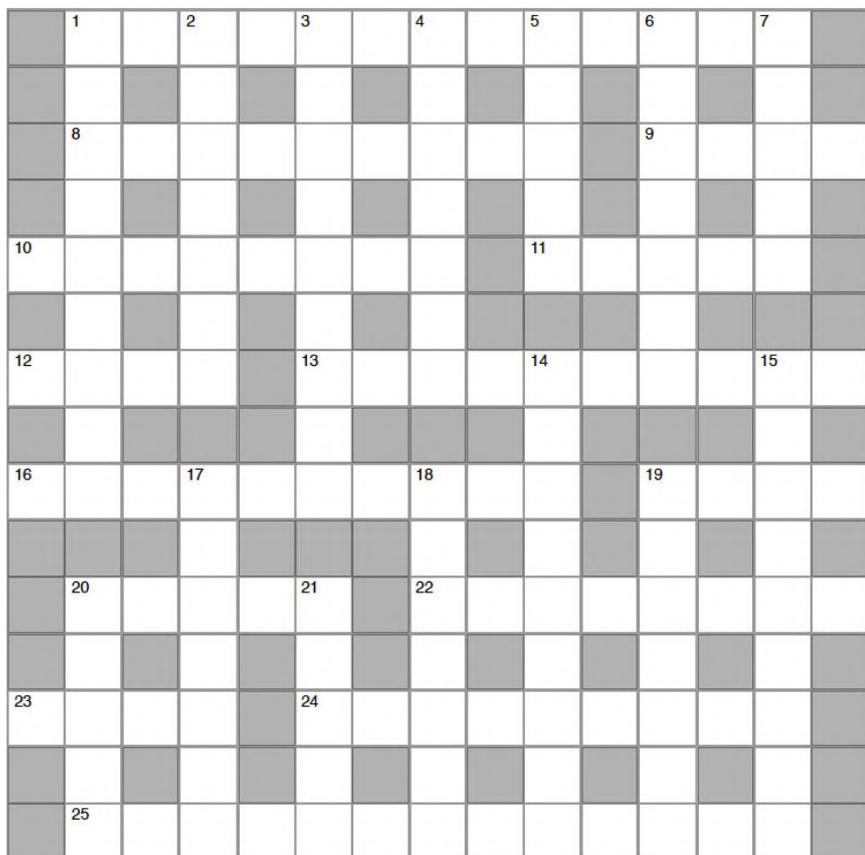


CROSSWORDS TIME!

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

NEW CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS!

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



HINTS! Split the clue in two, Find Hidden Words, Anagrams, Charades, Complex charades, etc.

March solution:

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ACROSS

- 1. Campaign for separation perhaps voting with feet here? (8,5)
- 8. May's display of contortions that can be revealing? (4,5)
- 9. One seeking personal gratification destabilised Euro (4)
- 10. Justify reversing harm with about-turn? Please flip! (4,2,2)
- 11. Believe in no deal? (5)
- 12. The end for French national and EU statesman (4)
- 13. After article 50, learned to say bollocks to Brexit? (10)

- 16. Side opposed to quarter turn on the EU spy crumbling (10)
- 19. Advantage of Luxembourg getting involved in matter (4)
- 20. Probing vote, ethics watchdog needs these (5)
- 22. Diplomatic initiative from Spain this month dividing leaders of Denmark and Estonia (8)
- 23. Preserves backstop? (4)
- 24. Strange to back including cocking up as 'bold action' (7-2)
- 25. Immigration status changing opinion of former Brexit supporter? (5,2,6)

DOWN

- 1. Double-dealing party allowed to get final instalment of money (9)
- 2. Scoundrel having England take position of a vassal (7)
- 3. Rotten deal, ultimately the pits, for bread-andbutter support (4,5)
- 4. Admit ambition's a mistake (3,4)
- 5. Misinform - ship's to show no sign of movement (3,2)
- 6. Eurocrat to rule out hesitation about Northern Ireland (7)
- 7. One seeking solution is Tory abandoning leader in a mess with EU (5)

- 14. Where did Britain's wealth come from? Theme ripe for deconstructing (3,6)
- 15. Land feeling depressed (5,4)
- 17. Main operation's getting partners to enter single market body (4,3)
- 18. Suffer reverse after intervention by pro-Brexit group (7)
- 19. Upcoming month followed by a split in which one could be up the creek with no paddle? (7)
- 20. Tax on movement involving cargo's central point for online commenter (5)
- 21. Protect oneself from loss from hard border (5)