



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

JANUARY 2022

Medical Column
Omicron and Omega

St Andrew's Society
Burns Night

Queen Elizabeth II
Platinum Jubilee

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What a year!!! And it went by so fast. I do hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, together with friends and family.

So how could we summarize this year? Well, it was challenging, that's for sure. But it got me closer to a lot of you who I did not know, it allowed us to tidy up the society, and brought new ideas for events and actions for this upcoming 2022. This Covid situation has been stressful for all of us, not letting us travel to see family, limiting gatherings or events and health complications. But slowly things are starting to go back to normality. Nevertheless, take special care and be safe.

We were able to attend last Wednesday 15th of December the final Club Uruguayo Britanico dinner party honoring the Institut Pasteur for their invaluable work throughout this Covid Pandemic, with very inspiring words from their president Carlos Steneri and the Minister of Health Daniel Salinas. We should really appreciate that we have world class researchers here in Uruguay and that their work is echoed in the world.

I would also like to congratulate her Majesty's ambassador Faye O'Connor for a wonderful year end cocktail, that brought a lot of us together, and brainstormed some great ideas for this 2022.

What are our new year resolutions? The BSU, this year worked hard on improving and updating files and systems, and I would like to thank the effort the team has put in.

Walter Albanell our treasurer had a goal and was able to achieve it, by reaching out to all of you and update our files and fees, and this helped us lay down new events for this 2022. Joaquin Salon, our events coordinator, managed to multiply himself and be able to be at more than one place at the time juggling events, donations and helping with payment methods and system updates. Caroline Stanham our secretary, does an incredible job at keeping us all in line by bring order and tidiness to our records, as well as handling the social media. Andrea Davis is that worker bee, that doesn't stop bringing new ideas and keeps in contact with all our members, probably the backbone to the organization and Geoffrey Deakin, has managed to wonderfully handle the website and newsletter so you all can read what is happening in the Society with fun facts, news, and updates. So, our New Year's resolution is to keep this up, and start with new activities and events to come all a little bit closer.

I have been receiving lots of e-mails with requests for special New Year's greetings. I wish I could write them all down here, but that would need some pages, so, to you all, a very special wish for this New Year. May it make your dreams and goals come true, share it with loved ones and fill you with joy.

See you all in 2022, take care.

Colin Shearer
President



Birthdays

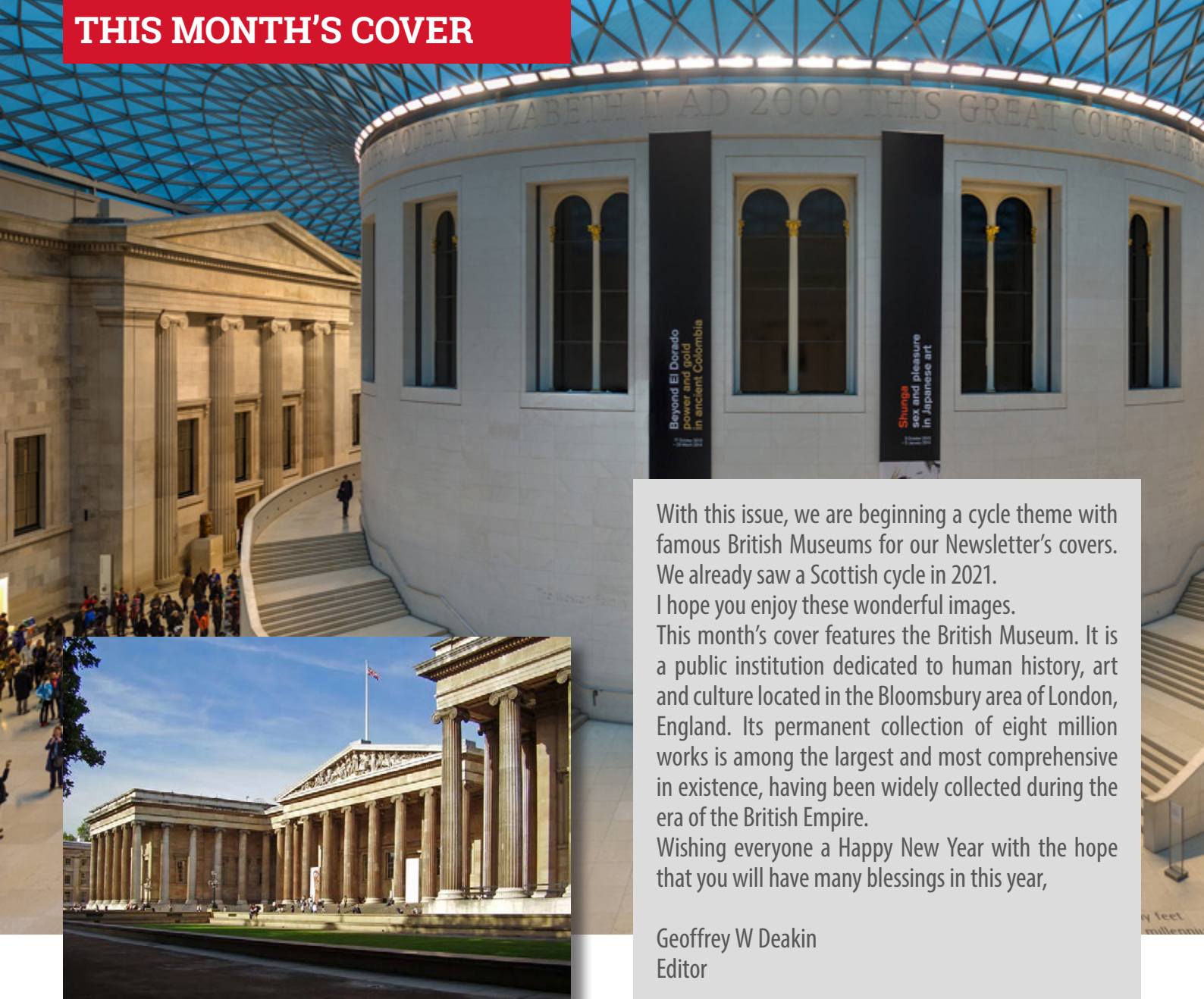
in January

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 · Ana K. Fontes | 21 · María P. Ciasullo |
| 01 · Karen A. Higgs | 21 · Anthony P. Prevett |
| 02 · Eric Quevedo | 22 · Patricia M. Prat |
| 02 · Manuel Ciganda | 22 · Sheila B. Henderson |
| 03 · Mark N. Sexton | 23 · Ondine Aenlle |
| 05 · Adriana de los Santos | 23 · Eleonora R. Liotti |
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| 07 · Helena Jorge | 27 · Francisco M. Ruvertoni |
| 09 · Teresa Gallette | 27 · Elisabeth C. Whitty |
| 09 · Virginia A. Brown | 28 · Nicolás F. Etcheverry |
| 10 · Gabriel L. Rizzo | 29 · Pedro L. Maisonnave |
| 14 · Mariana Fox | 29 · Caroline V. Empson |
| 16 · Joan Lucas-Calcraft | 29 · Stephanie Bell |
| 16 · Diana R. Surgey | 30 · Cecilia Lebrato |
| 18 · Aída P. Scott | 31 · Verónica Funch-Thomsen |
| 19 · Silvana M. Frigerio | |
| 19 · Alejandra Mendioroz | |



New Members

Bradley 'Brad' Tyler Johnson Coates
Jennifer Mc Conney Gepp



With this issue, we are beginning a cycle theme with famous British Museums for our Newsletter's covers. We already saw a Scottish cycle in 2021. I hope you enjoy these wonderful images.

This month's cover features the British Museum. It is a public institution dedicated to human history, art and culture located in the Bloomsbury area of London, England. Its permanent collection of eight million works is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence, having been widely collected during the era of the British Empire.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in this year,

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.



Merry Christmas!!!

All of us at the Sir Winston Churchill Home would like to wish everybody all the best for 2022!
This picture was taken in Victoria's beautiful garden when we went for tea.



Happy Birthday!

On December 10 it was Valerie's 67th birthday which coincided with our Christmas tea.



Christmas Carols

Four students from The British Schools choir came to sing carols at the Home. They sang beautifully and we'd like to thank the School for coming every year.





Boxing Day Lunch

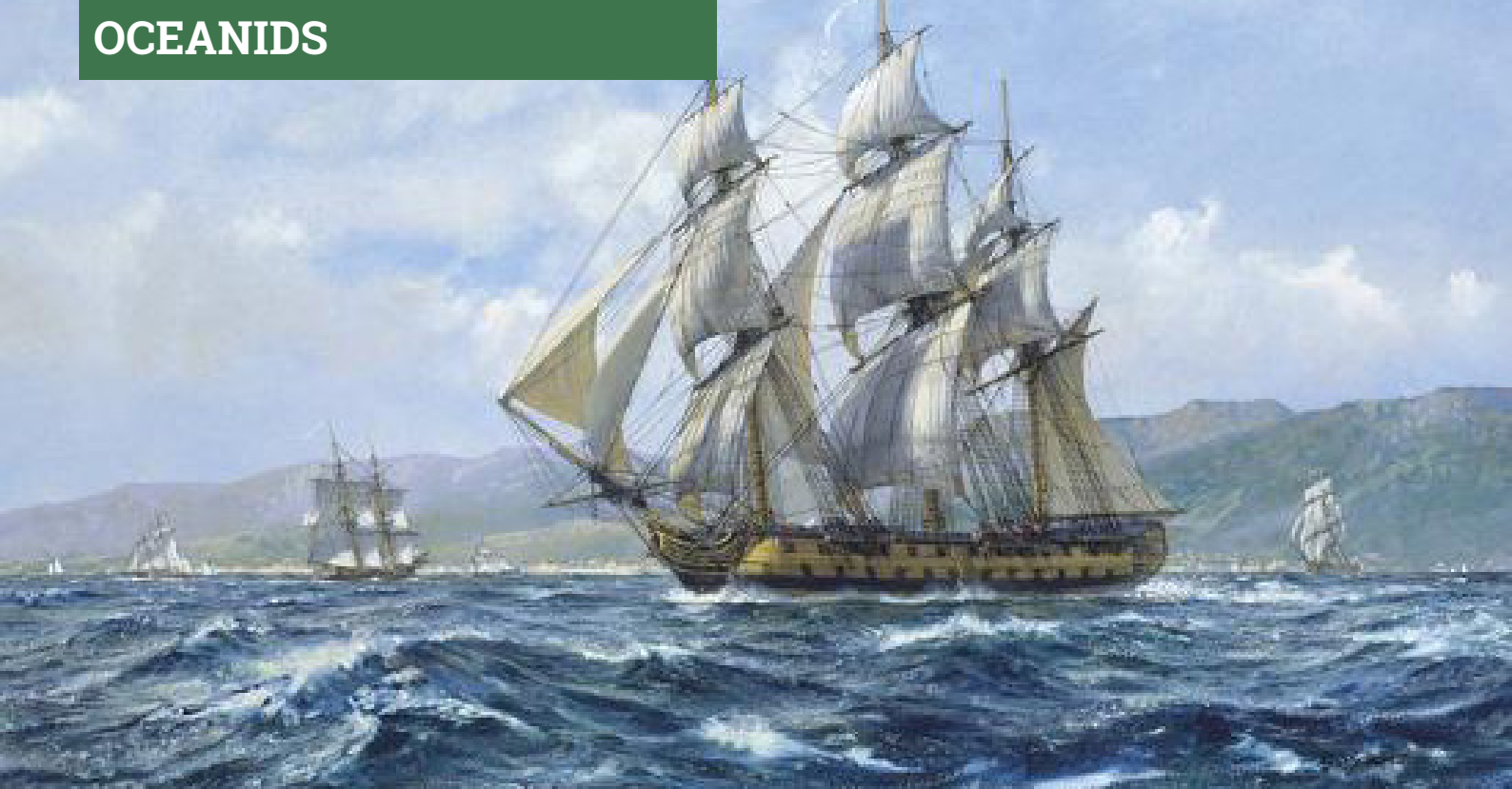
Kenn's friends from The British Antarctic Survey Club hosted our Boxing Day lunch which was a great success.



Norma's 83rd birthday

On December 30 it was Norma's 83rd birthday.
Happy Birthday to you Norma!





HMS Agamemnon Audiovisual Itinerant Exhibition Project



The NGO specialized in the management of maritime heritage Oceanids, is working for the sensitization of Lord Nelson's favorite warship, HMS Agamemnon, wrecked in Maldonado Bay in 1809. This ship and its dazzling history, which fought from the American and French revolutions, to Trafalgar, is currently threatened by an invasive species, a wrinkle called *Rapana Venosa*, it has eaten the mussels that covered and protected it, leaving it now exposed to decomposition. Therefore, the objective of the project is to sensitize the public about the need to achieve its urgent preservation.

To carry out this project, the NGO Oceanids has the support of the British Embassy in Montevideo, the British Royal Naval National Museum, and the Buckler's Hard Museum (the shipyard where this ship was built in 1781).

The proposal is a travelling audiovisual exhibition, with images and unpublished material provided by the aforementioned UK museums, and also by the Oceanids team that had the opportunity years ago to visit and film the site. Through projections in a dark room, an immersive sensory experience is generated. In an audiovisual narration in three acts, lasting about 10 minutes, integrating real images with animation and video mapping, scenes are recreated that tell the origin of the ship in the Buckler's hard shipyards, then its travel and war service and finally its destination as an archaeological site submerged in the bay of Maldonado. The plan is to open the exhibition in Punta del Este during Carnival week, and then take it to Montevideo and later to the UK.



*Wishing you and yours
a happy, healthy,
and abundant 2022*



2021 Gala Dinner

The British Uruguayan Club awarded the Institut Pasteur de Montevideo the Southern Star Award 2021, in recognition of its invaluable contribution to the fight against the pandemic. The Club's President, Ec. Carlos Sterni and Ambassador Faye O'Connor presented the award to: Cr. Ricardo Pascale and Dr. Carlos Batthyány.





Imagine a theatre production depicting an endless global pandemic. The actors fall, rise, and fall again as the prolonged stress pushes and pulls out profound disagreements, widespread anxiety, and endless rounds of confusing debate. Centre stage are the unexpected Dickensian spectres revealing a world where the people rage, the climate punishes, institutions crumble, and only the strong survive.

Fragile, yet resilient humanity peers out from the curtains and looks toward you, inviting you to join the play. Audience and actors mingle, each one free to fight or flee, to persuade or permit, to engage or withdraw, to relocate or remain ... choices, options, chaos, extroverts, introverts, enneagrams; preachers and politicians, bureaucrats and bankers, entrepreneurs and hired help, locals and foreigners, thinkers, and feelers, unique and traditionalists ...

A voice intones: "Welcome to 2022!"

What will you do? And the curtain never falls, because the drama has become reality and the conflicts and questions are real. They are not only on the stage, but in the backroom, the dressing room, the washroom, and the dining room ... Dickens' ghosts are gone, and we are Scrooge, emerging from a dark place and wanting to contribute toward a greater good for all..

Allow me to suggest two simple rules of life I am learning from others and attempting to incorporate:

1. Practice acceptance as an intentional part of self-discovery. The theatre stage has spatial limits. Life establishes existential limits. Accepting limits means I listen to my body, respect others' boundaries, observe how people respond to me, question my own motivations, and wonder about my emotions. I invite input and listen. I choose to receive instead of reacting in hope that I can move beyond defying and/or denying life's limits.

2. Replace self-absorption with self-observation. I have learned that even my best intentions can have an unwelcome impact on someone I love. So, I want a

simple reminder every day that erases that failed refrain "it's the thought that counts." Actually, it is the impact of my actions that will be remembered. Self-absorption focuses on knowing I am "right" (whatever that means). Self-observation means caring deeply about the person across from me and how my attitudes and actions promote the "peace on earth and goodwill to all" that the Angels announced (Luke 2).

I want people to experience me as an engaged but peaceful presence in 2022.

JRR Tolkien famously said through an equally famous character in one of his celebrated books: "All we have is the time given to us ..." Each individual life has an opportunity to make some meaning and create some joy for another. So, as you step out on the proverbial stage of 2022, what will you do?

Do not be overwhelmed by the past, overly anxious about the future or overly- confident about yourself. Jesus said in his most celebrated sermon: "Consider the flowers of the field, ...consider the birds of the air, ...consider your life ... And seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (right living) and all these things will be given to you as well". (Matthew 6:25-33). Not understanding they ask him: "Teacher, what is the most important thing? And he said, 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself ...everything (that matters) flows from these two things.'" (Matthew 22:34-40)

Now, make your own illustration and write your own application. Share it with someone (if you want) via email or during a shared meal. Have some fun as you prepare a positive and purposeful "stage entrance" into 2022.

Grace and peace from Christ Church as we work together for a greater good and a Happy New Year!

Warmest regards,
John, Pastor of Christ Church



As we approach the last page of the calendar, we feel a growing need to pause and reflect. And looking back at this year, we are overcome with warm feelings of satisfaction and gratitude.

We have achieved goals and aimed higher for our dreams, and this fills us with satisfaction.

Our teachers and all team members inspire our gratitude with their commitment and dedication. Challenging as 2021 may have been, the team has consistently risen to the occasion.

We would also like to thank our students, both old and new, for their trust, enthusiasm, and eagerness to grow, which make the ANGLO brim with joy. Showing up every day for them is no less a pleasure than a duty.

Thanks to everyone, then, whose efforts make ANGLO a name that commands respect – an accomplishment that is our pride and joy.

There is no limit to how far we can go if we continue to work together. Here's to making 2022 another extraordinary year.

Greetings!



BREXIT - ONE YEAR ON



So in 2021 did Britain begin a new age of independence and economic prosperity or did the country become politically isolated with a weakened trading position? The truth is that it is too early to say whether the arguments of the pro or the anti-BREXIT groups are justified. But what have we learnt from the past year?

One thing we have learnt is that just as the implementation of divorce settlement between two individuals can give rise to problems, so did the BREXIT separation deal.

In respect of fishing rights, both the EU and Britain had to make difficult compromises in order to reach a BREXIT agreement. The EU kept more boats in British waters than the UK had demanded, but over a shorter period. The implementation has been less than straight-forward with the French government complaining of delays by Britain in issuing the appropriate licenses to enable French vessels to continue to operate in British waters. At one point, the UK government sent some Royal Navy ships to the semi-autonomous British island of Jersey after a blockade by French fishermen protesting about the situation.

Northern Ireland also proved to be a source of disagreement. In order to protect the 1998 Peace Agreement, the EU had insisted that any BREXIT deal must ensure the continuance of the "open border" (free of check and controls) between the British province in the north and the Republic in the south. To do this required the introduction of checks on certain goods (mainly food) sent from mainland Britain to Northern Ireland to ensure they met EU standards. Since BREXIT, the EU has consistently complained that Britain has failed to properly introduce the necessary checks. The British Government has responded by claiming the EU is trying to impose the new rules too rigidly and that more flexibility is needed, particularly given COVID related supply problems.

The only conclusion we can draw at this stage is that these types of problems are likely to continue. A fairly recent meeting between the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson,

and the French President, Emmanuel Macron, to discuss fishing rights made little progress as both leaders knew that being seen to be taking a tough stance can play well to their domestic political opinion.

On the British domestic front, a severe shortage of transport and delivery drivers during 2021 seemed to catch the government by surprise. What seems to have happened is that drivers from eastern European countries in the EU who had previously relied on the EU's free movement of people rules, decided as a result of BREXIT and the outbreak of COVID to return to their home countries. Many now say they have no intention of returning to Britain as a result of better opportunities in the EU and also the new post-BREXIT British immigration procedures. The British Government tried to put the best "spin" it could on the situation by calling on the transport industry to stop trying to rely on "cheap" foreign labor and claiming it was a good opportunity for people in Britain looking for work.

Elsewhere in 2021, a report by a quasi UK government organization called the Office of Budget Responsibility estimated that the long-term damage of BREXIT on the UK economy would be "worse than COVID". Economists in favor of BREXIT would question the assumptions used in the report and also point out that during the year Britain concluded a significant free trade deal with Australia while the proposed EU trade deal with that country is still in the discussion stage. The above is just a brief summary of post BREXIT events in 2021. I hope that during 2022 we will have the opportunity to do a talk "presencial", similar to the original BREXIT talk in September 2016, at which everyone can express their views on this wide-ranging subject.



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.



ENGLISH SUMMER COURSES

Face-to-Face or

Synchronic On-line

4.5 hours per week

4 weeks of training

Divided in 4 levels

Start: 2nd February

Finish: 4th March

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

8.30 am to 10 am – Face-to-Face
in Anglo Centro

6.30 pm to 8 pm – On-line



FEBRUARY 2022
SECURE YOUR PLACE

MORE INFO

www.anglo.edu.uy

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2022

We have many plans for this New Year in our books, so we hope to be able to meet in person to enjoy together all of them. Keep an eye for future news.

We wish you all the very best!



**Her Majesty's Ambassador Faye O'Connor OBE
& The St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay**

would like to invite you to join them at a traditional

BURNS NIGHT

Scotland's leading private chef, **Barry Bryson**, together with Swedish-trained British Residence chef, **Marco Silva**, will be delighting you with a 3-course dinner paired with local wines and accompanied by speeches and ceremony dedicated to **Robbie Burns**.

25 January 2022 – 19.30 – British Residence (Jorge Canning 2491)

Places are limited, UYU 1,750 per person.
Contact +598 (0) 99 157 615 to book by 10 January 2022.
Vaccination certificates required for entry.

Omicron and Omega

The ancient Greek alphabet has 2 letters which can be represented by our modern, Latin or ASCII letter 'o': Omicron ('small o') and Omega (large 'o') – and this has nothing to do with capitalisation. Omega is the last letter of the ancient Greek alphabet. From 'alpha to omega' is a phrase which encompasses all time, used in the New Testament, which was written in Greek and in the aftermath of the Hellenistic culture of Alexander the Great and his successors. Besides, Omega (capital letter) is a name that identifies high-quality vintage Swiss wristwatches.

The SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern had been named alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and epsilon, until this multiply mutated newcomer from the southern end of Africa came into the scene. The WHO skipped 2 letters of the alphabet and chose omicron as its namesake, for reasons that are speculative – some say it was due to political correctness as the missing letters can have other symbolic meanings. The first skipped letter, nu, can be confused with 'new'. The second one, xi, can put the donkey's tail on Xi Jinping, the Chinese leader – a feat that could have been part of someone's revengeful agenda, blaming the country where it all started more than a year ago, plus its immediate cover-up.

There are still many more letters between omicron and omega. Mega (large) would accurately describe an Armageddon-style nemesis, the end of all time, the biblical punishment of humanity by God for choosing other deities and idols in his place. Micron (small) may point to something small, difficult to see, but ubiquitous. It's going to stay with us; we won't get rid of it, but it'll challenge us to learn our ways to tolerate its presence and how to keep clear of its harmful path: it's like sin.

The prophets who read the signs of our times, which we call scientists, have predicted that this highly contagious variant will eventually hit everybody, but those who were prepared (3 or 4 times vaccinated) will fare better and be spared. The others, who succumbed to the arrogance of avoiding vaccination and exposing themselves to the virus through social gatherings without distancing, not masking and giving credit to false beliefs (fake news and conspiracy theories) will suffer the brunt of this wave.

There's a high chance that the virus will eventually settle down, replicate, and mutate into omicron-type variants every few months or every year. By then, we'll be living with it for good, receiving yearly updated mRNA vaccines, in an analogous way we get our 'flu shots every autumn. A rather unglamorous end – until a new pandemic due to another bug zeroes on us.



Hobby and Oggie

British capital investment helped to transform Uruguay in the second half of the nineteenth century. Lured by the dream of a new life in a country awash with opportunity, people came from all over the British Isles to work on the railways and utilities, the cattle estancias, the meat processing and refrigeration plants, the shipping lines, and the banks and other firms that sprang up to service these new industries. By the turn of the century the large Anglo community was pondering how to give their children a proper British education this far from home. In response to those concerns, The British School was founded in 1908, and remains a thriving institution to this day, having also educated many of the country's political, business, academic, and cultural leaders over the last century.

The school originally "imported" British teachers who came to Montevideo on contract; some of them never left. Two of those who stayed had already become legends by the time I was there, in the 1950s, and left their mark on me and many others. I am talking about the two men affectionately known as Hobby and Oggie.

William Leslie Ogston (M.A., Aberdeen University), arrived in 1930, aged twenty-four. A Scotsman who never lost his burr, he remained at the school for 47 years as a teacher of mathematics and geography, sports coach, and House Master of Jones House. He also served as Acting Headmaster during the war years. A keen sportsman and Scouter, he had been captain of his university's cross-country team and soon breathed new life into the 1st Montevideo Scouts Troop.

Arthur J. Hobson (M.A., Oxford University) arrived in 1937, when the girls' and boys' schools had just been merged, giving rise to the plural (and official) version of the name: The British Schools. His main subjects were history and English and, during his 30-year tenure, he was House Master of Cuff House. A true scholar, he founded the School Library and organized and supported extra-curricular

intellectual life for students. He started the Perficean Society and the chess club, and revived the school magazine, *The Perficean*.

These two men were quite different in temperament, yet their goals were the same. Oggie was reserved and seldom smiled in the classroom. He was strict and I was always a little scared of him. He once sentenced me to detention for misbehaving—or, in his words, for being "young and foolish"—and I had to stand outside his office for an hour at the end of the day. I was mortified by such a humiliating experience and recall the radiator beside me in the corridor emitting welcome waves of comforting heat. But I took his classes far more seriously after that and learned to appreciate his sincere attempts to awaken in me an interest in mathematics and geography.

By contrast, I loved Hobby and was never scared of him. How could I be? He was the gentlest of souls and nurtured my nascent passion for words with constructive criticism and his signature sunny smile. He gladly shared his own passion for language, literature, and history with us; we were fortunate to have such a generous teacher who brought Shakespearean plays and historical events to life with his readings. He thoroughly enjoyed reciting poetry and prose to us, twisting his legs into pretzels in his unabashed enthusiasm for whatever he was declaiming. It is true that, during my early teens, my thoughts frequently strayed in class, but Hobby had a knack for drawing me back to the subject at hand, and I can still quote some of the lines from Macbeth and the works of the poets to whom he introduced us.

Both these teachers were perhaps at their most animated while urging on their House teams during the Tug-of-War on Sports Day. Out on the playing fields, waving their hats and shouting excitedly, they embodied the encouragement they showered on us in their classrooms. After all these years, with profound gratitude, I salute them both.

Lawrence Durrell (1912-1990) Gerald Durrell (1925-1995)

ITV's *The Durrells* tells the story of the years the Durrell family spent in Corfu, from 1935 to 1939. Probably many will have read Gerald Durrell's *My Family and other Animals* which the series is partly based on. Before the ITV series, there was a TV film (2005) with Imelda Staunton as Louise, the mother, and Mathew Goode as Larry, telling the story of the family, who "reside in various villas, indulging in their varying interests: Gerald develops his passion for wildlife, his mother cooks and worries about everyone; Larry writes and annoys the entire family with high-brow guests and unhelpful suggestions; Leslie develops his passion for ballistics and sailing, whilst Margo sunbathes and enchants the local young men". This summary applies both to the ITV series and the film, as well as to a BBC 1987 mini-series produced with their Natural History Unit, so three minutes of natural history footage appeared on each episode. Scorpions, praying mantises, giant toads, snakes, tortoises, barn owls and pigeons trained to dance were brought to Corfu - even Gerald Durrell himself was there. He was delighted that Hannah Gordon as his mother fitted the bill so perfectly:

"She's absolutely superb, picking up beautifully my mother's slightly flustered, not-quite-with-it air, and not knowing, if the family were squabbling, whose side to take."

The difference between the 1987 and 2005 productions with *The Durrells* (2016-2019) is that whereas the first two are quite faithful to Gerald's 1956 book, the newer series relies on all three books that make up his *Corfu Trilogy*, that is, *My Family ...*, *Birds, Beasts and Relatives*, and *The Garden of the Gods*. Also, the first two TV productions were more faithful in their choice of actors to portray the mother and Spiros Americanos, the devoted taxi driver who befriends the family and is a source of much amusement—ITV's Louise and Spiros are much more glamorous than described in the books — especially Spiros— and there's no romance in the books!

In a preamble to the second book, (*Birds...* 1965) Gerald describes his family in dreary, freezing, England, reunited for the first time since the end of the war, suffering from

colds, discussing the very successful book he'd written about them (*My Family...* "the title is insulting" says sister Margot). He says he's planning to write another because he'd left out many of the funny stories they remember. But Larry is furious, and so are the others — "I won't have you writing about a love affair with that disgusting old creature!" squeaks mother -. So of course, he does, and the result is two more books about enchanted days collecting animals and other eccentricities, bathed in sunshine and freedom. Gerald went on to write several more books to finance his Jersey-island zoo, among the first devoted to conservation.

One I especially like is *The Whispering Land*, - his trip to Argentina to collect specimens. Like all his books it's extremely entertaining, and, of course, zoologically informative. Its opening paragraph could be a description of Montevideo this spring:

Buenos Aires, decked out for spring, was looking her best. The tall and elegant buildings seemed to gleam like icebergs in the sun, and the broad avenues were lined with jacaranda trees covered with a mist of mauve- blue flowers, or *palo borracho*, with their strange bottle-shaped trunks and their spindly branches starred with yellow and white flowers.

Lawrence Durrell- Larry- in Gerald's books an aspiring novelist, was a huge admirer and friend of Henry Miller (also a Corfu guest) whose audacious *Tropic of Cancer* caused so much scandal. Larry later became one of the foremost writers of his time. Perhaps his most well-known books are the *Alexandria Quartet*, with their poetic prose and innovative structure. He, too, wrote about his time in magical Corfu - a lovely, evocative memoir, *Prospero's Cell*. He writes about several characters who appear in Gerald's books, but not his family. Gerald's mentor Theodore Stephanides, naturalist, biologist, astronomer, poet, and translator, is prominent Lawrence's book. Early on, they discuss the idea that Corfu was probably the island Shakespeare had in mind for *The Tempest*, hence the book's title. It's been re-issued recently and easily available.

Victoria Dies Hard

At the beginning of the XX Century Queen Victoria has reigned the longest for a British Monarch so far (1837-1901). She even gives the name to an era and to many cultural and political traits and events of the XIX Century. The British Army and Royal Navy participated in Victorian Wars, usually colonial ones that were easy victories, the spears and leather shields of natives around the world being no match for the Gatling machine-gun. The Victorian families obeyed the Victorian values without hesitation. Victorian women were the "angel of the house" taking care of the children and waiting for their husbands, who as exemplary Victorian gentlemen, worked to sustain the family. The Victorian home was a family sanctuary where everything was perfect, and if it was not, it never permeated the home's walls.

Victoria had plenty of children and adored Prince Albert who when he died, she mourned for quite the rest of her life. Victoria's subjects at home and in the British Empire amounted to hundreds of millions and her busts could be found at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore and the British Club in Montevideo. Victoria had lakes, provinces, cities, streets, halls, and myriad other geographical places named in her honour. Without having to go far, Pueblo Victoria [today's La Teja], and the Victoria Hall [today's Teatro Victoria] in Montevideo.

The apogee of Queen Victoria's idolatry came in the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of 1887 and 1897. Pageantry overflowed London's streets and all colonial outposts, from the white colonies of Australia and New Zealand to the most distant and insignificant ones, amongst them, Uruguay. The Victoria Hall was the gift of the British community in Uruguay to the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee. The building's project was approved in 1898 but run into financial problems as it was totally paid by the community's individuals and took much longer than planned to be built. When it was finally finished the gift arrived late for Victoria was already dead, something typically "criollo" to the Britons in Uruguay dismay.

But Victoria's cult did not end with her death at Osborne

House in January of 1901. Few years later, her birthday (May 24) would be used to celebrate the Empire, of which she had been "mother" and symbolic driving force for so long.

Empire Day became the most important celebration of the year for the British community in Uruguay since its conception. Although not recognised as an official event until 1916, Empire Day was celebrated in Montevideo since 1908 as the day where "Britishness" was exalted and the role of the children in the Empire was explained to them. In this sense it was a total celebration as all the community, with no exception of age was expected to attend the formal functions organised by the community leadership, lay and religious alike. Its apotheosis was in 1916, when the war inflamed even more the patriotic senses of the expatriates in Uruguay.

A special brochure was made for the occasion in which the portraits of many of the volunteers from Montevideo were published. By then more than one hundred had left and already two had been killed in action. The main functions would be in the morning at the Holy Trinity Church, and fittingly, since four in the afternoon at the Victoria Hall. There would be dancing and speeches for children earlier, while the events for adults would be as from 8 o'clock. The British Minister Mitchell-Innes impressed on the younger hearers "the necessity of remembering they were passing through the most dramatic period of all their lives, a period crowded with unprecedented events, producing in thousands its heroes who were daily making the most incredible sacrifices... war was bringing great changes, among them the acceptance of compulsory military service."

Never again was the fervour of 1916 repeated. The battles of the Somme (1916) and Passchendaele (1917) finished the enthusiasm of participating in the war. Patriotism was what was left but now the war was the enemy. The years of disillusion started and not until 1920 was Empire Day really celebrated again in Montevideo. The 24 of May 1920 the ex-Servicemen's Association was founded and "Tipperary" was heard again in Montevideo until late hours in the night.

Long Term Hatred

Years ago I had to go to Denmark and when I arrived in Copenhagen, we all had to go through immigration and customs. A lady ahead of me looking like a well-to-do very well dressed traveler, was holding a Chilean passport and she was told to go to a little room where a lady wearing a thin transparent glove was waiting for her.

When she returned, she gave me a glance with a look of disgust on her face. I imagined what had taken place and realized that anyone holding a South American passport is automatically a suspect of being a drug dealer and gets searched in the most intimate places. When it was my turn, I showed my Canadian passport, and I was just waved through.

Then I was hurrying along a street in Copenhagen dragging my hand luggage behind me and I saw a couple of little old ladies who stared at me with an unpleasant expression and one of them mumbled to the other: 'disse tyskere...' (these Germans). Just then I realized that being quite tall, with a very short haircut and wearing clothes similar to what I had seen German businessmen wearing elsewhere and walking briskly, I had been taken for a German.

When I was very young, I was captivated by Swedish film maker Ingmar Bergman and by his wonderful films to the extent that I attended Swedish language classes by the wife of a Swedish technician temporarily living in Uruguay, I still remember by heart parts of his films in that language.

I felt tempted to turn around and say to them: "jag är inte tysk" (I'm not German) in Swedish which I hoped they would understand, being Scandinavian languages quite similar, but decided not to because it might upset the dear

old ladies, who didn't have a clue that I had understood. It was quite a surprise to me that so many years after the war there was still such a deep hatred for the invaders of their country, especially among the older generation.

I recently watched a Danish film, Land of mine, in which right after the war, a group of young German POWs are forced to clear mines from a beach and are treated so savagely by the Danish sergeant in charge that I could understand it only in the light of my past experience there as a pseudo-German. That didn't dampen my appreciation of a very neat and beautiful little country where everything seemed to run smoothly and efficiently.

In different countries there are very different perceptions of past events. For example, I had a Polish friend who had a deep admiration for Germans, and I also met other Polish people who deeply resented what the Germans had done to Poland. After a brutal war they occupied his country, murdered many of its inhabitants whom they considered an inferior race, plundered, and destroyed its major cities during five years of widespread terror.

But Wieslaw, my Germanophile friend, never mentioned these events, to him Germans were extremely well organized people, disciplined, efficient, hard working, conscientious, from whom his countrymen could learn a lot.

During my long conversations with him I realized that he did not deny any of the terrible things they had done during the war, but he blamed them on the nazis, not on the ordinary citizens who had submitted to their infamous rule and carried out what they were told to do. Wieslaw had the open-mindedness to appreciate what he saw as national virtues that deserved to be emulated.



Panzanella Salad

After many years of working in Europe's top hotels as a chef, using the best ingredients on the market, i was totally blown away by the juiciness and flavour of Uruguayan peaches upon m arrival in Uruguay many years ago. Late December and January are the best months to find these wonderful peaches at their best.

For the following recipe I have adapted a classical *Italian Panzanella Salad* and given it a twist by adding peaches. I find the peaches add a sweetness which balances out the acidity of the tomatoes and enables us to enjoy two of summer's most beloved produce.

Ingredients

Serves 6

- 350 g crusty bread cut in 3-cm cubes
- 150 ml olive oil
- 3 tbsp (tablespoons) wine vinegar
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 1 kg ripe tomatoes
- 250 g cherry tomatoes
- 1 bunch basil
- 750 g peaches
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

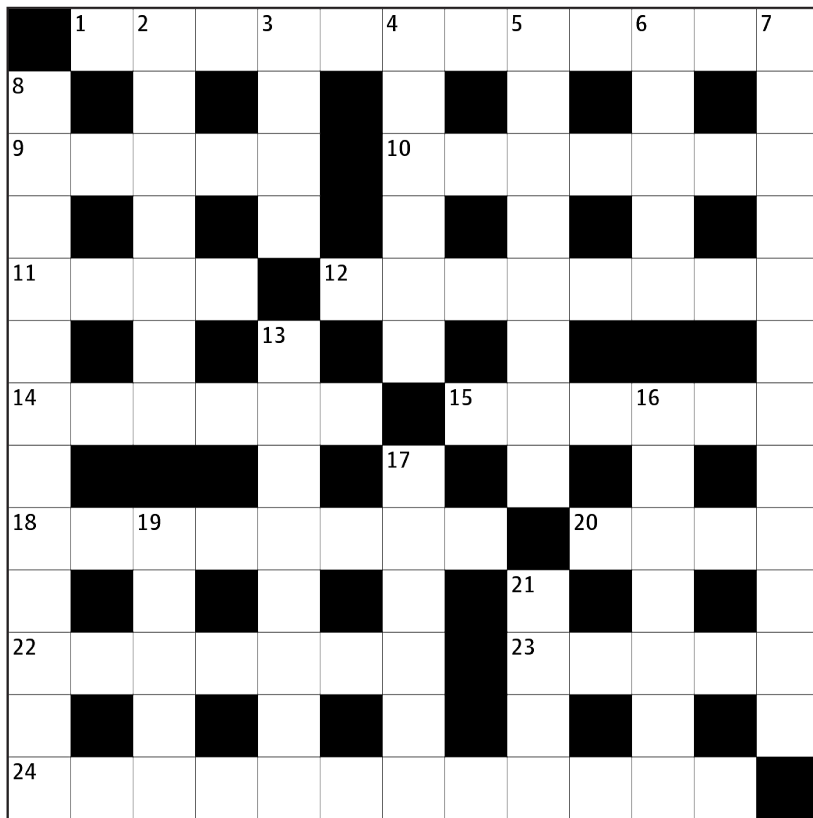
Method

If the bread is too fresh, dry it out for approximately 15 minutes in a medium oven at 160°C.

Mix the olive oil with the vinegar to make vinaigrette and add the onion and garlic. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well stirring occasionally for between ten and 15 minutes until the dried bread cubes soak up the vinaigrette and tomato and peach juices. The bread should still be crunchy in the centre when served.

Serve as a side salad with chicken or salmon or as a light main course.

- Remember that it is a bread salad with tomatoes and peaches, so be generous with the amount of bread you add
- If you like, add one teaspoon of Dijon mustard to the vinaigrette, together with one teaspoon of honey
- Fresh mozzarella cheese, pesto, corn, cucumber, black olives, or capers can be added, too.



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

December solution:

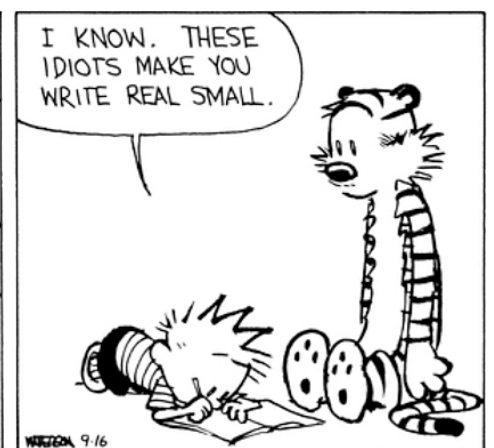
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Across

- 1 Association such as at Liverpool or Everton? (8,4)
- 9 Imitative of the past (5)
- 10 Aerial (7)
- 11 Something that scurries sideways (4)
- 12 Magnetic coil of wire — no oldies (anag) (8)
- 14 Involve (6)
- 15 Fire on a hill that can be seen from a distance (6)
- 18 Colour supplement? (8)
- 20 One should avoid falling into one of these (4)
- 22 Watering holes (7)
- 23 It's as good as a mile! (1,4)
- 24 Scattered about (4,3,5)

Down

- 2 Exist longer than (7)
- 3 Norse god (4)
- 4 Female warrior from Scythia? (6)
- 5 Covered in soap suds (8)
- 6 Slang — jargon (5)
- 7 You'll need this to get on! (8,4)
- 8 Test, say (7,5)
- 13 Kind of Italian restaurant (8)
- 16 Paris-based jewellery and wristwatch manufacturer (7)
- 17 Fresh (6)
- 19 Benefactor (5)
- 21 Party — hit — try (all informal) (4)



Please Enter Your New Password

Please enter your new password.

Bacon

Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

Eggs and bacon

Sorry, the password must contain more than one number.

Two eggs and bacon

Sorry, the password must contain more than one numerical character.

2 eggs and bacon

Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

2damneggsandbacon

Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

2DAMNeggsandbacon!

Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

OhForGodsSakeJustGiveMeAccessYouUselessMachine2DAMNeggsandbacon

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BSU CHOIR

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Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British monarch to be honoured with a Platinum Jubilee.

In 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

The closest any other has ever come to that impressive stretch was Queen Victoria, who, at age 81, had served as monarch for nearly 64 years when she died in 1901.

Britain began the formal tradition of celebrating a monarch's time on the throne by marking King George III's Golden Jubilee in 1809, just as he approached the 50th year of his reign.

Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June - one year from today.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

The special weekend is set to run from June 2nd until June 5th.



What did the queen have to say about all this?

In her annual Christmas Day message, the monarch mentioned the upcoming festivities fondly.

"The 6 of February, just six weeks from now, will see the start of my Platinum Jubilee year, which I hope will be an opportunity for people everywhere to enjoy a sense of togetherness: a chance to give thanks for the enormous changes of the last seventy years - social, scientific and cultural - and also to look ahead with confidence.", she said.

REEL OF THE MONTH

A simple exercise that gives your brain an unexpected boost

Scientific evidence shows that physical activity is not only good for the body, but also for the brain. But what type of exercise and how much exactly is the most beneficial?

According to Dr Damian Bailey's research, squats have emerged as a significant option, and he explains why.

BBC
REEL



THE 20 BEST FILMS OF 2021

BBC Culture film critics Nicholas Barber and Caryn James pick their highlights of the year, including *Nomadland*, *Another Round* and *West Side Story*.

**CLICK HERE TO SEE
THE LIST OF FILMS**



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Happy 2022!