



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY  
FOUNDED 1918

# CONTACT

JUNE 2021



British Uruguayan Club

## **The Greg Mortimer Experience - One Year Later**

Bits and Pieces

## **Never Judge a Book by Its Cover**

Chef Phillip's Corner

## **English Muffins**

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





	Page
■ President's Words.....	01
■ Members' News.....	02
■ This Month's Cover.....	03
■ 2021 Annual Council Meeting.....	04
■ Sir Winston Churchill Home.....	05
■ British Embassy .....	09
■ British Uruguayan Club .....	11
■ Christ Church .....	12
■ Anglo .....	13
■ British Hospital .....	16
■ The Montevideo Players .....	17
■ Dickens Institute .....	18
■ Medical Column.....	21
■ Literature Matters.....	22
■ Back in Time .....	23
■ English Varieties Around the Globe .....	24
■ Food for Thought.....	25
■ Era Britons .....	26
■ Bits and Pieces.....	27
■ Chef Phillip's Corner .....	28
■ Speedy Crossword Time .....	29
■ Lamb Chops.....	29
■ British Customs and Traditions .....	30
■ Link of the Month .....	31
■ Dilbert.....	31

## ■ British Uruguayan Club

### **The Greg Mortimer Experience - One Year Later**

Page 11

## ■ Bits and Pieces

### **Never Judge a Book by Its Cover**

Page 27

## ■ Chef Phillip's Corner

### **English Muffins**

Page 28

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#### BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,  
Another AGM has passed, and I find myself writing to you for the first time, as the new President of the British Society, and I would like to thank the warm welcome and best wishes. For the past two years, I had been part of the Executive Committee as Secretary and Vice President, and had the privilege of working with Richard Empson, whom we now say goodbye to; not without thanking him enormously for his four years as President, and personally, his great guidance and friendship.

The following are the new members elected to the Executive Committee: Joaquín Salhón as Events Coordinator, Andrea Davies as Vice President, Caroline Stanham as Secretary and Walter Albanell as the new Treasurer, continuing Ricardo Medina's great work. I look forward to working with them all, as they have shown great talent and initiative, coupled with great ideas.

The annual Council Meeting was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> and COVID-19 has been the constant issue which has affected us all, in so many ways. However, it was inspiring to hear how each council member faced the struggles this pandemic has forced on all, and I would like to congratulate them on their success in adapting and overcoming the hurdles. Great support was shown at the meeting as each institution has found creative ways to help each other.

New objectives have been set, taking into consideration our new pandemic reality. As Winter starts, and lots of people are in need of help, we have identified charitable actions that we will be communicating shortly, such as gathering clothing and food for those in need in Uruguay.

There is lots of behind the curtains work in our society, which we have decided to prioritize such as shifting the SWCH Funds and Benevolent funds to a more cost-efficient platform, generating commercial alliances with benefits for our society and better payments systems to ease fee payments, in order to continue bettering our organization. So, these as well as new and fun activities are in the pipeline continuing our work within our society.

I have met many of you already and look forward to meeting the rest of you within time, as and when, our activities can get back to some normality.

Colin Shearer  
President



# Birthdays

in June

01 ~ Roderick A. Cameron

01 ~ Christopher D. Golby

01 ~ Ignacio López

03 ~ Juana Isern

04 ~ Hernes F. Rodriguez

04 ~ Susana M. Souto

05 ~ Daniel A. Bonelli

05 ~ Agustina Lebrato

06 ~ Esperanza J. Castleton

08 ~ Dion L. Bridal

08 ~ Eugenia I. González

08 ~ Judith C. Vecino

09 ~ Andrew Cooper

10 ~ Víctor H. Pereira

11 ~ María T. Sapelli

12 ~ Matias M. Campbell

12 ~ Philip B. Davies

12 ~ Maria T. Hill

13 ~ Paul D. Griffiths

14 ~ Winifred R. Weinrich

18 ~ Andrew J. Page

20 ~ Agustina Scherschener

22 ~ Jorge E. Arbon

22 ~ Janis A. Fitzherbert

23 ~ Alexandra Cooper

24 ~ Niza M. Flores

24 ~ María F. Reda

24 ~ Eleonora Scosería

25 ~ Carolyn A. Symonds

26 ~ June M. Griffin

26 ~ Carol F. Smith

27 ~ George E. Beare

29 ~ Tomás Isern

30 ~ Pamela Johnston







The Kelpies are 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures depicting kelpies, located between Falkirk and Grangemouth, standing next to a new extension to the Forth and Clyde Canal, and near River Carron, in The Helix, a new parkland project built to connect 16 communities in the Falkirk Council Area, Scotland

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.



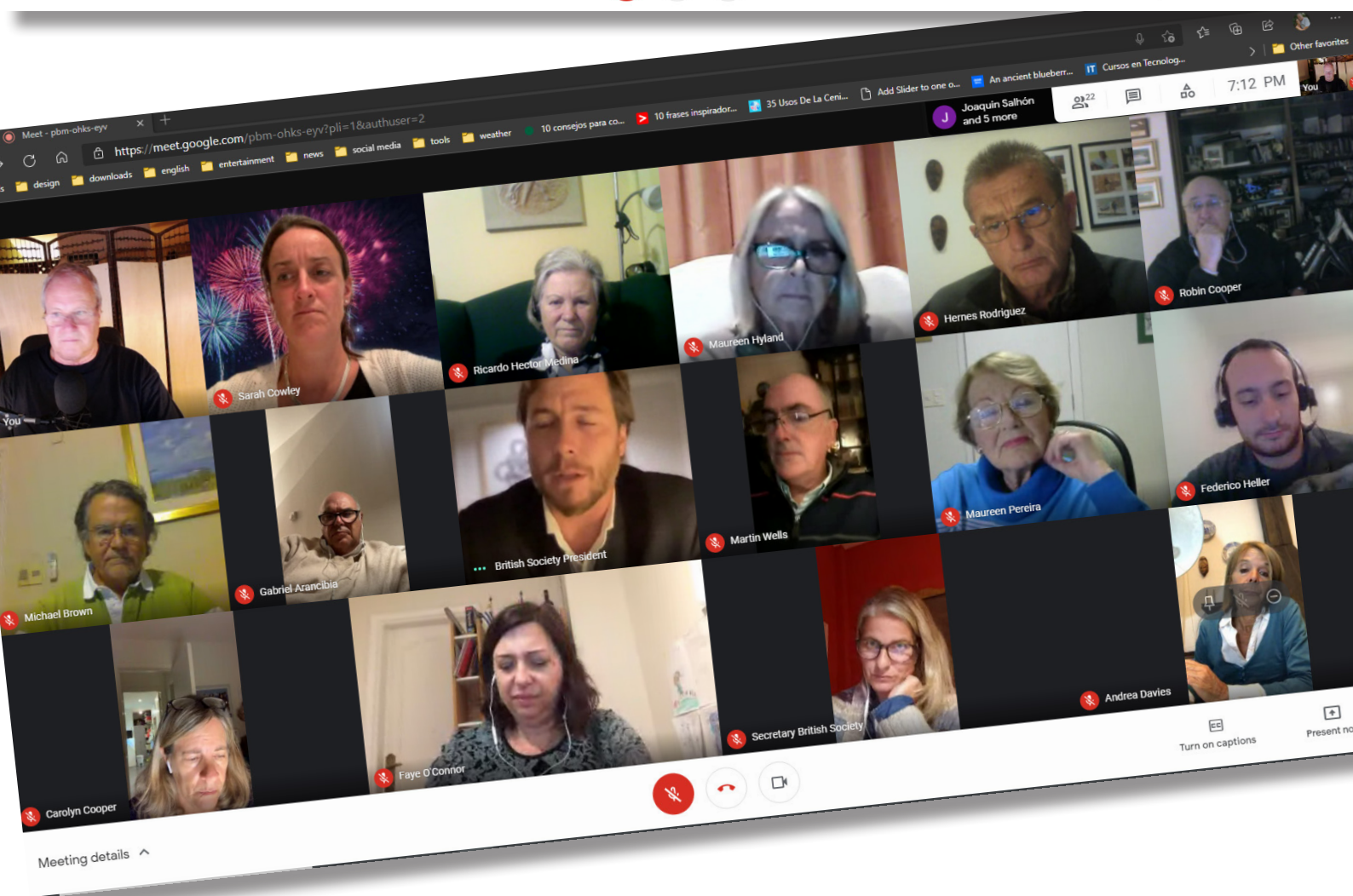
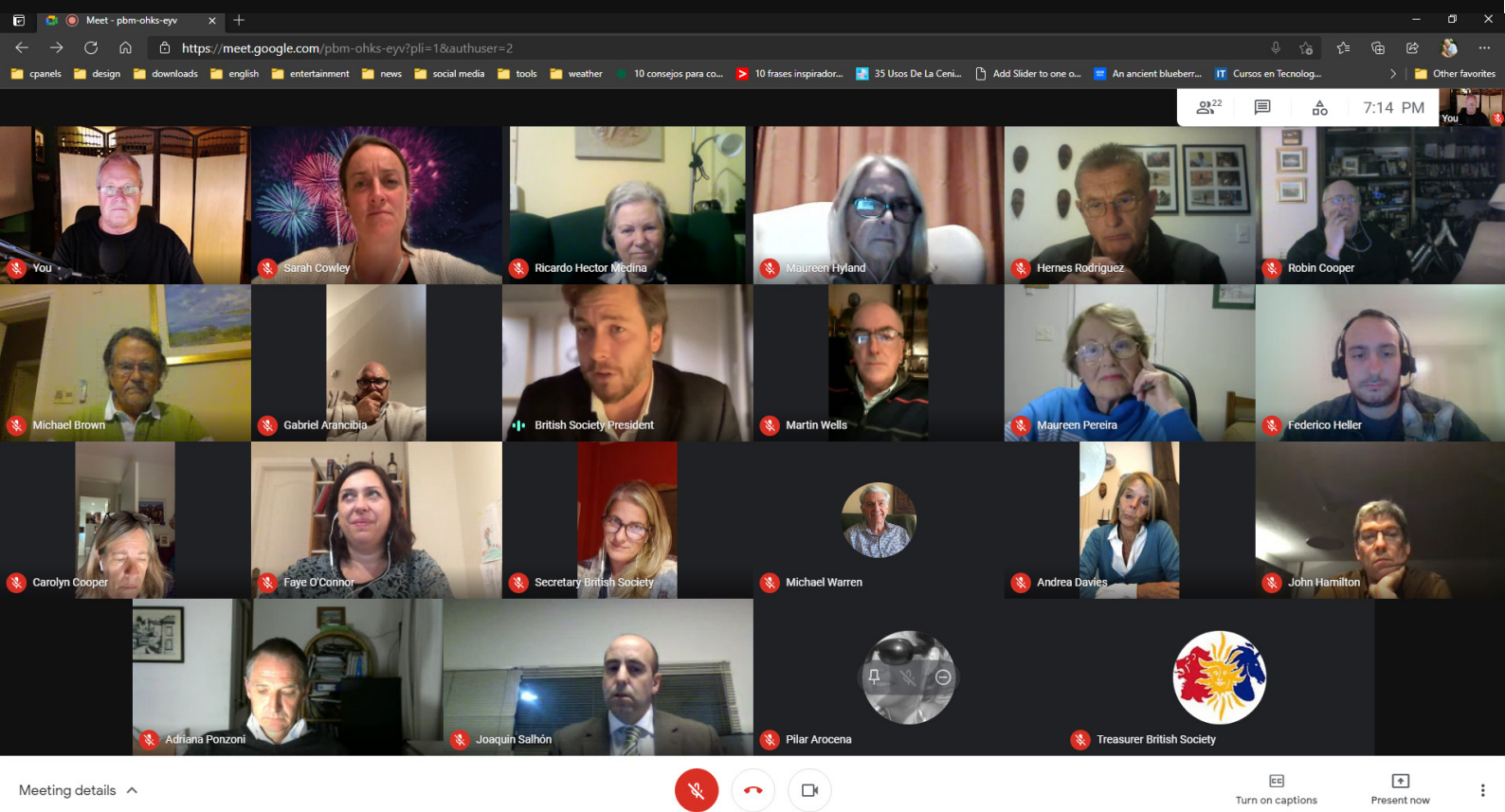
# 2021



Once this is done, your membership will be updated.



# 2021 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING







## Elaine Dee and Victor

Sadly, Elaine Dee passed away on May 2. She had been living at the Home for over 2 years and will be greatly missed. The carers at the Home wanted to share the following:

*Nuestro recuerdo es el mejor para la querida Elaine que nos trataba con amabilidad y cariño y siempre nos recibía con una sonrisa. Extrañamos día a día sus chistes, sus abrazos, esas manos tibias que siempre nos hacían una caricia. Para nosotras fue un enorme placer compartir tantas cosas lindas, anécdotas e historias que nos contaba de su Córdoba natal. Elaine, te despedimos con el mejor recuerdo y siempre estarás entre nosotras con la mejor sonrisa. ¡Gracias por permitirnos conocerte!*

We'd like to share some words that Liz Cowley wrote:

Many of us have memories of dear Elaine to share. We are so thankful for her friendship, love, hospitality, encouragement, and enthusiasm for life. Our thoughts of Elaine cannot be separated from Victor.

Caring together for the Sir Winston Churchill Home and innumerable residents; visiting our community; founder members of Christ Church and Elaine as President of the BWA are just a taste of their legacy and presence among us, as are the memories of all those who worked alongside them.

## Elaine's Birthday!

It was dear Elaine Beare's 98th birthday on May 3. Although due to Covid restrictions her family wasn't able to attend, she received lots of phone calls and flowers, and a delicious cake was baked at the Home.



## Exercising is a must every day!





Different games and activities are organized daily.



## Cooking Democracy

For every Saturday, our residents vote on what they would like to eat for lunch. One Saturday it was feijoada which was a great success and lots of work peeling, cutting, chopping, and stirring was involved. Spaghetti was another choice and this time it required kneading and turning the handle of the spaghetti maker kindly lent by the Hospital's kitchen





Ruth and Diego Frisch have both died recently and so we need to give thanks for their lives. Ruth came from Westmoreland to Uruguay to marry Diego, and his work as a Pastor in the Methodist Church took them to Sarandi Grande, Mercedes, Maldonado, Salto, Montevideo and Birmingham. Diego's gift was to be present with whoever he met, listening and caring and encouraging. Many times he was called upon to preach in English and to take funerals.

Ruth's gift was teaching... adapted here to (learning Spanish!) teaching English and in later years working with autistic children in Salto.

Together they brought Duncan and Andrea in to their family, shared community life and rescued many in need, caring especially for the poor until recently in Barrio Borro.

They had a zest for life as was experienced on the last British Society Trip to Fray Bentos when our new President, Colin, was struck by their energy and enthusiasm to enjoy and explore despite limitations of age and mostly, vision.

It was a joy for them to have Andrea and Andy and their three children Fabricio, Nicolas, and Santiago living here in Montevideo while Andy taught at the British Schools. Duncan has adopted the Peak District not so different from Ruth's roots.

Ruth and Diego's spirit of adventure, love of family, people (and cats), curiosity about the world, passion for education, and religious faith inspired many people. They lived life to the full, and we are grateful to have shared life with them.

Liz Cowley





## Votes for life' for British citizens living abroad.

British citizens who have moved abroad will be given 'votes for life', as the Government is set to remove the arbitrary rule that prevents British citizens from voting in General Elections if they have lived abroad for more than 15 years. These changes will empower more British citizens living overseas to participate in UK democracy.

You can find more information [here](#)



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

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



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**

## Environment Week

Coinciding with World Environment Day on June 5, and with less than 6 months to go until the UK hosts the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow, the Embassy will be launching an Environment Week full of activities to highlight

the importance of taking action to address the enormous threat of climate change and build a cleaner, brighter future for us all. Please follow our social media channels for more detailed information on events.



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## #SemanaDelAmbiente

Uruguay camino a la **COP26**



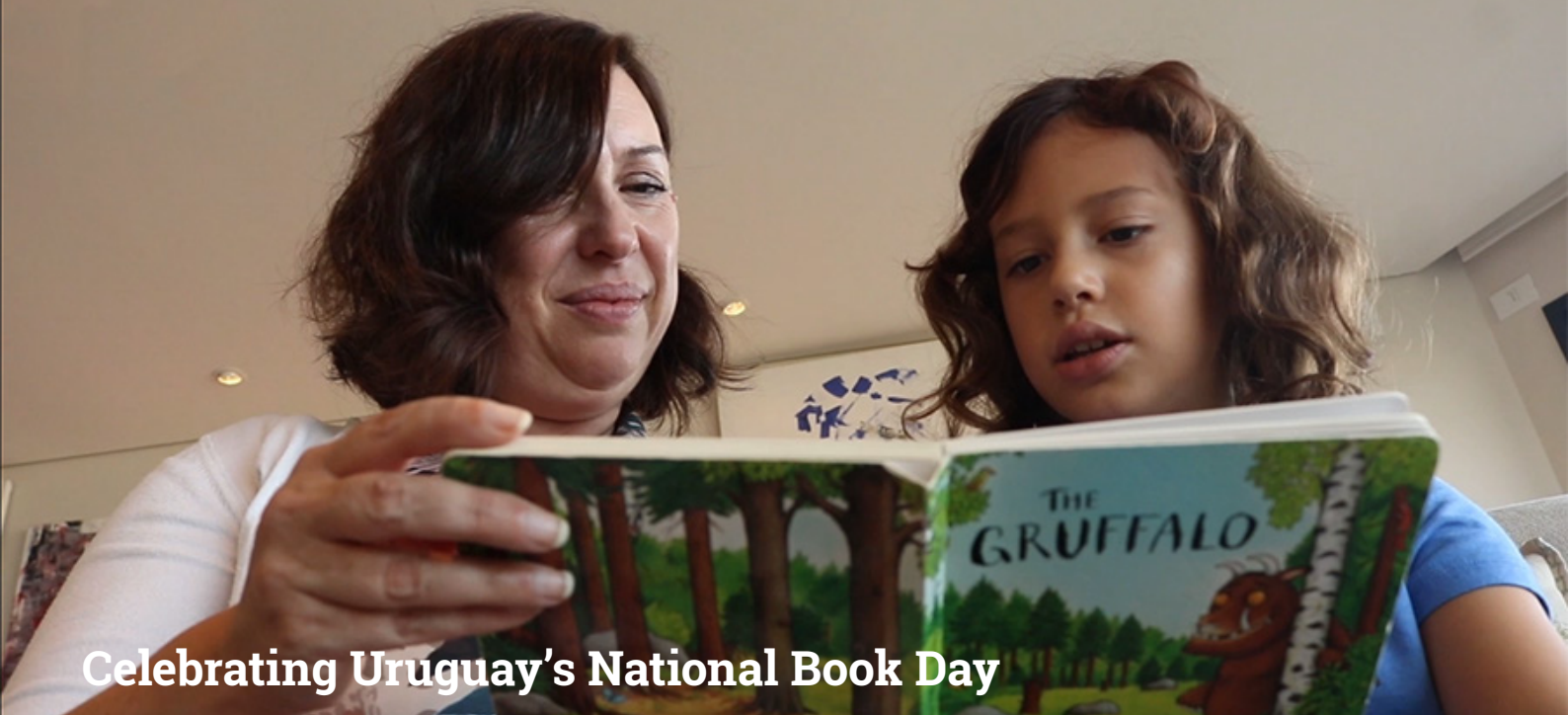
Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

## Global Mile

The Ambassador, her family, and some members of staff joined #Globalmile on 15 May, a virtual marathon organised by the Foreign Office to raise funds for mental health NGOs. A virtual baton was passed between countries, in a continuous relay for 24 hours, from Samoa to Vancouver.

Watch our team receiving the baton from Bermuda and passing it on to the British Embassy in Buenos Aires: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).





## Celebrating Uruguay's National Book Day

To commemorate National Book Day on 26th May, Ambassador Faye O'Connor and her daughter, Emily, shared [this video](#) with schools and on social media reading together one of their favourite stories, "The Gruffalo", by British author Julia Donaldson.

You can watch it also on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

## The Ambassador on TV for International Tea Day

On 21st May, for International Tea Day, the Ambassador [was a featured guest](#) on Channel 4 afternoon show Algo Contigo, to talk about the origins of the tea tradition in UK and other fun facts.

She also answered some personal questions about her family and life in Uruguay. You can watch the interview in our social media channels: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)







# **ONLINE CONFERENCE INVITATION**

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OF JUNE 13:00 HOURS**

DOCTOR AT THE BRITISH HOSPITAL

## **MARCELO CHIARELLA**



# **“THE GREG MORTIMER EXPERIENCE ONE YEAR LATER...”**

**MORE INFORMATION**



**WWW.CUB.UY**

# DOORS



Jesus once told a parable about the contrast between a wise man who built a house on a rock and a foolish man who built a house on the sand. Storms came against the two houses. One stood and one fell. The parable is a story designed to teach. So I ask myself: What does the rock represent? What does the sand represent? Who is wise? What are the storms?

At Christ Church Online we will be reflecting on these things each Sunday morning in June from 11-12. You are invited to participate or just to listen to the opening talks found on our website.

Wednesdays from 7am until 7pm the church is open for quiet visits. The space is well-ventilated, and masks are required.

You are welcome.

**John Hamilton**

Pastor, Christ Church



Christ  
Church  
MONTEVIDEO

**Arocena 1907**

**Esq. Lieja, Carrasco**

**Tel 2601 0300**

**[contact@christchurchmvd.org](mailto:contact@christchurchmvd.org)**

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





The Anglo has adapted very well to the Covid-19 pandemic, having gained valuable experience last year and ensuring student and teacher safety remains top priority while continuing to deliver the first class English teaching our Institute is known for.

We are providing our students with high quality, flexible options to our traditional courses, here are some exciting and innovative examples of high-quality online lessons being delivered by the Anglo across the country and beyond:

### Effective Communication

English for Effective Communication is a three month online course designed to improve students' communication skills at A1/A2 and B1/B2 levels.

It provides an enriching environment where students become self-motivated to learn, develop an interest in extensive listening and discover what effective communication is all about.

The course is meant to encourage students to engage in interviews, presentations and collaborative tasks with a specific focus on topics of their interest, language and pronunciation.

The first four lessons in each module cover the preparation and initial practice stages of the tasks and lessons 5 and 6 in each cycle focus on final practice stages and individual feedback sessions.

At the beginning of the course, there is an introductory session to introduce students to distance learning, content of the course and course dynamics. Students attend remote lessons twice a week for an hour or once a week for two hours and work asynchronously, completing six modules on a moodle course designed by the Anglo.

This course offers a convenient way for you to get an official report of your level from an internationally-recognised examining board; the Cambridge Assessment English Linguaskill Speaking Test.

**For more information email**  
**[info@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:info@anglo.edu.uy)**

**NEW ONLINE COURSE**  
**ENGLISH FOR EFFECTIVE**  
**COMMUNICATION**

**START: 7 JUNE 2021**

**ENROL NOW!**



**MORE INFO**

**[WWW.ANGLO.EDU.UY](http://WWW.ANGLO.EDU.UY)**



# ONLINE COURSES AT THE ANGLO

## The Self Study Packs

The Self Study Packs (SSP) for International exams have already had two beginnings this year, in line with the opening of new international examination dates. This excellent practice allows students to organise their work in a way that is best for them. So far, the SSP has proved to be an interesting alternative for students who aim at achieving a Cambridge certification.

The Anglo SSP students get over 4.000 interactive exam activities on our platform, covering the levels B1, B2, C1 and C2. By replicating the same experience students go through in the international exam, the SSP online platform enables students to practise, improve and test themselves all the time to see how close they are to obtaining a pass mark.

The SSP platform contains interactive and self-correcting listening, reading and use of English activities that provide correct answers and explanations instantly.

This autonomous and asynchronous exam preparation helps us identify key aspects which students need special attention with, and is complemented by the SSP tutors' detailed and standardised feedback on writing and speaking.



### START: JULY

(4-week Self Study Pack +  
3-month platform license)

### START: AUGUST

(16-week Self Study Pack +  
6-month platform license)

# SIT FOR CAMBRIDGE EXAMS AT THE ANGLO

B1 PRELIMINARY  
B2 FIRST  
C1 ADVANCED  
C2 PROFICIENCY

## ENROL NOW!

 Cambridge Assessment  
English  
Authorised Platinum Exam Centre

For more information on our remote courses email: [english@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:english@anglo.edu.uy)  
Interested in teaching any of these courses? email [rrhh@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:rrhh@anglo.edu.uy)



This course is aimed at teachers who might be interested in furthering their understanding of on-line classes' dynamics but who might need flexibility in the course format. This course's proposition enables participants to access course materials during the week doing so at their own speed. The aim of the course is to expand the participants' knowledge in the different features that various on-line tools have to offer through practical examples and exchanges via the course's forum. Course attendants and tutor will engage in synchronic meetings as well thus enhancing the on-line component of the course and the overall experience. Participants will also have the opportunity to design and develop their own classroom activities that will be supervised and overviewed by the course tutor.



### Participant-Tutor time

- Weekly 60 minute session via Zoom (Fridays, 6:00 PM)
- 1 hour weekly meeting to be arranged with the course participants

Estimated dedication time per week, 5 hours including the 2 hours mentioned above. Participants will be issued a certificate of attendance to the course upon completion.



Jenifer Goldblum is a teacher and a teacher trainer at the Anglo. She is the Anglo Schools Department Coordinator. She holds the Anglo Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, the Cambridge Diploma in Teaching with ICT and the Cambridge Certificate in Bilingual Education. She is currently doing Nile's MA in Professional Development for Language Education. She works as a teacher trainer in the ACT (Anglo Certificate in TEFL) and TTC (Anglo Diploma in TEFL). She is also a Cambridge Assessment English Speaking Examiner.

### Language and technical requisites

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Command of the language at B2 level (*)</li> <li>■ PC, laptop or tablet</li> <li>■ Internet connection</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Headphones and microphone</li> <li>■ Webcam</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

(\*) the course will be taught in Spanish but based on materials for the teaching of English

**Course duration:** 8 weeks

**Total Fee:** \$UY 3000

**STARTING FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

For further information you can write to [cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy) or call 2902 3773 ext. 1129





## Nursing care at home: a better quality of life

IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR PATIENT CARE BEYOND THE HOSPITAL STAY, FOCUSING ON NURSING CARE AT HOME THAT IS MULTIDISCIPLINARY, COMPREHENSIVE, KIND AND NEARBY

Nursing Care at Home has historically been a stopgap measure for inpatients or home patients. However, in recent times, the scope of care outside the hospital has expanded substantially, covering other pathologies and treatments that are more flexible and personalized. As of 2019, the strengthening of care outside the hospital was regarded as one of the most promising and growing projects for the future.

The home care team has been vitally important during this year and, because of their experience and ongoing patient support, made it very easy for us to expand the patient care that was required since the start of the pandemic.

At first all nasal swab samples were taken at home, along with new protocols and precautionary measures. They then developed the drive through testing centres to make it easier for those who preferred to go by car to have their swab samples taken without getting out of their car.

This new challenge was incorporated to the usual care given to our patients on the elderly patient plan, to home patients and to those in palliative care.





Here are the links of the plays we've been uploading so far.

["Shear Madness"](#) (2017)  
directed by  Eleonora Scoseria

["Macbeth"](#) (2014)  
directed by Mauricio Aldecosea

We are uploading a different play every month, and we will share the link at the end of the month here.

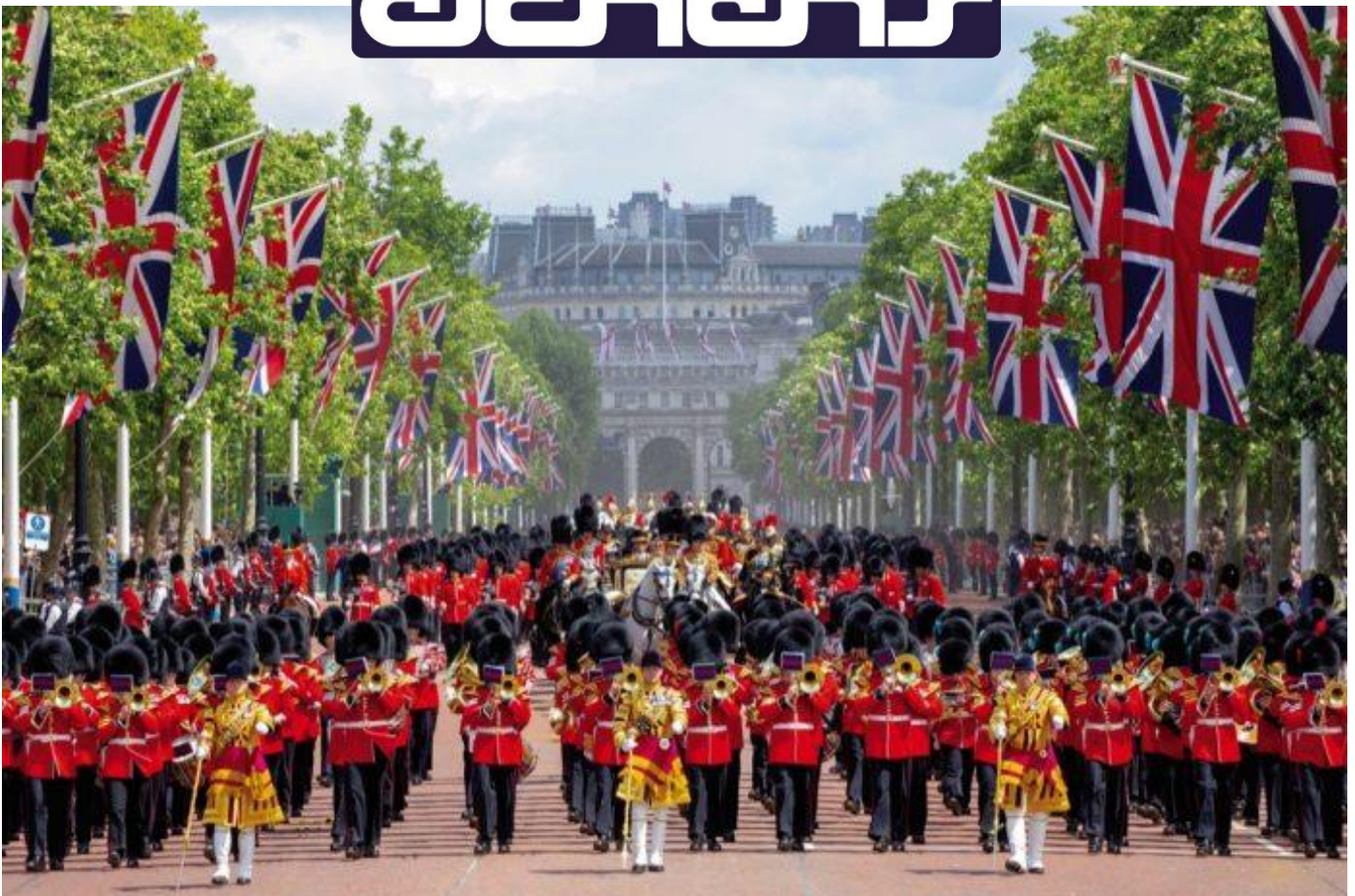
This is all part of an initiative we call the Stay At Home Campaign, which started in April 2020.





Another year where her Majesty Queen Elizabeth will not be able to celebrate her Official Birthday due to the pandemic. Last year there was a simplified ceremony of Trooping the Colour at Windsor Castle where Her Majesty is staying at present, but it was not the same.

Those who can remember the annual celebration of Her Majesty's Household Division putting on a marvelous display at the Horse Guards Parade in Central London and then marching down the Mall, the Royal Family gathered on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch the Royal Air Force fly by in tribute to her Majesty, will agree that indeed it was a great spectacle not to be missed. Perhaps 2022 will be a kinder year...Meanwhile all the very best to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on her Official Birthday!



*Queen Elizabeth II rides to Buckingham Palace in London, on June 08, 2019, after attending Trooping the Colour at the Horse Guards Parade, the Queens birthday parade*

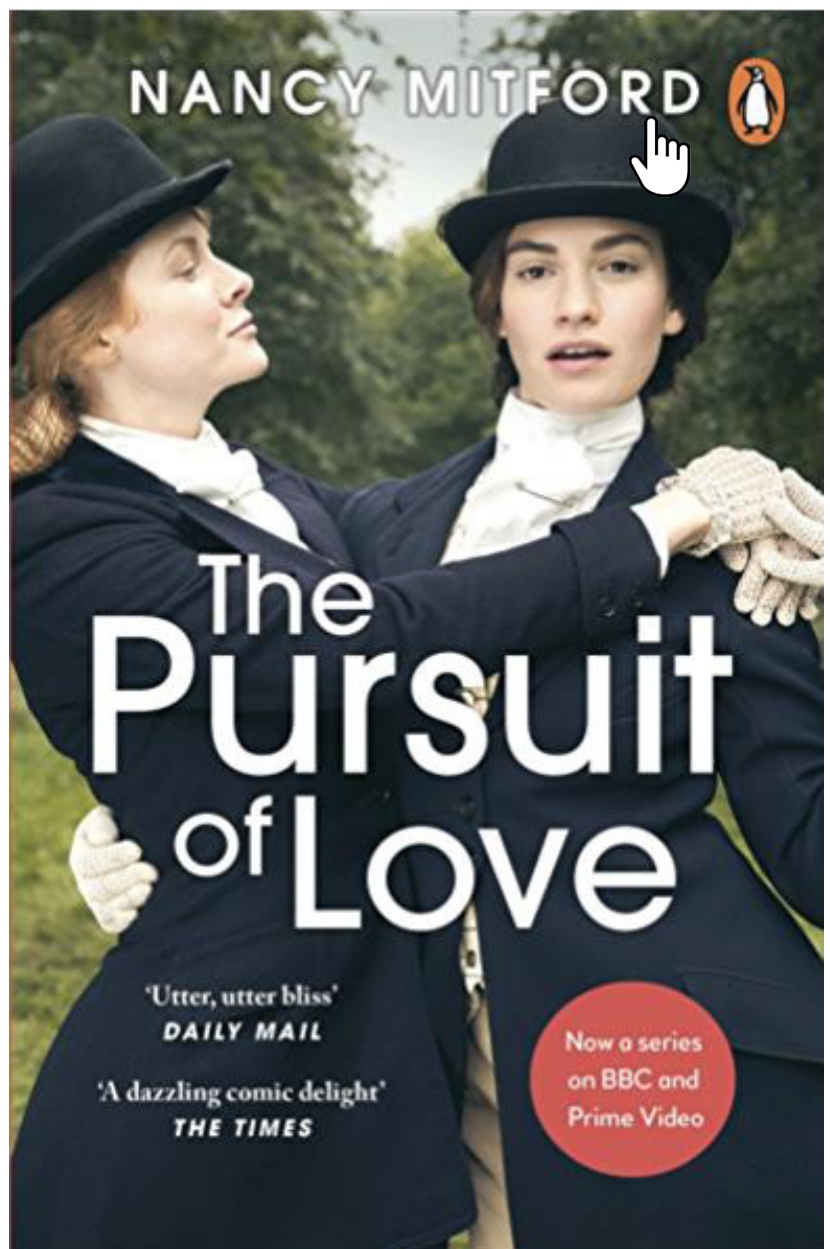




Nancy Mitford CBE 1904-1973, was an English novelist, biographer and journalist and the eldest of the six Mitford sisters quite special in their times. In a time between the two World Wars, the family was inclined to favour Nazism and British fascism. One of her sisters, Diana, married Sir Oswald Mosley, Member of Parliament in the 1920s and in 1930, became the leader of the British Union of Fascists. Jessica joined the Communist Party and became a celebrated author and journalist in America. Unity admired Hitler so much she went to live in Munich. Later, when England and Germany declared war, she attempted to commit suicide, was not successful and was sent back to England by the Fuhrer a complete invalid.

The very strange childhood of the Mitfords has been beautifully evoked in Nancy's best novels, "The Pursuit of Love" and "Love in a Cold Climate". The Pursuit of Love was published in 1945, and it is autobiographical. The novel is well worth reading and through the lives of the Radletts we get a true picture of the life of the eccentric Mitfords and their times.

Hopefully, the BBC series will be as good as the book. The Pursuit of Love began airing on BBC ONE on 9<sup>th</sup> May and will be aired on Amazon Prime later.





# DICKENS & CAMBRIDGE WEBINARS

Below you will find a series of webinars we will be offering throughout the year.

The objective of the webinars is to provide teachers and students preparing for Cambridge Assessment English exams with some useful tips and strategies. As you will see, our main focus will be on those areas that tend to pose the biggest challenges to students (and teachers as well!).

We may not be able to get together F2F but that will not stop us from working together once more!

## May:

~~Assessing writing skills at C1/C2 levels (for teachers)~~

## June:

Developing listening skills at B2 level (for teachers)

## July:

Developing speaking skills at B1/B2 levels (for teachers)

## August:

Developing speaking skills and strategies at B1/B2 levels (for students)

## September:

Developing listening skills and strategies at B2 level (for students )

Dos and Don'ts for international exams (for teachers & students)

## October:

Q&A/FAQs sessions (for teachers & students)



For further information, please contact Veronica Jara: [veronicajara@dickens.edu.uy](mailto:veronicajara@dickens.edu.uy)

## Bungee-Jumping Out of Masks

In mid-May, the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued guidelines for ending the use of masks as protection from transmission of COVID-19, for those persons fully vaccinated, that is, having received 2 jabs of either Pfizer or Moderna or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccines, plus 2 weeks. Basically, the new rule is that fully vaccinated persons can be both outdoors and indoors without masks and that their use to be restricted, in those same fully vaccinated, to public indoor venues or transportation, where crowding may occur.

Since the onset of the pandemic fourteen months ago, the CDC was blamed, named, and even shamed, for being slow or too cautious to update its guidelines with the pace of scientific evidence and what other similar national or regional organisations, including the WHO, were showing. The sudden change in its recommendations took many by surprise, especially in the USA, where using or rejecting masks was manifested by a split across party lines, pro- and anti-science groups, pro- and anti-vaxxers, conspiracy theorists and anti-infodemic fighters.

On 16 May, the New York Times editorialised on the issue, mostly via interviews of different persons with diverse backgrounds. Both maskers and anti-maskers were set back by the new recommendations, as all were now in the apparent same unmasked status as before the pandemic, but not knowing what was behind the decision to show one's uncovered face in public again.

A similar tepid relaxation on mask use was issued in Uruguay, but limited to meetings between well-bubbled, fully vaccinated persons, as long as the daily case numbers were steadily declining. We must be aware that the vaccines used in Uruguay are Pfizer, Sinovac/Coronavac and AstraZeneca and therefore our equivalent of fully vaccinated USA population is limited to only those who have received Pfizer vaccine. A study of the effectiveness of the vaccines used in Uruguay is under way and the preliminary results will be ready in a few weeks. Caution is recommended, as

countries like the Seychelles, which has the world's highest rate of full vaccination of its 100 thousand inhabitants, is experiencing a severe surge in COVID-19 cases, their vaccines being Sinopharm (not Sinovac) and AstraZeneca.

The CDC recommendation was probably influenced by pressure from many sides to come up with something innovative. The result, however, felt more like a knee-jerk or a from-the-hip shot response. It barely took a few hours for infectious disease specialists, epidemiologists, and NYT readers to come up with both surprise and comments blending caution and warning. There are too many unknown unknowns out there. The variants, be they British, Brazilian, Indian, Californian, South African or Andean, are barely the tip of the iceberg of what may be in store. For the time-being, articles published in the major medical journals confirm that most vaccines are effective in at least preventing severe outcomes and death in those fully vaccinated, in spite of the new variants. Disturbingly, only a handful of countries are leading the race to vaccination up to herd immunity, the remainder struggling to get hold of their batches at the same time the pandemic is ravaging their underserved populations. Even for those richer or more savvy countries who've managed to get hold of sufficient vaccines and have set a steady pace for getting the jabs into shoulders, the horizon is clouded by predictions that third doses and maybe yearly boosters will be the way to go.

Bungee-jumping is an extreme sport and accidents, when they happen, can be severe or fatal. In spite of this, it may be safer than being too lax on mask use, too early. As I mentioned in my prior post, the race of humans against the virus will be won by a very narrow margin (Por una cabeza) and therefore mis-stepping isn't the wisest way to go.

So, my recommendation is: keep your masks at hand (or better still, on your face). Double-mask when 2 metre distancing isn't easy or when indoors with persons unrelated to your bubble. We're still stuck with the virus for a long haul, but better times will eventually come.





## Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

**M**rs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf's third novel is possibly her most well-known. Published in 1925, it followed *The Voyage Out* (1915) and *Jacob's Room* (1922). Like her contemporaries D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, Katherine Mansfield, among others, Woolf is a modernist writer. Modernism is associated with novelty and innovation, with "making it new", with a focus on the city, technical experimentation, and radical aesthetic innovation, and, following the "Great War", with a sense of a failed, fragmented society, a loss of communal identity and the shattering of cultural symbols and norms. Innovation in writing was influenced by a new concept of time, time as "chronological" (minutes, hours etc) and time as "duration", those moments in life significant to an individual. Other important influences were Freudian psychoanalysis and techniques taken from the cinema, such as flashback and montage; and modernist art, such as post-impressionism and cubism, also shape and form modernist novels. Woolf has a short story, "Kew Gardens" - where, rather intriguingly, Uruguay is mentioned - which is more like a painting, or musical score. 19<sup>th</sup> century realism couldn't be more distant.

I've been rereading *Mrs Dalloway*, slowly, enjoying it immensely. Like Joyce's *Ulysses*, it takes place on one day - in this case, one lovely day in mid-June in London. The passing of time is marked by Big Ben chiming out the hours - chronological time (a first title for the book was *The Hours*). But individual time is more chaotic, and harkens back to the past, to the young days of Clarissa Dalloway (now 52) and her friends, one summer before the Great War. As Clarissa goes about the present day's (June 1923) major event - she is giving a party - she is thinking about her family home at Bourton and the friends who stayed there - Sally Seton, wild and daring, who kissed her; staid, pompous Hugh Whitbread; Richard Dalloway, whom she married; and Peter Walsh who was in love with her. The novel opens with Clarissa saying she will buy the flowers for the party, but only a few lines later, in her thoughts she practically becomes her 18-year-old self: "*What a lark! What a plunge! For so it had always*

*seemed to her, when, with a little squeak of the hinges, she had opened the French windows and plunged at Bourton into the open air*". Woolf called the technique she used in her writing, "a tunnelling process": she goes into her character's pasts to unearth their histories, so that we see split beings living in the past and in the present simultaneously. In the course of the narrative, all Clarissa's friends turn up, as well as several other characters, such as her daughter Elizabeth and her unpleasant tutor, Miss Killman, whom Clarissa hates. In Woolf's patriarchal, empire-oriented society, its values are epitomised by Richard Dalloway, and failed by Peter Walsh.

The other main character is Septimus Warren Smith, a shell-shocked soldier. Both he and Clarissa are partly based on Woolf herself - Woolf knew "madness" well, and the end of her life, with the onset of WW2, she feared she would go mad once again.

Septimus and Clarissa share time and space, but they never meet. Clarissa's fragmented narrative is mirrored by Septimus's, but Septimus can't cope with reality, pursued as he is by the ghost of his friend Evans, who was blown to pieces by a shell, whom he was unable to save. Septimus's wife Rezia, in desperation, takes him to Sir William Bradshaw, an eminent nerve-specialist, who prescribes a rest cure. For Woolf, war is "a preposterous masculine fiction", and present in all her novels, with Septimus ultimately and tragically, just another casualty. But he will finally join Clarissa's party at the end of the novel, when Bradshaw announces that a patient has committed suicide. Clarissa feels strangely drawn to Septimus.

The novel closes with Peter Walsh, clearly still in love with Clarissa, and like her in many ways, wondering: "*What is this terror? What is this ecstasy? What is it that fills me with extraordinary excitement?*

*It is Clarissa, he said.*

*For there she was*".

The film with Vanessa Redgrave is available on Youtube.



## The Golden Egg

by Tony Beckwith  
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My parents loved to eat out and we were regulars at many restaurants in Montevideo. But no one in our community ever worked at one. It simply wasn't done. Kids like me were not expected to take menial jobs during our summer vacations—a very sensible custom observed in other countries—and I grew up thinking that sort of work was taboo. Things changed when I was flat broke in London in my early twenties and couldn't find a job. Not the kind of white-collar job I aspired to, at any rate.

One grey day I was trudging home after another round of fruitless applications in the city and walked past a Golden Egg restaurant near my flat in Paddington. There was a 'Help Wanted' sign in the window and at that moment I chose to ignore the old taboo. I was young, a long way from my community's conventions, and in urgent need of funds.

I started right away as a waiter and loved it. The wage was minimum, but the tips were great once I got the hang of things. I had what my brother dismissed as "the gift of the gab," which was a handy skill in my new field. I soon realized that, in a sense, I had already been trained for the job, or part of it anyway. My only work experience at that point was as an account executive at a couple of advertising agencies in Montevideo. My role there was to be the middleman between the agency, especially the creative department, and the client. In my new reality, the kitchen was the creative department, and the customer was the client. Other parts of the job, on the other hand, were totally unfamiliar.

Carrying a tray, for example. It sounds easy, but it's not. Carrying trays out from the kitchen means keeping them level so food doesn't spill on the way to the table. If there are drinks involved, good balance is even more critical. Trays were then left on a stand against the wall, a place to put things when tables were cleared. Once a tray was full of dirty dishes it was surprisingly heavy, and its shifting loads

could be treacherous. On one of my trips back to the kitchen some carelessly stacked plates started sliding about and next thing there was a deafening crash and an embarrassing mess to clean up. Conversation in the restaurant came to a stop, and then there was a quick round of applause. Small consolation while the manager stood there glowering at me.

Friends would occasionally come in for a meal. All of them respectably employed in the white-collar world. They would taunt me in good-natured ways, and I would serve their glasses of water with my thumb immersed up to the second knuckle. Later in the evening I would eat a similar meal for just a fraction of the price they paid. I learned that, when short of funds, it's good to work where you can eat for very little money.

After a night shift I'd walk home through the quiet streets. On the way there was a 24-hour arcade with a couple of one-armed bandits. I got into the habit of putting any coins I was carrying into the slot and pulling the lever. Once I'd invested all my coins, I'd retrieve my earnings and be on my way, whether I was ahead or behind, financially speaking. My mind would wander back to casinos in Uruguay where I once played roulette in elegant rooms that mimicked Monte Carlo.

Those walks helped me develop a perspective on my circumstances. I was grateful for the income I'd been unable to find in the advertising world. Working as a waiter opened my mind by showing me what life was like on the other side of that old taboo and taught me that all honest work is honourable in its way. In retrospect, the experience helped me work through some mental baggage and freed me from a convention that no longer made any sense.





## An English variety with a Uruguayan flavour

**F**alkland Islands English has called my attention for more than a decade, since my dear friend George Stewart once told me about the Spanish words used down there. I flew home to tell my Dad, who to my surprise remained unruffled at the news and went on to tell me about Uruguayan gauchos in the Falklands. Little did I know then that the Falklands would become the epicentre of my PhD research. The following words are a miniature sketch of what I have found out since then.

The history of the Falklands is hectic, from the many nations that set eyes on the archipelago -Dutch, French, Portuguese, British, Spanish, Argentinian- to today's state of affairs with people from over 60 nations living in the Islands. Residents of the archipelago speak Falkland Islands English, which developed from the 19th century onwards as a result of migration mainly from the South-West of England and the northwest of Scotland. Falklands English has moved away from the Scottish varieties, but still retains grammatical traces of them. In fact, it is generally confused with other southern varieties, given that it features characteristics common to the dialects of Australia and New Zealand. However, even though contact within different English varieties has played a major role in its evolution, language contact has also contributed to its rise. More precisely, the contact with Spanish left its footprint in a legion of place names and loanwords which now represent part of the most characteristic Falkland Islands vocabulary. The most typical example of these Spanish loanwords (i.e., the words Falklands English has taken from Spanish) is the word used in the Islands to denote the rural area, which is known as "camp" (derived from Spanish campo).

The Falklands gaucho legacy includes over two hundred Spanish place names (for example, Chanco Point, Cerro Monte, Laguna Isla, Arroyo Malo), and many names applied to horse tack, as well as different types of horses, amongst other semantic fields. Here are a handful of examples: "freno" (bit), "recao" (saddle), "bozal" (head collar),

"maneas" (hobbles), "cojinillo" (sheepskin), "cincha" (girth), "sobrecincha" (small girth placed over the cojinilla); as well as the words "zaino" (very dark reddish black), "tostao" (roasted coffee), "alazan" (golden yellow), "blanco" (white), "colorado" (red), "mala cara" (crooked white blaze down the horse's face), "picazo" (black or red horse with a white blaze or white spots down the face), "bayo" (yellowish), "gateado" (brownish), "negro" (black).

Those of you who are surprised by these data are probably wondering about the journey of these words. In a nutshell: the main socio-historical aspect that favoured the contact between English and Spanish was the frequent transit of supplies and people to and from the South American mainland. Livestock farming was for a long time the economic engine of the Islands. The cattle business was primarily run by gauchos, who made their way mainly from Montevideo, since many worked for the Lafone brothers, who recruited Uruguayan and Chilean gauchos to their settlement on the islands: Hope Place, locally known by the Spanish name "Saladero", with which it appears today on maps and road signs (see photograph). Falkland Islands local historian Joan Spruce explains that "from the few gauchos who came to the Islands to work, we have inherited a smattering of words connected with their daily lives and work or the animals and horse gear they worked with" (1992, p. 30). Nowadays, with the mechanization of industry and the reduction of field lots, horses are no longer needed for transportation (Islanders blissfully move around in Rovers), and cattle have been replaced by sheep. This made the gauchos' expertise unnecessary, and consequently, many borrowed words have fallen out of use.

During my trips to the Falklands, I got to learn more and more about their idiosyncrasy, which kept making me think about the two countries' bonds. In fact, during fieldwork, I found out something that did flabbergast my Dad: Islanders' use of Uruguayan "pucha" and "che". Though that remains for another column... later, chay!

## The Imperfect Advance of Science

**I**n July 1969, the first man landed on the moon. This was more than half a century ago. To achieve this accomplishment, the team that worked on the project had to apply the latest in technology and science. It was all, in those days, state of the art.

Engineering, computing, physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology. A variety of disciplines converged on making this feat possible. Everything was so perfectly synchronised that nothing could possibly fail.

Only when we now look back at what happened 50 years ago can we conclude that what seemed so wonderful then, was indeed frail. No astronaut would want to travel today in those spaceships to the moon nor would trust on the support given by those ancient computers.

Advances on science and technological inventions have been going on since time begun. But it is only in recent centuries that each new discovery launched fantastic innovations and changed our lives in substantial ways.

Newton, Darwin, and Einstein are names that condense four centuries of thorough scientific research. The Scottish and French Illustration provided us with sages and scholars that gave us bold insights on philosophy, economy, and politics. The Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century initiated a chain of events and inventions with such speed and aim that they transformed our style of life in a process that still has no end.

Nobody would dare question, in the 20th Century, the virtues of science. There was an endless list of achievements in nuclear physics, in chemistry, in agricultural technology. New medicines were developed to put an end to diseases that for centuries had no cure. And many ailments stopped being lethal as new treatments were found to at least keep them under control with an acceptable quality of life.

One single virus with a staggering power to infect and even kill, put an end to all this scientific certainty.

Nevertheless, as no other moment in recent decades, science became essential to our lives. In its imperfection and in its incomplete answers, we just had to trust them for their method, persistence and even for their powerful intuition while researching.

These reflections on the significance of modern science, make sense in our age of pandemics. Scientists are constantly moving forward but not always have the perfect answer when needed. Most times they don't even agree among themselves. And even when their assessments are unanimously correct, they do not always apply in our complicated societies, where many conflicting factors affect their vitality.

The advice of these experts must be heard, but it is also important that those that were chosen to govern, take into consideration other aspects that go beyond the scientific view and where different elements also play a part and become a matter of life or death in many people. It is not only the virus that kills.

Much of the advice given by the experts today, will eventually in future years, sound outdated because in their never-ending investigation they will be always reaching better conclusions.

The vaccines that have been developed with extraordinary effort and in record time, are today our best option to survive this health emergency but even so, they are still imperfect. Next year, or the year after a new and better variety will be offered in this perpetual process of improvement.

Science plays a crucial role in our lives. Scientists, in their constant research, know about their speciality a lot more than us, common mortals. But we have to understand and accept that most times the result of their work is imperfect because they, like the rest of us mortals, are imperfect.





## Bletchley Park South

I assume that most of us have seen or heard about the Oscar-award nominee and winner film *"The imitation game"* [known in Uruguay as *"Enigma"*]. The story of the English genius Alan Turing and his race to decode the Nazi cypher machine before Great Britain is overwhelmed by the German military might during the Second World War. Turing is surrounded in the film by real historical characters, though their presence together in that time and space is debatable. The presence of the mathematician Joan Clarke enriches the emotional and personal side of the screenplay, essential to attract audiences and for the financial success of the film.

The scientists around Cumberbatch/Turing are disbelievers, envious and even traitors; whilst Knightley/Clarke is the pure character, fellow mathematician, unconditional friend who stands by him when everybody deserts, even when she does not understand why romance is impossible and their engagement falls apart. Not that there were few women at Bletchley Park, in fact during the operational period of the deciphering organisation, women were more numerous than men, and without them no real time information would have been possible. Women fed *"Colossus"*, Turing's calculating machine, with millions of five-digit codes to read the German High Commands' communications to its forces on all fronts. In this sense we could infer that Knightley/Clarke's character is also dedicated to all those women who made the success of Bletchley Park possible.

What may be a surprise to some of us is to know that one of those women, in fact one that worked in the same hut and shared the same desk with Alan Turing lived in Uruguay until last year, when she passed away.

Nerina Joyce "Joy" Ward is a typical product of XIX Century imperial Britain. Joy's grandfather migrates to India, the Jewel in the Crown, where he is an officer of the Indian Army stationed in Delhi. His father will be born in Kashmir and will follow his father's path and ends up being Colonel in the Crown's Army.

With his regiment he will take part in the Great War, at the end of which he will meet Joy's mother who is a university graduate in Logic, something rare for a girl in the first decades of the XX Century. Joy is their first child, born in London before they migrate to South Africa, lured by the lovely green pastures of the government brochures published for war veterans who are in doubt of returning to civilian life. When the family reaches the South African Transvaal, they discover that the high veldt *karoo* is grey and dry and their only source of water are irrigation canals that work for their colony only twice a week. Amid nature, her two younger brothers are born, and she must follow them when they go back to England to school. Her mother's literacy sends Joy to a girl's school and then to university, where she is recruited to Bletchley Park in 1941 on recommendation of Turing himself, an acquaintance of Joy's family, as civilian Temporary Assistant, and former Civil Service after her graduation in 1943.

From the start Joy is stationed in the Hut 8, a wooden shack that is where Turing works, and in due course where the German Naval Code will be decrypted. But not everything is work and high drama in the Bletchley Park community. Every two weeks they have a free weekend. At Wolverhampton where they live the pubs become lively and gay with Bletchley Park workers who must socialise only with their fellow colleagues as they cannot speak about their work with anyone else.

When the war is over Joy will meet Alfred Gepp in a party in London. He is an Anglo Argentinian volunteer who has spent the war stationed in England in the Royal Engineers. They get married and return to Argentina while spending their summer holidays in Solís. After some years they decide that Uruguay is where they want to live so they buy a house in Solís where their kids are born. Alfred will die in 1993 and Joy will keep on living alone in Solís, amid the vegetation and surrounded by cats, thinking that she had an exciting life, but different to the one of Keira/Joan, a happy one.





## Never Judge a Book by Its Cover

**Y**ears ago, I supplemented my income by teaching English as a second language. I decided to use the old Whitaker method which I considered excellent to learn quickly and have a solid English background. I used videos at three levels for understanding and conversation in class later on.

I remember I had once a young student in her twenties. Her mother used to look over her notebooks and my student told me that she was incredibly surprised and said, this man has taught you more in six months than I learned at the Anglo in four years!

In another case another student came to me trying to be chosen to be one of the selected few among many that had applied to attend professional translating classes at the university. She had the proficiency certificate and I found that she felt more or less at her level with the fifth of Whitaker's books. With that and some further literary work, videos, and conversation, she was successful in her attempt.

Whitaker's was a very elaborate system that ended in its fifth book at an almost literary level, but he couldn't help having some typical expat old fashioned turns of phrase that were very funny, in one of the exercises, he wrote, expecting a translation: That man at the corner looks suspicious, go and ask him to show you his passport.

Once someone showed up around my classes. He was dressed kind of rough and untidy and told me he was a bricklayer's assistant from San José. I feared his purpose was quite another and for the first time ever I asked him to show me his ID and my wife Val, through friends she had at the police, checked his background. Fortunately, nothing wrong there.

He wasn't very bright but compensated that with a commendable persistence. After three years he completed the five books and started with the reading of newspapers in class (then it was The Buenos Aires Herald). At that time, he told me that he had met a couple of American Mormon missionaries and was pleasantly surprised as he spoke English to them without any trouble.

He was definitely my best ever student out of hundreds and I found out later that he had changed his profession, put ads in a local newspaper and was teaching English in San José. It was one of those admirable cases in which dedication and persistence won over any obstacles in his path regardless of personal limitations.

A personality trait I especially respect since being myself somewhat lazy due to some ease in handling most subjects, one tends to overlook what others achieve through effort and hard work.



## English Muffins

An English muffin is a small, round, flat yeast-leavened bread cooked on a griddle or skillet. It is normally served cut horizontally in half, toasted and buttered.

The word “muffin” is thought to come from Low German “muffen”, which means “little cakes”. This word dates back more than a thousand years. The earliest apparition of a printed recipe for English-style muffins is 1747 in the book *Art of cookery made plain and easy*, written by Hannah Glasse. Long before every British household had an oven of its own, English muffins were sold door to door by hawkers as a snack bread, hence the famous song “Do you know the muffin man”, which was first sung around 1820.

Muffins may be enjoyed at any time of the day but are mainly associated with breakfast and brunch; topped with butter, ham, cheese, poached or scrambled eggs, and also Golden Syrup and jams. For a more modern version, try with cream cheese, smoked salmon, and avocado.

How English and American muffins differ seems to be up for debate. Basically, for the Americans it is an individual-sized baked product that refers to two distinct items: a cupcake-like quick bread that is chemically leavened and often flavoured with chocolate or blueberries and baked in a mould; and a yeast-raised flatbread that is cooked on a griddle or skillet very similar to the English version, made famous by an English man named Samuel B. Tomas who moved to the USA in 1880 and opened his own bakery in New York.

## Ingredients

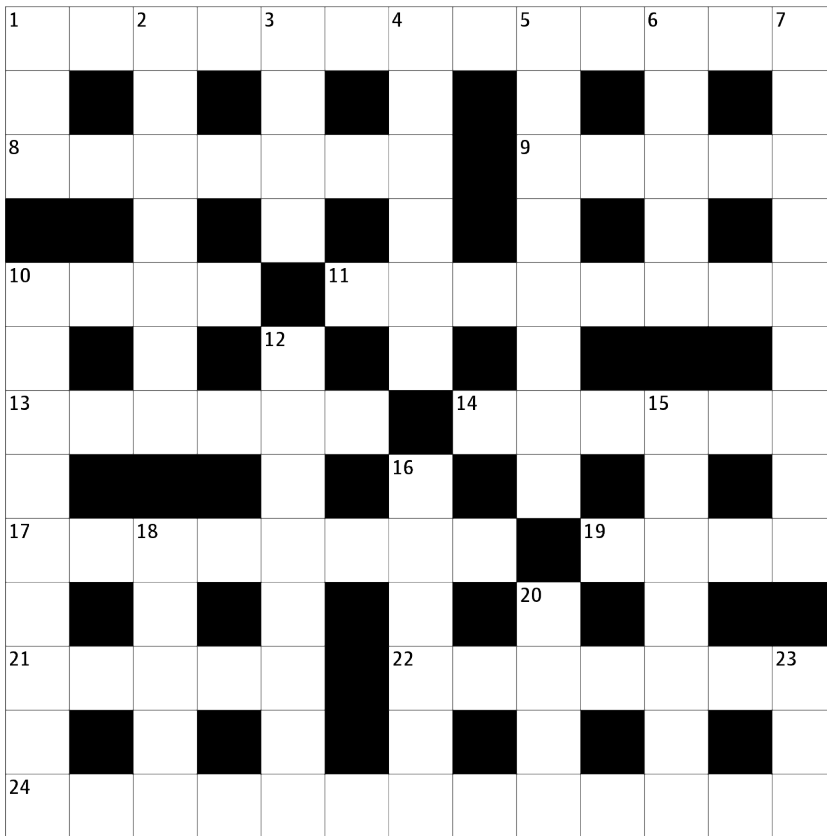
- 400 g 00 flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 25 g butter
- 225 ml milk
- 2 teaspoons dried yeast
- 1 egg

## Method

1. Gently warm the milk to around 30°C. Add the dried yeast and leave for ten to 15 minutes until frothy. Beat in the egg and melted butter. Sieve the flour and salt into a large bowl and add the milk mixture, beating with a wooden spoon until smooth and shiny. Knead if necessary, but it should be a moist mixture. Cover the bowl with a damp cloth or lightly oiled cling film and leave in a warm place for one to two hours until double in size.
2. Alternatively, leave overnight in the fridge to prove slowly.
3. Roll out the dough on a well-floured surface 2,5 cm thick and cut in eight cm circles with a straight-lined cutter. Place the rounds on a floured baking sheet, cover with a damp cloth and leave to rise for about an hour until light and fluffy. Heat the griddle or a heavy bottomed frying pan, brush it with butter and cook carefully for six minutes on each side until golden. Add more butter, as necessary.
4. Once cooked, open up carefully with a fork to expose the nooks and crannies which may otherwise be crushed if cut open with a knife. Toast before adding your desired filling and serve hot.

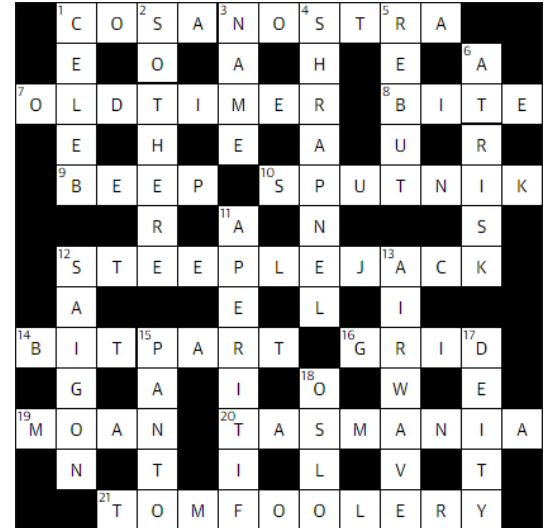
## Notes

- The moister the dough is, the more it will aerate whilst cooking.
- Do not over knead, to prevent strong gluten strands from developing.
- The longer you leave the dough before baking, the more bubbles gas will create, and you'll also have a better flavour, with more sourness.
- Cover both sides of the muffin with cornmeal (“polenta”) before cooking, for a crispier crust.
- Once cooked they may be frozen for up to two months.



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

April solution:



## Across

- 1 Skewer for party food (8,5)
- 8 Fruit-growing area (7)
- 9 Silent and out of sight (5)
- 10 ... Dunn, author of Up the Junction (1963) (4)
- 11 Fragile exterior (not to be walked on!) (8)
- 13 Follow secretly (6)
- 14 Pointless — ineffective (2,4)
- 17 Tree-related (8)
- 19 Present (4)
- 21 Cultivated (5)
- 22 Sell illegally produced products (7)
- 24 It's the story of my life! (13)

## Down

- 1 Speak lovingly (3)
- 2 Virgin martyr, patron saint of music, killed c. AD 230 (7)
- 3 Species of duck (4)
- 4 Blue dye (6)
- 5 Not the main event (8)
- 6 (Fire)place (5)
- 7 Information (9)
- 10 Lost again (anag) — hankering for the past (9)
- 12 Opener — Dr No book (anag) (8)
- 15 Coincide to some extent (7)
- 16 Hollow-stemmed tropical grass (6)
- 18 (Encourage)ment (5)
- 20 Serve a drink (4)
- 23 Rope used to secure a tent (3)

## LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb  
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### Ladies First

Always go  
A step behind the Missus  
Then you can blow  
Kisses to the Misses







## Dickens Festival

Dickens festival is weekend or multi-weekend gathering, usually held in the United States, open to the public and typically commercial in nature, which attempts to recreate a Victorian English setting reminiscent of the novels of Charles Dickens. The British equivalent, known as a Dickensian evening, is distinct from its American counterpart because it is organised by local businesses and the town council to raise money for charity. Events may be outdoor, indoor or a combination of the two. The great majority are Christmas-themed, a reflection of the enduring legacy of Dickens' 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol*. The fairs generally include an abundance of costumed entertainers and fair-goers, musical and theatrical acts, and art, handicrafts, food, and drink for sale.

Dramatic and musical entertainment, artisan demonstrations, dancing, parades, and lectures or discussions on literary or historical topics may be part of the events. Costumed entertainers are likely to impersonate characters from Dickens' novels, as well as historical figures such as Queen Victoria.

Beginning in the 1980s, the English town of Ware began hosting a Charles Dickens themed carnival during the first week of December to welcome the arrival of Santa Claus. The 25<sup>th</sup> Dickensian Evening was held in 2019. Townspeople wear Victorian costumes, local businesses and volunteer groups run food and gift stalls to raise money for charity, actors perform a short open-air play such as *A Christmas Carol*, a craft fair is held in the drill hall, a nativity scene is unveiled in St Mary's church, a choir sings Christmas carols in the churchyard, puppeteers and street musicians entertain the public, and fairground rides and games are hosted in the town centre.

The highlight of the evening involves the mayor turning on the Christmas lights, and leading a procession featuring costumed performers and dancers, horse drawn beer wagons from McMullen's Brewery, the town crier, carnival floats, and marching band(s).





# ANTI- CONFORMITY BIAS CYCLE

## Why we're so attracted to the non-conformists

There appears to be some universal standards of beauty, so why has evolution not made us all look the same?

When it comes to attraction, originality can pay off, and that might explain why we always seem to fall for those who refuse to conform



## DILBERT

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







*Happy Birthday,  
Your Majesty!*

*12 June 2021*

