



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# CONTACT

JUNE 2022

**BSU  
Annual Council Meeting**

**Jubilee  
Big Jubilee Lunch**

**Lamb Chops  
The Future Calls**

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



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## BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER

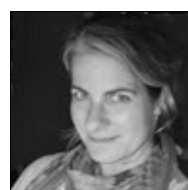
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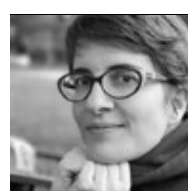
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Dear Members

**W**elcome back again, hope you all are keeping safe.

What about the weather?! We can say winter has arrived. These cold temperatures are tough, and donation campaigns have started through several institutions aiming to provide people in need with warm clothing. So, if you have clothes to donate or want to know more about this, please contact us, and we will help with the arrangements.

Last week, the Annual Council Meeting was held at Britannia Hall, and reports showed that despite Covid, results have been positive, which underlines the hard work put in by each institution throughout these two years. Also, great ideas emerged from interactions between the institutions, some of which you will be hearing about shortly. I would like to specially thank the British Cemetery for setting up Britannia Hall. A great place for gatherings.

June is a special month, it's our Queen's jubilee month. And we have arranged a Jubilee Big Lunch celebration this Sunday at the British Schools Pavilion with all sorts of activities, games, raffles, and surprises. Mailings and social media posts have been going out all last week as well as this one, with information and reminders, so I hope to see most of you there. If you have questions, please write to [vp@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:vp@britsoc.org.uy).

As mentioned at the AGM, we have been working on improving systems, accounting, and payment methods. We now have the Mercado Pago recurring payment system that offers a special discount. You can contact our treasurer at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy) for more information, or access the link in our newsletter.

Well, I'll leave you for now with all these activities and hope to write back next month with new activities, news and fun facts.

Take care.

Cheers

Colin Shearer







On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. Celebrations for this unprecedented anniversary culminate with the Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend which takes place from 2nd to 5th June. 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.

<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

<https://www.royal.uk/platinumjubilee>

Picture Credit: [Jacob KingPA/WirePA/Images](#)

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can pay your 2022 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

We have also implemented **recurring payments** so you no longer have to remember to pay your fees. You do not need to have a MercadoPago user, by clicking [HERE](#) you can choose to enter your details as “Invitado”, you are 3 clicks away of never having to remember to pay again! This recurring payment is very easy to cancel if you wish to do so in the future.

You may also pay by transfer or a direct deposit to the account of British Society in Uruguay at **Banque Heritage** (account number 62582-03). Please email your transfer/deposit slip to our Treasurer.

If you forgot to pay any previous annual fees please email our Treasurer at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy) to learn about ways to pay past dues.



**MercadoPago**  
Annual Fee 2022 - \$700

**MercadoPago Recurring**  
Payments - \$650

**Once this is done, your membership will be updated.**



### Dear Reader

**J**une marks the culmination of the celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Society is holding the Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th, and we hope to see many of you there to share in lunch and laughter, games and goodies, drinks and decorations.

The whole idea of celebrating The Queen's Jubilee got me thinking about what it means to be a descendant of Brits, Scots, Irish, Jersey Islanders and Iberian Celts living in Uruguay in the 21st Century. For despite holding a long string of surnames generously peppered with English, Scottish, Irish, and Channel Islander patronymics (Stanham, Pratt, Miles, Cash, Stirling, Mullin, Ingouville), I am at best 5 generations removed from the original bearers of the names from the mother-lands.

So what ties me to a land I have only visited twice, but whose lines of kings and queens I can name, from Alfred The Great to Queen Elizabeth II?

I am Uruguayan through and through, but there's a part of me that's been molded on UK culture and folklore and history and literature and music and humour. My maternal grandmother spoke little English but had a fierce pride in her Stirling patronymic (woe-to-you if you mispronounced it). My paternal grandmother was an Iberian Celt (Galician) and yet instilled in us a love for sprawling English gardens and wild roses. I didn't know my maternal grandfather, but his Irish zest for fun and tricks seeped through from my Mullin great-grandmother and O'Neill great-uncles. And the acerbic humour of my Stanham grandfather is basically a family heirloom that gets passed down to all who bear the surname (to our spouses' eternal chagrin I'm afraid).

What about you? What ties you to this zany community of anglophiles? Enjoy your read of our June issue of Contact, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts at [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy)

*-Victoria Stanham, Newsletter Editor*

## Birthdays

in June

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

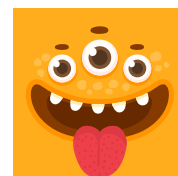
- |                                   |                                    |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Roderick A. Cameron O'Dwyer    | 10. Marcio Umpierrez Gualco        | 24. Eleonora Scosería Pérez     |
| 1. Ignacio López Franco           | 10. Víctor H. Pereira Baliero      | 24. María F. Reda Vignale       |
| 1. Christopher D. Golby           | 11. María T. Sapelli Bacigalupi    | 24. Niza Marlene Flores         |
| 3. Juana Isern Edbrooke           | 12. Philip Bowen Davies Raggio     | 25. Catherine M. Bodeant Elías  |
| 4. Susana M. Souto Garbarino      | 12. Maria T. Hill Izuibejeres      | 25. Carolyn A. Symonds          |
| 4. Hernes F. Rodriguez            | 13. Paul David Griffiths Vecino    | 26. June M. Griffin Slavin      |
| 5. Daniel A. Bonelli Sayagues     | 14. Winifred Weinrich              | 26. Carol Ferguson Smith Sproat |
| 5. Agustina Lebrato Day           | 18. Andrew J. Page Stevens         | 29. Tomás Isern Edbrooke        |
| 6. Esperanza J. Castleton Bridger | 20. Agustina Scherschener          | 30. Pamela Johnston Davies      |
| 8. Judith C. Vecino Sánchez       | 20. David P. Michaels Press        |                                 |
| 8. Dion L. Bridal Bayne           | 22. Janis A. Fitzherbert Dickinson |                                 |
| 9. Andrew Cooper Gibson           | 22. Jorge Eduardo Arbon Perez      |                                 |
| 9. Catalina Williman Curochquin   | 23. Alexandra Cooper Bastarrica    |                                 |

## New Members

Alfredo Viglietti Gomez  
Caroline Eleanor Mac Lennan Skirzewski  
Graciela Margarita More Aladio  
Ralli Museum of Punta del Este  
Haroldo Roberto Miles Kelly  
Mauricio Suárez Cal  
Fiona Karen Wilton

*Welcome*

How do you make holy  
water? You boil the  
hell out of it.



# 2022



**List your events in our calendar:**

**We invite all sister societies to send us dates of your upcoming events to [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy) .**

## JUNE

**WEDNESDAY 1:** CUB - CONVOCATORIA ALMUERZO: CHRISTOPHER JONES, CEO del Grupo TATA - 12:15hs at Parva Domus, Bvar. Artigas 136. [www.cub.com.uy](http://www.cub.com.uy)

**SUNDAY 5:** BIG JUBILEE LUNCH - 12hs at The British Schools Pavilion

**FRIDAY 17:** ANGLO - ENGLISH EXAMS WEBINAR: Assessing students' writing at B2 First / First for Schools level - 18:00hs  
<https://www.anglo.edu.uy/seminarios/>

**SATURDAY 18:** The St. Andrew's Society JUNIOR CALEDONIAN BALL, 14hs at the British Schools Gymnasium.

**SUNDAY 25:** BSU CROQUET TOURNAMENT - 10:00 to 12:30 at The British Schools Fields.

## NOVEMBER

**SATURDAY 26:** The St. Andrew's Society SENIOR CALEDONIAN BALL.



**If you would like to post a classified or commercial ad in our pages, please contact our treasurer for a quote at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy)**





## 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 COUNCIL MEETING



**T**he British Society's Annual Council Meeting took place on Wednesday 25th May at Britannia Hall.

Representatives from 13 of our sister institutions gathered together to vote on the positions of our elected Committee Members and share updates from each Institution.

#### In attendance:

Raquel Stewart (St. Andrew's Society)  
Ian McConnell (The British Schools Society)  
Chris Golby (British Hospital Society)  
Carolyn Cooper (SWCH)  
Maureen Pierce (Benevolent Fund)  
Michael Warren (British Cemetery Society)  
Mark Teuten (Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute)  
Pablo San Nicolás (Silver River Lodge)  
George Stewart (City of Montevideo Pipe Band)  
Alfredo Viglietti (Montevideo Players)  
Federico Heller (Montevideo Players)  
Santiago Theoduloz (Graduates of British Universities Association)  
Daniel Varese (Club Uruguayo Británico)  
Sarah Cowley (British Embassy)  
BSU Board: Colin Shearer, Andrea Davies, Walter Albanell, Caroline Stanham, Joaquín Salhón.





## COUNCIL MEETING 2022



*Joaquín Salhón, Walter Albanell, Colin Shearer, Andrea Davies, Caroline Stanham*



*Federico Heller, Alfredo Viglietti, Colin Shearer, Andrea Davies, Joaquín Salhón*



*Chris Golby, Ian McConnell*



*George Stewart, Walter Albanell, Sarah Cowley, Michael Warren*



*Carolyn Cooper, Maureen Pierce, Michael Warren, Federico Heller*



*Raquel Stewart, Daniel Varese*



*Pablo San Nicolás, George Stewart*





# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

5th. June, 2022

12:00 hs

**The British Schools Pavilion**  
at Gral. Máximo Tajes 6411.

We're inviting the community in Uruguay to come together for The Big Jubilee Lunch as part of the official celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee!

Join us to share friendship, food and fun.

Everyone's invited!

## WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?

Food and drinks to share  
Your own plates, cups and cutlery



## COMPETE AND WIN A PRIZE!



### Bunting competition

Bring your home made Jubilee Bunting to decorate and the best one wins a prize!



### Cupcake competition

Put your baking skills to test and bring your Jubilee decorated cupcakes.  
The best one wins!

## Take part in fun games

Three legged race, Egg and spoon race, Tug of war, Guess the cake's weight, Face painting, Colouring Corner, Toddlers corner, etc.



TEA  
PLEASE

BY FREDAUY

**Ticket**  
**\$200**

Children 11 and under have free pass.  
You can pay your ticket on site  
or through Mercado Pagos  
<https://mpago.la/2ts7WKa>



**Got Questions?**

Write to us at  
[vp@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:vp@britsoc.org.uy)





**SUNDAY  
25TH  
JUNE**

10:00 to 12:30  
AT THE BRITISH SCHOOLS  
FIELDS

**MALLET READY?**





## Obituary

### ELAINE ANITA BEARE ROUANET

Sadly, Elaine passed away on the 29th of April. She had been living at the Home since March 2013 and will be missed by all her friends and carers, who looked after her for so many years.

Elaine was a very affectionate person and was always cheerful and had many phrases that would make everybody smile: *"Dios no le da hijos al que le da sobrinos"*, *"lindo día, no se mueve una hoja"*, *"qué bueno, una cara conocida"* and many others.

She loved singing so everybody learned the French national anthem.

In addition, she was an excellent domino and bingo player. Rest in peace dear Elaine.

**Sonya celebrated her 84th birthday at the Home! Happy birthday to you dear Sonya!**



Happy  
Birthday  
Sonya





*President Luis Lacalle Pou with Prime Minister Boris Johnson*

## Presidential visit to London

**U**ruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou, accompanied by an official delegation, travelled to London on 22-24 May for an official visit, invited by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Ambassador Faye O'Connor escorted them.

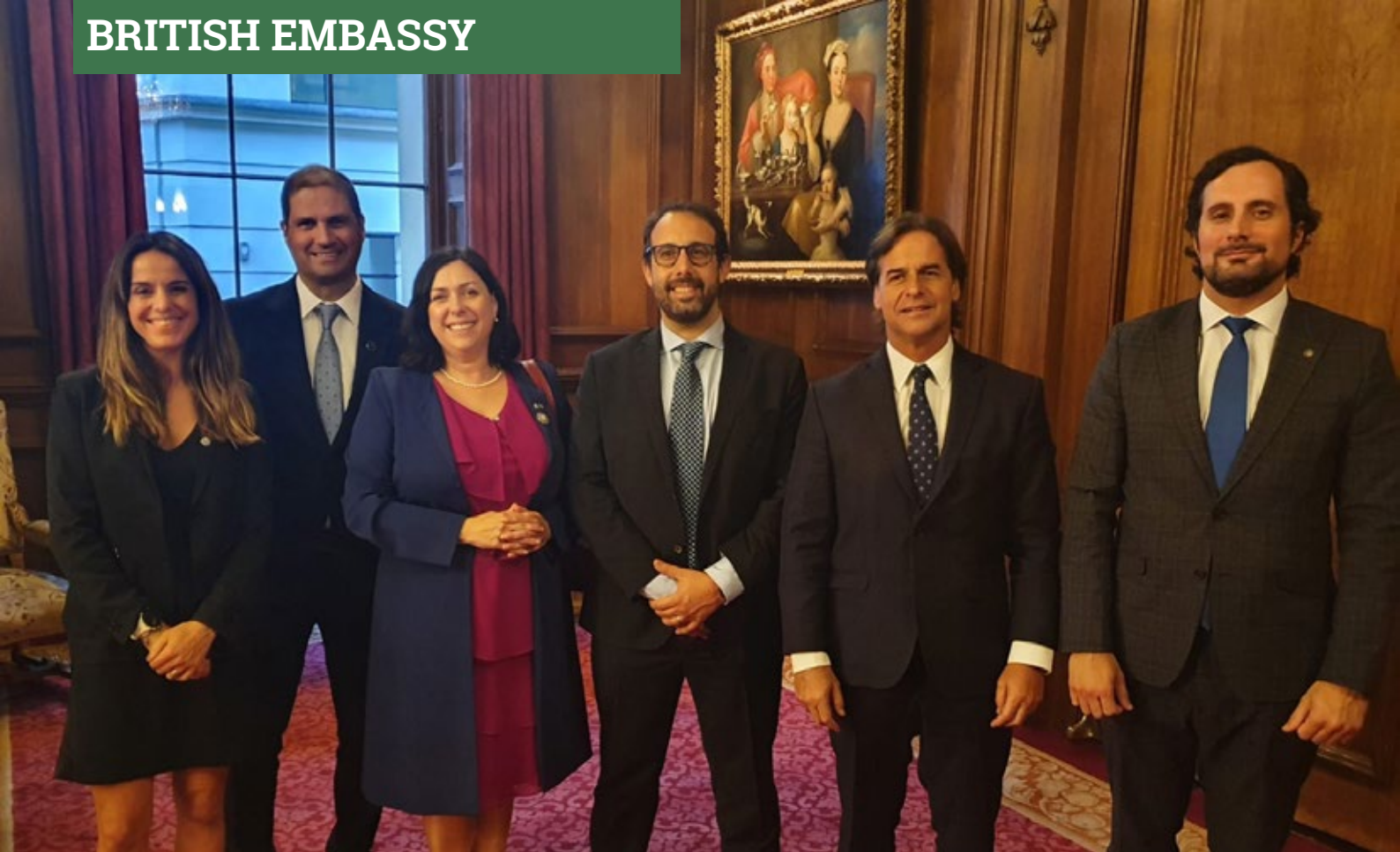
He had an intense agenda, meeting HRH Prince Charles and Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss. He also delivered a conference in Canning House about the opportunity that Uruguay presents as a gateway to the region.



*President Luis Lacalle Pou with HRH Prince Charles*

DANIEL MARESCA





*President Luis Lacalle Pou with Ambassador Faye O'Connor and Uruguayan delegation*

Coinciding with the presidential visit, a Uruguayan delegation attended The Education World Forum.

President of Ceibal, Leando Folgar, delivered a presentation about the skills and learning that are generated from connections mediated by technology.

Director of Education Gonzalo Baroni and President of ANII Falvio Caiafa were also part of the delegation that visited London between 22 and 25 May.

You can find [more information here](#), and coverage of the visit on the Embassy's social media accounts.



*President Luis Lacalle Pou with Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss*



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo





# Good use of antibiotics and other medicines

**Self-medication can be dangerous because it increases antibiotic resistance.**

## When should antibiotics be used

They are only effective against infections caused by bacteria, not those caused by virus, fungi, yeasts or parasites.

They should always be prescribed by a doctor. If you self-medicate and use them in a different dosage, frequency or period of time, they could be harmful.

## Secondary effects

The most important secondary effect is the alteration of microbial flora. Flora is composed of bacteria that live in our body and are beneficial to us, but are sensitive to antibiotics. Alteration of microbial flora can bring about other infections.

## Why antibiotics should only be used when prescribed by a doctor

The doctor reviews the clinical aspects of the infection with the patient and after identifying the bacteria, chooses the most appropriate antibiotic with the corresponding dosage, frequency and for the time needed.

## Resistance to antibiotics

Bacteria have the capacity to develop and transmit resistance mechanisms from one strain to another. This is why an antibiotic that was effective against a specific infection is not effective any more.

It is very important to bear this in mind because incorrect use of antibiotics causes antibiotic resistance.



## How to store medicines

They must be stored in a cool, dry place, away from light. It is important to have them properly identified so as to avoid mistakes, and keep them out of the reach of children, pets and any other person who might get confused.

Cold chain medicines are the most sensitive to temperature changes. In general they must be stored between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius. To avoid temperature changes they must be stored in the centre of the fridge, away from the door. If there is a power cut they should be stored in a cooler with refrigerant material.

## Medication disposal

The medicine cabinet should only have valid medication and should never be thrown as common trash. Expired or broken medicines can be disposed of in most pharmacies which have special containers for this purpose.

If there are sharps, they should be disposed of in a rigid container, such as a closed bottle and taken to a place that accepts biomedical material.

*Head of Pharmacy, Lucia Castellano, pharmaceutical chemist.*



## Welcome-back Tea

The Guild held a lovely welcome-back tea at the beginning of May. Thanks to the invaluable help of the British Cemetery President and staff, we got together in Britannia Hall, where our members were able to visit the premises and listen to Michael Warren tell us a little about its history and how it came about. Everyone enjoyed visiting with friends they had not seen in a very long time.



We would also like to remind everyone that KNITTING CARE is still going strong. We would appreciate your help knitting or crocheting squares for blankets to be donated to people in need.







# Lunch Invitation

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 12:15 PM



CEO of Ta-Ta Group

## Christopher Jones

Parva Domus, Punta Carretas  
Bvar Artigas 136, Esq. Parva Domus

Those who need a special menu (celiac, diabetic, vegetarian, etc.)  
please notify the Club Secretary in advance to attend to your requirement.

More Information



[www.cub.com.uy](http://www.cub.com.uy)





**This year Her Majesty Elizabeth II celebrates her 70th year on the throne.**

We join all the people around the world who will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee this weekend.



## 2022 Junior Caledonian

The Saint Andrew's Society of Uruguay gladly invites you to the 2022 Junior Caledonian, to be held at the British Schools Gymnasium on 18th June at 14:00.

It will be a great opportunity for those who once danced Scottish Country Dances to remember old times. For those who haven't to learn about them, spend a great afternoon, and why not dance some.

Come and join us!



Cambridge Assessment English exams, or “Cambridge exams” for short, are very well-known in our country. These exams were introduced in Uruguay in 1948 by the Anglo, and the number of candidates every year has kept growing since then. With a ratio of 1 exam every 200 inhabitants, Uruguay has become the country with the highest Cambridge exams penetration in the whole world.

Hundreds and hundreds of bilingual schools, language schools, universities and private teachers in Uruguay prepare their students to sit for Cambridge exams every year. Cambridge Assessment English refers to them as “preparation centres,” and they are a fundamental piece in the success of Cambridge exams in our country.

### Support for Preparation Centres

At the Anglo, we work with a network of about 700 preparation centres and provide them with support in many different areas. In addition to registering candidates for the exams and administering the tests, we offer:

- Advice on language programmes
- Help in choosing the best exam preparation resources
- Help with mock exams
- Tailor-made workshops for teachers
- Zoom sessions to discuss assessment and professional development
- Discounts on advanced language courses for teachers and membership to the Anglo library
- Discounts on professional development online courses offered by the Norwich Institute for Language Education (NILE)
- Attendance to parents' meetings and awards ceremonies
- Monthly newsletters to keep preparation centres updated on the latest news about Cambridge exams

### Winner of the Platinum Centre Award in the “Customer Service” category

The Anglo was appointed “Platinum Centre” in 2010, and two years later, it won the “Platinum Centres Award” in the customer service category. This achievement was the result of the wide range and quality of the support that the Anglo provides preparation centres with. It goes without saying that earning such an award was a great honour, and of course, a huge responsibility as well!

### How to contact us at the Anglo

Preparation centres that would like to know more about how the Anglo can support them can contact us at . . . to coordinate a meeting. We are very happy to discuss their specific needs and design the best support programme for them.





The foundation years at The Anglo School provide our students with a loving learning environment that supports their physical, emotional and psychological well-being. Our Early Years Teaching Staff all ensure that our young children experience a wide variety of activities, which enable them to explore and discover their abilities.

- Technology is a valuable teaching tool and our learners benefit from its use in the classroom. Personal devices are used to support the learning of different curriculum areas. This way, a twofold objective is achieved: developing skills in the use of technology and learning a variety of concepts in a motivating and fun way.



- Celebrating birthdays is one of the kids' favourite activities. Even at school, they can celebrate the occasion surrounded by friends, entertainment and food included, that guarantee an unforgettable time!
- Outings are back, so we are making up for missed opportunities in the last two years. Trips to the farm are one of the most pleasurable events, and all our children look forward to them. In these outings, kids are in contact with nature and interact with farm animals, learn about organic plant growing processes and have a wonderful time playing in the farm's playground.








- Children love stories! They love the artwork of children's books, the rhythm and sounds of the language, recognising and repeating familiar words and phrases. Storytime is an enjoyable but also valuable moment of the school day. We use stories to promote the learning of individual sounds and letters in a variety of ways. After enjoying the story, we play with some sounds and letters (finding hidden objects in the mini sandpits, for example) and follow this up by drawing and painting animals starting with the individual sound selected.



- Expressing oneself through art helps develop creativity and channel our emotions. Our young children enjoy their Painting time putting into practice a variety of painting techniques to depict the world that surrounds them.







## I have learned to be content in any circumstance

**T**he Apostle Paul wrote: "I have learned to be content in any circumstance." As pastor of Christ Church, I must admit that I have not yet fully learned that secret.

As I write on my laptop, I am sitting in São Paulo airport. My frustration is dissipating because I now know frustration flows from my unmet expectations.

I guess I expected that if I bought a bottle of Uruguayan Tannat in the Duty Free at the Carrasco Airport, then I could enjoy giving it as a birthday gift to a person I love in the USA. I felt that I could just put it in my shoulder bag since they sealed the bottle, wrapped it, and put the receipt peering out of a sealed Duty Free Ziplock.

Although I am in transit, they took my bottle of wine. I complained, argued, and pleaded my case.

Others in line agreed it was unjust. It was inexpensive, but it was mine. I argued: "I am in transit", but they advised me to study the regulations of the places I will visit in advance of my travel.

Now I am wishing I had broken the bottle as I handed it over. I am also asking myself why I didn't recover the receipt.

Mostly, I am upset that the Carrasco Duty Free doesn't care that they were selling some of us items that would be confiscated a few hours later.

Thankfully, my wife had encouraged me to get the bottle on the bottom shelf (less expensive) since we already had a birthday gift. My wife is wise in that way.

Thanks for listening! I already feel better since I noticed source of my anxiety and frustration, named it and shared my story with you. I don't intend to share the anxiety, just the lessons learned.

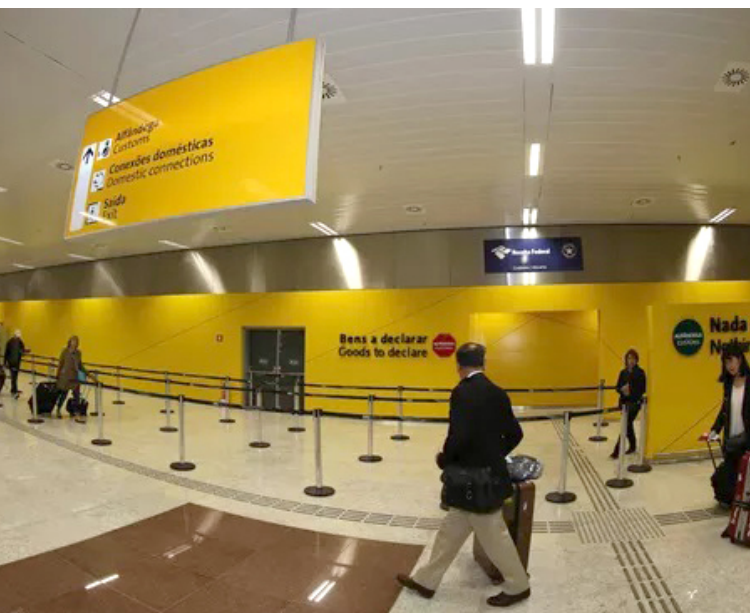
Bad days come and I can always make them worse, but by noticing and naming, connecting with my community, listening, and learning, I can return to a state of contentment.

I feel much better now! I am thankful for the privilege of travel, the joy of friends for whom I can buy a gift, a laptop for work and my wife by my side as we go to see our two new grandchildren, one of whom I have never met.

Have a wonderful month and visit our website to see what is new.

May the God of Peace fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him... **Romans 15:13**

**John Hamilton**  
Pastor of Christ Church





# **Cambridge Assessment English and Dickens Institute Awards Ceremony: a recognition for students, their teachers and preparation centres**



Last Thursday 19th May, together with Cambridge Assessment English, we held an awards ceremony for those candidates and preparation centres who achieved outstanding results in the Cambridge Assessment English exams in 2021 sessions through Dickens.



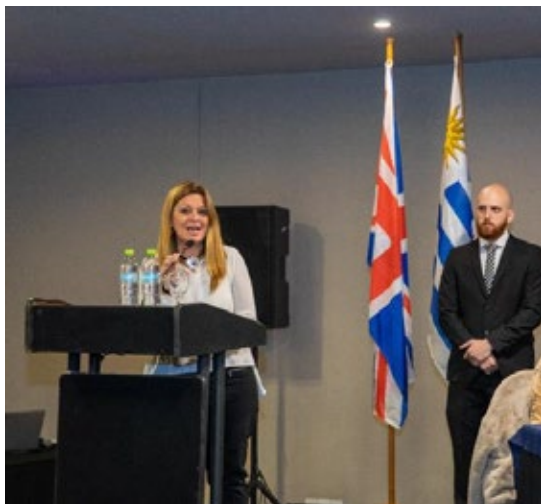
Over 70 candidates accompanied by their families and around 40 preparation centres attended the ceremony at Dazzler Hotel. There were three kinds of awards: best across for the highest scores in Cambridge English exams in 2021 sessions through Dickens, high achievement for the second highest

scores, and last but not least, YLE distinctions for candidates who got five out five shields in their exams.

The award-winning students and preparation centres were greeted and congratulated by Dickens authorities, Ms Patricia Alvarez Harvey and Ms Sofía Scherschener, as well as by Ms Karina Giménez, Country Manager, Southern Cone, for Cambridge Assessment English, and Ms Sandy Domaingue, British Consul in Uruguay.



Learning English is much more than passing exams, which these students have done and, evidently, with flying colours. It is about having the opportunity to connect with others and enter a world of possibilities in terms of work, studies, relationships and recreation. As Cambridge puts it: this is where your world grows. And as these students' results show, their world is definitely doing so.



We couldn't be happier with these extraordinary achievements and we are really proud of being able to accompany students and their teachers/schools in their progression from one exam to the next, as we've been doing for 50 years.

As Ms Verónica Jara, Head of International Examinations Department at Dickens, said in her speech when congratulating candidates and their preparation centres, this was in fact no mean achievement for these students and their teachers/schools, so it was definitely something to celebrate and be proud of. These spectacular results show the hard work and effort put by students and teachers alike and we hope they are a stepping-stone to their future success in other exams.





## Queen Elizabeth is back! What joy!

What a relief to have the Queen in very jolly spirits indeed at Royal Windsor Horse Show where her five year old mare, Balmoral Leia, won first prize in the Highland class! The Queen, accompanied by Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, received a trophy for Leia's achievement.



The next event where the Queen was present marked the first major celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. Helen Mirren and Tom Cruise led the cast of entertainers in this outstanding event. The Queen received a long-lasting ovation, as the star performers in the equestrian extravaganza A GALLOP THROUGH HISTORY were ready to begin the Royal Performance.

At the end of this incredible performance, Dame Helen Mirren spoke on behalf of a grateful nation and commonwealth expressing thanks.



Finally and joyfully Queen Elizabeth II made a surprise appearance at Paddington station with her son Prince Edward, Earl of Essex, to an event honouring her. The completion of the Elizabeth line.

She looked radiant in a bright yellow ensemble. She was received by the mayor of London and the principal staff of London Transport. She

unveiled a plaque marking the occasion and bought the first commemorative ticket.

What a joy to have her Majesty as her usual smiling self!





## From Bats to Monkeys

We hadn't yet closed the doors on COVID-19 when cases of a new type of infection suddenly started springing up in Europe, UK, Canada, and Australia (more than 140 as I write, and this number will surely have expanded by the time this column is published).

Monkeypox ('viruela del mono') is the name given to an infectious disease caused by a virus carried by monkeys and other small animals, endemic to central and west Africa, which can spread directly to humans via many routes, such as direct contact with the animals or their excretions, or by feeding on them. Human-to-human transmission is usually low and ceases after 1 or 2 successive contact spreads. The virus is a close cousin of smallpox (viruela), which was eradicated in the late 70s. Since 1980 the smallpox vaccine isn't administered to the world's population, although a stockpile is kept stand-by by major military powers for administration in the event of an intentional release of the virus in an act of biological warfare.

What is surprising about this new outbreak is the rapid and progressive appearance of infected cases outside of Africa, especially given that in some countries very few, if any, of those infected have travelled to the endemic areas. This would point to local human-to-human spread, apparently beyond the 1-2 successive contacts. The virus may have mutated to a variant that spreads more easily (similar to the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2). From what is known to date about this virus, spread is via direct contact with infected animals or humans, either via airways, direct contact with the skin or with bodily secretions and fluids (there's no evidence of sexual transmission yet) or by lying on the floor or bedsheets where infected animals or humans have rested.

For the time-being, the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention haven't issued a warning and no restrictions to travel have been recommended. Those of us who are over 50 years old and have received the smallpox vaccine (that small scar on our shoulder or our thigh) are most probably protected, as cross-immunity has been the rule.

The disease is self-limiting and generally benign, with minimal fatality. Fever, headache, muscle pain, enlarged lymph nodes, chills and fatigue, are followed by a rash consisting of red spots, which blister with clear and later purulent fluid, and finally break off, leaving an ulcer, a process which takes some weeks. Medications exist (although may be insufficient in case of a peak in demand) for treating the illness.

The 20th Century's 20s were called the 'Roaring Twenties', a time marked by post-WWI and post-Spanish flu, Prohibition in the USA, mass consumerism and the collapse of Wall Street. What will we call the 21st Century's 20s? For now, we've had more than our share: COVID-19, the storming of the US Capitol and the resurgence of right-wing populism, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, supply-chain collapses, widespread inflation, maybe followed by slowing of the economy and probably coexisting depression, called 'stagflation'. And... this week The Economist is announcing a global food crisis, at the same time that the world is heating at unprecedented levels.

My proposal: this decade should be called the 'Roller-Coaster 20s'.



## The Concierto de Aranjuez

Just as a sudden fragrance can take us back—the scent of freesias on the evening air, for example, or the first thick drops of rain on a dusty road—certain sounds can sweep us away. Rhythms and melodies can transport us to other moods, other moments, sometimes to places we’ve never even been. That’s how it was for me the first time I heard the *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

It was easy to stay up all night in Madrid in those days. After the final curtain call, we wiped the greasepaint from our faces, turned off the lights in the theatre, and walked a few blocks to El Taburete. The bar gradually filled up as the after-hours crowd arrived: musicians from the night clubs, dancing girls from the Teatro Calderón, guitarists and singers from the flamenco taverns near the Plaza Mayor. Everyone came there to unwind. That night the talk turned to travel, and when Jaime spoke of Morocco, I said I’d never been to North Africa. He squinted at me through the cigarette smoke and said, “Perhaps we could go there tonight, if you like.” Who could refuse an invitation like that?

Jaime lived in a small apartment, just a couple of rooms perched on the flat roof of a five-story building. “Down there is the Manzanares,” he said, pointing towards the south. I could see the river, glinting in the light of the crescent moon. “And beyond, just over the horizon, is the town of Aranjuez. The royal gardens there inspired Rodrigo to compose his *Concierto*. Come, we’ll listen to it, and maybe you’ll see what I mean.” He put the record on the turntable and placed the needle in the first groove.

I closed my eyes as the deep, leathery notes of the first movement of Joaquín Rodrigo’s masterpiece for guitar and orchestra filled the room and flooded my mind. The music had a rhythmic urgency that commanded my full attention, evoking the influences that came to define Spain during its eight centuries of Arab dominion. Suddenly, I felt the cool

night air of the desert on my face, and saw a band of horses cantering towards me, shimmering out of a distant mirage, coming closer, their steady hoof beats muffled in the sand. When the violins joined the guitar, I joined the horses, riding across the dunes with my white robes flowing behind me, ghostly in the moonlight.

As the second movement began, the mournful lament of the *cor anglais* found me alone in a small oasis settlement. I sat cross-legged on a rooftop terrace in the pale light, the desert spread out around me like an ocean. Behind me, tall palms stood silhouetted against the blue-black sky. The music was wistful and haunting and filled me with an aching nostalgia for a land I’d never known. Looking up, I wondered at the infinity of stars disappearing into the vastness of the heavens, so brilliant here above the darkened Earth. The guitar played on, now blending with the orchestra, now on its own, echoing across this muted landscape, this desert, this timeless Sahara. Centuries ago, Moorish caravans travelled through here on their way north, bringing their language, their architecture, and their music to the Iberian Peninsula. The tides of history have turned and turned again, many times since then, but the sound of the desert has never varied.

When the music ended, I opened my eyes. The moon was gone, and the stars were fading over the city. Jaime stood in the doorway, his face in shadow. He answered my question before I had a chance to speak: “When people asked Rodrigo what the *Concierto de Aranjuez* represented, he said it meant whatever each of us wanted it to mean.” We stepped out onto the roof. A cool breeze ruffled my hair, and I lifted my face to the sky. Jaime looked at me intently in the half-light of dawn, then smiled and said, “How did you like North Africa?”



## The British Cemetery

**T**he ancestral relations between Uruguay and the United Kingdom can be observed from a historical perspective with countless examples. The British influence in the construction of an independent Uruguay is undeniable, but it is worth asking how Uruguay received the British in terms of respect for their ceremonies. In times when burials depended on the Catholic Church and Protestants suffered the consequences, the British set out to build a cemetery that would house all those who did not practice Catholic rituals. The British cemetery in Montevideo was born before the country, since on April 14, 1828 the British consul in Montevideo, Thomas Hood, bought a piece of land located on the outskirts of Ejido on behalf of the British Empire and the British cemetery was built there. It is the property where the City Hall is located today, which at the beginning of the 19th century looked like a vacant lot, very different from the urban image we know today.

From that moment on, the British site became known as an “English”, “Protestant” or “dissident” cemetery, also called derogatorily as “heretics”. This necropolis that was born provided a burial site not only for British Anglicans but also for many non-Roman Catholics (Armenians, Lutherans, Calvinists, Greeks, Chinese, Arabs). It remained there until 1885, when the city had grown and it was a problem to have

a cemetery on the main avenue, the merchants complained and in 1885, during the government of Máximo Tajes, the Cemetery was transferred to the site where we can visit today, on Rivera street, next to the Buceo cemetery. The transfer took two years and was carried out in carts. They carried the dead, their tombs, crosses and works of art. In the best British style, everything was duly documented in long notebooks that are preserved to this day in the administration of the cemetery.

The British Cemetery is a good example of religious tolerance, since it allowed many nationalities and rites to develop the customs of their nations of origin.

*Photo: Montevideo Photography Center (CDF).*

**OCEANIDS**





by Juan José Castillos  
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## Buskers

I definitely have a problem with buskers, mainly during my many visits to England and particularly, London. The problem is that, if they are any good, I feel compelled to give them something, more or less according to their ability, which makes me quickly run out of change. They remind me for some reason of the Middle Ages minstrels who roamed the countryside and the castles providing light entertainment with their music and songs.

They usually do their thing at Tube stations, and they are invariably chased away by the guards, something that always bothered me since they do no harm to anybody. Contrary to normal begging, when you are asked for something in exchange for nothing, except perhaps a faint smile and a thank you, buskers deliver, and often it is much more than you care to give them in exchange for their exertions.

However, sometimes the performers are so bad as they play their guitars and sing, that I deliberately walk past them ignoring their expectations. What they do is just add to the noise pollution, to which I must object. Occasionally, the busker is playing a bagpipe, producing a sound that many English people also consider noise, but that in my case stirs an emotion that, in spite of me not being a Scot, is there and forces me to amply reward them.

A surprising event took place many years ago when I was riding the Tube and a middle-aged lady of Indian ancestry stood right in front of me and started singing in her own language a quite nice song to us all, of which I couldn't understand a single word. When she was finished, she very

gracefully started collecting our tips, I gave her one pound. She had probably devised a way in which the guards could not chase her away, by performing while pretending to ride the Tube.

Buskers can adopt many forms, they not only provide music and song, sometimes they dance, and in those cases, they are obviously professionals who despite the limited space available to them deliver remarkably good performances. Or alternatively, they reveal their acting skills through short and often funny sketches, but then you have to stop briefly, which is not ideal as you usually must rush past them.

But the best buskers can be found at Oxford where evident music students perform in the street. They obviously know what they are doing and then collect quite a lot of money from tourists, thus complementing their no doubt meagre resources as students.

As we all hurry on our way to our many destinations, buskers provide a short and pleasant background to our daily comings and goings, and I wish transit authorities were more lenient in their efforts to get rid of them.



## The River Plate Derby

The club and its social and sporting activities was an important method of conservation and dissemination of Victorian values and culture throughout the empire in the late XIX Century. Sport was a masculine activity during this period and amongst the different disciplines available cricket was without doubt the ruling game for upper class Britons in the colonies. Cricket was reserved for gentlemen, product of the English Public School education, and in some instances treated more as a ritual than a game, with fair play being the more important associated value.

In Uruguay there were several clubs that practiced cricket, although the players, who were few, overlapped and could be seen playing for different clubs in different games. Amongst them were the Central Uruguay Railway Cricket Club (CURCC), the Montevideo Rowing Club, and above all, the Montevideo Cricket Club (MVCC), founded in 1861, and without doubt, the most prestigious cricket club of the Britons in Montevideo.

The competition was scarce in Montevideo, but in Buenos Aires there were dozens of clubs with hundreds of players eager to meet the challenge of their fellow Britons across the River Plate. There were important clubs in all the British hubs in the city, usually a product of the railway works, such as in Quilmes, Lomas and Belgrano. Without doubt the two most prestigious ones were Hurlingham and the Buenos Aires Cricket Club (BACC). The first international game played in the River Plate region saw the BACC defeating the MVCC in 1865 at the BACC fields in San Fernando. The games between these two clubs became a regular annual fixture, with the Anglo Argentinians usually winning the games. This would change during the 1892 season, as we will see from the pages of the Buenos Aires Sport & Pastime and the Montevideo Times.

On the last days of February, the MVCC delegation travelled by ship to Buenos Aires. The players were: H.H. Leng, C. Jefferies, P.D. Chater, H.T. Howson, R.C.T. Moor, W.L. Poole, O. Hyde, R.L. Halstead, R.E. Hunt, W. Slater and E.M. Stanham. We refer to the Argentinian weekly for the chronicle of the "Uruguayan" first win on the River Plate derby:

*put in the field for some years won a well-earned victory by 53 runs, principally owing to the abominable fielding of the home team in the first innings."*

But this win was not accidental, and it was an extraordinary year for the Montevideo cricketers as we read on the Montevideo Times', chronicling the return game played at the MVCC grounds of La Blanqueada during the following Easter Week.

*"For the second time this season we can congratulate our cricketers upon a victory over their old opponents from Buenos Aires; the return match having been won by the home team, after a well contested and interesting game, on the two innings by 221 runs to 195. Slater bowled splendidly on both days, and much of the credit of the victory is due to the fine way in which he polished off the Buenos Aires crack batsmen." There is more to the tour apart from sport, and the Montevideans are superb hosts as well as sound cricketers.*

*"The annual dinner, at which the Buenos Aires team were guests, took place on Thursday evening, the British Minister E. Satow Esq. presiding. The proceedings passed off with the harmony and good feeling proper to such occasions, and the usual friendly and complimentary toasts were exchanged."*

In this instance the MVCC team was: R.C.T. Moor, C. Jefferies, W.L. Poole, E.M. Stanham, P.D. Chater, H.H. Leng, O. Hyde, W. Slater, P.C. Doughty and W. Ellis.

These twin victories will never be repeated and the heyday of British cricket in Montevideo, unknowingly, also marks the start of the decline of interest in the game. All the players are above all complete sportsmen who love competition and playing, and cricket does not offer regular games and stiff opposition. Slowly football will start winning the hearts of the young Britons in Montevideo as they can count on the natives' competition and availability for the game. In short time, the regular cricket tours to and from Buenos Aires will stop and change to football fixtures.

*"Montevideo, represented by the strongest team that they have*





## Buchi Emecheta (1944-2017)

**W**hen Bernardine Evaristo won the prestigious Booker prize in 2019 for her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*, she was the first Black woman to do so. Evaristo was awarded an OBE for her services to literature. Like Evaristo, Buchi Emecheta had also been awarded an OBE for services to literature in 2005. For Evaristo, Emecheta has been her inspiration, as this tribute to her “literary mother” (Virginia Woolf’s words) shows:

“Buchi Emecheta arrived in Britain in 1962 from Nigeria and spent the rest of her life in London. The author of 20 books, primarily novels, as well as television plays, she was a literary trailblazer. Emecheta, who raised five children alone after she left her violent husband in the 60s, first published a series of columns about Black British life in the *New Statesman*, which later formed the basis of her first novel, *In the Ditch* (1972). By 1983 she had made the starry list of *Granta’s* Best of Young British Novelists, the only Black person to do so. Her writing focused on African women’s lives, past and present, mainly based in Nigeria, and her finest work is *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979).”

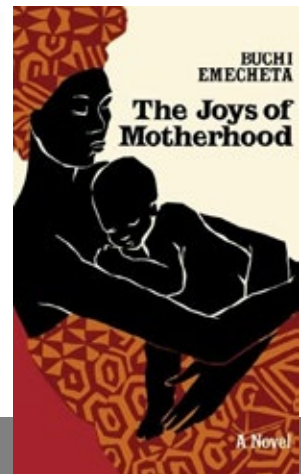
And on the *The Joys of Motherhood*, Evaristo is quite clear: “It’s ground-breaking in its depiction of the life of an Igbo woman, through which Emecheta shows the differences and conflicts between pre-colonial and colonial culture. Igbo women are not allowed to choose their own husbands, who take ownership of them from their fathers upon marriage, and their role is defined by their ability to produce and raise sons. It’s a great introduction to Emecheta’s wonderful writing, and her name deserves to be embedded in our literary history.”

Set in the rural village of Ibuza and in colonial Lagos, *The Joys of Motherhood* portrays a society at a crucial moment of change: in the 1930s, 40s and early 50s, the agrarian, traditional tribal society based on a barter economy, is gradually replaced by an urban, money-driven, European-ruled colonial society. The title, *The Joys of Motherhood*, is tragically ironic, especially regarding Nnu Ego, the central

character whose life and sufferings will be dramatized. As Nnu Ego is unable to bear children with her first husband, her father arranges a second marriage, to Nnaife, who works in Lagos for an English family. Nnu Ego submits to marrying a man she has never met; when she does meet him, she finds in him unattractive and unmanly. Yet, with him she achieves what she believes to be the ideal state of women, motherhood: she has nine children, whom she can barely support. When Nnaife’s older brother dies, his wife, Adaku, becomes Nnaife’s junior wife. While polygamy is customary in the village, it’s not feasible in Lagos, where Nnaife can’t support his family as he is expected to; when conscripted into the British army in World War II, his two wives are left to their own resources.

*The Joys...* is a mesh of interconnected themes. Nigerian life is described through men, women, children, and various ethnic groups under British rule, showing the clashes between traditional and colonial ways in family life, gender roles, and religious beliefs. If she were in Ibuza, Nnu Ego would have her own hut and be respected; in colonized Lagos, she has the worst of both worlds. Her boys, whom she expects will look after her as adults, as they would in the village, end up living in America, and never communicate with their mother. Nnu Ego has clung to all the old rules but ultimately ends up alone.

In her novel about the Nigerian Civil War, *Destination Biafra* (1982), Emecheta deploys a dual narrative approach that weaves an omniscient narrator with various Nigerian women’s points of view to position their lived experiences and subjective knowledges as collectively amounting to the definitive history of the Civil War. By writing of women who know the economic imperatives behind the conflict, exercising agency under dangerous circumstances, and employing methods of survival that safeguard others, Emecheta reveals the gendered politics of war historiography, which collapses distinctions between the war front (to be narrated by active combatants), and everywhere else (to be narrated by witnesses, refugees, or survivors).





## Swiss Chard And Sun-Dried Tomato Calzone

Today's recipe has as its main ingredient Chard or Swiss chard. It is a green or reddish leafy vegetable with stems, which are usually white, but can be a colourful red or yellow. Swiss chard is actually native to the Mediterranean, and is rich in vitamins, especially vitamin A, C and K, and minerals including magnesium, iron and potassium.

Chard is at its best when the leaves and stems are young and tender. Harvesting is a continuous process as most species of chard produce three or four crops. With each harvest the leaves and stems become larger and tougher. It is better to cook the leaves and stems separately, as the leaves require less cooking time than the stems. Chard is typically boiled or stir fried. The leaves may also be eaten raw in a salad or used to make a smoothie. While many people typically throw away the stems, they are crunchy and highly nutritious, slightly sweet reminiscent of beets. Chard is ideal to add to a stir fry or stew and pasta dishes.

### Filling

- 20 ml olive oil
- 50 g red onion, finely chopped
- 1 small red chili without seeds and white veins, finely chopped (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic finely chopped
- 30 g hazel nuts
- 30 g raisins
- 1 bunch Swiss chard, stems finely sliced and leaves washed well, and shredded
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 50 g sun-dried tomatoes (soak previously in boiling water before slicing thinly)
- Juice of half a lemon
- 200 g mozzarella cheese, in slices or small cubes
- 150 ml tomato sauce
- 100 g grated semi hard cheese

### Pizza Dough

- 7 g dried yeast (2 level teaspoons)
- 25 ml olive oil
- 1 teasp sugar
- 250 ml lukewarm water
- 500 g flour for bread (two zeros)

### Method

To make the pizza dough, mix together the lukewarm water, yeast, sugar and oil. Leave for five minutes to let the yeast activate.

Place the flour and salt in a bowl and make a well in the centre and slowly add the water mixing in with a fork until the mixture comes together as a dough. Place dough on a floured working surface and knead for between 5 and 10 minutes. The dough should be smooth and springy. Cover with a damp cloth or cling film and leave at room temperature until it doubles in size.

In the meantime, make the filling. Sauté the onion in the olive oil for three minutes before adding the chilli, garlic and hazel nuts. Cook for a further two minutes before adding the raisins and the stems from the chard and cook until the stems become tender. Add the chard leaves and cook until they are wilted. Season with salt and pepper, and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice. Allow to cool. If there is any liquid in the prepared filling, drain it off and cook down until syrupy in texture. Add again to the filling.

Once the dough has proved, punch out the air and cut it into two portions. Roll out into ball shapes with your hands before rolling out into two large circles with a rolling pin. They should be 4 mm thick and roughly 25 to 30 cm in diameter.

Cover each dough circle with a thin layer of tomato sauce up to about 3 cm from the edge. Sprinkle with the grated cheese and add the filling to one half of the circle and cover with a thickish layer of mozzarella cheese. Paint the borders of the circular dough with water and fold over the filling, pressing the edges together. Crimp the edges to seal shut. Cut three vents in the top to allow the steam to escape while cooking. Paint the surface with milk or beaten egg and cook on a pizza stone or baking tray previously heated in a hot oven at 220°C for approximately 15 minutes. Enjoy with a mixed green salad and a glass of wine.



'Probably the funniest poet writing in the English language today'  
*Alexander McCall Smith*



## SPEAKY STUFF

65 new comic performance pieces

She Stoops To Conquer

Saki

The Gold Mine

Jonathan Lamb

25% of the proceeds from each book will go to the Ukrainian disaster relief fund at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)



This collection of 65 new performance pieces and three stage comedies is the first since Jonathan Lamb's comic verse compendium, 'The Ugly Baby', in 2007. The performance pieces are a quarry for those with a speech to give, an audition to be heard or a family to amuse. They contain suggestions for delivery and accents.

The plays are a free 80-minute adaptation of one of Britain's best-loved comedies, Oliver Goldsmith's 'She Stoops to Conquer', for two male and two female actors; an even freer 80-minute adaptation of some of the wickedest stories by Edwardian writer 'Saki', for two male actors and four female; and a longer comedy in two acts for three male actors and three female, that can be performed with or without miming and dancing to 1930's music, 'The Gold Mine'. All three stage plays are designed to be easy to put on by touring companies and amateur groups.

The aardvark and the Zulu  
Were walking hand in hand.  
The aardvark said "Dear Zulu,  
You are my greatest friend!"

But when they make a  
dictionary,  
They'll put us far apart...  
All that space between us  
Will surely break my heart!"

The Zulu pondered briefly  
And with a smile replied:  
"Then let us buy two  
dictionaries  
And put them side by side."



## THE FUTURE CALLS

I rang my office number

And a man's voice, just like mine,

Said 'Ashley, Jones and Plumber -

Can you hold the line?'

'I held their line for years', I said,

'A clock was all I got.

But on the whole they weren't so bad -

They were quite a cheerful lot.

Presumably they're down the pub;

Ashley's telling jokes

And Plumber's buying rounds of beer.

I miss them all, those blokes.'

'So you were a partner, then?'

'I've just become one too.

If you leave your name and number,

We'll get back to you.'

'They never took me with them,'

I said. 'Left me on my own.

'Eating corned beef sandwiches

And answering the phone.

'I later found they would have liked

To take me if I'd said.

But I was shy, and didn't ask,

So stayed at work instead.'

'Eating corned beef sandwiches?'

He said, 'Now there's a thing.

'I've got one here in front of me!'

I said, 'Don't tell me. And a wing -

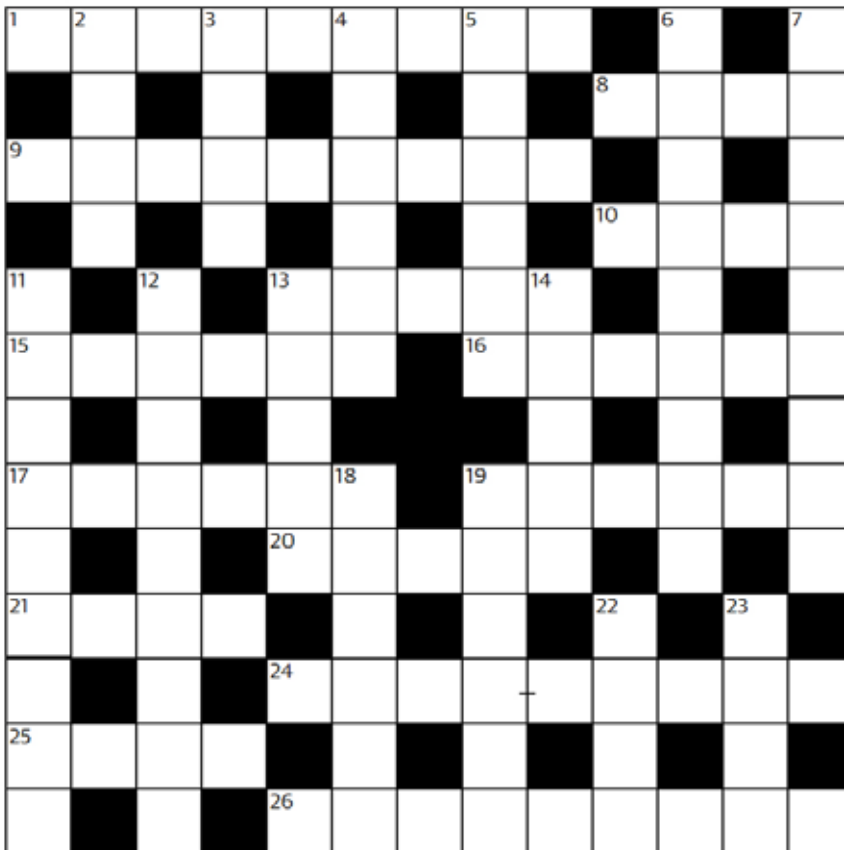
'A chicken wing, with gherkins?'

'And some of Aunt Anne's bread?'

'Why - yes,' he said. 'Look, who are you?'

But then the line went dead

From Jonathan Lamb's new book of performance material, *Speaky Stuff*, published in June 2022 with a quarter of the cover price (\$1000 or a twenty-pound note) going to the Ukrainian disaster relief fund at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk). To order copies, write to [vozinglesa@gmail.com](mailto:vozinglesa@gmail.com).



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

May solution:



## Across

1. Convolution (9)
8. Jamboree (4)
9. Part of a pneumatic tyre (5,4)
10. Milton or Betjeman, say (4)
13. Childish rabbit (5)
15. Bracelet worn for ornament or identification (6)
16. Oil well with a strong natural upward flow (6)
17. Excuse — excuse me! (6)
19. Move up and down repeatedly (6)
20. James \_\_\_\_, English actor, d. 1984 (5)
21. Small stream (4)
24. Swimmer who goes down without any breathing equipment (4-5)
25. Dry — dull (4)
26. Amount by which a number rises (9)

## Down

2. Zero (4)
3. Stagger (4)
4. Material use for musical strings, made from intestines of sheep or horses (but not cats) (6)
5. Raising to the third power (6)
6. Racket (9)
7. It can open many doors (6,3)
11. Holidaying vehicle? (6,3)
12. Plant — airy malls (anag) (9)
13. Garden broom made of twigs (5)
14. Westernmost Canadian territory (5)
18. Serviette (6)
19. West Sussex seaside resort, granted the suffix Regis (of the king) by George V (6)
22. Pre-1939 name for Thailand (4)
23. Frond plant (4)





## REEL OF THE MONTH



### The art of mashing up words to invent new ones

The English language lends itself quite readily to the art of word blending, otherwise known as 'portmanteau'. So, 'chillax' and don't worry about any 'anticipointment' before watching this.

BBC  
REEL



## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



### The Imaginary Lives of the Queen

**The fictional versions of Her Majesty on the page, stage and screen are intriguing. They also tell us something about our culture's evolving feelings towards royalty, writes Hephzibah Anderson.**

She adorns cash and postage stamps, her greatness is hymned at sporting fixtures, and she is a presence in millions of homes every Christmas Day with her TV speech. Her record-breaking reign means that for the majority of those living in the UK today, she's the only monarch they've ever known, but who, really, is Queen Elizabeth II?

CLICK HERE TO  
READ THE ARTICLE



BBC





## The Unicorn, National Animal of Scotland

When one thinks about Scotland and all the cultural symbols, legends, and rich heritage of the country, probably what comes to mind are the thistle, the famous tartan, the iconic bagpipes, or even the Loch Ness monster. Interestingly, whilst this is all correct, one mystical figure has been hiding in plain sight across the nation, a mythological creature which has been tied to Scotland as a national symbol for centuries – the unicorn.

The unicorn was, and still is, an important creature with great symbolism of purity and innocence, power and ferocity. Throughout the ages, records of unicorns have entered the story-telling fables of several cultures. Often associated with the moon and believed to have great healing powers, the unicorn quickly acquired different meanings in different cultures. The medieval depiction of a unicorn became a much beloved symbol in Christian art and even today, the unicorn holds resonance as a fantastical delightful creature which has captured the imagination of generations of people.

Scotland's deep connections with the unicorn stem from its Celtic culture. Celtic mythology believed unicorns to represent innocence and purity whilst also being associated with chivalry, pride and boldness. The first recorded use of a unicorn symbol is in the twelfth century when it was adopted by William I on the Scottish Royal Coat of Arms. By the fifteenth century, during the reign of King James III, coins depicting the unicorn had also appeared and would be in circulation for another century. Furthermore, the Mercat Cross, erected across Scottish towns, cities and even villages, also incorporated the symbol of the unicorn, with some carving the mystical creature on the pillars. The Mercat Cross was a significant landmark for each location, serving at the nucleus of the community where ceremonies took place. The unicorn therefore represented the nation at

the heart of these settlements.

This emblem thus became ubiquitous and would remain so even when the momentous union of the crowns occurred on the 24th March 1603, when King James VI of Scotland became King of England and Ireland. When he inherited the English and Irish thrones, the Royal Arms of England became merged with that of Scotland and the Royal Coat of Arms of Ireland was also added. Thus, the symbol of the majestic English lion was incorporated side by side with the Scottish unicorn. The use of the unicorn alongside the lion is also very symbolic, not just in its representation of two nations brought together by a union of crowns but also as two animals which have legendary status as natural enemies.

One particularly significant aspect in the heraldry of the unicorn is the gold chain which is used to restrain the unicorn. The chain wraps around the animal, perhaps depicting the enormous power of the mystical beast which is often described as untamable and powerful, or perhaps showing the control of the Scottish kings over such a bold creature.

Today in Scotland, the unicorn has left an imprint on the country, whether it is found at the gatepost of Holyroodhouse or standing proudly in front of St Margaret's Chapel at Edinburgh Castle. The unicorn is depicted across the country, carved in stone at St Andrew's University and used as a figurehead for the HM Frigate Unicorn in Dundee.

Source :  
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Unicorn-Scotlands-National-Animal/>

Img :  
[The-Unicorn-Scotlands-National-Animal/](https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Unicorn-Scotlands-National-Animal/)





## The Pierhead Building

**T**he Pierhead Building (Welsh: Adeilad y Pierhead) is a Grade I listed building in Cardiff Bay, Wales. One of Cardiff's most familiar landmarks, it was built in 1897 as the headquarters for the Bute Dock Company. The Pierhead Building is part of the estate of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament; Welsh: Senedd Cymru), which also includes the Senedd building and Tŷ Hywel. The clock on the building is unofficially known as the "Baby Big Ben" or the "Big Ben of Wales". The building now houses a Welsh history museum and exhibition. It contains a number of films and exhibits exploring Welsh history as well as spaces for use as venues for public debate and Senedd-sponsored events, where people can express their views about what takes place in the nearby Senedd building itself.

<https://senedd.wales/visit/our-estate/the-pierhead/>

