



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

NOVEMBER 2021



The British Society in Uruguay
Lecture Supper

Christ Church in Montevideo
Beginning of Advent

Chef Philip's Corner
Minced Beef Pie

www.britsoc.org.uy



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Montevideo, Uruguay

It has been a while, sorry I missed you last month, but luckily a lot has been happening.

Yes, we are back ladies and gentlemen.

We hosted our first lecture supper since 2020 as quarantine restricted gatherings. And if that's not enough, we also held our spring Crocket Tournament. How about that people!!!

Last Tuesday 26 of October, with Mr. Alberto Marquez as our orator, our Lecture Supper "Save the last bullet" on the origins of the Afghan conflict, took place at the Christ Church in Carrasco. I want to thank John Hamilton for lending us the venue, the cooks for a wonderful dinner, our events coordinator for going all out and managing to get his hand on some fine wines. And last but not least all you who attended, making it a wonderful night.

And then on the 30th, our spring Crocket Tournament took place. We had a record attendance, fantastic weather, and some great prizes for the winners and participants thanks to Cadbury, Dermaglos, Milka and Kombucha del Mar.

All in all, a great October.

On a more administrative side, we are still working on improving our service, and we have managed to get Mercado Pagos as our payment platform, making annual fees or event tickets easier to purchase. Soon we will be sending out mailings with further information on this.

Well, it has been great to finally be face to face at our events and enjoying your company, so we will have to sit down a start creating more.

Until the next time, take care.

Kind regards,

Colin Shearer
President



Birthdays

in November

01 ~ Bertha Jackson
01 ~ Erik J. Wells
04 ~ Julio C. Guridi
05 ~ Jean J. Bragard
05 ~ Christian Farnes
06 ~ Adam Taylor
08 ~ Jorge C. Stanham
09 ~ Mark Fairless
10 ~ Jorge A. Capurro
11 ~ Elena Drever
11 ~ Martín Sosa
11 ~ Verónica Stighetti
12 ~ Patricia E. Cole
12 ~ Megan A. Berry
13 ~ Josefina Grezzi
14 ~ Victoria Cooper
15 ~ Anthony A. Rial

18 ~ Víctor F. Ganón
18 ~ Roberto J. Linn
18 ~ Fernando Bonilla
19 ~ Janet M. Campbell
19 ~ Tim Crocker
21 ~ Martin H. Wells
21 ~ Ivan Zimler
21 ~ Juliana Sosa
22 ~ John M. Beare
23 ~ Ian R. Duddy
23 ~ James M. Bell
24 ~ Nadine Willans
25 ~ Juan S. Salvo
26 ~ Ricardo H. Medina
26 ~ Alejandro A. Sosa
27 ~ Karen I. Schandy



New Members

Bradley 'Brad' Tyler Johnson Coates
Facundo Asbjørn Espinosa Holtermann
Nicolás Bonino Vivo
Patricia 'Petu' Arrosa Delgado

THIS MONTH'S COVER



Gearrannan Village is a unique self-catering holiday accommodation on the Atlantic coast of the Isle of Lewis, close to the Callanish Standing Stones and Carloway Broch.

Open all year. An ideal location for exploring the Western Isles – scenery, archaeology, environment and wildlife, with opportunities for walking, cycling, fishing, surfing or relaxing. In season, the village and its living museum are open for visitors and bus tours. 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.

Lecture Supper



On Tuesday 27th. The British Society had the second event of this year, our traditional Lecture Supper which took place at Christ Church. The Lecture was delivered by Professor Alberto Marquez. "Save the Last Bullet" a very interesting talk about Afghanistan in 1842 and the Nemesis of a British Imperial Army.

The cooks delighted us with Chicken and Broccoli Crepes with Tomato and Lettuce and for dessert the delicious Chocolate Marquise with Fresh Strawberries and cream.





2021 Croquet Tournament

On Saturday 30th October took place the Spring Croquet Tournament with an outstanding number of players. The closing ceremony was a special event, the Trophy was given to the winners Trevor and Ignacio along with loads of prizes.







Farewell event for Uruguay Delegation to COP26

Ambassador Faye O'Connor hosted the official delegation that will be representing Uruguay at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, that started yesterday in Glasgow. During a private meeting, Environment Minister Adrián Peña, Economy Minister Azucena Arbeleche, together with members of their teams and other

government departments had the chance to discuss their objectives and what they expect to achieve at this crucial global conference. Afterwards, they fielded questions at a widely covered press conference. Presidencia posted this [news article](#) summarising the key messages.

A special Trafalgar Day



For this year's Trafalgar Day, on 21 October, the Ambassador hosted a gala to help raise funds and awareness towards "Manos de Héroes", a Uruguayan Foundation that prints 3D prosthetic arms for children and people who need one. "Our aim was to honour Lord Nelson, who despite losing an arm was our greatest Admiral, and support this foundation in

order to get more visibility and donations to achieve their objectives", explained the Ambassador, who learnt about their work through Minister of Social Development Martín Lema, who also attended the event. You can read more about this [here](#).



Heritage Day

We had the pleasure to receive almost 1,000 guests during Heritage Day at the Residence. This year we had a special feature at the entrance that everyone loved: a Royal Mail Carriage that Montevideo Intendencia graciously allowed us to display, together with an actor explaining how it was used during the 1880s to transport mail from London to Bath and Wells. The carriage is exhibited year-round at Museo y Parque Fernando García.

You can have a glimpse of the day [here](#)

Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcd



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

A very British Bake Off



The Ambassador was the featured guest at an episode of Bake Off Uruguay, on 20 October, where contestants had the challenge to bake a quintessentially British Victoria Sponge Cake. Ambassador O'Connor tried all of the cakes

and invited the contestants to try her own version, which they did the following week at the Residence. You can see what they thought about the Ambassador's cake [in this short video](#) we posted on our social media.

British expats event in Punta del Este

Are you a British national living in **Maldonado or Rocha**?
The British Embassy in Montevideo is organising a networking
event for expats from the UK living, working or studying in
Uruguay on

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

Please send us your details to: ukinuruguay@adinet.com.uy
before 8 November

PIPING IN URUGUAY

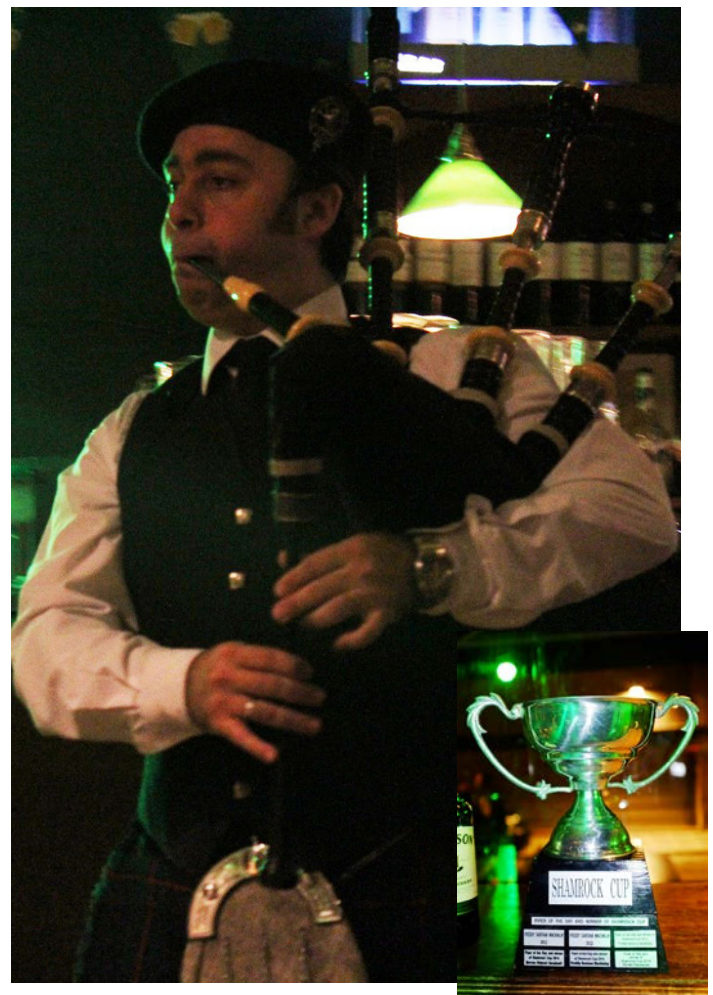
The Shamrock Cup 2021

South America's first and most prestigious solo piping competition is back!

After two years of absence due to COVID-19, Uruguay's very own Shamrock Cup will be held on 6 November starting 19:00 hrs. at its usual venue: **The Shannon Irish Pub** (Bartolome Mitre 1318) in Ciudad Vieja.

Given entry restrictions because of the pandemic, foreign pipers did not register for this year's edition (registration closed before the Uruguayan government announced the opening of borders on 1 November), so contestants will all be local. This being said, the renewed interest in piping caused by the success of Scottish Dance Uruguay at Uruguay's Got Talent will bring out the best in all.

As in previous editions, the competition will start with the March, Strathspey & Reel category, followed by a Hornpipe & Jig category and close with a Piobaireachd category, the Cup winner being the contestant who scores the highest number of points over the three categories added together.
Come and see our most talented pipers in action!





CALL FOR LUNCH

WEDNESDAY
3RD OF NOVEMBER
AT 12:15 HRS

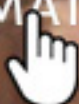
ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN &
ACCOUNTANT

MANUEL ANTELO

THE PASSION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PARVA DOMUS
BVAR ARTIGAS 136 ESQ. PARVA DOMUS
PUNTA CARRETAS

MORE INFORMATION



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CHURCH PICTURES



I really enjoyed hosting and participating in the Lecture Supper recently with delicious food and a fascinating presentation from Alberto Márquez! Thanks to the British Society Leadership team for considering Christ Church as a venue and creating a wonderful opportunity.

We also really enjoy hosting our monthly "Game Night". Originally imagined for young people playing table games like Catan, Uno, Jenga and Quirkle, but parents, grandparents and children all joined the fun. Panchos and "pizzas al horno" in the back patio with young musicians who improvise jazz. Actually on October 26, the musicians blended people born in six different decades. Several were professional musicians and we stopped playing games just to enjoy the impromptu concert evening! Mark your calendar for November 19 to join the fun at 7pm.

On Sunday the 7th, Pastor John Hamilton will be explaining our Communion Service (Eucharist) focusing on the essentials we share with other traditions while understanding some of the nuances in our own open, monthly service. You are welcome to come at 11am and experience what many have said is favorite time and space.

On Sunday the 114th and 21st, Pastor John will be addressing questions people have been sending in concerning singleness at all stages of life. What would you like to ask? Write us on the Christ Church website email or drop off an anonymous sealed envelope to Lieja 6437.

Have you read a copy of "Lieja 6437"? Available on Kindle in English and Spanish, the softcover version can be picked up at CC for 300 pesos. The short story is a novelistic expression of a local writer's interest in how and why this English-speaking church has seemingly flourished in a context where virtually no other protestant congregation has established a lasting presence in more than a century. Curious? I would be, if I wasn't living the story myself.

Lisa and I anticipate our first grandbabies in November and April! When they eventually return here to live, they will be the 7th generation of our family in Uruguay. My maternal grandmother's family arrived in "the Argentine" before it was a country. Time flies!

November 28 marks the beginning of Advent! Advent means anticipation of what is to come. Anticipation blends uncertainty with excitement and nervous worry with cautious hope. Look forward has helped me become increasingly aware of the importance of relationships and community. A good friendship trumps all suits while a meaningful connection to a group of friends creates space for growth, healing, talking and listening, loving and being loved in return.

Let this coming Advent Season be your opportunity to begin some new connections and renew older ones in all the places where you live, play, work and serve.

Warmest regards,
John, Pastor of Christ Church
Romans 15:13



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

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Esq. Lieja, Carrasco
Tel 2601 0300
contact@christchurchmvd.org
www.christchurchmvd.org

THE ANGLO INSTITUTE VISITS THE NAVAL MUSEUM IN MONTEVIDEO



This month in the series "The Anglo Institute Visits. . . ." which looks back at some of my previous talks and locations in which they took place, I recall a visit to the Naval Museum in Buceo, Montevideo in November 2017.

The talk was called "Pedro Campbell - the Irish Sailor who became the first Uruguayan Navy Commander". The event coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Navy. The talk itself took place at the nearby Yacht Club in Buceo as it had a better auditorium to host the event, but afterwards participants visited the naval museum. The location of Buceo itself has some interesting British connections as it is generally thought it was in this area of Montevideo that in January 1807 British forces came ashore and subsequently occupied the old city for a short period.

In the talk I described the fascinating life of Pedro (Peter) Campbell who was born in Tipperary in Ireland in 1782 - then

still part of the United Kingdom. He started life as a tanner (curtidor) but later seeking new adventures joined the British navy and took part in the "British Invasion" against Buenos Aires in 1806. During the brief occupation of that city, Campbell was injured and subsequently deserted from the 71st Highland Regiment. In the following years, Campbell settled in the area of Entre Rios / Corrientes before, in 1814, deciding to join Artigas and the Liga Federal. Given his naval background, Artigas put Campbell in charge of a small flotilla operating in the Rio Paraná where he fought some successful military campaigns. He was subsequently rewarded when Artigas named him as first naval commander of the "Patriotic Fleet" which is the reason Campbell is considered the first Uruguayan Navy Chief.



As a supplement to the talk about Pedro Campbell, I also gave a short history of the British battle ship HMS Agamemnon, a ship at one stage captained by the famous British naval commander Lord Nelson. As I am sure many of you know, the ship subsequently sank in a storm near Punta del Este in 1809, but many years later one of its canons was located and rescued and is now on display at the Naval Museum.

After the talk at the Yacht Club participants at the event walked the short distance to the Naval Museum to view the interesting exhibits about Pedro Campbell as well as the canon from HMS Agamemnon. We are very grateful to the officials at the Naval Museum who helped us to organize and also participated in the event.

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.



TEACHER TRAINING COURSES AT THE ANGLO

ANGLO DIPLOMA IN TEFL

(2-year course)

ANGLO CERTIFICATE IN TEFL

(1-year course)

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ANGLO DIPLOMA IN TEFL
OR ANGLO CERTIFICATE IN TEFL?**

Listen and talk to Anglo Diploma in TEFL (TTC) & Anglo Certificate in TEFL (ACT) trainees and tutors.

We'll tell you about the requirements for the course, what it is like, what the work prospects for Anglo teacher trainees are and we'll answer all your questions!

TTC: Monday 6th December - 18.00 hs.

ACT: Monday 6th December - 19.30 hs.

Online talks via Zoom

With the international validation of NILE
(Norwich Institute for Language Education, UK)

**FINALLY IT IS HERE!
SENIOR CALEDONIAN BALL
CELEBRATING OUR 125TH + 1 ANNIVERSARY
TO OUR SURPRISE NEARLY SOLD OUT**

St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay invites you to

Senior Caledonian Ball

When?

Saturday 27th November

Where?

**FANTASY GARDEN
Av. Bolivia 2466, Carrasco**

Time?

**Doors open: 21:30 hrs
GRAND MARCH: 22:00 hrs SHARP**

**Three-course dinner
Free soft drinks & whisky**



**Scottish Dances for ALL to join in
Disco music
Pipe Bands & Scottish Dancers Shows**

Event for FULLY VACCINATED

**For information and tickets email us to
contact.st.andrews.uruguay@gmail.com**

**Or contact Raquel 099 157 615
María Helena 098 469 926
Juan Francisco 099 686 068**

**BOOKING DEADLINE
Friday 12th November**



Painting: "Can-do Ceilidh" by Janet McCrorie

**Book now! Very few places left!
contact.st.andrews.uruguay@gmail.com
Raquel Stewart 099 157 615
Maria Helena Freyre 098 469 926
Juan Francisco Hill 099 686 068**



BRITISH CEMETERY

Past & Present Join the Community

We would like to invite all members of the British Community on Saturday Nov 27th at the British Cemetery, from 11 am to 2 pm.

We are planning a nice surprise where, in a short tour round the Cemetery, actors from the Montevideo Players and the British School's Drama Group will be portraying some of the prominent figures of our community. We will later be inviting you to some nibbles and drinks, free of charge, enjoying our lovely garden, which is in full bloom and our newly refurbished Britannia Hall.

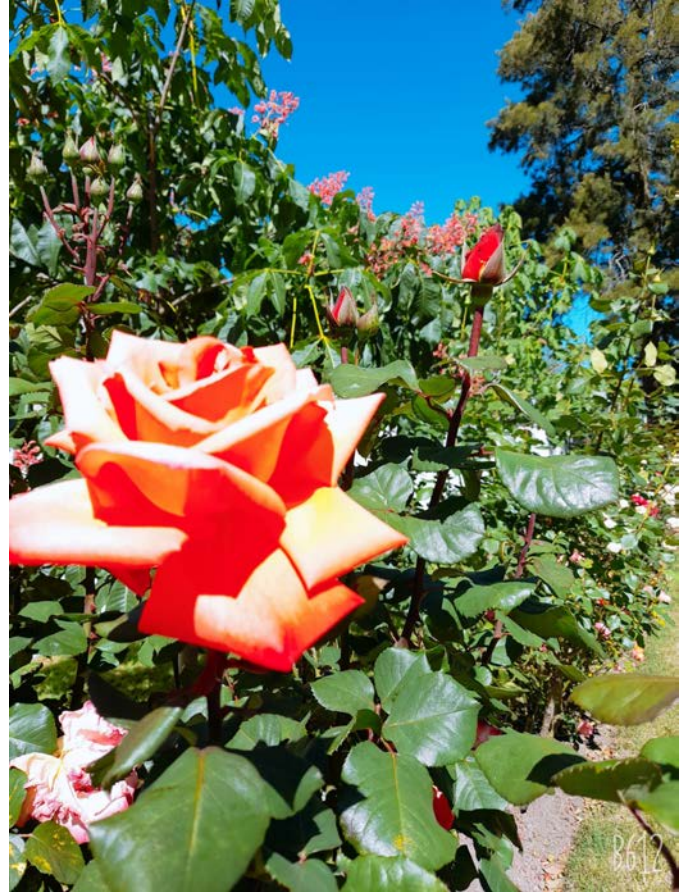
Chairs will be available.

Hoping to have a lovely time bringing all our community together and remembering and honouring some of the members of our community who have contributed to our society and our country.

We hope you can come!

Please RSVP to:

britcem@adinet.com.uy





Lest we forget

**Thursday
11 November 2021
10:30 A M
British Cemetery
Av. General Rivera 3368**

**If it rains, please join us at
Holy Trinity Church
Reconquista 522**

LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Uneasy Lies the Head That Wears a Crown

(Shakespeare, Henry IV Part II)

Uneasy lies the head
That wears a crown
Well, you try wearing one
When you're lying down

The spikes tear the pillows
The polish turns them green
And it's even worse
If you sleep with a queen

You both get frisky
In the middle of the night

Your crowns get locked together
Like stags in a fight

The prongs leave you looking
Like a daube de boeuf
If you've got a crown on
Forget soixante-neuf

Uneasy lies the head
That wears a crown
Never ever wear one
When you're lying down



Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Uruguay



dickens



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge Associate



Learners from Uruguay achieve top results in Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

Fifteen learners in Uruguay received awards for exceptional performance in Cambridge examinations, including nine learners who attained the highest marks in Uruguay in a single subject.

A lovely ceremony held at the beautiful gardens of the Residence and hosted by the British Ambassador, Mrs Faye O'Conner, and Mrs Patricia Alvarez Harvey, Head of Dickens Institute, awaited prize winners, parents, Schools and Dickens Authorities.

The invitees arrived at six o'clock. The music of a violinist playing in the garden greeted them.



Once they were settled, a member of Dickens International department Santiago Spinelli, acting as master of ceremonies, asked Patricia to open the Ceremony. Paty greeted the guests and congratulated the winners. Faye followed her and talked about the importance of the work the students had done and had achieved, remarking specially on the two girls who would receive their medals for Top in the World!



Before handing out the certificates and medals, Lucila Marquez, Senior Manager, Latin America, Cambridge Assessment International Education, who unfortunately could not be present at this event, sent a [video](#) congratulating the students and also Dickens Institute for organizing the exams in such a successful way ([click here to watch the video](#)).

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for. One by one they came to the front and received their certificate and medal from Paty and Faye. We wish to mention specially: Josefina Behrens Lorenzi, Ivy Thomas Memorial School, Top in the World in History, and Zoe Coitinho, St Clare's College, Top in the World First Language Spanish.

Top in the World Cambridge IGCSE



Josefina Behrens Lorenzi, Ivy Thomas Memorial School, Top in the World, History.



Zoe Coitinho, St Clare's College, Top in the World, First Language Spanish.

At the end of the Ceremony Paty gave Faye a medal thanking her for her excellent hospitality.

Later the guests enjoyed a cocktail party and tried some of the British delicacies listening to the sweet music of the violinist.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon in the Residence of the British Embassy and of its excellent hostess Faye O'Connor. Faye accepted having her photo taken with all those who wanted one with the British Ambassador!





Is This as Good as It Gets?

Over the last few weeks, most of the world is showing a progressively lower number of new COVID-19 cases. There are, however, some countries or regions where they have levelled off, with a few (including Uruguay and Chile) where an uneasy uptick is being noted. After more than one and a half years in pandemic-mode, we have learned that there is no one-size-fits-all explanation for what we're seeing. In other words, the reasons mutate as much or more than the virus.

Many countries who have opted for a zero-COVID policy and strategy (like New Zealand and China) are retreating to a learn-to-live-with-the-virus approach. After so many months in virtual isolation and lockdown, the effects on the economy, livelihoods, and psychosocial stability (including political unrest) have become a problem more difficult to manage than the pandemic.

We're seeing more and more unmasked faces in open spaces, our neighbourhoods, the streets and in the TV appearance of celebrities and politicians. Many of the latter are behavioural role-models and their effect on how we make our everyday decisions will not go unnoticed. In spite of this, masking is here to stay, maybe as a marker of fear, safety, the nagging feeling that the pandemic morphed into endemic-mode will never disappear and that the new-normal has finally arrived – and this is as good as it gets.

Unless a new variant halts the present gradual return to activity and threatens to send us all back into lockdown

(which won't be at all easy or even possible) the remainder of this year and the first months of 2022 will be marked by a constant up-and-down relatively low number of new cases, with a lesser proportion of severe cases needing hospitalisation and deaths. Vaccines will be widely (and regularly) available, with pharmacy-accessible tests and self-testing home kits replacing the nasopharyngeal PCR swabs for everyday use.

Last, but not least, the time for a post-mortem investigation into the origin of the virus, the cover-ups by China and the shifting positions of the WHO, has arrived. As I've mentioned in prior posts, the role of governments and politics will come into focus (eg Boris Johnson in the UK, as I write). This pandemic has demonstrated the need for strong health systems both at the central and local levels, plus the balance of strong leadership combined with personal and social freedom and responsibility. It has also shown the worst side of governments, the misuse of power and the deadly effects of putting ideology and geopolitics above science and the common good. These investigations (including the highly regarded role played by the GACH in Uruguay) will create the roadmap and playbook for a new pandemic, something that may be uncomfortably closer than we imagine.



THE MEDICAL COLUMN IS 10 YEARS OLD

In November 2011, Richard Empson, then President of the British Society met me at the cafeteria on the 3rd floor of the British Hospital Outpatient Clinic and asked me if I would write a monthly Medical Column for the Newsletter. At that time, I didn't even have Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn profiles and my only non-scientific writing was a brief book on the Doctor-Patient Relationship published in 2010. Not without fear of the unknown, I accepted, with the special

mention that the subjects wouldn't cover what a doctor would say and prescribe to patients in a clinic or other care setting. In other words, I'd focus on the 'backstage/behind-the-scenes' of what happens in healthcare, at the personal, social, regional, and global levels. Feedback from my readers has been regularly positive and encouraging and I thank them – and Richard – for the opportunity of being present in this very special way, 120 times around.

English Time

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

There have been coal mines in Britain since Roman times, two thousand years ago. By the late 17th century, the steel and textile industries' insatiable demand for coal had led to ever deeper mines, which were ever more vulnerable to seeping ground water. Steam power, which would drive the Industrial Revolution, was in its infancy, and crude devices—"Miner's Friends"—were built to pump water out of flooded mines, a welcome replacement for the traditional horse-and-pulley systems that were frustratingly slow. Clever collieries soon decided they wanted steam power to transport what they dug out of the earth and started building railways to serve their mines. The first steam locomotives, one of which was called *Puffing Billy*, appeared in the early 1800s, making short runs in the coal mining regions of England and Wales. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway, which was started in 1830, was the first modern railroad. It wasn't long before thousands of miles of tracks were laid all over the country and the golden age of rail transportation was in full swing.

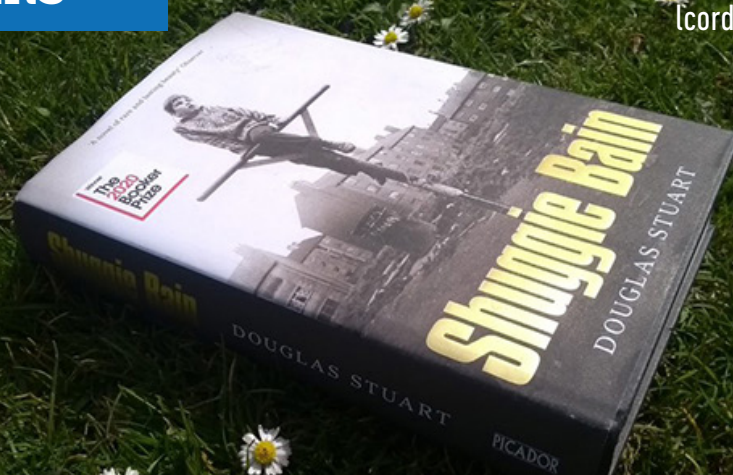
The railways solved many problems: even at a speed of about 30 miles per hour they were much faster than man- or horse-drawn carts or canal barges. But they also created a need for a standardised time system. Until then, most towns kept their own time, usually with a sundial in the town square. There was London time, based on what was set at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, which became known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). But there was also Bristol time, and Cardiff time, and others, which were all a few minutes ahead or behind London. The railways needed a single, standard time for their timetables and GMT officially became "Railway Time" in 1847. It then became Britain's legal standard time in 1880.

Britain brought the railways to Argentina and Uruguay in the late 1800s and with them came a wave of British engineers, administrators, accountants, and assorted employees. These *ingleses* set about building rail networks to transport passengers and freight and open up the remote

interior of the countries. They brought their language and culture with them, and some of their customs caught the attention of the local populations. Salient among these was the British idea of punctuality. Argentines and Uruguayans in those days were mainly Mediterranean transplants and their descendants who had a very different attitude to time. Whereas the British, perhaps influenced by their reverence for the railways, tended to see punctuality as an admirable trait that everyone should accept as the norm, residents of Buenos Aires and Montevideo saw no reason to allow time to rule their lives. Their priorities lay elsewhere. They had a casual approach to time that made it acceptable to arrive late for appointments or events, a habit that horrified the Brits. To the latter's consternation, people arrived late for meetings and assignments, official functions and receptions seldom began at the appointed hour, and even upper-level dignitaries seemed to have no understanding of time as a highly desirable organizing system. Argentines and Uruguayans accepted the unpredictability of life; the British tried to control it. This profound disconnect inevitably led to misunderstandings, bruised feelings, and, occasionally, harsh words.

The British had, at that point, been running their immense empire for a while and had come to believe that, when far from home, one must never forsake one's Britishness. It just wasn't done. So the expat railway personnel in the Río de la Plata region kept running their trains on time (to the wonderment of their passengers and freight customers) and kept insisting on punctuality in all their dealings, no matter how many times they felt slighted by late arrivals. Eventually, their hosts came to respect them for their quaint and relentless devotion to the god of time and started referring to the concept of punctuality as *hora inglesa*, or English Time. To this day, when Uruguayans or Argentines want someone to arrive on time, they say: "We'll meet on Friday at 10 o'clock. But *hora inglesa*, right?"

Shuggie Bain By Douglas Stuart



Published in 2020, *Shuggie Bain* won the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction that year, as well as numerous other awards. It's Douglas Stuart's first novel, very loosely based on his own childhood in the 1980s run-down, public housing of Glasgow. The book is dedicated to his mother, and the novel centres on the relationship of a child – Shuggie Bain- growing up in Glasgow, and his alcoholic mother Agnes. It opens in 1992 with Shuggie, a 16-year-old working at a South Side supermarket deli counter, living in a small, depressing, tenement bedsit, who's been hired as cheap labour because he is underage. The story then moves back to 1981, and from there to narrate various stages in Shuggie's life marked by the moves to different neighbourhoods the family make over the years, closing once again in 1992.

The agonies of 1980s Scotland — riven by unemployment, the erosion of industries like shipbuilding, mining, and ironworking, are the world of Shuggie Bain, a world of men run aground after the closure of mines, women and men sunk under the weight of drink, families living week to week on public assistance and disability benefits. In 1981, Shuggie, aged 9, is living in his grandparent's flat — together with his father, Big Shug, a taxi-driver, his mother and two siblings from Agnes's first marriage- all crammed together in the small council flat, though not unhappy at first. But this is a story about poverty, addiction, and abuse. Agnes descends through the degrading stages of alcoholism, vulnerable to predatory men, her only constant relationships with her children, whose knowledge of her disintegration is therefore intimate. The oldest, Catherine, marries in her late teens to get away from her mother and moves to South Africa. Alexander, "Leek", a gifted artist who carries around with him a two-year-old letter offering him a university place, stays to try to teach young Shuggie how to "act normal" — to conform to the norms of working-class Glaswegian masculinity, which doesn't come naturally to the little boy. Leek also stays in faltering hope of saving Agnes, until one day she throws him out, leaving

young teenage Shuggie as her sole carer. Earlier, his father had moved the family from the urban flat to the post-industrial wasteland of a pit village, a vague and hopeless gesture towards removing Agnes from her suppliers and companions. There Shuggie is bullied at school, because he doesn't like football, he speaks perfect English, and feels remote and detached from the other boys- clearly not "masculine" enough.

On the surface, the novel is unrelentingly bleak. The domestic spaces, the blighted landscape, the meanness of people, the bullying at school, the constant threat of violence, all add up to a picture of misery. Against this, however, there is an undercurrent that becomes more and more powerful, as Stuart, with great subtlety, renders the tenderness in the relationship between the helpless Shuggie and his even more helpless mother.

Agnes is a beautiful woman — she looks like Elizabeth Taylor- the novel chronicles her increasing dependence on alcohol, her inability to look after herself, and, ultimately, only Shuggie is left to look after her. Stuart describes each separate moment of havoc she creates with emotional care and without judgment. Often, we watch her through Shuggie's eyes. She is glamorous and stylish. And she is wounded. Shuggie cares for her with love — for this is also a love story, of a boy's unfaltering love for his mother. At one point in the novel, Agnes joins an Alcoholics Anonymous group and manages to stay sober for about a year- lovely for Shuggie. Needless to say, she is lured back to drinking by her new boyfriend. "I think she is going to drink herself to death", Shuggie tells his friend Leanne, whose mother is an addict too. "Would you be sad?" she asks him. And Shuggie answers, "I would be gutted. Wouldn't you?" She tells him: "But like I said, it's a slow road, and there's nothing you can do to help her".

Shuggie is a survivor, and this is his story - shocking, devastating, haunting, heartfelt, powerful, terribly moving, and altogether wonderful. Really worth reading.

The Second Largest Nation in The World Speaks Canadian English

by Yliana V. Rodríguez
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Canada is huge. A continent sized nation. With a sparse but still numerous population of almost 30 million inhabitants. English and French are the two official languages. There are of course many indigenous languages still spoken in Canada, together with other non-official languages like Chinese. This month's column will deal with the English used in the land of maple leaf.

Canadian English is amongst the eldest varieties of colonial English, since Canada was one of the first discoveries in the Western quest. The English first laid claim to Newfoundland in 1497. However, the French had also arrived on that side of the Ocean, establishing colonies in what they called Acadia. Now, how did the English end up winning that territory? To cut a long story short I'll cite demographer Alfred Sauvy: "It sufficed that one of the two countries competing for a vast continent sent a few thousand settlers each year, while the other sent a few hundred, and the course of history was radically changed. This is both tragic and symbolic, since, just when the French language had reached international predominance in Europe, through its great demographic superiority, it was sealing its fate in the world at large because a few more boats left England every year". And of course, English came to be spoken in Canada in response to the English aptitude for warfare.

Within its bilingual stage, English is strongest on the Atlantic coast of Canada. Jack Chambers, an expert in Canadian English, points out that Quebec interrupts the continuity of the English-language majority. The mainly French-speaking province works as a linguistic wall, splitting the Atlantic provinces from the central and western provinces, perpetuating bilingual buffer zones in the adjacent provinces of New Brunswick on the east and Ontario on the west.

But how does Canadian English sound? The most phonologically significant features of Canadian English are two. The first is the merger of low back vowels, so that this variety has only one low back vowel phoneme where most other varieties of English have two. For example, *cot* and *caught* are both pronounced in the same way, so are *don* and *dawn*. This feature was remarked upon as early as 1850. The second phonological feature of Canadian English is one of the strongest markers of the Canadian accent. Many clever listeners can tell Canadian English speakers from other North American English speakers by their pronunciations of words like *wife*, *mice*, *right* and especially, *house*, *couch*, and *about*. The diphthongs are pronounced in a singular way, so that outsiders claim that Canadian English speakers are saying *about the hoose* for *about the house*. What is really happening is that the onset of the diphthong is stronger. Our expert, Professor Chambers, calls that "Canadian Raising".

In terms of syntax, Canadian English conforms to world-wide standards. However, a construction that occurs in standard Canadian syntax (as well as in some parts of the United States) is the ever exclamation, like in "Does John ever drive fast!" and "Is John ever stupid!" Enhancing the strength of the assertion.

Like languages of our era, Canadian English is likely to undergo a great many linguistic developments. These changes will come from global networking but also from the many novel situations the country is going through. Canada's cities and towns are cosmopolitan with people of diverse creeds and colours. French, English and Native Languages are meeting more languages. In the past, Canada's Native peoples often became allies of their British overlords, joining them in battles against their European rivals, especially the French. Today Chinese tops the list of non-official languages used in Canada. We will have to wait and see the outcome of this new contact!



Books as the Leading Character

by Tomás Linn
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Montevideo's Book Fair has returned. After a year's absence due to the Covid pandemic, the fair is back with all its splendour, and it is worth while visiting.

As usual, it was assembled at the entrance of the City Hall, in the heart of Montevideo's downtown.

In this age in which everything is digital, the fact that we can take part of a big celebration where the leading character is the book, in print and paper, is something worthwhile emphasizing.

The event is taking place in slow motion, due to sanitary procedures. The launching of new books is strongly regulated. There are far less compared to previous occasions, and with limited invitations.

All the big publishing houses have their stands and show their newest editions. Neatly presented, these stands are worth visiting.

A good number of bookstores also have their stands and in the big tent erected right in front of the entrance of the Town Hall, is where people can find the best offers. Real bargains.

Books deserve this special occasion of recognition. They have survived not just the emergence of new technologies (these are always welcome) but also the possibility that, by choice of the people the book as a revered object, could disappear.

No one would give an e-book to a friend as a gift, it is too intangible and what matters, when giving a gift, is the object in itself, those two hundred pages neatly bound, with a well-presented cover, which carry within a good story, a novel, an essay on whatever subject the reader may be interested.

I do not object e-books. I do have my own kindle and those books I cannot find in local bookstores or through internet, I receive them in my kindle.

But I love having books as such. I love reading them and then keeping them in my own library which I very much cherish. I am proud of the books I have and can show. And well ... not exactly borrow them. A borrowed book is one you will probably never recover, and I have lost quite a few along the years. Although there have been occasions where I recovered some I had lost track for a long time.

A library is an interesting possession. It says a lot about its owner. It is a kind of intellectual and cultural personal possession. And also, though this comment might seem trivial, a good library kept in proper bookshelves, gives cosiness and warmth to a home.

Publishing houses and bookstores should perceive their marketing strategies in a very different way to what they have done until now if they really want to compete successfully in this digital age. A book, for what it has inside but also as an object, is something that does seduce the public. There is always a first rush towards what is the latest in new technologies just because it is new, but in a very short period, some people reach a balance. We appreciate what is useful about these new gadgets, but we keep faithful to the wonder, the beauty, and the essential meaning of books as such.

Experts on marketing should find the way to put back books on shelves. Our own, those we find in bookstores and on school and public libraries.

Meanwhile, Montevideo's book fair is still on (it will continue until November 7th), and I strongly recommend a visit; it will really be worthwhile.



Extreme Sports in Victorian Montevideo

by Alvaro Cuenca
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Support is another of the multiple legacies of Britain's Informal Empire in Uruguay in the late XIX Century. Britons built cultural walls on their colonies and the club, and the club activities are the most durable ones in our shores. In Uruguay, the Montevideo Cricket Club and the Montevideo Rowing Club were the first in the 1860's. Eventually football, golf, tennis, polo, hockey, and rugby would be also practised by the British community, football being the most popular among the criollos.

Sport was not seen only as an entertainment, but mainly as a character builder. Cornerstone of the Victorian education, sport was supposed to be at the centre of the moralistic ideology of athleticism. British public-school boys learnt the basic tools of imperial command: courage, endurance, assertion, control, and self-control. Sport in this sense also promoted loyalty, obedience, initiative, self-reliance; all essential values and traits, for they created confidence to lead and compulsion to follow. Sport with the Christian gospel and the classics where the perfect triad that guided millions of Britain's Middle-class boys to the colonies to manage and work the three C's imperialism of the Late Victorian age. Christianity, Civilization, and Commerce where the virtues the British Empire had to offer the rest of the world, and young Britons bravely accepted the challenge and headed to the colonies. Henry Stanley Bowles was one of them.

Bowles was born in Brighton in 1871. Of Middle-class family he followed the path of millions of English boys of his time. Public school education and love for sport, playing football for the amateur club Preston North End. His aunt, Sarah Attree, was the wife of John Oldham who came to Montevideo to tend the first submarine telegraph cable under the River Plate, connecting Montevideo and Buenos Aires, and then managing the River Plate Telegraph Company [later Western Telegraph]. No wonder that Bowles lands in Montevideo in 1890 to work in the telegraph company. Shortly after arriving he will change job for the London & Brazilian Bank and marry Adelina Brooks, daughter of a well-known photographer, partner in Brooks & Chute of Montevideo.

Henry Bowles is a complete sportsman but excels at football. He is part of the Golden age of British football in the River Plate, having been part of the Montevideo Cricket Club's football team that played regular fixtures with British

clubs from Buenos Aires. Bowles will partner with Offley Scoones, an Oxford Blue, who could be pointed out as the first international pass of a football player to Uruguay. But Bowles has a "first" too. He is credited as having scored the first Uruguayan international goal playing with the Montevideo Cricket Club against the Belgrano Athletic Club of Buenos Aires in 1890.

It is the winter of 1899, Adelina Bowles is tending their first child and Henry decides to spend the Sunday afternoon playing golf with some friends of the British community. The links of the recently founded Montevideo Golf Club are close to the Parque Urbano [Parque Rodó/Canteras/Punta Carretas]. Surrounded by football fields used by British teams, including the recently formed Albion, the golf course finishes at the coast. A metal shed is the provisional clubhouse until the finances of the club permit something more solid and permanent.

We will let The Montevideo Times tell us what happened that day. Under a big black headline: TRAGIC CATASTROPHE AT THE GOLF LINKS the article says,

"The holiday was marked by one the most violent storms that has passed over this city for many years...the chief fury of the storm seemed to be felt at Punta Carretas...where about a dozen of the Golf club members, all from our community had gone out for a game...Bowles, Lane and Thomas [manager and sub-manager of the Montevideo Gas Works] took refuge on the club-house...the wind caught this [the club-house] with its full force, lifted it bodily from its foundation, rolled it over two or three times, and finally deposited it some thirty yards away, stretched out flat as a pack of cards...Mr. Bowles' body was found terribly crushed and mangled....Mr. Lane senseless and Mr. Thomas with a broken leg. It is imagined and hoped that his death [Mr. Bowles'] had been practically instantaneous...those who took shelter in the sand bunker went unscathed...Mr. Bowles' friends had the melancholy task of conveying home his body and breaking the terrible news to his young wife."

There was an even darker side to the tragedy. Not openly said but read between lines, the conduct of the British football players on the close fields was not helpful enough, and to make matters worse, the belongings of the golf players left at the shed were never found, amongst them a golden watch belonging to Mr. Reid. Sad day on all counts for the British community.



Constitutional Troubles

by Juan José Castillos
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It was a bit embarrassing that Canada, an independent nation for many years, at the time I was living there still did not have a constitution of its own, the document that fulfilled that role was in fact, a British law, the British North America Act. Conscious of this shortcoming, the Trudeau government decided in 1982 to correct this and have our own Constitution document, written by Canadians, as it should be. This having been accomplished, Her Majesty the Queen was invited to come to Canada to sign the new Constitution with a ceremony that finally sealed the country's full independence.

Regardless of this, unlike other countries in which republican feelings run rather high, Canada has remained steadfast in retaining Her Majesty as the Head of State, a feeling most of us share, that underlines a history of tradition and good relations, especially seeing the example south of the border with multiple presidential shortcomings. As it was the case for many of the British former colonies, the transfer of power to the natives happened peacefully and by degrees, from the confederation in the second half of the XIX century to full independence about one hundred years later.

Unfortunately, shortly after, a deranged person with false pretences, got access to one of the two originals of the Constitution document and defaced it by throwing glue and the contents of a can of paint all over it. It was not considered appropriate to make Her Majesty return to Canada to sign a new original, so attempts were made to try to remove the stains without damaging the document.

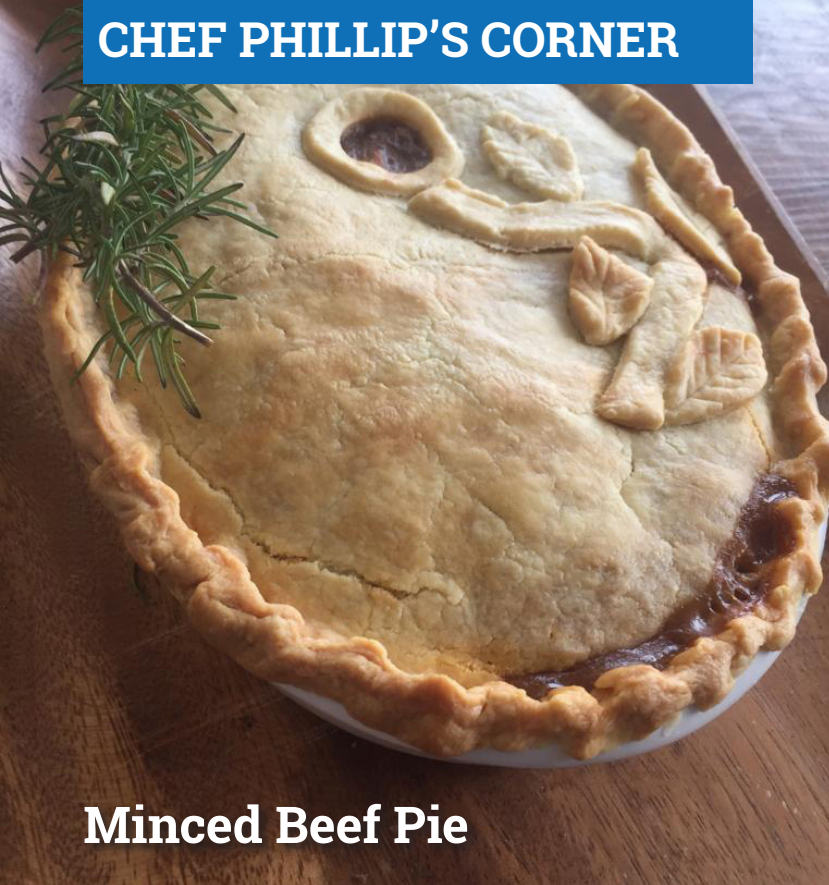
"Once the National Research Council in Ottawa and the Dominion Color Company in Toronto positively identified

the pigment as lead-based, conservators realized that the techniques used on the models were no longer viable. According to a Public Archives news release: 'an inorganic pigment of this nature is extremely stable and non-reactive to this type of treatment'.

During my stay in Canada I had made acquaintance of Dr. Peter Marr of Reed International, a branch also known as Dominion Color Company, who had been approached by Public Archives of Canada to see what he could do about it. Aware of my early university training in analytic chemistry, Dr. Marr invited me to work in his laboratory on samples of the same kind of paper used for the Constitution that had been stained with the same glue and paint that defaced the original. Always attracted to new challenges I accepted and tried different approaches, unfortunately all unsuccessful. Until finally I tried a reducing mixture that completely removed the stain without affecting the writing or the paper itself.

This information was passed on to Public Archives but as far as I know, for some reason the stains have not been removed, and the original is still mostly in its defaced form, although the text can still be read after they removed by suction most of the liquid mixture.

The only recognition I had for my work was a letter from Dr. Peter Marr acknowledging my intervention and years later another letter from the Canadian Ambassador in Uruguay congratulating me for my work. But what I really cared about was the success in finding a solution to the problem brought about by careless handling of that precious document that allowed its defacement by not taking protective measures.



Minced Beef Pie

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, cut in small pieces
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 600 g beef mince
- 1 sprig fresh Rosemary (remove leaves and finely chop)
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 tsp flour
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- 400 ml beef stock or water with stock cubes
- 2 tbsp tomato purée or tomato ketchup
- 1 potato, peeled and cubed
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Fry the onion for 2-3 minutes; add the carrot and fry for one more minute. Add the garlic purée and fry for 15 more seconds; then add the beef mince breaking it up with a wooden spoon as it begins to cook.
2. Season with the rosemary and bay leaf and stir in the flour until well incorporated. Add the Worcestershire sauce, beef stock, tomato purée and cubed potatoes. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and simmer for between 45 minutes and one hour. Stir occasionally to ensure it doesn't stick. If it becomes too thick, add a little bit more beef stock.

(tsp = teaspoon / tbsp = tablespoon)

Minced Beef Pies are a satisfying and comforting meal when served with mushy peas and mashed potato.

Delicious ground beef cooked with onions, carrots and delicious flavorings all wrapped in a flaky, homemade pastry.

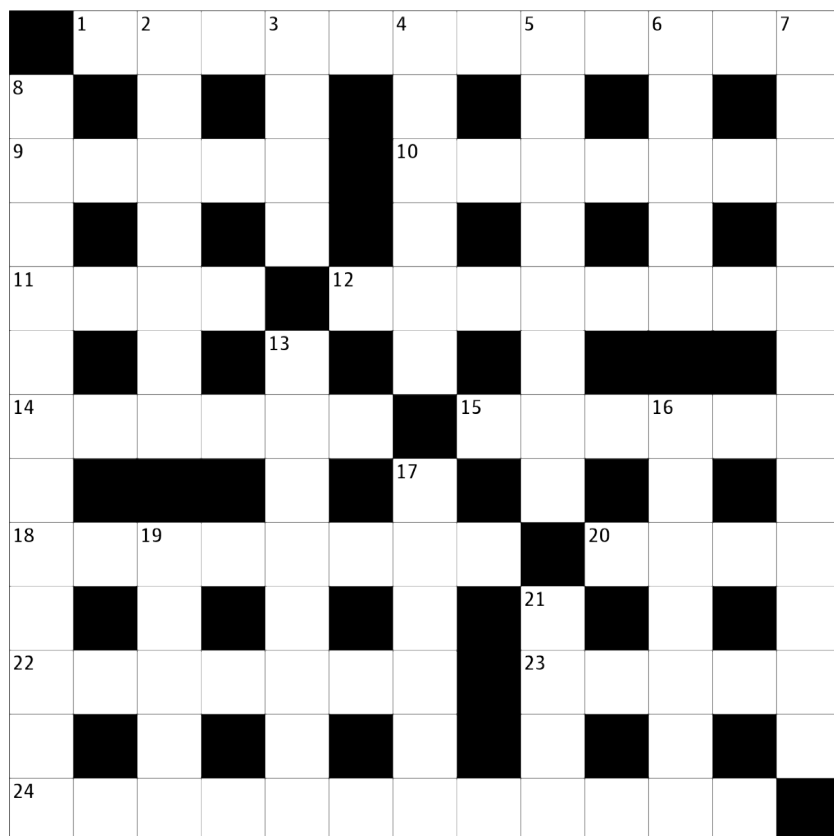
With a double, top and bottom crust, these pies are just classic English comfort food.

Shortcrust pastry

- 250 g flour
- Pinch of salt
- 150 g butter
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp chilled water
- 1 beaten egg to paint the pastry

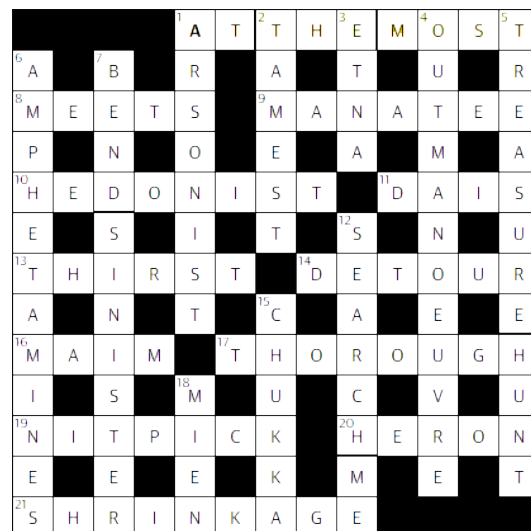
Method

1. Sieve the flour with a pinch of salt. Rub in the butter with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Beat the egg with a fork and mix in carefully. Add the water and mix in; knead until it forms the shape of a ball. Wrap in cling film and allow to rest for at least an hour in the fridge.
2. Divide the pastry in two pieces, one slightly larger than the other. Roll out the larger piece until slightly larger than the pie dish. Drape the pastry over the sides of the dish.
3. Add the cold, cooked beef and cover with a lid made with the smaller piece of pastry. Fold the two pieces of pastry together and press with a fork.
4. Make a hole to allow the steam to escape. To decorate, this hole can become the "face" of the flower. Make a stalk and leaves out of the pastry trimmings and brush with the beaten egg or milk.
5. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes in an oven at 180°C, until the pastry is a golden colour and well cooked.
6. Serve with purée of potatoes and fresh vegetables.



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

October solution:



Across

- 1 Buffalo Bill's entertainment (4,4,4)
- 9 Being pulled along (2,3)
- 10 Vanquish — no truce (anag) (7)
- 11 Work for money (4)
- 12 Arena for the San Francisco Giants or the LA Dodgers (8)
- 14 Idiot (6)
- 15 Archer (6)
- 18 Bulletproof (8)
- 20 Social climber (4)
- 22 Musical tempo (7)
- 23 Unsophisticated rustic (5)
- 24 Major cure fee (anag) - act of God that prevents one keeping a promise (5,7)

Down

- 2 Transitional (7)
- 3 Beginnings (4)
- 4 Snare (6)
- 5 See you later! (informal) (6-2)
- 6 Reddish-brown dye (5)
- 7 Home destroyer — bawling clerk (anag) (8,4)
- 8 50% extra pay (4,3,1,4)
- 13 Strive — strife (8)
- 16 Informal name (7)
- 17 Italian city on the Adige (where the two gentlemen came from) (6)
- 19 Food grinder? (5)
- 21 Heap of wood and other combustible material (4)



Guy Fawkes Night

Guy Fawkes Night, often called Bonfire or Firework Night, is an annual evening of fireworks and bonfires held across the country. People love to wrap up warm, in scarves and woolly hats, and head out with loved ones to 'ooh' and 'aaah' at the colourful displays.

It marks the failure of the Gunpowder Plot on November 5 1605, when a group of embittered Catholic conspirators planned to blow up parliament and kill the Protestant King James I.

Although the plot was masterminded by Robert Catesby, and involved many other conspirators, Guy Fawkes is synonymous with the event as he was the one caught in the cellar below the House of Lords with 36 barrels of gunpowder. Effigies of Guy, wearing his distinctive tall black hat, are often burned on bonfires.

Most of the plotters were eventually captured, forced to confess, and hanged, drawn, and quartered at the Tower of London as a lesson to others. Guy actually escaped this torturous fate by jumping to his death first.

Guy Fawkes Night is still celebrated today in recognition that had the Gunpowder Plot been successful, it would have changed the course of British history.

November 5 every year. However, depending on which day of the week it falls, firework displays may take place the weekend before or after.



REEL OF THE MONTH



ENVY

The forbidden 'deadly sin' that can make you more successful



In the Divine Comedy, Dante goes down the circles of Hell meeting the world's most illustrious sinners. 700 years after his death. In this episode we explore envy in the age of social media.

At a time when we are constantly surrounded by everyone else's seemingly perfect lives, are we becoming more envious than ever before? If so, could we actually be using this envy to our advantage?

BBC
REEL



FILMS TO WATCH IN NOVEMBER



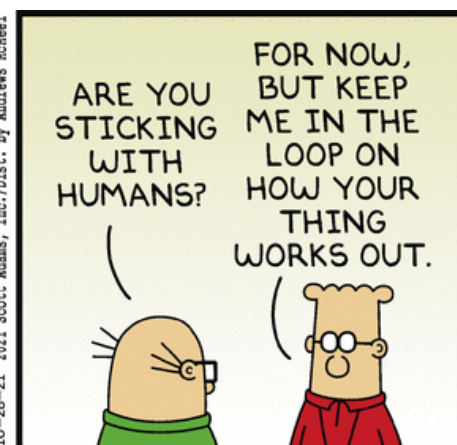
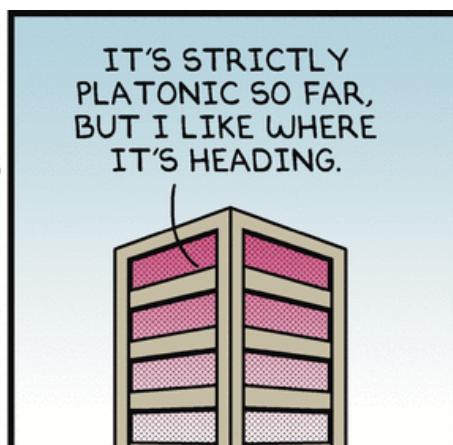
Paul Thomas Anderson is back, Lady Gaga is in House of Gucci and Kristen Stewart is Princess Diana in Spencer: these are this month's unmissable films.

CLICK HERE TO SEE
THE LIST OF FILMS



DILBERT

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





London in November