



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

SEPTEMBER 2021



The British Society in Uruguay
Book Donations

St Andrew's Society
Scottish Dance Uruguay

British Customs and Traditions
Horseman's Sunday

www.britsoc.org.uy



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear Members,
August has gone by, and spring is just around the corner, as the famous 'Santa Rosa Storm' prepares to hit us tonight, thus parks, streets and Rambla are starting to fill up with people. Luckily Covid numbers are better, and that's good news.

We over here have been neck deep in bureaucracy, but with great help of a close accountant, finally we have managed to update our records in the DGI and BPS. This was a keystone for us, as new sponsors, events, and platforms are in the horizon, aiming to add more value to our society.

Our Events Coordinator, Joaquin Salhon, has been quite busy this month as the book donation programme grows and we have started shipping boxes to several locations such as Conchillas, Canelones as well as Montevideo. Also, we would like to thank all those who have offered book. We will be contacting you in order to coordinate to pick them up.

I know events have been all put on hold, but with the new sanitary protocols we will be gradually returning to face-to-face events. Just this weekend, thanks to Michael Warren and several volunteers, the Britannia House was cleaned and tidied up.

The spring Croquet Tournament, English speaking session, Literacy Tea, and a couple of surprises are some of upcoming events.

Until the next time, take care.

Kind regards,

Colin Shearer
President



Birthdays

in September

04 ~ Victoria I. Stanham
04 ~ Daniela M. Caraballo
04 ~ Alexa M. Hobbins
05 ~ Maureen S. Hyland
07 ~ Celia M. Orizabal
08 ~ Nicole N. Funch-Thomsen
08 ~ Jo Anne Laws
09 ~ Sheila N. Lucas-Calcraft
09 ~ Laura T. Rovira
09 ~ Daniel A. Pereira
13 ~ Nicholas N. Teuten
13 ~ William J. Beare
13 ~ Julio A. Guridi
14 ~ Nicolás N. Hobbins
15 ~ Conrad C. O'Neill
15 ~ Andrea M. Varela

17 ~ Neil D. Morrison
17 ~ Richard A. Cowley
17 ~ Pedro N. Prevett
17 ~ María N. Prevett
18 ~ Beatriz N. Mailhos
19 ~ Andrea N. Davies
19 ~ Paul E. Beare
21 ~ Alberto I. Wilson
21 ~ Lucie N. Beare
24 ~ Michael N. Castleton
25 ~ María M. Barrabino
26 ~ Adrian N. Hobbins
26 ~ Stephanie K. Cooper
29 ~ Manuela N. Shaw
30 ~ Hazel M. Dee
30 ~ Jeanine N. Beare



THIS MONTH'S COVER



Nestled on a picturesque hillside, the elegant pink tower of Craigievar Castle is spellbindingly beautiful, sure to enchant children and adults alike.

Begun in the Scottish Baronial style around 1576, this iconic tower house is among the best preserved and the most loved in Scotland; its exterior remains virtually unchanged since William Forbes completed it c1626. Craigievar was a family home until the 1960s, creating a quirky blend of cosy interiors and rare antiquities within the ancient walls.

In accordance with the former owner's wishes, artificial light has not been installed in the upper floors. This means that the castle's extensive collection of historic artefacts and art is seen in the shifting light from the sun, exactly as they would have been when they were made.

Stay safe,

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can get up to date with your membership fees 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.



Book Donations

The Book donation programme took place, and several Institutions were happy to get the books. Anglo Institutions received English Textbooks along with novels and History Books.

Casa Evans in Conchillas was pleased to receive all book types of genres: novels, romance, drama, fiction, non-fiction, even sports and recipe books for their Library.





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Britannia Hall Volunteers

As President Colin Shearer mentioned in July's Newsletter we are looking forward to collaborating with our Sister Societies and British Institutions in Uruguay and the region. A big part of our efforts is aimed at improving procedures, systems etc.

On Saturday 28th August a group of volunteers showed up at Britannia Hall to help.



We look forward to hearing from you if you can give us a hand.





Chevening Awards

Nine Uruguayan Chevening scholars are heading to the UK to study for their master's degree at top-tier universities. Both the Embassy and GBUA hosted farewell events in their honour. We will introduce them to you in the next newsletter!

Applications for 2022-2023 are now open and for those interested informative talks are being held online. There will also be one in person talk at Expo Prado on Saturday 18th. Stay tuned to our social media for more details to come.



One year anniversary for the Ambassador in Uruguay

Ambassador Faye O'Connor recently reached the 1 year mark having arrived in Uruguay in August 2020. We are pleased to present [this short summary](#) of some of her highlights and main activities this year, which has been full of opportunities for UK-UY collaboration.



The Ambassador at Got Talent Uruguay

On Monday 23rd of August, Ambassador O'Connor made a surprise appearance at the semi-finals of Got Talent Uruguay. The show, which as many of you know was a format adapted from British television, has had great success among Uruguay's audience and is currently on its second season.

The Ambassador went on stage to give special congratulations to the girls of Scottish Dance Uruguay, gift them one of the 95 trees in celebration of Her Majesty's birthday and invite them to our Expo Prado events week.

Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

British Pavilion at Expo Prado 2021

This year, the Pavilion is moving to a brand new location, next to the Ruedo.

As every year, British and Uruguayan companies and organisations with British links will be offering their products and services, with a special focus on environment and sustainability which reflects this year's theme.

We have various activities planned, so we invite you to come see what's new. You can visit us from 10-19 September and check our online pavilion at:

www.pabellonbritanico.com.uy





LUNCH INVITATION

WEDNESDAY
8TH OF SEPTEMBER
AT 12:15 HRS

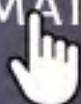
PRESIDENT OF CCE ACCOUNTANT

JUAN ÁNGEL MARTÍNEZ

**BUSINESS PROPOSALS
FOR THE DAY AFTER**

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PUNTA CARRETAS

MORE INFORMATION



WWW.CUB.UY



I can tell by reading this newsletter that many readers enjoy good recipes. I invented a recipe for a good dish the other day for dinner with my wife. The finished product reminded me of Boy Scouts. It reminded her of why she does most of the cooking.

A good recipe blends flavours and textures and requires good timing and a pinch of talent (or luck). A good conversation is similar, blending personalities, topics, and opinions with a bit of well-timed humour and a pinch of wisdom (or silence). A good relationship blends cultures, experiences, points of view, preferences, and some timely stories (or lots of listening).

What about a recipe for a good life? We blend fun and finance, emotions and intellect, dreams, and desires, suffering and success. We mix in travel, family, friendships, and work. Most of the time we fail to measure the ingredients and we improvise and adjust as we our life develops. We are forced to use whatever is in the proverbial kitchen.

My recommendation is to keep in mind that whatever it is you are cooking, keep a balance by using all your senses. Use your intellect (mind) and follow your heart (emotions), build strength (physicality) and pursue dreams (spirit). But don't forget the ingredient that can really bring it all together and that is love (soul).

My love in the meal I made it less miserable. Love in a recipe makes it taste like "Grandma used to make". Love in a conversation makes you want to listen or perhaps share your story. Love in a relationship makes "all things" possible. And Love in life is what connects us to GOD.

May you enough experience love and Love somewhere, somehow this month to share with those around you.

**Sunday
Services
at 11am
Onsite and
Online**



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THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE CROWN (NETFLIX).

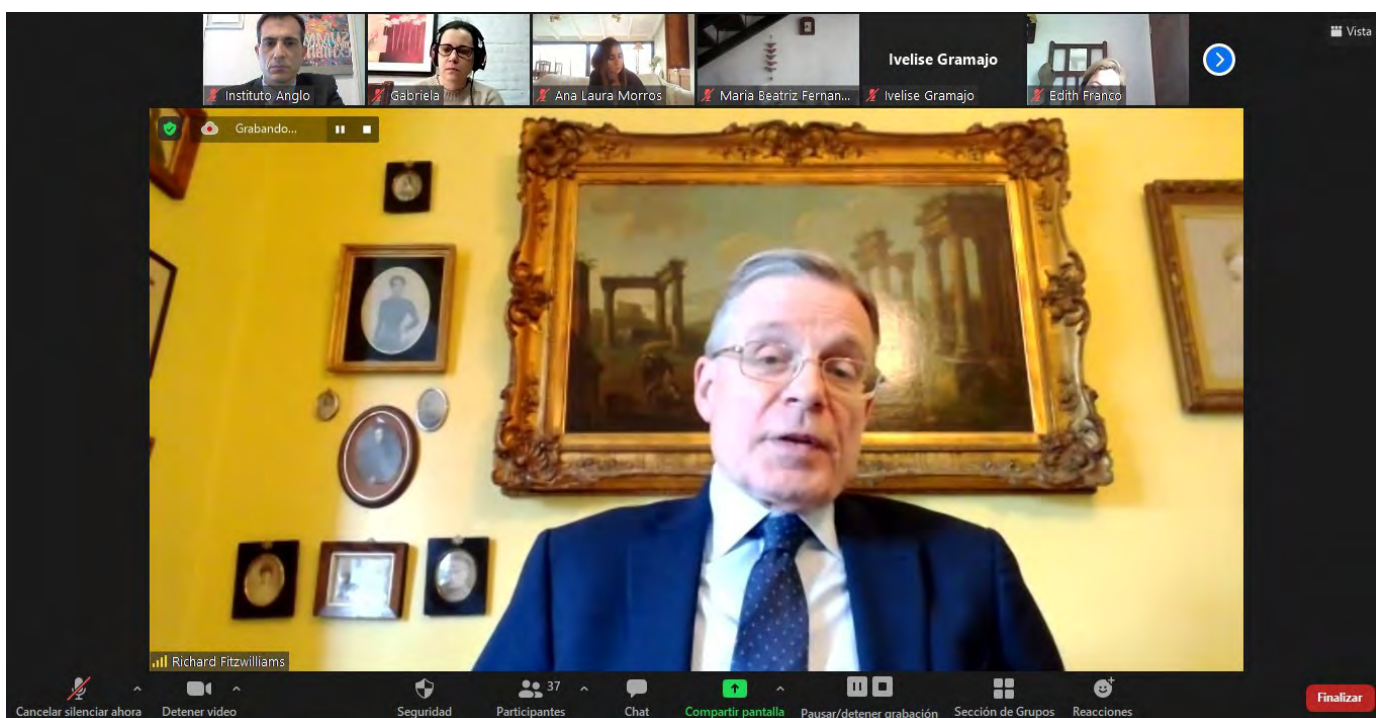


Last Saturday 21st August, royal commentator Richard Fitzwilliams delivered a provocative talk to 60 fans of the Netflix Series "The Crown". In his online lecture, he looked at how The Crown's major characters have been portrayed and commented on the purpose of the royal family and its future.

About the presenter:

Richard Fitzwilliams is a royal commentator, film critic and public relations consultant. He has given 1,000 television interviews, being used by CNN for 20 years and also a great

many on radio. He has covered numerous royal events live, including Prince Philip's funeral, Harry and Meghan's wedding, he has written numerous articles and taken part in debates about the monarchy and its future. He is the weekly film critic for two radio stations including Talk Radio Europe (Spain), covers film awards ceremonies, reviews arts events in the UK and EU capitals and has attended some famous London events such as Nelson Mandela's Address to both Houses of Parliament. He has also done the promotion for the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition in London since 2002.



This month I continue with my series “The Anglo Institute visits.” which looks back at some of the talks I have given over the last 5 years and the locations in which they took place.

This month I am returning to May 2017, when the Anglo Institute visited the historical Montevideo neighborhood of Peñarol. The aim was I would give a short talk on the British connection with the area and afterwards the participants would have a chance to explore the locations mentioned. This would also enable them to see the efforts made by Municipio G / IMM to restore the historical center of the neighborhood after many years of decline.



The old railway station, now a museum

After the talk, it was time to visit some of the locations discussed. First location was the railway station where the ticket office has now been converted into a museum with many interesting historical artefacts.

Next to the railway station, located in the suitably named Calle Shakespeare, participants could view the building of the former “La Primavera” - basically a “pub” which no British-



Participants at the talk outside the former home of the Chief of Stores CUR, now the Centro Barrio Peñarol

During the talk, I described the decision in 1888 by the British-owned Central Uruguay Railway (CUR) to establish a large workshop facility in the neighborhood and how this resulted in the “factory town” of Peñarol being established - railway buildings, houses for railway employees and also entertainment and social facilities.

The talk itself took place in the former home of one of the senior British officials of the railway company - the Head of Stores. The Victorian brick building has now been beautifully renovated and is in daily use as part of the Centro Barrio Peñarol.



The old railway station, now a museum

based community could be without. It opened in 1896 and operated until 2009, when it unfortunately it closed. We then walked past the old railway workshop facility. In recent years it has not been possible for the public to go inside owing to concerns over the safety of the buildings. So our next stop was the former Arts and Crafts building where, in 1891, Central Uruguay Railway Cricket Club (later to become Club Atlético Peñarol) was established as a team for railway employees. This building has also been fully restored and is now a community library. Afterwards it was on to visit the local streets containing nearly 50 houses built for railway staff in the 1890's. Many of these are still occupied by former railway employees of Administración de Ferrocarriles del Estado (AFE) which took



British railway managers - picture approx. 1910

BARRIO PEÑAROL



Logo Barrio Peñarol

over the operations of the British CUR in 1948. During this part of the tour, we passed the former building of "The Trading", the shop operated by CUR for the sale of basic provisions to its employees.

The trip to Peñarol provided a great opportunity to experience British history in Uruguay and I think was enjoyed by all. The visit also enabled us to develop a good relationship with Municipio G and in subsequent years the Anglo Institute participated in a number of "open-days" in the neighborhood.

Derek Tyler,
Regular Anglo Presenter and Contributor



Derek was born in Britain and subsequently worked in many countries around the world, including those in South America. For more than 5 years, he has been a regular presenter at the Anglo Institute giving talks to students and the general public on British related subjects.



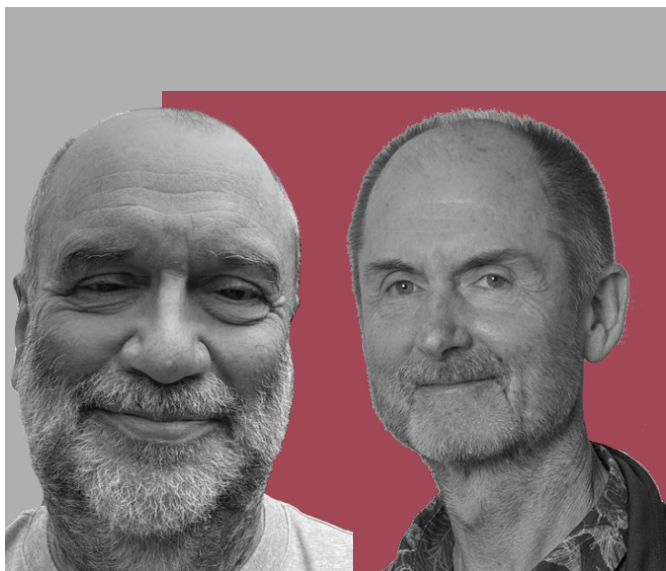
ANGLO

4TH

SEPTEMBER

10:30 AM

UY LOCAL TIME



JIM
SCRIVENER

+

ADRIAN
UNDERHILL

PANEL DISCUSSION

ANGLO TALKS: KEYNOTES @ HOME

ONLINE TALKS VIA ZOOM

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Our space on this Newsletter has been absent for a while since the pandemic put our activities in “dormant” mode. But, a group of our Scottish community has been working, silently and quietly, first virtually and very carefully in small groups later, in what they love most: the Scottish Dance.

This group of girls perfected themselves during the pandemic and, accompanied by Latitud 33 Pipe Band, acquired a place in the final of the well-known TV show “GOT TALENT”.

This month they are going for their new challenge: BE THE BEST and we all are going to be behind them once more.



GO, GO, SCOTTISH DANCE URUGUAY!!!





Donate blood to keep the world beating

Blood donation is an act of great solidarity. To this day there is nothing else that can replace the components that are found in blood which patients may require at critical times.

Blood banks are a constant flow of entry and exit of those blood components because they are not only required before an operation or an accident, but for the daily treatment of people with some deficiencies due to different pathologies.

At the British Hospital we have a laboratory that processes blood units and extracts the different components with which to provide patients in more effective and personalized treatments.

At present, we have set up an agenda to coordinate extractions which comply with the care protocols.

You can donate at any given time or through the Donor Club.

Hospital members can enrol in the Club and, with a single annual donation, benefit 3 members of their family should a need arise for any of them in the future.

Join us!
T. 2487 1020, int. 4235

DAME AGATHA CHRISTIE (1890-1976)



An amazing life for an amazing woman!

Agatha Christie was the most famous British detective novelist and playwright having written 66 detective novels, plays and short stories. Her books have sold more than 100 million copies and have been translated into some 100 languages!

But besides her work being so remarkable, her life itself was memorable in many ways.

In 1920, when she was thirty and while working as a nurse during World War I, she wrote *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* where she introduced Hercule Poirot, the famous and eccentric Belgian detective who appeared in 25 of her novels. YouTube offers a series where Poirot is the main character which is worth watching.



Christie with her only daughter Rosalind

Her other principal detective figure is the elderly spinster, Miss Jane Marple, who first appeared in *Murder at the Vicarage* (1930). Agatha Christie's major recognition to her work was *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926), and from then on her success went on and on. Many of her works were adapted into films. I am sure most of us have watched one of those films on TV.



Perhaps her most notable play was *The Mousetrap* (1952), which set a world record for the longest running performance in London. It was closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is interesting to know that Christie disappeared for several days in 1926 when her husband Colonel Archibald Christie asked her for a divorce. All of Britain went searching for her. She was eventually found in a hotel having registered under the name of her husband's mistress!



In 1930 she married Sir Mallowan, a famous archaeologist and shared many of his travels.

In 1971 she was created Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Dame Agatha Christie died in 1976, having killed Inspector Poirot, whom she admitted hating, in 1975 in her novel *Curtain*.

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A new edition of our traditional workshops for students were delivered via Zoom and this year The Avengers helped Teresa to share important tips for the speaking exams.

Although students could not use Teresa's "famous pipes" to improve pronunciation, they were able to practise at home, or in their classrooms, and some volunteers even turned on their microphones and said tongue-twisters in front of all the group.

Learners from Mercedes, Colonia, Canelones, Lascano, Santa Lucía, Dolores, San José and Montevideo joined us online and we were able to offer all the teachers and their students the same opportunity regardless where they live.

This made us extremely happy.



Next webinars→→→

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)



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Cambridge Exams 2021



Virtuality In Health Care

The dramatic scenes of what's happening in Afghanistan to the tens of thousands or even more, who have adopted westernised views on freedom, education, equality, and basic human rights, show them hunkering-down, hiding and erasing whatever recent past info would put them in harm's way, to say the least – or doing whatever they can to bail out of their country – fast!

In Afghanistan they already know and have all the information about the Taliban. They've experienced their rule before and clearly know that any hint of reassurance is simply a decoy. With SARS-CoV-2, it's entirely different: The nearly 1.5 years passed have been marked by the 'unknown-unknowns' – we're learning all the time as we go. We've had to adapt our daily living routines to suggestions, recommendations and mandates, a task which has been anything from easy to impossible. For many, it's been a choice between lives and livelihoods.

Some of my early posts in this Medical Column when the pandemic hit, had to do with TeleMedicine, which although now being adopted by necessity, was going to find its niche in a post-pandemic world and we would never go back to the prior status quo. The advantages of remote care and follow-up would be so evident, that in-person care would be an exception. As we gradually try to wean from the restrictions imposed by the deep pandemic moments, in-person interactions are returning not only to health care, but have been preceded by kinder, primary and high schools and followed by protocol-ruled partying events and sports, at different speeds and with the risk of a return to lockdowns, distancing and 'bubble-ing' ever present. In fact, we've seen it happen in Israel, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. As we're half a world away from these places, we can learn from their reality as 'spoilers' of a Netflix series, before we're hit.

Not only were in-person clinic visits restricted, but many scheduled procedures like non-urgent surgeries (eg hernias, hip replacements, cholecystectomies) were deferred. Regular physicals, of which many have been suspected to lead to over-testing and over-diagnosis,

were deferred, but most of these routine visits are also intertwined with follow-up of chronic conditions which need supervision, like hypertension, overweight, diabetes, cholesterol (and skin checks in our sun-scorched country). This has created a backlog of pending surgeries and an apparent procrastination with updating the status of some of the chronic issues mentioned above. The short and long-term consequences of these lag-times are still to be known. A good example is skipping the time of programmed colonoscopies and mammograms to detect early-stage cancer.

As we ascend the hill of the different stages of the pandemic, we have the feeling that sooner or later, living with the virus and getting vaccines once or twice a year will be the most probable scenario, and this may mean that we've reached the summit and are levelling off towards the downward slope of what's in store for us.

We must maximise the possibilities of in-person interactions, but we shouldn't dream of going back to where we left in early 2020. In-person visits should be longer (10–20-minute slots won't do) and the number of patients seen in a standard day will probably be less. What's needed is value-added visits, where plans are set in place for remote follow-up between the patient and the clinician until the next scheduled appointment. Electronic medical record systems should be accessed from anywhere, anytime, by not only the clinician, but by the patient (or caregiver) and open sharing of notes should be the norm. Patients must be able, to the extent they wish, to add personally generated notes into their records. The personal medical record should be the main arena of interaction between patients and clinicians.

Obviously, many specialties are hands and eyes-on and acute or urgent situations require direct interaction with clinicians. However, the bread-and-butter everyday visits must be upgraded to new levels and the present assembly-mode system of production lines of waiting lists, waiting rooms and one-on-one & face-to-face care as the main mode of providing services should be part of history.

by Lindsey Cordery
lcordery@gmail.com



Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

EBB was born on March 6, 1806, the eldest of 12 children. Educated at home, Barrett was a precocious reader, and wrote her first book of poetry by age 12. At 14, she developed lung illness, and the following year she suffered a spinal injury; however, she never stopped writing and studying.

The family fortune came from their Jamaican slave-labour sugar plantation, so that with the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, Mr Barrett's business foundered, forcing him to sell their estate and move to London. Her family's slave-owning heritage gradually became hateful to Barrett: she later wrote "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point" portraying the misery of a slave woman and supported the anti-slavery movement in America through her poem "A Curse for a Nation", published in the abolitionist *The Liberty Bell* in 1856.

With her collection *Poems* (1844) her reputation as one of the most important poets of the day was established – and it drew the attention of a younger poet, Robert Browning. Browning wrote Barrett a letter, thus initiating a famous correspondence of nearly 600 letters over the following 20 months, culminating in couple's elopement in 1846. The romantic story of their flight to Italy with Barrett's dog, Flush, her father's rejection, and the life-long married harmony of the two great Victorian poets, is justly famous. Inspired by the poets, and by their dog, in 1933 Virginia Woolf published the story of the Brownings through the biography of their dog: *Flush* – an enchanting, and unusual biography.

Perhaps the best known today of EBB's works is *Aurora Leigh*, a novel-in-verse in which the first-person narrator constructs her selfhood through the creative roles of poet and woman, achieving fulfilment in both. EBB has been hailed as the originator of a new, female, tradition in poetry, no longer the minor Victorian poetess – the "Mrs Browning" generally known for (only a handful of) her *Sonnets from the Portuguese*. Her political poems, such as "The Runaway

Slave at Pilgrim's Point" and "Casa Guidi Windows", show that political engagement was a truly driving force in her life. These poems date from her arrival in Italy with Robert Browning, when Italian Risorgimento politics and their connection with government and social politics in Britain became key considerations in her life and art. In Italy, EBB has long since been hailed as the "poet of the Italian Risorgimento": her home in Florence, Casa Guidi, bears a plaque commemorating "Elisabetta Barrett Browning". Freedom, and the right of human beings to live and make choices freely was what the Florentines were striving for, and these words resound throughout the poems written in Italy after she herself determined to fly to her own freedom. The freedom the Risorgimento Italians demanded she saw was non-existent for thousands of people, especially women, children and slaves, in Britain and the United States: "No help for women, sobbing out of sight/ Because men made such laws? / (...) No remedy my England, for such woes?" she writes in CGW, and: "No mercy for the slave, America?" Thus, the complex political circumstances presented in CGW place the notion of freedom, and its absence, squarely on the political and social scenarios of Italy and Britain. In the opening verse of CGW, a child is heard singing the simple words "O bella libertà, O bella", but as the poet will show us, freedom is far more than a beautiful word. Clearly, this is new: political poetry seen from a woman's perspective.

Some years earlier, after their child was born, Elizabeth presented Robert with a sonnet sequence she had written during their courtship, her famous *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, celebrating the freedom to love: "I love thee freely, as men strive for right," she says. But perhaps the most well-known is Sonnet 43: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. / I love thee to the depth and breadth and height / My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight / For the ends of being and ideal grace. / I love thee to the level of every day's / Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light."



One Hundred Years of Muriel

If she were still with us, we would be celebrating Muriel's one hundredth birthday this month. Sadly, she died a quarter of a century ago—fifty years to the day after giving birth to me. But she lives on, in my memories and in my sense of who I am.

On the morning of my fiftieth birthday, we had our usual long conversation over the phone. Given the occasion, we talked about our lifelong (for me) friendship, and each got to say: "I love you." She wished me a happy birthday, we hung up, and I went to lunch with a friend. When I came home, I learned that my mother had retired to her room to take a nap and had never woken up. She was gone.

The following day Lillian and I were on a plane heading east across the Atlantic. During the flight my thoughts were all about Muriel. Born to British parents living in Argentina. Grew up in Buenos Aires. Married and had two sons in quick succession. Then moved across the river with her family and settled in Uruguay.

She was happy in Montevideo, with its relaxed lifestyle and lovely beaches. She loved being close to the sea and taking long evening swims on Pocitos beach, just three blocks from her front door.

Muriel was tall and blonde and young and lovely, with long legs, a beautiful dancer. She was mad about music and, in the 1950s had a subscription to *DownBeat*, the hottest jazz magazine in the world. She was a private person with just a few close friends and was perfectly comfortable in her own company. She loathed small talk and gossip and dreaded the official receptions she was obliged to attend while her husband was with the British Embassy. But she loved being with young people, who gravitated to her because she took them seriously and was always willing to listen.

Once her sons were old enough, she decided to go back to work. She had studied shorthand and typing at the Academia Pitman in Buenos Aires and was engaged as personal assistant to the general manager of the Shell Oil Company, a job she loved and held for many years. She had an old-world sense of duty and was discreet and loyal to a fault.

In due course her sons left home. She encouraged them, told them they should go out and explore the world, and saw them off with her customary advice: "Be true to yourself." Never said a word about her broken heart or how much she would miss them. When her husband died just four years later, she felt the need to move.

As I got older, we outgrew our mother-son relationship and became good friends, always in close touch wherever we were. In time I made my home in Texas and she settled in Denia, Spain, in a studio flat not fifty yards from the Mediterranean, where the sound of the sea wafted over her at night. Some years later, now in declining health, she moved a few miles inland to Pego, a medieval town in the hills, where she spent her days reading and knitting and listening to music.

We arrived in time to say goodbye. It was late January; cold, damp, the sky hung low and grey. The sixteenth-century church was sombre and draughty. No one took off their coat. The priest had cycled in from a nearby village and when he stepped up to the altar, I caught sight of the bicycle clip on his trouser leg under his cassock. He was mercifully brief, and somehow managed to breathe a sense of warmth into the ritual words. On the short walk to the cemetery the cobblestones, laid centuries ago, glistened in a fine mist as a medley of mourners accompanied Muriel through the narrow streets to her final resting place. The tall cedars sighed overhead, and, in the distance, I thought I could hear the sound of the sea.



The Rock's English

Gibraltar is commonly known as the Rock. It is made up of rock and cliffs, only a small part of it is habitable space. It is just 6 km² in all, and it stretches just 4.8 km from North to South. It has been a British-governed territory for over three hundred years, since the very beginning of the 18th century, when following the War of the Spanish Succession Spain ceded the territory to Great Britain as part of the Treaty of Utrecht. It is located on the southern tip of Iberia. A narrow isthmus connects it with the neighbouring Spanish town of “La Linea de la Concepción”.

Language-wise, there is a picturesque scene. Especially for those of us who speak Spanish, since there is a mixture of the romance language and English: Llanito. Even though English is the official language, and the only one used for administrative and school purposes, locals also speak Spanish or the aforementioned fusion with English. Llanito (sometimes spelt Yanito) is the popular name given to the local vernacular. It is also the name popularly given to the native of Gibraltar. Many Gibraltarians believe that Llanito, rather than English or Spanish, is the principal language of the Rock.

Even though Llanito can be described as an Andalusian Spanish-dominant form of oral expression which integrates English lexical and syntactic elements, I thought it interesting for the readership to have a look into how English has flooded it with words. Here are some curious examples: *chinga*, ‘chewing gum’; *rolipó*, ‘lollypop’; *liqueriba*, ‘liquorice bar’; *chinchibia*, ‘ginger beer’; *arishu*, ‘Irish stew’; *quecaro*, ‘porridge/Quaker Oats’; *pisup*, ‘pea soup’; *grevi*, ‘gravy’.

English being the language of government, education and the press, impacts the vocabulary of Spanish speaking school children and teens. If you visit The Rock, you can hear young ones saying things like *tengo mucho homework*, ‘I’ve got a lot of home- work’ or *lo tengo que hacer en rough*, ‘I have to do it in rough’.

You are probably thinking this is a form of Spanglish, similar to that spoken in places like Miami. Well, it could be classified as the same phenomenon, since like in the States, some literal (mis)translations of English are Hispanicised or transferred or modified to Spanish. For instance: *dame un*

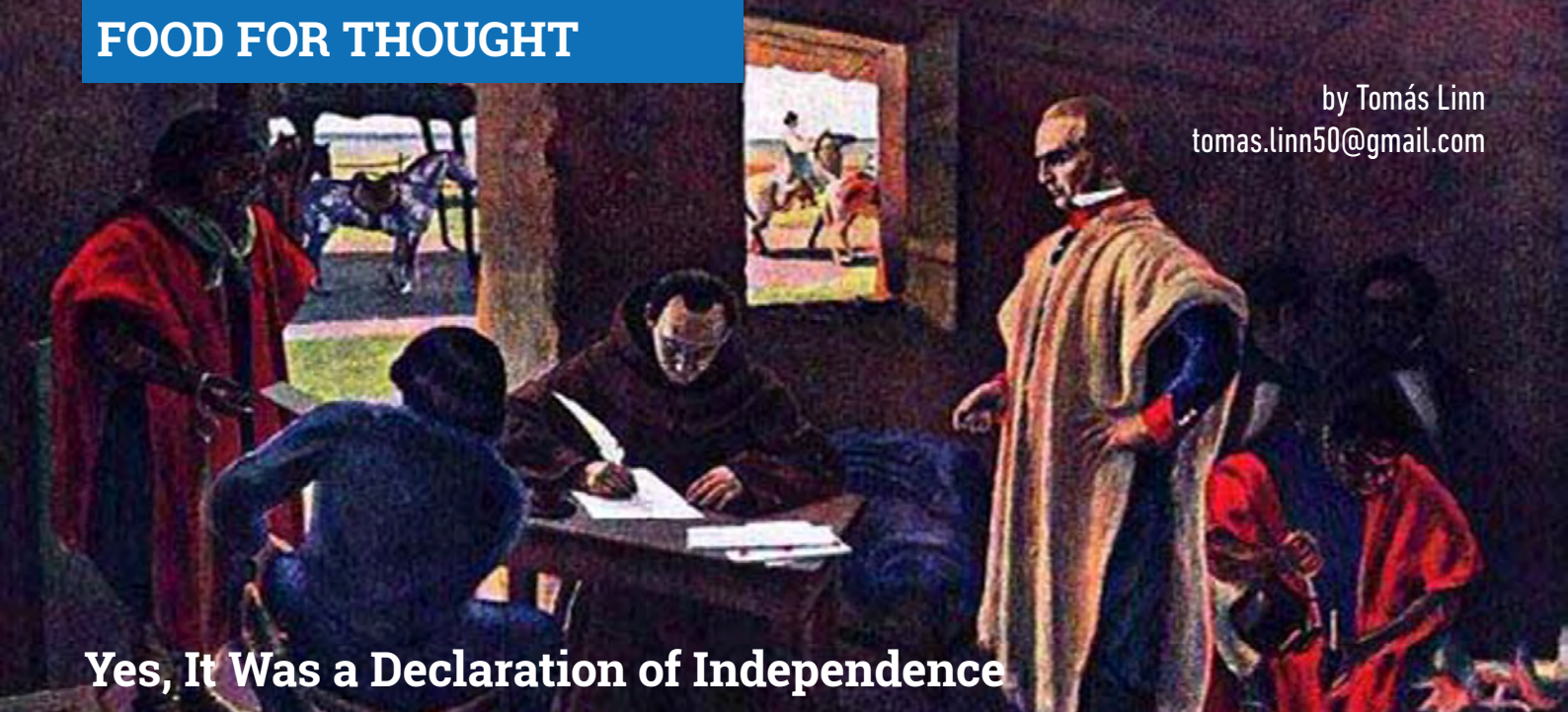
ring, ‘ring me’; *darle una apologia*, ‘apologise to him’; *ella siempre saca buenas marcas*, ‘she always gets good marks’; *¡nunca voy a pasar el examen!*, ‘I’m never going to pass the exam!’; *ella es muy chitera*, ‘she’s a real cheat’. In each of these cases, the English borrowing or derivation either does not exist in Spanish or has a similar form but carries a different meaning.

Gibraltarians with bilingual competence are often having fun with language, by being playful with Spanish and English for humorous purposes or as a statement of group identity. This phenomenon is not correlated with education or social status. Expert Sergius Ballantine notes the tendency of “attributing a meaning to Spanish words which they do not have, but which English words with similar appearance do have. In Gibraltar this usage is quite extensive”.

The Gibraltarian education system follows the National Curriculum. Since it mirrors the British institution, Spanish is taught as a second language. Local scholars have argued for the implementation of a bilingual education system, but this appears to be impossible at present. Political tensions are always lurking, plus, there is resistance within the wider population and the teaching staff, to give equal standing to Spanish. English is the language of the press, media and publicity. Though it is clear that Llanito is used as a demonstration of idiosyncrasy. Not Spanish. A local once pointed out: “We feel Gibraltarian first, British second . . . and Spanish not at all. If Britain doesn’t want us, we will be independent . . . but Spanish never!”

I cannot help falling into comparing Gibraltar with the Falklands. It is, to me, an analogous case in many respects. In The Rock, the strength of national feeling was also reflected in the referendum called by the local Government. In the European case, however, it responded to the initiation of talks between Britain and Spain in 2002 over the possibility of joint sovereignty, where the overwhelming majority (98.5%) voted against this proposal.

In sum, Gibraltarians employ Llanito as an identity marker but do not want to mix politics as they mix languages.



Yes, It Was a Declaration of Independence

Every year, when we celebrate our national holiday, many get tangled up in an incredible debate about if that day (the 25th of August of 1825) deserves to be celebrated.

How was it possible that the representatives that assembled in the small town of Florida, declared our independence, and immediately afterwards also declared our allegiance to the Provincias Unidas or what then was started to be known as Argentina? Was there not a contradiction in a declaration stated in such terms?

This reasoning can only be explained when reading historic facts, from back to front. We know where we are standing now, who we are and from here and now, we try to understand our past. But things would be easier to understand if we just stick to the chronological order of events. And yes, it was a clear declaration of independence, in spite of contradictions that were not so.

In 1825 Uruguay was not a country on its own and had never been one. Until the war of independence it was part of a Spanish colonial vice-royalty, a territory known as the "eastern shore" (la Banda Oriental). In 1811 José Artigas joined the revolution against Spanish rule, that had started in Buenos Aires a year earlier. The eastern shore became the eastern province, as part of one large territorial unity called Provincias Unidas. Though united, the different regional leaders of these provinces did not see things alike. Not all were quite sure as to how far they should push the cause of independence. Some, like Artigas, wanted to forge a somewhat loose confederation among the provinces, while others preferred a centralized system. Such controversies led to internal strife. Those provinces that were in favour of a federal system got together for a congress held in Entre Rios in 1815 and declared their independence from the

Spanish crown. The rest of the provinces did the same thing one year later, in Tucuman, a day that is still remembered in Argentina as their national holiday.

Both factions were in civil war with each other so when the Portuguese army invaded the eastern province, the central authorities were not very concerned. It was one flank less too attend. That is how in 1820 we became part of Portugal and how, when Brazil decided to declare its own independence from Portugal we became part of the Brazilian Empire. We got out of this situation five years, in 1825, when some leaders of the Province decided it was time to put an end to such domination and do the obvious thing, that which was expected to happen: go back to our origins, the Provincias Unidas. Such a feat is what we celebrate every 25th August.

What came afterwards is, of course part of the story, though a story that took an unexpected derivation. The war between the Provincias Unidas and Brazil was reaching nowhere, the British decided to mediate, a peace agreement was reached in 1828, on condition that the territory in dispute, until what then was a part of the Provincias Unidas, became a separate country, a completely new nation, one nobody ever had thought would exist.

So, one thing is declaring independence from foreign powers like Spain, Portugal, Brazil (Argentina was certainly not foreign) and the other is starting as a new country, a nation that did not exist before, separated from another, with a Constitution written from scratch and a first president chosen to assume responsibility. This happened in 1830 and it is what we celebrate every 18th of July: the beginning of a nation that has developed into what we now know as Uruguay: a republic that is east to the long and wide river of the same name.

The Multiple Branches of The Railway Tree

On Monday 13th, 1958 the Annual General Meeting of the British Society took place at the English Club. A new committee was voted, and the elected Chairman was by unanimous vote Mr. Daniel George MacCormack. Who was this Scot that was elected to the most prominent position of the British community in Uruguay, exception made of the Ambassador?

Daniel MacCormack (1900-1973) was born in Glasgow where he graduated in Engineering, later to be admitted as a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. While working in Devon he applies for a post in the Central Uruguay Railway Company, where he will have a highly successful working career, ending as Chief Engineer. But this is the professional side of Daniel MacCormack who has an interesting life, both socially and of commitment to the British community and institutions in Uruguay. His family is also important to follow, and another reason for this article.

Daniel MacCormack arrived in Uruguay in 1925, and in 1932 he marries Isabella Bain, daughter of James Bain who came to Uruguay in 1907 to build the Central Railway's extension to Rivera. Isabella Bain is the eldest of the four daughters of James and Sarah McKellar. She was born in Las Piedras in 1908. James and Sarah Bain, and their two Uruguayan-born daughters return to England in 1911, where James will be involved in the construction of Selfridge's at Oxford St. and participated in the Great War as an engineer. After the war they lived in France where James became a real estate developer.

Daniel MacCormack and Isabella Bain will live in Obligado St., on a house built by the English constructor John Adams. Their only son Malcolm is born while living in Montevideo as the family moves again to Europe before the Second World War. Daniel MacCormack volunteers but is rejected due to his age so he enrolls in intelligence, and they return to Uruguay where he works openly for the railway company while travelling to southern Argentina and New York on unspecified matters concerning the war effort. He is a regular visitor to Hugh Grindley's villa in Melilla; Grindley being the manager of the Central Railway and, as an open secret, the head of British Intelligence in Uruguay.

Daniel MacCormack has an ample social life. He was the

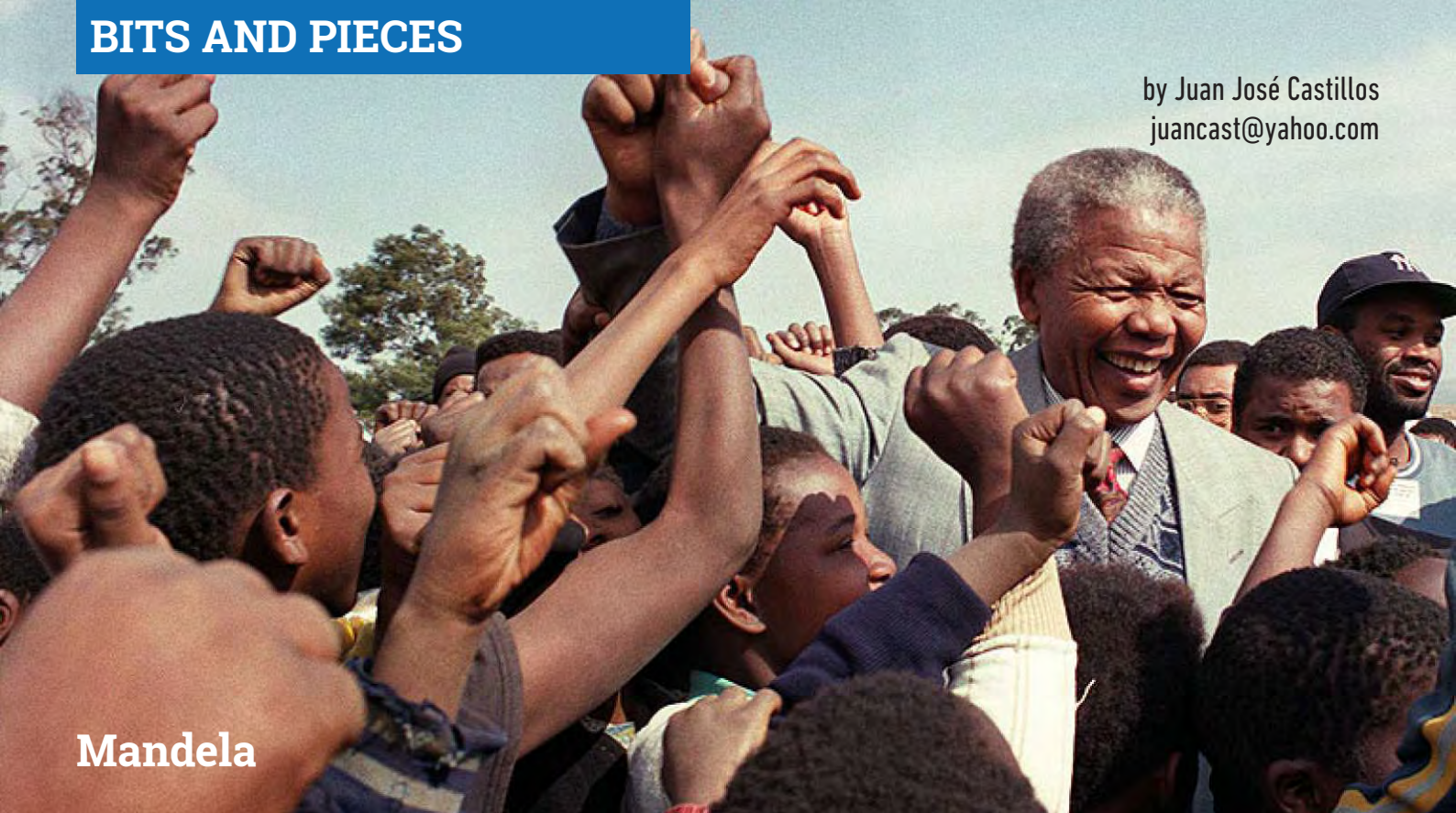
President of the Saint Andrew's Society for two consecutive years (1937-1938); and a committed service life to the community too, as he was President of the British Hospital Society between 1956 and 1961, the Uruguayan Rugby Union of which he was also cofounder, the British Schools Society and as we saw, President of the British Society in 1958. In 1964 he will be awarded the CBE [Commander of the British Empire] for "services to the State".

But let us go back to James Bain on his return to Uruguay in 1930 due to the economic crisis. Although he returns to head an Anglo Scottish Railway tender to build a railway line between Treinta y Tres and Rio Branco, he is now inclined to civil engineering projects and there are still several houses in Punta del Este of his design and construction. Elizabeth Bain, his second daughter will marry John Herman Henderson, heir to Amy & Henderson (Tienda Inglesa) general store.

And finally, let us go back some decades, to 1910 on the suffocating Uruguayan North where James Bain and his wife Sarah McKellar have only the company of an assistant engineer called Ernest Hodgson. The summers are torrid and boring in Rivera surrounded by *criollos* and *bayanos*, Sarah invites her sister Mary McKellar to stay with them for the season. Inevitably, or manipulated by her sister, Mary and Ernest fall in love and get married in Uruguay after the war.

The Hodgson's will have two sons and a daughter, Jean. Arthur, the eldest, finished Med school in England before serving in the British Army in the Far East during the war. William also studies abroad but his love for Uruguayan countryside and way of life makes him return, but only for a few years before volunteering for the RAF during the war. He will be killed in action over Holland while piloting his Mosquito airplane.

We have not tried to write a biography of D.G. MacCormack nor of any of the relatives we have mentioned. The article wants to show how the family/company nets were built, without any planning and totally at random. In the colonies the British tended to gather, and the results knitted the community and segregated them even further from the local population.



Mandela

It is a common occurrence that once a person excels for some reason in his accomplishments, becoming a larger-than-life personality in politics, history, science, or other human affairs, after his death, that person becomes in the public mind practically untouchable, beyond frailties and shortcomings.

In the case of Nelson Mandela, after being in prison for many years for attempting to bring down the brutal apartheid regime in South Africa, in which a very small minority of white people ruled a great majority of black Africans and other people of mixed race that were defined as inferior and unworthy to have any political participation by the regime, and after worldwide condemnation forced it to seek some sort of reversal of its nefarious policies, Mandela was considered as a way to change things in that country with a measure of respect for all people involved.

A relatively smooth transition proved him to be the ideal person to carry out the necessary changes, firmly but with moderation, persuading extremists on both sides to agree to a new national perception of an Africa attuned to the contemporary reality and to a new respect for human rights.

The atrocities and murders against black nationalists over the years, of which he was one of the most prominent victims, presented a difficulty that he sorted out with an apparently Solomonic decision that seemed to contemplate many people's aspirations without disrupting the climate of peace and compromise he thought would cement a new South Africa.

All those white agents of repression, guilty of horrible crimes, had to publicly confess his deeds and in a spirit of forgiveness all would be forgotten as the country moved on to a better future. But much as we admire him and what he did for the benefit of his country, one cannot refrain from realizing that a basic historical reality is that without justice, a permanent peace can hardly be achieved.

I personally suspect that Mandela was a victim of a form of Stockholm syndrome thinking that sort of decision would really solve the thorny problem of past atrocities.

Imagine what would have happened and the lesson the world would have been taught if there had not been Nuremberg trials after the Second World War, or even closer to home, if the law that renounced punishment of crimes during the military dictatorship had not been somehow repealed so that at least many of those responsible for human rights violations had not been brought to justice.

The degree of resentment worldwide in those cases would have been unpredictable with the criminals getting off the hook and the message being that in case of war, abroad or internal, any means are valid to obtain certain objectives, regardless of the human cost.

Perhaps the high level of violence at many levels in South Africa in recent years can be explained that way and somehow limits our acceptance of President Mandela's wisdom in trying to erase very painful memories without justice being done, which otherwise would have shown all South Africans that every crime must have its punishment.

Beef Goulash

Beef goulash is a Hungarian type of beef stew of meat and vegetables seasoned with paprika.

Its origin has been traced back to the IX Century, when it was eaten by the Magyar Hungarian shepherds. In those times, it was a simple beef and onion stew without the paprika flavouring, which was added to the formulation in the XVIII Century.

The name Goulash derives from Gulyas, meaning herdsman in the Hungarian language. Nowadays a beef goulash will normally contain stewing beef, onions, paprika, tomato extract and a beef stock. There are, however, different versions of beef goulash, which may include sweet peppers, carrots, celery, potatoes and Caraway seeds.

The recipe I am sharing today is an Austrian version dating back to the period of the Austrian Hungarian Empire. Austrian style beef goulash has been a favourite comfort food of mine since my early professional career as a chef, which was spent in the Österreichischer Hof hotel (now renamed Sacher Hotel) in Salzburg, in the early 1980's.

Ingredients

- 1 kg beef shoulder clod (paleta) or Chuck roll (aguja) cut into 2-cm cubes
- 1 kg onions, thinly sliced
- 30 ml cooking oil
- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 heaped tablespoons paprika * (can be substituted for pimentón dulce)
- 3 tablespoons tomato extract
- 1 lt beef stock
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 bay leaves

Paprika is a spice made from dried and ground red pepper from the *Capsicum Annuum* varieties, which include many different varieties like red bell peppers and Cayenne pepper, but the peppers used for paprika tend to be mild and have a thin flesh.

Hungarian paprika traditionally comes in eight different flavour profiles, which range from sweet and mild to spicy and pungent, but the majority of paprika produced is mild

Method

1. Fry the sliced onions in half of the cooking oil in a large saucepan for between 30-45 minutes, until they are very soft and a light beige colour. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds more and add the paprika stirring continuously for another 30 seconds. Remove from the pan and add the remaining oil; heat to maximum and add the beef cubes and seal over a high heat until nicely browned. Add the tomato extract and mix gently, stirring continuously over heat for several minutes. Return the onion mixture to the pan with the beef and add the beef stock, bay leaves, salt and pepper.
2. Simmer gently for 3 to 5 hours until the beef falls apart when pressed with a fork. A long, slow cooking time will allow the onions to dissolve and the collagen in the beef to transform into gelatine, making the meat tender and helping to thicken the sauce.
3. It is a good idea to cook the meat in a slow cooker with the liquid at 85°C-95°C or in a Dutch oven; it can also be cooked in a covered saucepan inside an oven at 175°C. Check every now and again to ensure that the sauce is not bubbling and visibly boiling. If it is, lower the temperature. Beef cooked in a boiling sauce at 100°C tends to be dry and tough, hence the recommended 85-95°C temperature of the cooking liquid.

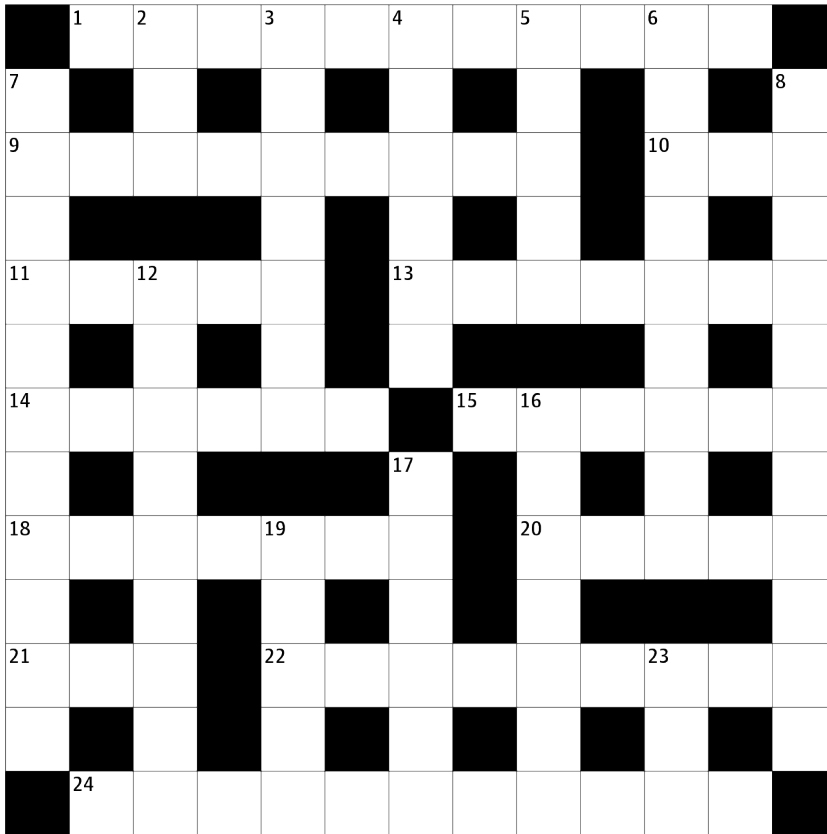
Serve with spätzle, tagliatelle, boiled or mashed potatoes.

and sweet. Paprika adds colour and an earthy spiciness to dishes.

Spanish pimentón has many similarities to paprika, but it is generally less intense than the Hungarian version. It can range from sweet and mild to bitter sweet, and medium hot to hot. In the La Vera region of Spain the chillies are smoked to create smoked paprika, or the famous Pimentón de La Vera.

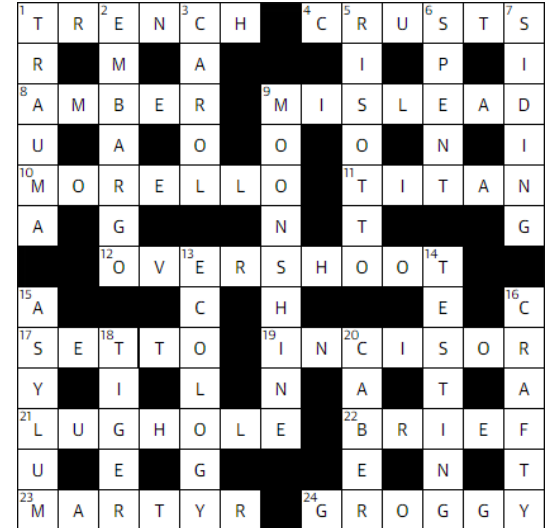
SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME

from The Guardian
www.theguardian.com



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

August solution:



Across

- 1 Truth disguised as a lie (or vice versa) (6,5)
9 Is incompatible (with) (9)
10 Scamp (3)
11 Bingo (5)
13 During the first stages (5,2)
14 Thickset (6)
15 Keep back (6)
18 Non-believer (7)
20 Estimate — shot (5)
21 And so on (abbr) (3)
22 Unrehearsed (9)
24 1st of 365 (or 366) (3,5,3)

Down

- 2 Belonging to a specified person (3)
3 Young (or castrated) male bovine (7)
4 Surpass (6)
5 Unsuccessful gambler (5)
6 Magical story with a happy ending (5,4)
7 Flat pastries filled with dried fruit — less EEC cack (anag) (6,5)
8 Completely straightforward (4-3-4)
12 Odontalgia (9)
16 Completely engage (7)
17 Completely ideal state (6)
19 In a frosty manner (5)
23 Pulse (3)

LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Bakelite Blues

It was not for my
Telephone calls

That your young
Heart
Sang

I was just

An also-rang





Horseman's Sunday

At noon on the penultimate Sunday in September, the vicar of St John's Church appears on horseback as part of a well established London tradition known as Horseman's Sunday.

A cavalcade of over 100 horses and riders parade to the church in order to celebrate horse riding in the heart of London.

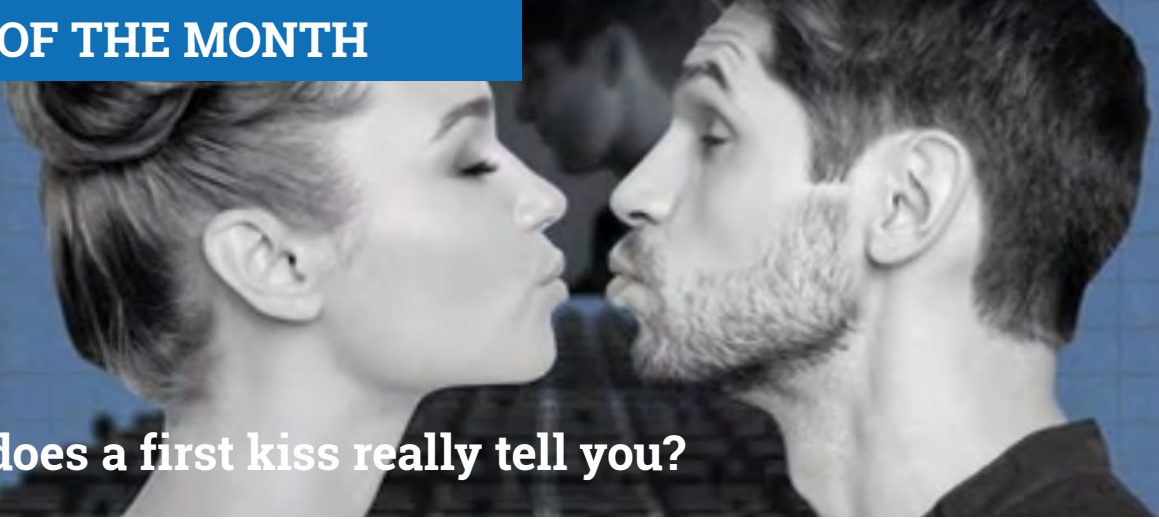
The horses gather on the forecourt of the church for a blessing, followed by a ride-past and a presentation of rosettes.

The annual Horseman's Sunday celebrations began 40 years ago to highlight the need to maintain stables along the north of Hyde Park; at that time the stables were threatened with closure. What began as a public and political action has become a unique local institution attracting local residents, tourists and horse lovers.

The blessing of the horses follows the main Sunday service, which starts at 10am. Most visitors come to the morning service and then everyone files out into the open space in front of the church.

At noon the horses begin to arrive in procession, lining up along the forecourt and on Hyde Park Crescent. As well as horses of all shapes and sizes—including Shetland ponies!—there are also horse drawn carriages and buggies.





What does a first kiss really tell you?

Whether their hype has been inflated by romantic movies, or they really are a good way to know if someone is The One, we put a lot of value on a first kiss.

But why is kissing so special?

BBC
REEL



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DILBERT

by Scott Adams
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London afternoon