



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

FEBRUARY 2021

Sir Winston Churchill Home
News from the Home

British Embassy
Travelling to the UK?

Christ Church Montevideo
Why Choose a Year Verse?

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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,
I imagine you are enjoying the summer, in spite of the restrictions imposed by coronavirus.

Since a great number of you were away in January and others will be away in February, the Society is taking time out during these months and will not start events until March. The 2021 calendar kicks off next month with our annual Scavenger Hunt, an open air event, which will be carried out in similar format to last year's, with prize-giving held virtually.

Unfortunately, most of our following events will have to be virtual, at least during the first semester, given recommendations in light of the pandemic, except for those which can be held outdoors or with low numbers of attendees.

Last month, the Society's Instagram account became its main social media, as its number of followers surpassed those of the Society's Facebook account, reaching 6,500. A much newer account than that on Facebook, Instagram has grown steadily since its inception, proving that it has significant potential as a communication tool for the Society. Less than 25% of followers coincide with those on Facebook, so it is also a means to reach a different audience, one that is - on average - younger.

On a separate note, I would like to remind you that members (i.e. you!) can send us nominations for honorary membership, which will be evaluated by the Executive Committee and then presented at the Annual General Meeting in April. The idea behind honorary membership is to reward the effort of those who have dedicated time and effort for the benefit of the British community. We have not received any nominations to date. I encourage you to nominate someone you think deserves it, and to do so a.s.a.p. The selection procedures and criteria and the nomination form for honorary membership can be found on our website at www.britsoc.org.uy.

Finally, a gentle reminder that we are now in 2021 and your annual membership fee is due. Remember you can now pay from the comfort of your own home through RedTickets at www.redtickets.uy. And if you forgot to pay last year's fee (or owe any other previous year/s), you can simply pay two (or more, as the case may be) at the same RedTickets link.

I wish you all a great second half of summer and look forward to seeing you at our March events, if not sooner.

Richard Empson MBE
President



coming in march!
BSU 2021
scavenger hunt



Birthdays

in February

02 · Joanna N. Hambrook

02 · Sebastián Sosa

04 · Cristina A. Rowan

04 · Carolyn Cooper

05 · Thomas Hobbins

05 · Ana I. Albanell

05 · Tomás Romay

06 · Brenda “Chacha” Rathbone

07 · Federico A. Heller

08 · Diego L. Payssé

08 · María M. Linn

09 · William S. Hays

13 · Florencia Castro

13 · John R. Hamilton

13 · Keoni E. Guridi

14 · María P. González

15 · Camilo Pintos

16 · Alan J. Henderson

17 · Horacio Castro

17 · Nicholas J. Prevett

18 · María C. Ferrés

19 · Michael Hobbins

20 · Jennifer M. Sprigings

20 · Rodrigo A. Tito

20 · Maria A. Mendoza

21 · Kathleen E. Stoutt

22 · Roy A. Gordon-Firing

23 · Carmen E. Hill

23 · Kenneth Back

24 · Joan G. La Brooy

24 · Felipe Ciganda

27 · Susan Drever

28 · John A. Grierson

28 · Lieselotte “Lilo Wells” Ensink

Q: What do you always get on your birthday?

A: Another year older!



THIS MONTH'S COVER



St Machar's Cathedral can be found in Old Aberdeen not far from the south bank of the River Don. As part of the Church of Scotland, a presbyterian church without either bishops or cathedrals, St Machar's is technically not a cathedral, but is often referred to as such. It is more properly known as The Cathedral Church of St Machar.

This is a distinction that can seem almost trivial to modern eyes. Yet it is one that has caused serious conflict more than once in the past, and which directly led to the wars that engulfed Scotland, England and Ireland in the middle of the 1600s.

Stay safe,

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor



MEMBERSHIP FEES

The British Society would like to kindly remind all members who have not yet done so to get up to date with their membership fees.

Remember you can now do this easily from the comfort of your own home using any local debit card and most credit cards through the [RedTickets](#) platform.

And if you forgot to pay last year's fee (or any previous unpaid dues), you can simply pay two or more at the same RedTickets link or by visiting our [Website](#).

Else you can make a bank transfer (or direct deposit) to the **British Society** account at **Banque Heritage** Uruguay number 62582-03, or pay our Treasurer (in copy) directly. If done by bank transfer/deposit, please send our Treasurer a copy of the transfer/deposit slip.



2021



Once this is done, your membership will be updated.

Amazing Cake

Norma celebrated her 83rd birthday and the Carers baked a delicious cake and decorated it beautifully. She received many congratulatory phone calls from friends.



Starting the Year

Our residents received the New Year sharing long past anecdotes and toasting for a better 2021.



Cookie Time!

Many different activities are organized by the Carers. The activities help our residents keep busy and distracted, especially in these times when no visitors can come to the Home.

On this occasion, cookies were baked and enjoyed by all.



Bingo Lovers

At times, Bingo is played, and chocolate bonbons go to the winners. Extremely sweet prizes!





Colours Galore

Who knows! Maybe there are hidden Picassos in our Home.

Among other benefits, painting Mandalas is a marvellous way to polish drawing skills.



Homegrown

Valerie is in charge of our vegetable garden. She has obtained some excellent results so hopefully we will soon have our homegrown salads and herbs to be enjoyed by all!



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

coming in march!

**BSU 2021
scavenger hunt**



**Prepare your
team and get
ready to take part
in our annual
Scavenger Hunt!**

game on!

New travel restrictions on South & Central America

If your travel is
affected take
action now



TAKE ACTION NOW

travel
aware

Travelling to the UK?

British and Irish Nationals in Uruguay or those with UK Residency will soon be required to isolate for 10 days on arrival to the UK. Uruguayan nationals without residency rights in the UK will not be permitted to enter the UK unless they have spent 10 days prior to arrival in a non-high risk country.

At the time of writing, the start date for the new rules has not been confirmed. We recommend reading the UK's advice at www.gov.uk.

More specifically there is guidance for British people travelling overseas during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, if they are legally permitted to travel internationally at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> and information on staying in Uruguay during the pandemic or returning to the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/uruguay>.

If you are a British National
and in need of assistance
please [contact the Embassy](#).



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

A Virtual Celebration

This year the Embassy marked Burns Night with a virtual celebration. Ambassador Faye O'Connor together with "Sir Malcolm", YouTuber and Scottish descendant, explained who Robert Burns was, as well as the traditions of this special occasion.

Many thanks to Raquel Stewart, President of the St. Andrew's Society, for her special appearance and Haggis contribution!

You can watch the full video [here](#), and a summary on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

WHY CHOOSE A

Year Verse?



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

Onsite or online? That is the question!
The answer for now as you know is **"online"**.
Many people enjoy connecting online via ZOOM Sunday mornings at 11am for an engaging time of thoughtful interaction. In these days where social distancing is causing social disconnect and relational isolation, ZOOM is quite helpful to engage with other people.
In January we reviewed some favorite talks from 2020 and created a simple series about **"Why Choose a Year Verse?"** which introduced a novel approach to reflecting on your goals for 2021. Each talk is about 15 minutes and you can view it anytime from our website or Facebook page.

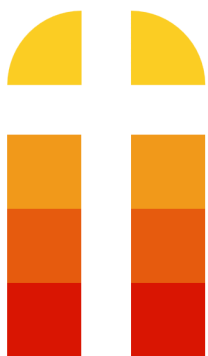
You could join our Bible Project weekly conversation course on Wednesday which runs through the month of February. Each week is a standalone interaction so you can join at any time.

In March we will return to our weekly Community Bible Study groups to read and reflect together on the Gospel of John. To join the study group please click here: www.forms.gle

My "Year Verse" is **Isaiah 50:4**. I explain why in this brief video: www.youtube.com



Have a wonderful February!
Pastor John Hamilton



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

Arocena 1907
Esq. Lieja, Carrasco
Tel 2601 0300
www.christchurchmvd.org



TKT YL AND TKT CLIL ONLINE COURSES AS FROM 2021

We are pleased to announce that as from this year, in addition to the TKT core modules course, the Anglo will be offering preparation courses for TKT YL (Young learners) and TKT CLIL (Content and language Integrated learning). The three courses will be delivered online.

TKT: CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) online course

TKT: CLIL is a test of knowledge of Content and Language Integrated Learning and concepts related to a CLIL approach. It tests knowledge about teaching subjects in English to speakers of other languages and the learning, thinking and language skills which are developed across different curriculum subjects.

TKT: CLIL tests knowledge of how to plan lessons, as well as knowledge of activities and resources used to support a CLIL approach. It also tests knowledge of teaching strategies and how assessment is carried out in CLIL contexts.

TKT: CLIL is suitable for subject teachers who need to teach their curricular subjects in English and can also be taken by pre-service teachers, teachers who wish to refresh their teaching knowledge or teachers who are moving to teaching English after teaching another subject.



TKT: YL (Young learners) online course

TKT: YL is a test of knowledge of teaching English to young learners aged 6 to 12. It tests knowledge of concepts related to the learning and development of young learners, planning lessons for young learners, teaching strategies, practice activities and resources used to support and challenge language learning in young learners. It also tests knowledge of informal classroom assessment of young learners' work.

TKT: YL is suitable for teachers of young learners who already teach other curriculum subjects in their first language, specialist young learner teachers who teach only English, or teachers of older learners or adults who also wish to teach young learners. It can also be taken by pre-service teachers, teachers who wish to refresh their teaching knowledge or teachers who are moving to teaching English after teaching another subject.



Language level

Cambridge English First or equivalent

 Cambridge Assessment
English
Authorised Platinum Exam Centre

STARTING IN APRIL AND AUGUST

For further information you can write to cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy or call 2902 3773 ext. 1129



ENGLISH SUMMER COURSES

ENROL NOW!
FEBRUARY 2021

Face-to-Face or Synchronic On-line

4.5 hours per week

4 weeks of training

Divided in 4 levels

Start: Monday 1st February

Finish: Friday 26th February

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

8.30 am to 10 am – Face-to-Face

in Anglo Centro

6.30 pm to 8 pm – On-line



ANGLO

MORE INFO

www.anglo.edu.uy

On returning from holidays

We suggest that, throughout the summer, you maintain minimal social contact with others outside your usual household bubble.

We would like to share some advice for you when returning to your home and workplace after the holidays.

If you lived with others outside your usual bubble, we recommend that you do not enter your usual bubble for a period of 10 days.

When returning to your workplace we advise that you take the following prevention measures that you already know:

- wear a face mask
- keep your hands sanitized
- keep spaces well ventilated
- keep maintaining physical distance

If you go away on holiday for a weekend, maintain contact only with those in your own bubble.

Respect the capacity limitations allowed in the places you visit.

When family, or close friends of your bubble visit you, find out who they have been with lately, meet them in well ventilated areas, keep your distance, and wear a face mask at all times.

Keep the windows open in your car and avoid traveling with people outside your bubble.

If you show symptoms of contagion, remain isolated and contact our COVID-19 line until the test results have been confirmed. T. 2487 1020, ext.0





There's No Escape Route

The time of reckoning has arrived. SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 (made in the UK) is already estimated to be all over the place. Yesterday, many of those present during President Joe Biden's inauguration were seen with two masks, one on top of the other: a cloth one covered by a medical-grade one – or vice versa. The reason: the new variant is so easily transmissible that two masks instead of only one may offer more protection. And Joe was truly clear while he was still President-elect, saying "Things are going to get worse before they get better" – very much in line in what his to-be top medical adviser Dr Anthony Fauci mentioned: "The family and social gatherings spanning Thanksgiving through New Year will cause a surge on top of a surge."

The vaccines have arrived, unfortunately contaminated with politicking, hype and poor logistics everywhere. Naming, shaming, blaming of governments and healthcare ministries is mixed with reality-show jabbing of arms of political celebrities (Biden, Pence and Netanyahu included) – followed today by our River Plate next-door neighbour President Alberto Fernández. Last night the initial injections of a total of 90 (yes... no more than ninety!!) shots in Brazilian Chuí were repeatedly shown ad-nauseam on the TV news channels. A few weeks ago, we were all surprised by President Putin publicly saying he would not get the vaccine, for an obvious reason: it wasn't yet cleared for persons above 60 – at the same time 300K doses were being flown from Moscow to Buenos Aires, in a media show more typical of a spacecraft mission, not to mention that the brochures accompanying the vaccines were in Cyrillic alphabet Russian! More worrying news is also springing up: Pfizer (and probably other vaccine manufacturers) has its production outstripped by demand and delays in the second required dose on day #21 are to be expected,

together with the soft-science recommendation that the available second doses be used as #1 doses to cover more people, compromising the immune response of individuals, populations and opening the door to new variants of resistant-to-vaccine strains of the virus. To summarise: a real mess.

As 2020 approached its end and vaccines were about to fall from the sky as in Moses' Exodus, 2021 was seen through pink lens and glossy eyes as the Promised Land. Far from true. We still have a long way to go and it'll take most, if not all, of this year. Hard decisions are overflowing in the government's inbox: the need for lockdowns, reduction of mobility, when and if schools can reopen safely, how to administer the available vaccines in the best, efficient and efficacious way. The three faucets or levers: health, the economy and society, will have to be fine-tuned continuously. The risk for social unrest is real: many underlying problems of society have triggered an accelerated phase of changes, many expected, but others not so anticipated. What happened on 6 January in the US Congress was an eruption of what may be in store in many parts of the world. Fortunately, the resiliency of democratic society prevailed, but the fragility of our institutions may come to a head and burst anywhere.

There's no escape from our plight. Yes, it'll end someday, in the not-so-distant future, but we'll have to cross many swamps and broken bridges – and not everyone will make it. There's no space for denial of science, for shortcuts, for magic thinking or rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic. Besides, as many predict: what we're living now looks more like the near future than the past we long for.

We're still in for a rough ride.



Sunset Song

Lewis Grassie Gibbon was the pseudonym of James Leslie Mitchell (1901 –1935), a Scottish writer best known for his trilogy **A Scots Quair** (**Sunset Song**, **Cloud Howe** and **Grey Granite**) set in the north-east of Scotland in the early 20th century. It tells the story of Chris Guthrie and the community she lives in; the trilogy was made into BBC series, and an excellent film of the first novel, **Sunset Song**, directed by Terence Davies was released in 2015.

Sunset Song is the story of young Chris Guthrie finding her identity – personal, national, spiritual – in rural northeast Scotland beneath the gathering clouds of the Great War. This is the book that was voted Scotland's best novel in 2016, and eulogised by Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon who wrote an introduction to the most recent edition. Sturgeon describes it as a book about the "crushing poverty, the hard toil of earning a living from the land, the sternness of religion and the oppressive reality of life for women in particular – these are the themes that provide the context and background to the lives whose stories unfold in the book". Later, she adds, "Above all, it was the conflict that brews in Chris, between tradition and modernity, learning and the land, moving away or staying put, that resonated with me". And the distinguished Scottish writer, Ali Smith, also praised the book for its use language, "a kind of Scottish English that's simultaneously rich and spare, to make a formally stunning and cunning work of art".

Many have commented on Gibbon's original blending of Scots and English, infused with local vernacular, to give an intense description of Scottish life at the time. The use of Scots items in **Sunset Song** is contingent on the social class of the speaker, the situation, and the image the speaker wants to convey. Gibbon frequently uses inverted sentences and run-on sentences, together with specifically Scots sounding rhythms, and the cadences of spoken Scots.

Sunset Song opens with a Prelude, "The Unfurrowed Field", describing the history of the land itself and the generations of people who lived in "Kinradie" from early Norman times to the present, 1911. The central importance

of the land itself and the rhythms of the seasons are further foregrounded by the chapter titles of the main section, "The Song", these also poetically corresponding to the development of the principal character, Chris: "Ploughing", "Drilling", "Seed-Time" "Harvest", ending in an Epilude, again, "The Unfurrowed Field" – symbolically "unfurrowed" by the destruction caused by the war.

The divisions in the main section refer both to Chris Guthrie's development, from child to adult, as well as to the story of the community. (All editions bring a map of Gibbon's Kinraddie). Chris is the daughter of Jean Murdoch and John Guthrie, a lovely, intelligent girl who gets prizes at school and is torn between the "English" ways she is taught at school, and her mother's love of the land. Her mother says to her *"Oh, Chris, my lass, there are better things than your books or studies or loving or bedding, there's the countryside your own, and you its, in the days when you're neither bairn nor woman"*. For a time, Chris is torn between her love for books, which will mean getting an education away from Kinraddie, and her love for the land, which means toil and sacrifice, but which, ultimately, she chooses. Chris's point of view is the main perspective we get, though there are others, including several community members and a narrator, but Chris is the heart and centre of the novel. The men near her, her brutal, Bible-extolling father, her beloved brother Will, and later her husband, are seen through her fine consciousness. Women are worn out with childbearing, like her mother, who tells her: *"I cannot tell you a thing or advise you a thing, my quean. You'll have to face men for yourself when the time comes, there's none can stand and help you"*. Her friend Marget, however, who's clearly more worldly than Chris says: *"Wait till you find yourself in the arms of your lad, in harvest time it'll be, with the stooks about you, and he'll stop from joking- that's just when their blood pressure alters-and he'll take you like this -"*.

The effects of the war on the community are terrible, and on Chris herself devastating. Yet the book's final words evoke hope, and resilience: *"...you can do without the day if you've a lamp quiet lighted and kind in your heart"*.



Albóndigas

The Wheatsville Food Co-Op is in Austin, Texas. We are members and do some of our shopping there. Every time I walk through the door I feel as though I've taken a step back in time. There's something about the look and feel of the place, and of course the employees and other customers, that evokes a time gone by. It reminds me of the Austin I found when I first came here, in 1980, when the population was just over three hundred thousand. Now it's three times that so it's obviously not the same city.

Austin still felt like a big country town when I arrived. You could angle park anywhere on Congress Avenue, the heart of downtown, and you could always find a spot. Traffic was sparse and the high-rise buildings hadn't started going up yet so there was plenty of sky. It was the home stretch of the town's hippie period, on the brink of the tech boom. The local health food store epitomized the lifestyle; the staff were friendly and had time for their customers. Artists and dropouts worked there and shopped there and contributed their unique vibration to the mood. Employees and most customers alike took a casual approach to clothing and accessories. Dungarees and tie-dye, long hair and beards, sandals and patchouli oil conveyed a pleasant echo of the 1960s. People in business suits stood out as being from a different world, the world that Austin would soon become though, at the time, very few people understood that. The counter-culture feeling is not that pronounced at Wheatsville today, but traces of it remain, for which I'm grateful.

Time leaves layers on a town just as it creates rings on a tree. Austin is the capital of Texas, home of the state legislature. The fine architectural lines of the Capitol building are the backdrop to the view up Congress Avenue from the river that separates downtown from South Austin. A few miles north is the sprawling campus of The University of Texas, where fifty thousand kids from all over the state and beyond come to get an education. Back in the day, cattle money and oil money drove the local economy. The state government needed places to meet and unwind after hours and students needed places to let off steam, so a lively bar and restaurant scene evolved. Musicians started flocking here to provide entertainment. Soon there were blues bars and rock & roll dives and country western dance halls, and

Austin began calling itself The Live Music Capital of the World. A seductive sense of community and identity tied it all together. People graduated from UT and didn't want to leave town. It was said that there were more PhDs waiting tables here than anywhere else. Austin became a hot spot. People came from far and wide to enjoy its laidback vibe, great music, and unspoiled sense of authenticity. Hi-tech companies saw the potential and Austin is now a tech hub, attracting a sophisticated population that brings its own culture and is spreading yet another layer over the town.

Not too long before the pandemic rolled into town, we learned that Wheatsville offered a take-out dinner for \$5 on Thursdays. That's a great price, especially since the dinners are pretty good, so we've included the Co-Op in the roster of restaurants we've been turning to for take-out since the early days of the lockdown. Yesterday the menu was turkey meatballs, garlic smashed potatoes, and broccoli. At \$5, who could resist? As we drove over there, I asked Lillian if she knew the Spanish for turkey meatball. For years, people have asked her why she isn't fluent in Spanish since her husband is bilingual. She explains that having your own personal interpreter lessens the incentive to learn the language. What she has done, though, is build a mental data base of ordinary, colloquial phrases—such as: “Would you like anything from the kitchen?”—so that, at the appropriate moment, she can say: “¿Quieres algo de la cocina?” and deal competently with the responses she might get in return. This has helped her to develop a feeling for the language and be able to hold her own in Madrid and Montevideo.

She came quite close to the word for meatball—*albóndiga*, borrowed from the Arabic—but then the sound of the word, taken out of context and held up for inspection, made us laugh. It is a dramatic, musical word, stressed on the second syllable—*al-BON-diga*. It can sound like an insult (“You worthless *albóndiga*”), a term of endearment (“My little *albóndiga*”) or something Archimedes might have shouted when he jumped out of his bath. Lillian knew how to say ‘turkey’ which, here in Texas, is known by its Aztec name, *guajolote*. And what I started out to say was that last night we dined on *Albóndigas de guajolote con papas y brócoli*.

Lilibet's English

Are you curious about all the different types of Englishes on our planet? Would you like to know how they have arisen? What sets them apart? This column will deal with the characteristics of the English language as it is used in various places around the world. We will peep into the historical underpinnings, the social mishaps and anything that has intervened to make Englishes the way they are.

Needless to say, the huge expansion of English must be attributed in great part to historical developments, put simply: Britain building a huge empire, and then Britain and its former colonies gaining influence far beyond the boundaries of such an empire. Back in the 16th century, at the time of Elizabeth I, there were at most seven million native speakers of English –and a handful of non-native speakers. Even Richard Mulcaster, an enthusiastic supporter of the English language, admitted in 1582 that “our English tung ... is of small reach, it stretcheth no further then this lland of ours, naie not there ouer all” (quoted from Görlach 1991: 229–30). But by the time Elizabeth II assumed as queen, the number of native speakers of English had increased to some 350 million. A number which can be doubled if we add non-native speakers to the total.

As this is our very first column, we would like to pay tribute to her highness, by taking a quick flight over what is generally known as the “Queen’s English”, also known as “received pronunciation” or “BBC English”, considered by some people as a standard of good English. This English variety is similar in many ways to what is known as standard southern-British (SSB), which is spoken by most of the middle classes and by younger speakers.

The definition of this variety is a matter of heated debate and frequent controversy amongst linguists, but we do agree on the following facts:

a. It is a misnomer to consider it a British variety, given that the number of native speakers who originate in Ireland, Scotland and Wales is exceedingly small and probably diminishing. The Queen’s English is spoken by some English people.

b. The great majority of its speakers are of middle-class or upper-class origin, educated at private schools and universities.

c. Most of its speakers live in, or originate from, the south-east of England.

d. The accent is most familiar as that used by most “official” BBC speakers of English origin. It is also frequently heard on the BBC World Service, though that service appears to have adopted the policy of sometimes using newsreaders and announcers with noticeable foreign accents.

This variety will probably end up losing its preeminent status in broadcasting because of the wish to broaden the social base of broadcast speech, but it will take a while for this to happen. Interestingly, phoneticians have shown that the very Queen no longer speaks the Queen’s English of the 1950s. A group of researchers from Macquarie University ran an acoustic analysis (with the permission of Buckingham Palace) of the vowels from the Christmas messages broadcast every year by the Queen since 1952, comparing the vowel sounds from the 1950s with those from the 1980s. They found out that her majesty’s vowels have moved towards (but not attained) their SSB equivalents, which are more typically associated with speakers who are younger and lower in the social hierarchy. However, overall speaking, her English is still clearly set apart from those of an SSB speaker (probably a relief for our purist readers).

In the forthcoming columns we will take one variety in turn and discuss some of its peculiarities. We will be having a look at those varieties spoken predominantly by native speakers of English. Hence, we will consider the kinds of English spoken in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Falkland Islands, Britain, the USA, and Canada. These English varieties can be grouped as Southern Hemisphere Englishes, British Englishes, and North American Englishes.

Except for her Majesty’s which is an exception!

The Big Four

There were twenty-one British formal diplomats in Uruguay since Thomas Hood, the first official Consul arrived in 1824, and until 1943 when the rank of the representation changed to Embassy and the head of the Legation, the Minister, was upgraded to Ambassador. With different official names, Consuls, Plenipotentiary Representatives or Ministers, they served during the apogee of the British presence in Uruguay, some of them even dying at their post and interred in our British Cemetery. We can make a ranking of them, considering their diplomatic achievements, but also their relationship with the British community in Uruguay, and the local elites and society in general. Personally, I select four of them as the outstanding ones, or "the Big Four."

Ernest Satow (1888-1893).

Brilliant career diplomat who was an eminent expert in the Japanese culture. He even had a Japanese wife and family which stayed in the Far East. From the first minute of his mission, he got involved in the British communities' institutions and affairs and he presided all of them not as an honorary ad hoc president but being present in every committee meeting and working with the community leadership towards the establishment of the British colony in Montevideo. His biggest achievement was the repatriation of £14,000 of the Cemetery Society that were in the Foreign Office Treasury. That money was the product of the expropriation of the first cemetery's grounds and paid by the Montevideo municipality.

Walter Baring (1893-1906).

Satow was a Middle-Class self-made man, whilst Baring was an aristocrat. He came from a very well known family in which the male descendants were either bankers or members of the diplomatic service of the empire; the most known being Evelyn Baring, Minister to Egypt. Baring arrives in Uruguay during the aftermath of the Baring Crisis, the first global financial crisis that shakes the foundations of the British banking system and liquidates the National Company of Credit and Public Works of William Casey and Emilio Reus. With the subsequent fall of the National Bank of Uruguay, Walter Baring must re-establish the

local confidence in British financial institutions and defend the British merchants and businessmen standing in the Uruguayan markets. He was also important in the relation with the new nationalistic and socialist forces in Uruguay at the turn of the century. Another difference with Satow is that he came with his wife, which gave the Legation a new social impetus among the community.

Robert Kennedy (1906-1912).

The last of the great Ministers of the times. He was a political Minister as he became involved in local politics and had to wrestle personally with the anti-imperialist Uruguayan of the first two decades of the XX Century, José Batlle y Ordóñez, defending the British interests. He was an important and decisive factor to grant the state's help in the second big railway strike that ended with the total dismantling of the railway's union; and was also a driving force in the foundation of the British Schools. For the British community, without doubt, he was the perfect Minister as he came with his whole family, wife and two daughters, who were very popular and involved in every social, entertainment and solidarity event of the community.

Obviously these three Ministers had the advantage of being in Montevideo coinciding with the best moment of the British presence in the country. Economic pre-eminence brings social standing and power. Different is the case of the last of my Big Four, who came when the British industry and manufactures were not dominant, the British Empire was retreating and the standing of the British citizen abroad in peril.

Sir Eugen Millington-Drake (1933-1941).

The charismatic and very proactive Millington-Drake gave new life to the dying British colony in the country, with the help of Lady Effie's fortune and glamour. They were the driving force behind multiple undertakings of the community, not all of them feasible but good for rallying the paralysed colony. He is mostly remembered by his activities during the first years of the war, but his great contributions came during the first years of his ministry when he shook the foundations of the community; the Anglo Institute being the most noticeable one.

"And yet, and yet... Time is a river which sweeps me along, but I am the river; it is a tiger that destroys me, but I am the tiger; it is a fire which consumes me, but I am the fire".

Jorge Luis Borges



What is time? What a question... We live and die in time, but how? How time affects us in the short lapse of our lives? How should we deal with this problem?

For countless centuries people have speculated about the nature of time. Did it ever start, will it ever end, or is it an eternal property of nature?

In spite of all the answers philosophers have come up with I think we had better deal with this issue ourselves since the only really satisfactory and convincing view is the one we reach after thinking about it.

Most people just take time for granted without troubling themselves too much about it and live their life as it comes, like a loose leaf pushed by the wind in whatever direction it moves. I'd say, hardly a wise way to exist, completely at the mercy of forces outside us.

We live in a world in which we progressively cease to think deeply of this kind of issues and either accept what others have said whenever we feel the urge to know or we exist in blissful and deliberate ignorance, filling our lives with other thoughts that please our diverse inclinations and occasional concerns.

I think time consists of movement, every second of time is the result of trillions and trillions of particles moving that create the whole we call a moment of time. If all movement were stopped, there would be no time.

Many of us fail to realize that being every second of time a mind-boggling huge whole universal level range of movements, the past was, but cannot possibly exist anymore and we know it increasingly more imperfectly as more and more far back it is, and the future is the unknowable, only at times a somehow approximately predictable but quite uncertain, possible reality.

This is why ideas like time travel appear to me as appealing science fiction themes but in fact, absolutely impossible.

Most of us then live in the present, with little concern for the past, that we remember as it best suits us, and a vague aspiration for a better future, more often through luck than through a concerted effort.

As far as I am concerned, I have found after many years that having a true recollection of the past, although at times painful because it highlights all the good we have done but also our mistakes and reprehensible actions, it allows us to correct the course of our life in order to improve it, and trying hard to predict future consequences of our actions, so as to protect ourselves from them, is also a worthwhile pursuit. What I call, trying to "think ahead" that saved me from several huge mishaps by taking action well before certain probable things happened.

Such an attitude leads to quite a degree of peace of mind, in which we use our allotted time on earth wisely and avoids, to a large extent, sudden nasty surprises arising from inaccurate perspectives about our past actions and the likely outcome of our plans for the future.

For most people, their lives are a sequence of surprises, some good, some bad, but for some of us we can say we have achieved more or less what we wished to attain, the result of living a planned life, with firm but reasonable expectations, like a ship at sea, under the force of the currents, the winds, and the waves, but because of clarity about the port to reach, arriving at the desired location.

Perhaps all things that we should ponder in order to live better lives.

Chicken Liver Pâté

Ingredients

- 500 g chicken liver free of sinews and any greenish bits
- 1 tablespoon red onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 20 g butter
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
- 300 g butter
- 1 glass Port or Brandy or Madeira
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 100 ml clarified butter

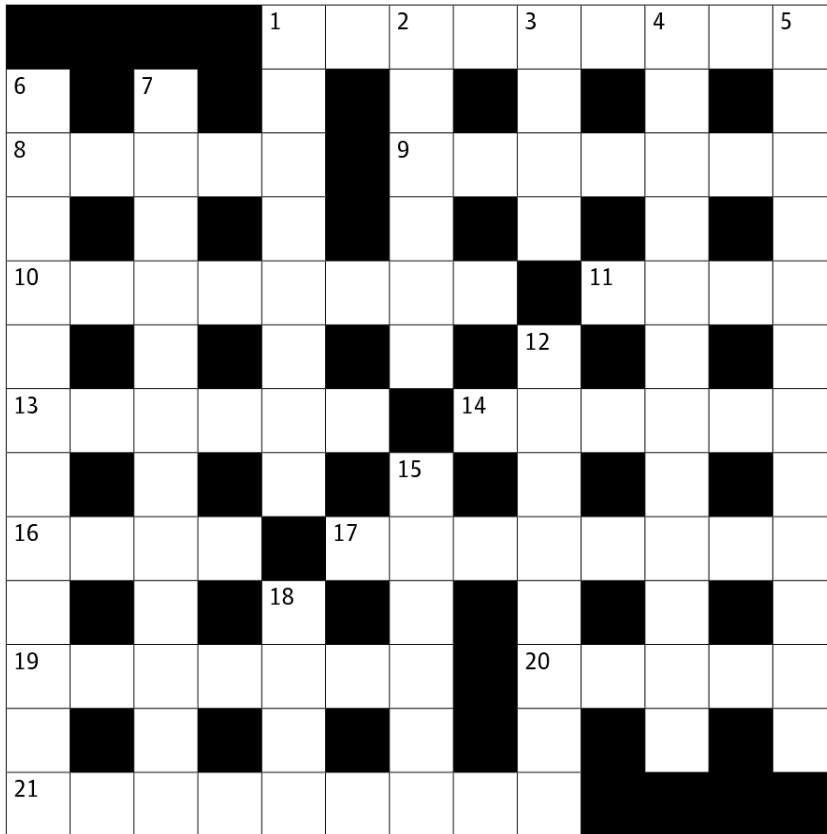
**For any queries or questions,
please contact me via e-mail at
sbpberzins@hotmail.com.**

Method

1. Add the 20 g butter to a frying pan and gently fry the chopped onions for two minutes, add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds longer.
2. Add the chicken livers and thyme leaves and cook gently for 3-4 minutes moving the contents around, but do not allow them to brown. Season with salt and pepper and add the chosen alcohol, turn up the heat and reduce the liquid a little while moving the contents around allowing the alcohol to evaporate. The livers should be undercooked in the middle. Allow to cool slightly and add to a food processor and blend. With the motor running, add the 300 gr of butter at room temperature, little by little, and mix until very smooth.
3. Check seasoning again for salt and pepper and place mixture into a mould. Allow to cool in the fridge. Cover with a thin layer of clarified butter.
4. The taste will improve if left in the fridge for 24 hours before consuming. Serve with toasted bread and fruit chutney or onion marmalade. Enjoy with a full bodied red wine.

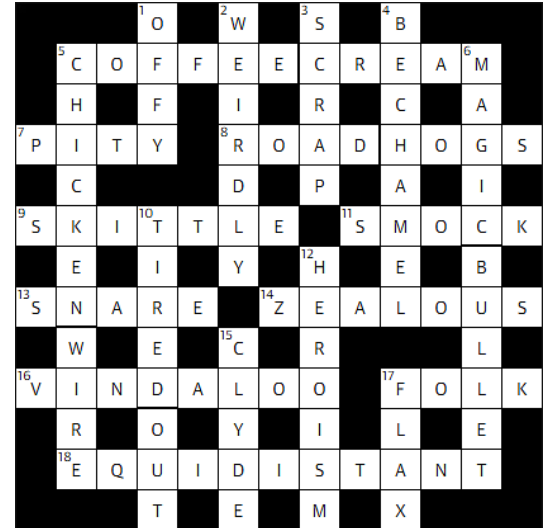
SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME

from The Guardian
www.theguardian.com



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Solution in the next Contact issue.

January solution:



Across

- 1 Literary supporter? (9)
8 Icon: personal façade (5)
9 Black-headed small European songbird (4,3)
10 Jumps farther than (8)
11 Important river of South Wales (4)
13 Deserved; brought in (6)
14 Citizen of a former Soviet republic (6)
16 Give off; expel (4)
17 Amount of precipitation for a given area in a given time (8)
19 Creatures of folklore (7)
20 Cheat or trick (5)
21 French wine merchant (9)

Down

- 1 Traveller's guide book(s) since the mid-19th century (8)
2 Take or hold possession of (6)
3 Counterfeit; imposter (4)
4 Lavish display (12)
5 Best that is obtainable (3,2,3,4)
6 Personally take a defensive position in a trench (3,7,2)
7 Debasing; corrupting (12)
12 Ascot win? (anag) (8)
15 Biliousness; loathing (6)
18 Nub; real point of a legal action (4)

LAMB CHOPS

Vauxhall Bridge Road

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Down from Holborn
To the Strand
Across Aldwych flowed

Which must be
The only time
That anyone
Has found a rhyme

The London traffic
Grey with grime
Past the bong
Of Big Ben's chime

For Vauxhall Bridge Road



Imbolc Fire Festival

Imbolc or Imbolg, also called (Saint) Brigid's Day, is a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring. It was traditionally held on 1 February. It lands about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. It is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals—along with Bealtaine, Lughnasadh and Samhain. For Christians, especially in Ireland, it is the feast day of Saint Brigid.

Imbolc is mentioned in early Irish literature, and there is evidence suggesting it was also an important date in ancient times. It is believed that Imbolc was originally a pagan festival associated with the goddess Brigid, and that it was Christianized as a festival of Saint Brigid, who is thought to be a Christianization of the goddess. On Imbolc/St Brigid's Day, Brigid's crosses were made, and a doll-like figure of Brigid (a *Brídeóg*) would be paraded from house-to-house by girls, sometimes accompanied by 'strawboys'. Brigid was said to visit one's home at Imbolc. To receive her blessings, people would make a bed for Brigid and leave her food and drink, and items of clothing would be left outside for her to bless. Brigid was also evoked to protect homes and livestock. Special feasts were had, holy wells were visited, and it was a time for divination.

Although many of its customs died out in the 20th century, it is still observed and in some places, it has been revived as a cultural event. Since the latter 20th century, Celtic neopagans and Wiccans have observed Imbolc as a religious holiday.



The 'Vatican' of the Templars

Was this tiny church the 'Vatican' of the Templars?

Just outside the city walls of Tomar, the last Portugese town to be commissioned for construction by the Knights Templar, lies a small church with a suprisingly important connection to this once mysterious and secretive religious organisation.




DILBERT

by Scott Adams
<https://dilbert.com/>



