



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# CONTACT

JULY 2022

*Thank you  
ma'am!  
for everything.*

Watch the video.



**BSU  
Big Jubilee Lunch**

**Era Britons  
The Nile, the Ganges and  
the Uruguay**

**Meet our Columnists  
Lindsey Cordery**

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



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Montevideo, Uruguay



## THIS MONTH'S COVER



This month's cover features Paddington Bear, the beloved fictional character from children's literature who appeared in books written by British author Michael Bond and illustrated by Peggy Fortnum and other artists. In a pre-recorded comedy segment at the opening of the Platinum Party on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Paddington joined Queen Elizabeth II for tea and marmalade sandwiches at Buckingham Palace before they tapped their tea cups to the beat of "We Will Rock You". During their meeting, the Queen reveals to Paddington that she too always keeps a marmalade sandwich for emergencies, in her handbag. In case you haven't seen the hilarious and heart warming skit that inspired our cover, here is a link to the YouTube video titled *Ma'amalade sandwich Your Majesty?*

<https://youtu.be/7UfiCa244XE> posted on The Royal Family's YouTube Chanel.

Contact's editorial team would like to thank Juan Pablo Rodríguez for his artistic contribution to this month's cover.

## 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.

If you wish to become a member first fill in [this form](#).

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



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

**MercadoPago Recurring**  
**Payments - \$650**



## Dear Reader,

I have a confession to make; this is the first time I've edited a publication. And because I like to know what I'm doing I started reading up on the subject. Aside from the plethora of information on copyediting (i.e. grammar, syntax, style, rhetoric, formatting, tone) most sources tell me I now work for two audiences: one is you, dear reader, and the other is our monthly contributors.

Hence, I want to know more about both of you: who you are, what you like, what brings you to Contact to read, or write, or both, and, most importantly, how can we at Contact make our monthly rendezvous something you look forward to.

I also want to bring both groups, readers and writers, closer together. Writing is a conversation on the page, and I know our writers would very much like to know what you readers think of their pieces.

So, starting with this month's issue, you'll find a short "Meet Our Columnists" section, in which you can learn something more about our cadre of talented writers. Also note that, in their top-right corners, all articles have their writer's email address. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts, comments, and queries on their pieces. I'm sure they'll appreciate your closing the communication circle.

There is also a third group that is involved in this whole newsletter business, the group I work with: my editing team. The truth is it takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a whole team to edit and produce this newsletter. So many thanks to everyone who in any way contributes to the monthly publication of Contact, and a very special, heartfelt thank you to my sister Caroline, graphic designer extraordinaire, whose work and talent make this newsletter look so good.

Enjoy your read of our July issue of Contact.

And as usual, I look forward to hearing your thoughts at [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy)

-Victoria Stanham, Newsletter Editor

# Birthdays

## in July

1. Jorge Clavijo
3. Jaqueline McClew Taylor
5. Magdalena Etcheverry
5. Elizabeth Hambrook
6. William J. Biscomb
8. Marion Rocher Maynier
8. Martin Inthamoussu
10. Jacqueline Anne Larbalestier
14. Caroline Stanham
14. Virginia Sosa Leites
15. Romina M Serrano Yemini
15. María Lebrato Day
15. Victoria Cooper Xavier
16. John Hobbins Llovet
16. Catalina Prevett Vera
16. Nicholas Beare Willans
16. María Helena Freyre
17. Luis A. Marquez Correa
17. Carlos B. Monkhouse-Jones



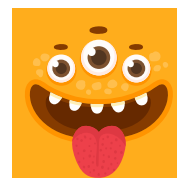
19. Sylvia Vignoles Bonner
20. Andrew Teuten Ponzoni
22. Federico G. Carter
23. Colin Shearer
23. Joaquín F. Bazzano García
24. Rosa Elizabeth Comerio
25. Diana C. Beare Hirst
25. Geraldine H. Pool Velasco
26. Victoria Hobbins
27. Ruth K. Morton Holms
28. Patricia Tolbit Moger
30. Estela M. Cerdeza Davies
31. Jorge H. Gioia Garcén

# New Members

- Aureliano Aguirre Baccino  
Mariella Baccino Angelone  
Gonzalo Rodríguez Prado  
Sean Summers  
Solveig Astrid Schandy Sicco



I have a joke about  
procrastination.  
I'll tell you later.





# 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) .**

## JULY

**FRIDAY 8:** CHRIST CHURCH - MOVIE NIGHT - 19:00hs at Arocena 1907, Esq. Lieja, Carrasco. [www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)

**WEDNESDAY 13:** CUB - CONVOCATORIA ALMUERZO: JUAN NICOLÁS JODAL, CEO GeneXus - 12:15hs at Parva Domus, Bvar. Artigas 136. [www.cub.com.uy](http://www.cub.com.uy)

**THURSDAY 14:** CHRIST CHURCH - WORKSHOP II SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH - 19:30hs at Arocena 1907, Esq. Lieja, Carrasco. [www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)

**WEDNESDAY 20:** BSU - LITERARY TEA: LINDSEY CORDERY - 16hs at Britannia Hall.

**FRIDAY 22:** ANGLO - "SHAKESPEARE Y SU MUNDO" by PROF. CLAUDIA DÍAZ BERGALLO - 18:00hs. Free talk vía Zoom. Organized by: [biblioteca@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:biblioteca@anglo.edu.uy)

**SATURDAY 23:** BSU - CROQUET TOURNAMENT - 10:00 - 13:00hs at Yacht Club Uruguayo.

## SEPTEMBER

**SATURDAY 10:** ANGLO CONFERENCE - Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel  
<https://www.anglo.edu.uy/anglo-conference-2022/>

## NOVEMBER

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





# Literary Tea

with Lindsey Cordery

**Wednesday**

**20<sup>th</sup> July**

**4:00 pm**

**at Britannia Hall**

**Av. Gral. Rivera 3868**

## BUY YOUR TICKET

**MEMBERS  
\$450**



**NON  
MEMBERS  
\$550**



Courtesy of

TEA  
PLEASE

BY FREDAUY

## Jane Austen's Emma Woodhouse & Anne Elliot

Jane Austen (1775-1817) published only a handful of novels –anonymously– during her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816). She wrote two other novels—*Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1818. However, from the 1940s onward, a truth universally acknowledged is that all her novels can, and have been, adapted for the cinema. Almost every ten years, or less, new films of her novels are released, period dramas as well as updated versions, including films featuring Jane Austen herself as the main character. The latest film, available on Netflix, is a new version of *Persuasion*.

This talk will centre on Anne Elliot, the heroine of *Persuasion*, and on Emma Woodhouse, of *Emma*. Here are two quotes which I hope will show how different the two are:

“Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.”

“Anne Elliot had been forced into prudence in her youth, she learned romance as she grew older - the natural sequence of an unnatural beginning.”



**CROQUET TOURNAMENT**



**NEW  
DATE**

**SATURDAY  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
JULY**

**10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM  
AT THE YACHT CLUB URUGUAYO**

**BUY YOUR TICKET**

**MEMBERS  
\$400**

**NON  
MEMBERS  
\$450**

dermaglós®







# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH



**O**n Sunday 5th June, the British community in Uruguay gathered for a Big Jubilee Lunch to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

We had a great time and lots of fun!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated and collaborated with their time, effort, creativity and resources. Thank you all for your great disposition, delicious food, wonderful decorations, fun games and activities, and generous contributions. Your generosity and good cheer made this event a resounding success!

We would also like to thank the British Embassy for the great desserts and prizes, and for the amazing chocolate Big Ben, which the kids gleefully malleted-down to edible pieces for all to share.

Many thanks as well to Tea Please for the wonderful teas, to Del Mar Kombucha for their prize donations, to Christine Ann Sarkis for the beautiful corgi T-shirt and to Marlene Flores for the Royal Mugs.

Also thanks to Scottish Dance Uruguay for the great show and for having us all dance an improvised Dashing White Sargeant.

And last but not least, we would like to thank The British Schools for the Pavilion and the fields, the best background for an epic day.





# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH





# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH





# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH





# BIG JUBILEE LUNCH







## THE ELDERLY - MORE RULES AND GUARANTEES

Last Tuesday 21st June, at the “Sala Acuña de Figueroa” in the Edificio José Artigas – Anexo al Palacio Legislativo, Rep. Silvana Pérez Bonavita hosted a seminar on the topic of The Elderly. Our Vice-President (Andrea Davies) and Events Coordinator (Joaquín Salhón) attended the event and found it very interesting and informative.

The conference was transmitted live over YouTube, and the full recording can be found here (<https://youtu.be/utDUwxDOCXE>). What follows are key takeaways from the conference that Andrea kindly transcribed, translated and summarized.

### Seminar by Silvana Pérez Bonavita

Aging is a natural and inevitable process, it is part of biological development and involves physical, psychological, emotional, and social factors. Thanks to medical advances and the current lifestyle, there is a greater life expectancy worldwide, and Uruguay is no stranger to it.

Unfortunately, the elderly suffer exclusion, discrimination due to their age, prejudice due to their participatory role in society, and violence from the people who look after them. We need to approach the issues of old age and aging from a human rights perspective that recognizes the valuable current and potential contributions of the older person, common welfare, cultural identity, the diversity of their communities, human, social and economic development.

Therefore, we consider it essential to target the care of the Elderly by implementing the necessary mechanisms so that they have adequate and comprehensive care and prevent actions or practices that may cause damage or aggravate the existing condition, precisely of those people who are in direct contact with such a vulnerable group.

We are not only working on health issues we are working on people as a whole, emotionally, psychologically, to work on prevention.

**Dr. Alejandro Sención doctor in Biomedical Investigation, clinical research, President of Representative of Uruguay before the Chamber of Clinical Simulation. Health Sciences**

Today with clinical simulation we can feel empathy, how can we feel what the other person is feeling, how can I put myself in somebody else's shoes, whether in the psychological sphere or the physical one? Clinical simulation has helped us with the abilities and strengths that make up the surgical world, the medical clinical activity, the nursing clinical activity, Physiotherapy clinical activity, it has helped us to assure, the security of the patient. Clinical simulation has been able to create through digitalization and technology: equipment.

In July and August, the Simulation Hospital will be receiving equipment, special suits that have been developed to allow the student to experiment the chronological age that we want the student to learn about. More practice less human mistakes.

Technology implements the simulation for prevention.

**Dr. Gabriel Antoniol – President of the Uruguayan Society of Telemedicine and Telehealth** How Telemedicine has advanced how this generates more autonomy for the elderly. It population that has experienced a drastic change in relation to the generations that are already born with digital technologies, a doctor who is studying is now fully digitized. We are working on Digital literacy of older adults and the strengthening of residences for the elderly We have been looking for ways of teaching how to use video calls, zoom meetings teaching them to be able to communicate with their relatives. Online courses, electronic navigation, google maps, buying and selling, secure mobile payments. For the elderly to gain in autonomy is to gain in quality life

**Dra. Maria Noel Giudici, sub directora general de la Salud del MSP supervision of all establishments in the interior with everything related to the Elderly**

We frame this activity within the framework of June 15, the day that commemorates the world day of awareness of abuse and mistreatment of old age, a day for awareness and to raise awareness and communicate, above all, to reflect as a country on such an important issue.

In the world there is a prevalence in terms of abuse that ranges between 4 and 10% of older people who can suffer it, although it is a problem that predominates in society and in the family, the WHO points out that in the institutional sphere it is elderly. A tool was implemented to evaluate the process of access to older adults.

It is measured with clear measuring indicators if there was negligence and mistreatment, injuries that have not been attended to in a timely manner.

It is important for our country to have a computerized access tool so that the auditors can carry out an audit.







## JUBILEE CELEBRATION

**H**er Majesty's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated by the Embassy on 2 June with a reception held at the Residence for Uruguayan authorities and the diplomatic community. Ambassador Faye O'Connor OBE highlighted The Queen's commitment and dedication throughout her 70 year reign and how she has been a symbol of unity, stability and continuity, as well as being respected and loved around the world.

More than 3,500 beacons were lit up around the world to mark this amazing milestone. We wish to thank Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institutes from all over the country for taking part in this celebration by joining the Ambassador in lighting beacons in Uruguay. You can watch the video [here](#).



## New environmental commitment: Electric car

Continuing with our efforts to tackle climate change, the Embassy has just received an electric car for the Ambassador's official use. This is another step in our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint this year, following the installation of heat pumps to provide heating for the Embassy and Residence, replacing fuel oil. Since their arrival, the Ambassador and her family have travelled around the country in their own electric car, which they have for personal use.

## Targeting Online Violence Against Women

The Embassy signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Program in Uruguay (PNUD), in support of INMujeres, to develop an online monitoring tool that will provide real-time information on digital violence that women in politics and opinion leaders face on social media. This will provide reliable data that will help to design public policies on gender and equality.





## IN MEMORY OF DEREK TYLER



ANGLO

**D**erek Tyler, a highly esteemed member of the Anglo Protection Board, passed away unexpectedly last month in his apartment in Wengen, Switzerland.

Many of us at the Anglo knew him personally, and his strong sense of service and unyielding commitment were much appreciated among our students and staff. Derek made innumerable presentations about British culture and business themes as part of the Anglo cultural programme, and in the last few years he had also become involved with the Anglo as a “Socio Protector”. He came across as a very active and spirited person and he will most certainly be missed by our community and remembered very fondly by those of us who got to know him.

Derek Tyler was born in Britain, but he had been based in Uruguay since 2005. After studying economics at university, Derek worked for many financial institutions in London, Chicago and New York. Subsequently Derek became finance director for the London operations of a large bank in Switzerland, where he became a freelance executive. He worked in the areas of finance and project management in a wide variety of countries, including South America. Until his passing, Derek’s activities were mainly in the voluntary sector, including talks to students and teachers on cultural and business themes at Instituto Cultural Anglo-Uruguayo and for the British Society in Uruguay.







The British Library Board has announced that the project “Rescue of 19th-century English, French and Uruguayan risk newspapers published in Montevideo”, a joint initiative of Proyecto Anáforas (Facultad de la Información y Comunicación - UDELAR), the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute and the Museo Histórico Nacional (MEC), has been selected to receive a grant as part of the Endangered Archives Programme, supported by the Arcadia Fund.

The grant funds of up to sixty thousand pounds sterling are to be applied in delivering the digitisation project that will take place in “La Casa de Lavalleja”, main office of the Museo Histórico Nacional. This project aims to digitize a collection of Uruguayan newspapers published in Montevideo during the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century: The River Plate Times (1889- 1890), The Montevideo Times (1891-1933), El Comercio del Plata (1845-1850), Le Patriote Français: journal commercial, littéraire et politique (1844-1936). The selected periodicals are indispensable to study periods of the political, economic, social and cultural history of Uruguay and the River Plate region. They inform about a past that constitutes the basis of this country and of the complex stages prior to its political independence and cultural consolidation.



The complete collection of The River Plate Times (1889-1890) and The Montevideo Times (1891-1933) is located at the Anglo Library and will be the first material to be digitalised, once the new scanner is assembled. It was urgent to preserve these valuable newspapers by digitizing their pages, avoiding the progressive deterioration of the periodicals that catered for the interests of the British community in Uruguay for an important period of history.



The Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) facilitates the digitisation of archives around the world that are in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration. Since 2004, the Programme has digitised over ten million images and 35,000 soundtracks. Archive types digitised so far include rare printed sources, manuscripts, visual materials, audio recordings. This continually expanding online collection is available freely through local archival partners, <https://eap.bl.uk/> and it is discoverable via the British Library catalogue, for research, inspiration and enjoyment.





2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 is a day that all of us at the Anglo will remember very fondly. As we all know, this date marked her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, and the Anglo was deeply honoured to be invited by the British Embassy in Uruguay to join the celebrations. Anglo students, their families and staff gathered all over the country to mark the occasion lighting beacons.

Learning English is not just about learning grammar and vocabulary, it also involves learning about British culture. During the weeks prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, students throughout the Anglo network learned about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family. They discovered and learned British traditions such as Trooping the Colour, the Big Lunch, and the Jubilee beacons, and made presentations on their findings in their local communities.

The Anglo family would like to thank the British Embassy for giving us the opportunity to join the celebrations and congratulates Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee! Queen Elizabeth II is the embodiment of leadership, duty, and true inspiration to many. Long live the Queen!



At The Anglo School promoting British culture is embedded in our curriculum and one of our main objectives. Last Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we all enthusiastically took part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

### Preparations

During more than two months, the whole school community prepared for such a relevant event, with the aim of helping learners understand the importance of Queen Elizabeth II for the British people and learn about the highlights of her life. We also took the opportunity to investigate different aspects of British culture and traditions, which certainly proved useful to spread the British spirit among the students, teachers and families. Each class produced a final outcome of their research, to be shared on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June either in the form of a stand showing a poster, different objects or a presentation depicting their topic, and even songs and dances performed at the end of the event for the whole school.

During April and May, Primary and Secondary learners, with the support of their teachers, found out not only about Queen Elizabeth's life but also about the monarchic system, and icons of the monarchy such as the current members of the Royal family, the Crown's Jewels, and the Royal buildings.

Regarding British culture and traditions, kids investigated traditional British food, in order to produce a recipe book and a Big Lunch menu to share with families. Another topic researched was iconic British characters, which included famous historic and current personalities in a number of fields such as politics, sports, music, science and arts. Besides, Primary Form 5 students, together with their music and dance





## THE ANGLO SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

teachers, prepared traditional British dances and modern songs to be performed at the end of the whole day celebration, which brought a joyful and relaxing closure to an exciting day.

British sports and games also played a part in the celebration, as the school's Sports Department selected a number of activities to enjoy an fun time in the school field. Kids had the chance to participate in a Royal Treasure Hunt and play badminton and croquet with varying levels of success that created memorable moments!



### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: the Big Day!

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> June came, the school was fully decorated with flags, balloons and other decorations that provided the perfect environment for such an important celebration.

The big day began with a greeting from the British Ambassador, Faye O'Connor, specially recorded for our school. A speech by our Director General, Geraldine Pool, followed, in which she shared invaluable souvenirs from Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Day, which her grandfather had the honour of attending. We continued by singing the British National Anthem and The Anglo School Anthem, both performed beautifully by all our students. Next came the lighting of the beacon, which perfectly closed the most formal part of the celebration.

We continued with the Big Lunch, held in our school dining room, specially arranged and decorated for the occasion. Our kids had the chance to taste the different British dishes suggested by the groups in charge of researching traditional British food, with the recipes that had previously been sent to families and that they kindly prepared to be shared. Cornish Pasties, Shepherd's Pie, scones, apple crumble, fish and chips, Yorkshire Pudding, pancakes and even a Victoria Sponge cake were there to be enjoyed in a truly British lunch.

After the Big Lunch, it was time for the students to go round the school visiting the different stands that showed the class' findings about their different topics, followed by the sports activities designed by the Sports Department. Our little friends in Kindergarten had their own version of the celebration by having a Big Tea in the afternoon, in a fully decorated hallway, in which they also paraded in different typical costumes.



The event finished when we gathered again in the playground to see the typical dances and songs performed by Form 5 students and the closing words of our General Manager, Gerardo Valazza, who summarised the highlights of the day and captured the joyful and enthusiastic atmosphere that was present not only on that day, but also in the previous ones.

We are extremely honoured to have been part of such a historic and memorable event, which will surely be kept in the memories of all the members of our school community for a long time.





## Oncofertility:

**a service designed to protect the fertility of patients with cancer.**

Oncofertility is a complementary speciality of oncology and gynaecology whose aim is to avoid that oncological treatments affect the reproductive future of patients.

### How oncological treatments affect fertility

Oncological treatments have progressed significantly in the past few years. They save lives, but at the same time they cause adverse effects. They kill cancer cells but they also kill healthy cells.

Consequently the reproductive capacity of men and women can be affected. In the case of women, they are born with the amount of ova they will need for their whole life, and if these cells are destroyed they cannot be recovered. When women receive oncological treatment they can lose their ovarian reserve and become infertile. This occurs also in men. Although they can produce sperm during their whole life, these treatments can kill the cells that help produce sperm.

### Results depend on the drug used, the dose and the age of the patient

Scientific papers have shown the effect of oncological treatments in the reproductive system. The most relevant papers compared the fertility of patients who received these treatments and those who did not. It was concluded that those who received this type of treatment have less probability of having a spontaneous pregnancy.

### British Hospital's oncofertility clinic

The clinic was created some time ago to give reproductive counselling to patients before starting an oncological treatment. In the case of girls and boys the only strategy available to protect their reproductive future is the preservation of testicular and ovarian tissue. Both techniques are experimental and there is very little international scientific evidence as to what can be offered in the future.



### How this issue is dealt with very young patients

Research projects have been carried out in Uruguay. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is currently financing one to standardise the technique for the preservation of ovarian tissue. When very young patients are diagnosed with cancer doctors talk with their parents. Although in Uruguay it is not being done yet, a preservation procedure could be carried out with their consent.

Oncological treatments have improved significantly and have increased the survival rate of patients, and there are strategies for preserving the fertility of adult patients. Cryopreservation of gametes, both ova and sperm, makes it possible to extract them from the body before starting the treatment so that later on they can be used for a desired pregnancy.

### How to treat patients who have just been diagnosed with cancer

We try to inform the potential impact of treatments and how to protect their fertility with a positive vision towards the future.

Generally patients are very anguished with the initial diagnosis. When on top of this they learn that their fertility may be threatened, the impact is even worse. We try to give a different approach, explaining that we have the tools and the medical expertise to succeed in achieving the family they wish to have.

*Dra. Ana Kimelman, especialista de Oncofertilidad en el Hospital Británico.*





## KNITTING CARE FROM THE HOSPITAL SHOP AND HOSPITAL GUILD

**T**his idea was put into force in 2019, long time before Covid. And because of the pandemic, it has given a lot of people a drive to while away the boredom and turning it into something very useful. It is an ongoing campaign that had a beginning but has no end. Blankets and throws are needed at all times of the year, be it for the elderly, for people going through hard times as well as for young children and even babies.

We would like to profusely thank all those knitters who continuously supply us with squares, and also a big thanks to those few who help put them together into beautiful blankets.

A brochure with instructions can be obtained at the BH, as we would like to emphasize on the 20 x 20 cms size be it knitted or in crochet, which makes it easy to put together. Wool and needles can be obtained at The Shop for a reasonable price. And drop off areas are easy to find at the BH.

Currently we have 80 plus blankets which have been washed and bagged accordingly, to be distributed shortly, as we, with the help from the BH research the entities before handing them out.

Once again, many thanks.







**New  
Date**

# Lunch Invitation

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 12:15 PM



CEO of GeneXus

**Nicolás Jodal**

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)





## QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The first week of June was all about celebrating 70 years of the reign of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

At The British Schools, several exhibitions commemorating the Queen's life and legacy were staged in Junior, whereas a timeline of her reign was created in Senior. The Union Jack was hung on doors and in corridors, while teachers included the topic in their classes throughout the School.

The Pavilion was decorated for the occasion and the menu comprised dishes of traditional British cuisine: fish and chips, carrot cake and scones. Senior students decorated the Pavilion in British fashion, and all during Wednesday, 1st June, British tunes could be heard.

Both Junior and Senior held assemblies to commemorate the occasion, with a presentation to teach students about the Queen's life and reign.

The highlight of the week was the Tree planting. The School joined **The Queen's Green Canopy**, a tree planting initiative to "plant a tree for the Jubilee". HRH Ambassador to Uruguay, Ms Faye O'Connor OBE had the honour, together with Board members, School authorities, staff and students to plant five trees in the School fields.







## THE OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS

The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards are awards issued by Cambridge Assessment International Education which recognise exceptional learner achievement in Cambridge examinations around the world.

The ceremony, celebrating the 2021 IGCSE results, was held on Monday, 14th June at the Dazzler Hotel. Mr Rosevear and Mr Bunt accompanied the students.

We would like to congratulate all of our students who won prizes, especially Sol Martínez, who obtained an award for Top in the World for her Literature (Spanish) IGCSE.

**TOP IN URUGUAY** - is awarded to learners who have achieved the highest standard mark in their country for a single subject.

**HIGH ACHIEVEMENT** - is awarded to learners who have achieved outstanding results in subjects which are not so widely taken and which, under the current criteria, would not qualify for 'Top in Country' Awards. Learners who achieve the highest standard marks in Country in a particular subject will receive the award.

Santiago Souto	High Achievement	Cambridge IGCSE	Foreign Language French
Cipriano Dorbessan	Top in Uruguay	Cambridge IGCSE	Combined Science
Santiago Bocage	Top in Uruguay	Cambridge IGCSE	Combined Science
Santiago Bocage	Top in Uruguay	Cambridge IGCSE	Mathematics (Without Coursework)
Sol Martínez	Top in the world	Cambridge IGCSE	Literature (Spanish)







THE BRITISH SCHOOLS  
Founded 1908

## PRE-KINDER

**W**e are delighted to introduce our new Pre-Kindergarten (PK) which shall open its doors to welcome children in February 2023. Children who have turned three years before 31st December 2022 are eligible to join PK.

The new PK will be in the Early Years (EY) building, together with Kinder and Prep. This building, which opened in 2011, was especially designed for young learners, with differentiated learning spaces and lots of natural light. An additional floor will be added to the current structure with a similar design. This will give students familiarity as they move from one academic year to the next.

The focus of the teaching and learning is based on different aspects of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). This is the start of their life-long learning journey through the School.

The three main principal beliefs behind this philosophy, are as follows:

- The students will learn through an English immersion programme, but at the same time understanding their needs as a second language learner
- Learning reading and writing skills are of paramount importance
- Social and academic skills will be taught through 'play-based learning'. A play-based learning programme builds on children's motivation, concentration, and communication skills. Children will explore, experiment, discover, and solve problems in an imaginative, creative and playful way.

If you would like to find out more please contact [admissions@british.edu.uy](mailto:admissions@british.edu.uy) as there are limited spaces still available.







Most recently, I wrote about an incident from my life in a 21<sup>st</sup> century airport. This brief reflection is a complete swing of the proverbial pendulum that takes the reader into the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC. I am reflecting on the life of Samuel as it is recorded in what is titled 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel in the Bible I am reading. (Yes, some religious traditions give the same material a different name.)

Samuel is born to parents who are so grateful for his life that they dedicate him to a priestly vocation and send him off at a young age to be educated and trained by the leading man in Israel who is named Eli. Eli was a national leader and apparently a pretty good guy, but his two adult sons were not. They were known to be self-centered, evil, and corrupt. Samuel did what modern day Systems Theory teaches by replicating much of the story of his childhood in his own adulthood. He grows up to be a national leader and apparently a very good person, even surpassing Eli, but also with selfish, corrupt sons.

One well known axiom we can see at work in Samuel and in ourselves is: *"We can't give (our kids or our partner or anyone else) what we don't have."*

An equally true statement that requires some reflection is also at work: *"We can't not give what we do have."*

Samuel led Israel through their transition from a loosely federated tribalism to an established monarchy. He negotiated the Kingship of Saul even when he was personally opposed to the idea.

He is remembered as a national hero. But he himself clearly struggled with professional obligations and family relationships. What set Samuel apart and makes us remember him today? I wonder what I can learn from his story that might be helpful for mine and ours today?

I'll be completing my reflection on Samuel to share at Christ Church on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, you can find the brief talk online if you are interested in my conclusions. If you have any thoughts: pro or con; I am interested to listen and learn.

Warm regards from Christ Church,

John







## NEW WEBSITE

Dear readers,  
It is with great pleasure that we present to you our new web site.

After a lot of thought, deliberation and work we hope to have been able to bring forward the values that the cemetery has held dear over the years, the healthy attributes that we work on maintaining to high standards, a reflection on who we are and a recollection of who we have been over the long years. It has been a challenge in hopes to be fair with the Cemetery's outstanding trajectory.

Please visit us at:  
[cementeriobritanico.com.uy](http://cementeriobritanico.com.uy)

We hope you like it and we'd love to have your feedback! As you will see we are also undergoing an image renewal, a well needed update which is happening throughout our corporate image. We are very pleased with the results and we hope you feel the same way too.

We'd like to thank Josefina Strauch Jackson, our design guru, for her invaluable support during this process and without whom it would not have been possible. It's especially nice when new generations choose to get involved and, in her case, wonderful to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Jackson helping our beloved Cemetery, following her grandfather Sir Robert Jackson (Bobby), President of the Cemetery for many years and her mother, Bertha Jackson an active director.

We would also like to thank Geoffrey Deakin, our web master, who followed us through this process with his usual positive and helpful self, bringing our web site into reality. We appreciate his constant support, exceptional work, solid ideas, and particularly his patience!







## JUNIOR CALEDONIAN DANCE COMPETITION

Finally, after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic, the St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay held its traditional Junior Caledonian Dance Competition.

The event took place on 18th June at the British Schools' gymnasium, and it was a great afternoon of traditional dancing and music.

The Pipe Bands Montevideo City and Latitude 33 led the Grand March, offered a great show and so did the dancers of Scottish Dance Uruguay, to the delight of all the attendees.

Children of different ages took part in the competition, with an enthusiasm that proves how strong and popular Scottish traditions are in our country.

HMA Faye O'Connor was in charge of awarding the medals to the different winners. The singing of the traditional "Auld Lang Syne" marked the end of an event which everyone is looking forward to repeat next year.





## 2022 Dickens-Cambridge Heads' Forum

On Tuesday 14th June we held the 2022 Dickens-Cambridge Heads' Forum at the British Ambassador's Residence. This was a very special event for us as 2022 marks Dickens Institute's 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of our long-lasting relationship with Cambridge Assessment International Education.

Over 40 Cambridge school authorities attended the event, which we were fortunate to be able to hold face-to-face. We had a delicious breakfast as well as some time to catch up with colleagues after two long years during which we could only meet online. Then, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Uruguay Ms Faye O'Connor shared a few words with us to begin the event. After that, Ms Patricia Álvarez Harvey, Dickens' General Director, shared a little bit of the history of the IGCSE exams in Uruguay. Finally, Ms Lucila Marquez, Senior Manager, Latin America (Southern Cone & Andes), shared some news from Cambridge Assessment International Education as well as a really thought-provoking presentation for school leaders.

It was great to share such a lovely time with colleagues once again and we wish them the very best for the next examination series at the end of the year.

*Sofía y Agustina Scherschener,  
Patricia Alvarez Harvey, Faye O'Connor,  
Lucila Marquez & Manuel Rodriguez*





## Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Ceremony

Last Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, together with Cambridge Assessment International Education, we held an awards ceremony to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of secondary school learners in Uruguay in the November 2021 Cambridge IGCSE examinations. This celebration considers the attainment of students taking Cambridge IGCSE exams in over 40 countries around the world.



Seventeen Uruguayan learners in total received awards for their exceptional performance in their exams. Four of them received the High Achievement award, which is given to learners that had an outstanding performance in subjects that are not so widely taken in the country. Eleven of them received the Top in Uruguay award, which is given to students that attained the highest marks in Uruguay in a single subject. Two of them received the Best Across Seven Cambridge Subjects award, which is given to learners who completed their ICE certificate. And last but not least, two of them received the Top in the World award for having achieved the highest mark in the world. Definitely not a mean feat!



*Sophia Velho Reinhardt from Los Pilares,  
Top In World, First Language Spanish*



*Sol Martinez from The British Schools,  
Top In World, Literature (Spanish)*





The award-winning students were accompanied by their school's authorities, teachers, family and friends. They were greeted and congratulated by Dickens authorities, Ms Patricia Álvarez Harvez and Ms Sofía Scherschener; Ms Verónica Jara, Head of the International Examinations Department at Dickens; Her Majesty's Ambassador to Uruguay Ms Faye O'Connor; and Ms Lucila Marquez, Senior Manager, Latin America (Southern Cone & Andes) for Cambridge Assessment International Education.

We are really proud of being able to accompany students and their schools and celebrate their achievements together, as we've been doing for 50 years.

These spectacular results are a clear indicator of the hard work and effort put in by these students and teachers, and we hope they inspire them to keep shining in the future.

The closure of the ceremony was enhanced by the participation of a group of girls dancing Scottish dances. A lovely and moving ceremony came to a very happy end.



**Congratulations Queen Elizabeth on a magnificent and very touching Platinum Jubilee!**





## I got COVID

Or maybe it's the other way round: COVID finally got me. All despite my walk-the-talk masking, distancing and whatever could keep me out of harm's way. And the answers as to where, from whom, when, and how, will be blowin' in the wind forever. At about the same time, US Presidency Medical Adviser since the Reagan era Dr Anthony Fauci was still saying he hadn't caught it yet... until around mid-June, when he admitted that he was going through it, with mild symptoms – gotcha!

As I write this, my CoronavirusUY cellphone app is giving updated data from 18 June: 7496 active patients (not including me – I was discharged three weeks ago) and about 20% positivity rate in tests (ideally it should be less than 5%). The obvious, though somewhat unspoken truth is that this is an undercount, as the true number of cases could be 3 or 5 times higher, as is estimated in most developed countries.

The fact that COVID is everywhere and infecting everybody should not be construed as failure. Never before have effective vaccines been developed in less than one year and the real-time logistics of global public health care have changed forever. We have learned many lessons and are certainly better equipped for the next pandemic. However, the vaccines developed up to now, designed for earlier variants against which they did provide protection from infection, have their present effectiveness measured against the prevention of a severe outcome (i.e. hospitalisation or death) and not with respect to avoiding the disease altogether. This is certainly no less than we expect from our yearly influenza (flu) vaccines: to help us steer clear from worst-case scenarios, especially for those with underlying medical conditions, which is an acceptable standard.

With this expansion of COVID to almost everywhere and everyone, concern for what has been called long-COVID is on the rise. With the original variants, persistent symptoms lasting beyond 4 weeks and sometimes for months, including loss of smell and taste, brain-fog, generalised aches, free-floating anxiety, depression, plus more problematic issues like clots in the veins and the brain, were not so infrequent -- maybe affecting 1 in 5 adults, and up to 1 in 4 if older than 65. To the aforementioned we can add that booze sales have upped 20% in Uruguay. Fortunately, recent data have suggested that the manifestations of long-COVID are apparently less frequent with Omicron and its subvariants.

What is surprising is that China, ranked second as an economic superpower, with access to vaccines of their own making or to importing the same mRNA used by the rest of the world, is resorting to a strict zero-COVID policy, and enforcing lockdowns on its population, rejecting foreign aid and supplies. China is where it all started and rumours of a lab leak, which were initially downplayed and later considered unlikely, have resurfaced recently. I'm not a conspiracy theory fan, but I sometimes wonder: do they know something about this virus that we don't?

The pandemic (expansion in number of cases and regions) may morph into an endemic (stable in number of cases and regions) sometime soon, but, whatever form it takes, it's obviously not going away.





## Rich or Poor?

**L**as Piedras is a country town just north of Montevideo. Its historical claim to fame is that it was the site of the famous Battle of Las Piedras where Artigas and his patriots defeated the Spanish in 1811, a major step on the way to Uruguayan independence.

It was also, many years later, one of the towns where British railway workers and their families settled. My parents had friends in Las Piedras, an English couple who had been there for years. He lost his job when the railways were nationalized in 1949 but stayed put. He and his wife had a *chacra*, a vegetable farm, just outside town and sold their produce at local markets. When we went to visit them, which was pretty regularly, the adults gathered indoors for gin and tonics and “the boys”—my brother and I—were ushered outside. “Go help Martín, he’s planting onions today.”

Martín was a grizzled old farm hand. He had a weather-beaten face with the prominent cheekbones that were typical of Uruguay’s indigenous peoples; he may have been a Charrúa or a Chaná. It was hard to tell how old he was because he seemed so fit and vital. He looked strong, like a man who had worked outside his whole life. He flashed us his usual smile and said we were welcome and were just in time to help him plant a field of onions. Christopher and I were ready for anything.

Martín taught us how to move up and down the furrows, planting the crop one onion at a time. He did it with his feet spread apart, bending over from the waist, so we did it that way too. Once the excitement of this new adventure started wearing off, I began to notice how many furrows lay ahead. There appeared to be hundreds of them, stretching all the way to the horizon. That’s about when my back started hurting and it wasn’t long before I felt frozen into that

position, like a hairpin. I glanced over at Christopher, and he looked as miserable as I felt. Martín, of course, was rows ahead of us, moving like a well-oiled machine. I clenched my teeth and told myself I’d keep going as long as I could. I didn’t want Martín to think I was a soft little city boy who never got his hands dirty. Perhaps he sensed that his crew was wilting on the field because he abruptly called a halt for lunch.

We sat around a well-used fire pit where Martín got a fire going with some twigs and dry eucalyptus branches. When the fire had burned itself down to a bed of hot coals, he slid a home-made *parrilla* over the embers. He took a cut of meat out of its newspaper wrapping, salted it, and put it on the grill. He broke a loaf of bread into three large chunks, one each, then showed us how to tear off a piece and fold it to hold a slice of beef.

When he judged the meat to be ready, Martín held up his *facón* and asked how we would like our meat served: “*a lo rico o a lo pobre*” [rich style or poor style]. Clueless, we both said “*rico*.” He proceeded to shave off two extremely thin slices and slide them onto our bits of bread. Then he cut a piece for himself, and it was what my grandmother called a doorstep. A thick hunk of meat, far bigger than mine. He saw my disappointed expression and said: “Rich people like their meat sliced very thin. Poor people prefer a slice cut thick. You made your choice.” Then he grinned and gave us each another piece. I explained that I had interpreted the word *rico* [rich] in its other sense, meaning “tasty,” but he just shrugged. My back muscles eventually recovered from the onion ordeal, and thanks to Martín, I have always tried to make sure I fully understand all my options before I make any critical decisions.



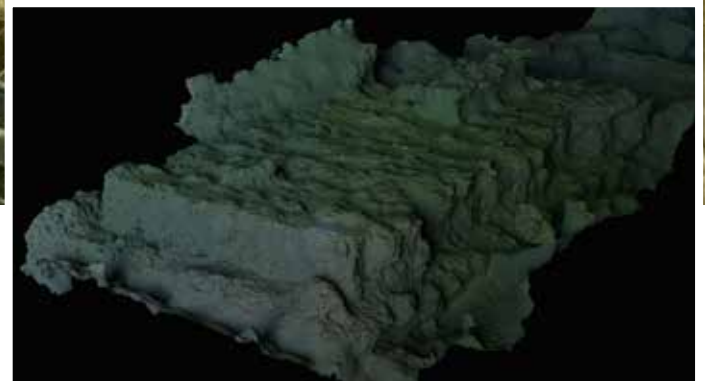
## First scientific survey of the ballast structure of a shipwreck in Uruguay.

The British Society in Uruguay together with Oceanids NGO has the honor to share with its readers unpublished images derived from the first underwater scientific survey of the ballast of a shipwrecked vessel in Uruguay.

The images that come to our mind when we remember the old ships focus on those large sails inflated in the wind, when ships were the protagonists of the discovery and development of trade. However, “sails” it is just the upper part of the lever that achieves the displacement, according to Archimedes. But much less publicity has been given to the invisible lower part of the lever: “the ballast.” A component that works as the real metacenter of a sailing boat, a key piece of the boat, since without its existence, the hull would uselessly rotate until its masts sunk into the water.

Uruguay has developed its first scientific study digitalizing the underwater ballast of the famous ship HMS Agamemnon. By building a photogrammetric model, it was possible to know millimeter by millimeter the presence of this material, which is crucial to understand how ships sunk, from Captain Cook’s famous ship His Majesty’s Bark HMB Endeavour, last named Lord Sandwich before was sunken in 1778, to the oldest known ballast in the Phoenician ship of Mazarron, sunk 2300 years before the present.

The project began in March 2022, when a team of leading maritime archaeologists in their areas of intervention arrived in Uruguay from the United Kingdom to work on the conservation of the wreck. The responsible institutions were Joint Nautical Archeology Policy Committee UK JNAPC, Center for Maritime Archeology University of Southampton, Bournemouth University, British Maritime Archeology Trust, Buckler’s Hard Maritime Museum and National Museum of the Royal Navy sponsored by the British Embassy in Montevideo and Oceanids NGO.



First ballast vectorization of a shipwreck in Uruguay, April 2022 -1

In this inter-institutional framework, the prestigious British Maritime Archeology Trust was in charge of vectoring the images obtained in 2017, through the work of its researchers Garry Momber and Brandon Mason. Brandon Manson, in dialogue with the British Society Newsletter from the United Kingdom, presented the most important conclusions they had reached:

1. Are estimated to be 23 large iron ballast bars, and 3 at two-thirds length
2. The Large bars: L 0.9 x W 0.15 x H 0.15 m Shorter bars: L 0.6 x W 0.15 x H 0.15 m
3. Estimated weights 144 kg (large) and 96 kg (short)
4. The Total estimated weight of the main stack seen here: 3.54 tons, roughly 5% of the c. 70 tons of ballast expected.
5. Iron Blocks match in ballast bar size with ships of the period.

Ballast disposal in sunken ships provide unique clues for archaeological studies. In the case of HMS Agamemnon we get to understand that her stern was sinking first, slightly inclined down, before she first touched the shoal. This explanation turned to be in the way that the iron ballast blocks lay. They are set like a Tetris puzzle, and they reflect today the long section headings vector in between the bow and the stern and the short side headings vector between the starboard and port side.

The Agamemnon is the perfect example of how the scientific analysis of the ballast of sunken ships around the world helps to understand accidents that are not always recorded in historical documents.





## First Generation of English for All

**I**n Conchillas the first generation of “English for All” graduated in December 2021 and next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, two students who completed the four years with flying colours will be travelling to the United Kingdom for a period of 15 days.

In this framework, Montes del Plata announced the continuity of the program after a four-year pilot.

This program increased by 117% the number of students who attend private English from the first to the fourth year of high school. It began in 2018 with first-year students from Liceo de Conchillas and, since then, each year a new generation is invited to participate. In December 2021 the first generation completed the four-year cycle and received its PET certification.

The aim of “English for All” is to better prepare young people for their subsequent employment, encourage a taste

for the language and promote educational continuity at a key stage for students. At the same time, it seeks to keep the British roots of the town alive. Classes are held in the emblematic Casa Evans of the town.

The program arose from the initiative of two people from Conchillas: a high school teacher and a collaborator from the Montes del Plata team, who today coordinate the program. Montes del Plata and the Anglo Institute jointly finance 90% of the costs of the program and the remaining 10% is financed by the families of the young participants. Additionally, Montes del Plata provides exchange scholarships in England for graduates of the program, which were introduced as a way to recognize and contribute to the growth of young people, while generating motivation in the new generations so that they enroll and take advantage of the opportunity.







## Dancing

**A**t the end of the 16th century a book was published that condemned the act of dancing as a dangerous devilish practice:

*Anonymous*

*A Treatise Of Daunes, wherein it is shewed, that they are as it were accessories and dependants (or thynges annexed) to whoredome: where also by the way is touched and proved that Playes are joyned and knit together in a rancke or rowe with them.*

*Anno 1581*

I wouldn't like to cast any doubts about events like the wonderful St. Andrew's dancing soirée, but it may be interesting to find out what some people said and wrote centuries ago as to the apparently harmless act of leaping or weaving about in search of amusement or artistic expression.

The book starts by saying:

*"I Doubt not, but that some, into whose handes this little treatise shall come, will thinke me to be at greate leasure, that haue enterprised largely to leuie out and handle this argument: which to their seeming is not otherwise of great importaunce. For be it that daunes were allowed or condemned, or els yet they were putt in the rowe of thinges indifferent, men might easily iudge according to their opinion, that that should not bring great profit or hurt to our christian common wealth, seeing that ther are diuers pointes of greater weight and consequence, which trouble the spirits of manye learned men".*

It is also forced to admit that nowhere in the Bible dancing is forbidden, however its consequences are indeed fully covered by one of God's commandments.

*"The like is of daunes which wee may put in the first & second row or order. For although wee haue not any playne and expresse forbidding, where it should be sayd, Thou shalt not daunse, yet we haue a formall and plaine commaundement, Thou shalt not commit adultery, or whoredome: to which the daunes ought to be referred".*

The dire consequences of dancing are described as well, if

not as leading good women to work in brothels, to marrying people well below their rank just because they were captivated by seeing him dancing.

*"But yet it is so, the effect & sute declareth it, because that the daughter and sister of the County or Earle of A. was so enamoured or rauished with the loue of a very simple and base gentleman whom she had seene daunse in the courte, and it printed so wel, that is, toke such deepe impression and roote in her hart, and understanding, that against the will of Father and Mother, parentes and friends shee married him. Now let us come to the poynt or matter, what prouoked this young gentlewoman beyng rych, wise, learned, fayre, & of good countenaunce to loue a base man, of litle discretion, unlearned, cockbrained, yea, which with great payne or much adoe knoweth to write his owne name, and besyde, or moreouer very deformed in face & countenaunce".*

Dancing can also be described as an early pagan practice that the devil encouraged, leading to debauchery.

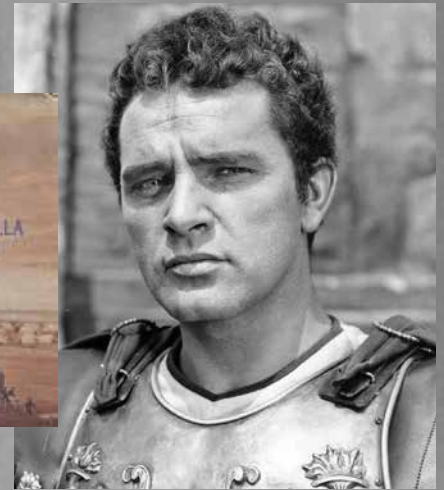
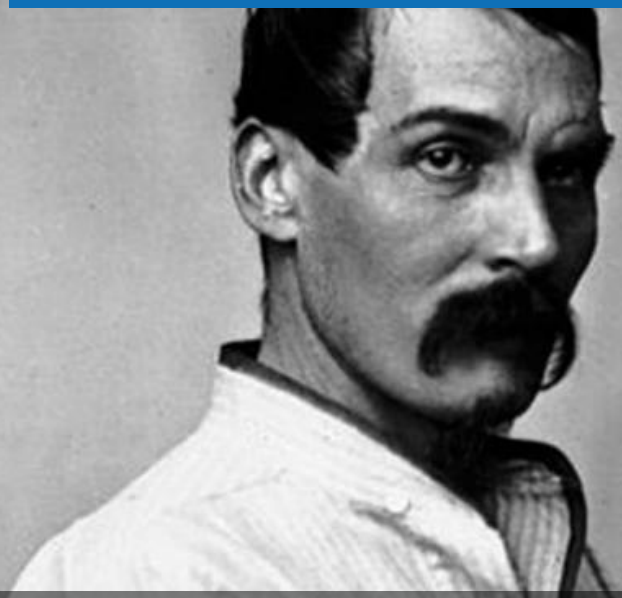
*"Here wee euidently and playnly see, in what estimation and regard daunes were among Pagans and infidels ..... For if it be, yet after feastes and banquets, men commonly set, or geue themselves to daunse, and after that men be full of wyne and good meates, they bee then prouoked & pricked forward, by the prickles of the flesh, to what end serue such manner of gestures, if not, to make manifest & set out their intemperency".*

The book ends by condemning those who stubbornly persist in indulging in such dangerous practice.

*"All which thinges beyng considered, I hope that diuers knowing what euil, and mischief there is in daunes, will giue them ouer and cast them away, thinking or supposing, that in that, that thei haue retained & fauoured them, even unto this present, they haue rather done it thorowe ignoraunce, than thorowe stubburnesse or selfe will".*

So beware, dancing people of the world, not only are you debauching yourselves and bringing the devil into your lives but also risk marrying the wrong kind of people.





## The Nile, the Ganges and the Uruguay

Everyone born last century knows or has heard from some mother or older sister about the Welsh actor Richard Burton. For younger generations who never heard of him, Burton coined the term "celebrity scandal" while filming the first Hollywood mega production, *Cleopatra* in 1963. The sexual chemistry between Burton and Elizabeth Taylor (*Cleopatra*) while filming along the hot sand dunes of the river Nile was responsible for converting a regular film into a blockbuster. It is not strange for actors to change their names, ¿but what prompted Richard Jenkins to adopt Burton as his artistic surname? As handsome and womanizing as Jenkins turned out to be, it is most probable that the answer lies with another British celebrity, but of Victorian times, Sir Richard Burton.

Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890) was the typical Victorian adventurer. Ready to tackle any mission, no matter how hazardous it could be. In his lifetime he was explorer, writer, scholar, soldier and spy, a reputed authority in Indian and Middle East cultures and languages and an extraordinary traveller. Less public but as notorious where his sex exploits. During his early years, he was the first European who, disguised as an Arab pilgrim, reached Mecca; and with Speke, the discoverer of the great African lakes looking for the sources of the Nile. His extensive knowledge of native languages and dialects allowed him to write the first translations of the *Arabian Nights* and the *Kama Sutra*. As a soldier of the East India Company he served in India and in the Crimean War. As a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society he explored Equatorial Africa, and as a Consul he served in Brazil (1865-1870), Syria and Trieste. Burton was outspoken and very interested in human sexuality and he had his good share of scandals, which were conveniently always abroad. He was knighted in 1886.

The lives of Sir Richard Burton and his 20th Century namesake are very entertaining and make for picaresque reading, and would be out of scope for these series but for an important fact: as Consul in Santos, Sir Richard Burton was twice in Montevideo, on his way and back from Paraguay during the Triple Alliance War (1864-1870), where he was sent as an undercover informant by the Foreign Office.

Prolific writer as he was, Burton wrote about his experiences during those trips, and in particular he had some very appreciative opinions of our city and native population. Some quotes from his *Letters from the Battle-fields of Paraguay* (1870).

*"The Blancos are from the country and known as gauchos. When they are important as Artigas they may be called leaders or guerrillas. They are conservative, retrograde and ignorant, but at least honest and thus preferred by foreigners".*

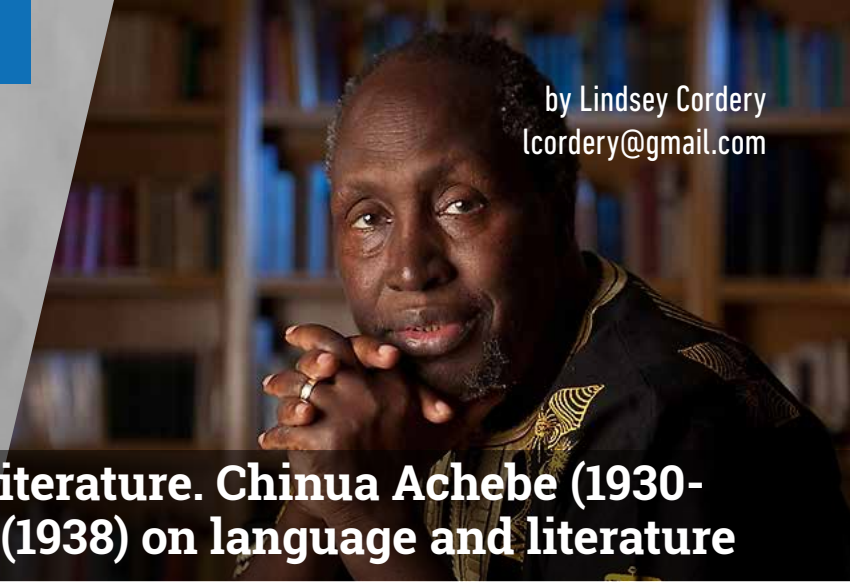
*"The population is a blend of Spanish, Portuguese, Brazilian, Italian and French. They keep all the vices and little of the virtues of their ancestors".*

*"Neither the English flourish physically nor morally here. They arrive full of life and energy, ready to work hard, explore and practice sport. But soon they lose that energy and just lie down. Not long after they just manage to read the newspapers and then not even that. Writing a letter is too much to ask and soon they just eat, drink and smoke".*

*"I stayed at the Gran Hotel Americano, a typical French hotel that looks very good but is terribly uncomfortable. My room is a cell, a box with no window. Restrooms in every floor but only accessible after 6 pm, and the tubs are filled with an indescribable warm liquid... Montevideo is an insignificant town".*

It didn't help to sweeten Burton's opinions that his arrival coincided with the murders of the presidents Venancio Flores and Bernardo Berro and the city was in turmoil with the body of the ex-president in exhibition on the main square. Anyway, following his usual practice, Burton will also make a translation during his stay in South America, not as well-known as the ones he did before in India and Arabia. The Uruguay, an historical romance written by the Brazilian José Basilio da Gama, will be the legacy of his brief stay in our region.





by Lindsey Cordery  
lcordery@gmail.com

## The Great Debate in African literature. Chinua Achebe (1930-2013) and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (1938) on language and literature

Achebe and Ngũgĩ come from very different regions in Africa, but they shared common experiences: they were subjects to British colonial rule and, later, witnessed the births of their respective nations, Nigeria, where Achebe was born, independent from 1960, and Kenya, Ngũgĩ's birthplace, which gained independence from Britain in 1963. These common experiences led them to raise several key issues relevant to postcolonial literature, most importantly, the political and cultural implications of retaining English as the lingua franca in an independent African nation. The role of English in postcolonial African nations has to do with the relationship between a language and its people, and the relevance of a language to cultural identity; so, any discussion of postcolonial African literature will mean considering both the inherent diversity of "African" as a concept, and the complex history of colonialism throughout Africa.

Ngũgĩ argues that colonisation was not simply a process of physical force.

In Kenya, as throughout the British Empire, colonisation used English as the language of education, so, as a result, indigenous languages withered away. This was devastating to African literature because, as Ngũgĩ writes, "language carries culture and culture carries the entire body of values by which we perceive ourselves and our place in the world. Therefore, how can the African experience be expressed properly in another language?"

The issue of which language (Igbo, Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Kikuyu, Swahili etc) should be used to compose a truly African contemporary literature is thus full of contradictions. Ngũgĩ argues that writing in African languages is a necessary step toward cultural identity and independence from centuries of European rule.

Ngũgĩ is now established as a major African writer. He's written novels, short stories, essays, a memoir, and other works. He was imprisoned by the Kenyan government in 1977-78, and detained without trial in a maximum-security prison, in isolation, following the performance of his play *I Will Marry When I Want*, harshly critical of the injustices of Kenyan society. He has become the most determined

advocate against African writers using English for their works and has focussed on issues of culture and language. On being released from prison, he began using his mother-tongue, Gikuyu in all his fiction. His collection of essays *Decolonising the Mind. The politics of language in African literature* (1986) is dedicated to "all those who write in African languages, and to all those who over the years have maintained the dignity of the literature, culture, philosophy, and other treasures carried by African languages". Possibly his best-known novel is *A Grain of Wheat*, published in 1967 (so written in English), which is set in the wake of the Mau Mau rebellion.

Achebe, on the other hand, stated in 2013 that "I feel that the English language will be able to carry the weight of my African experience. But it will have to be a new English, still in full communion with its ancestral home but altered to suit its new African surroundings". His 2009 collection of essays is slyly titled *The Education of a British-Protected Child*. At one point he writes that nothing in Africa has been "more spectacular...than the eruption of African literature, shedding a little light here and there on what had been an area of darkness". As a schoolchild, he writes, he read the same books children in the UK were reading, including those featuring the "good" white men and lazy, savage, African natives. In these essays, he considers Ngũgĩ's arguments against using English in some detail. And he also discusses Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, famously criticising the politics of the novel.

Achebe's most well-known novel must be *Things Fall Apart* (1958), his first- with a glossary of the numerous Igbo words and phrases used in the book (part of the "new English" he referred to). It's about the arrival of white men in Nigeria at the end of the 19th century and the impact on the close-knit society of the Ibo tribe. The title is a quotation from a poem by W.B. Yeats -an apt quotation to describe the impact of white men on the Igbo people (and also, I think, an apt quotation for our own time):

"Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold,  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."  
("The Second Coming")

## Blueberry Crumble Cake

by Phillip Berzins  
sbpberzins@hotmail.com



### Ingredients (8 portions)

- 85 g melted unsalted butter
- 70 ml milk
- 10 ml lemon juice
- 1 large egg
- ½ teasp vanilla extract
- 180 g all-purpose flour (0000)
- 150 g sugar
- 1 ½ teasp baking powder
- ¾ teasp salt
- 250 g blueberries, fresh or frozen

### Method

Butter a 20 cm x 12 cm baking tray. In a medium sized bowl whisk together the milk, lemon juice, egg and vanilla extract. Add the melted butter and beat in.

In a large bowl whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. . add the milk mixture and whisk together until just blended taking care not to over mix. With the aid of a rubber spatula fold in the blue berries. Transfer to the prepared baking tray, smoothing the top.

### Crumble Topping Ingredients

- 50 g flour
- 75 g roasted almonds roughly chopped
- 70 g brown sugar
- 1 teasp ground cinnamon
- ¼ teasp ground allspice
- 70 g butter cut in cubes

### Method

In a medium sized bowl mix together all the ingredients, rubbing in the butter with your fingertips until the mixture resembles bread crumbs.

Sprinkle the crumble over the prepared mixture in the baking tray and cook in an oven preheated to 190 C until golden brown and a tester inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean, about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Serve warm with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

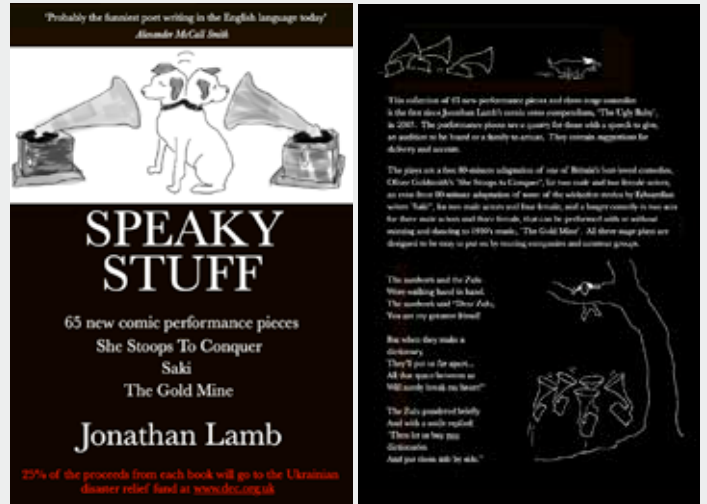


## Closing Till Two

I was at the supermarket checking out  
The others in the supermarket queue  
When the manager appeared and gave a shout:  
“Sorry, we’re now closing till two”.

“But it’s only half past ten!” I said,  
“I’ve got all my shopping to do!”  
He said, “Just use tills one or three instead.”  
“Till two’s bust - we’re closing till two”.

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com



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).






**At the moment we have 2 rooms with private bathrooms available.**

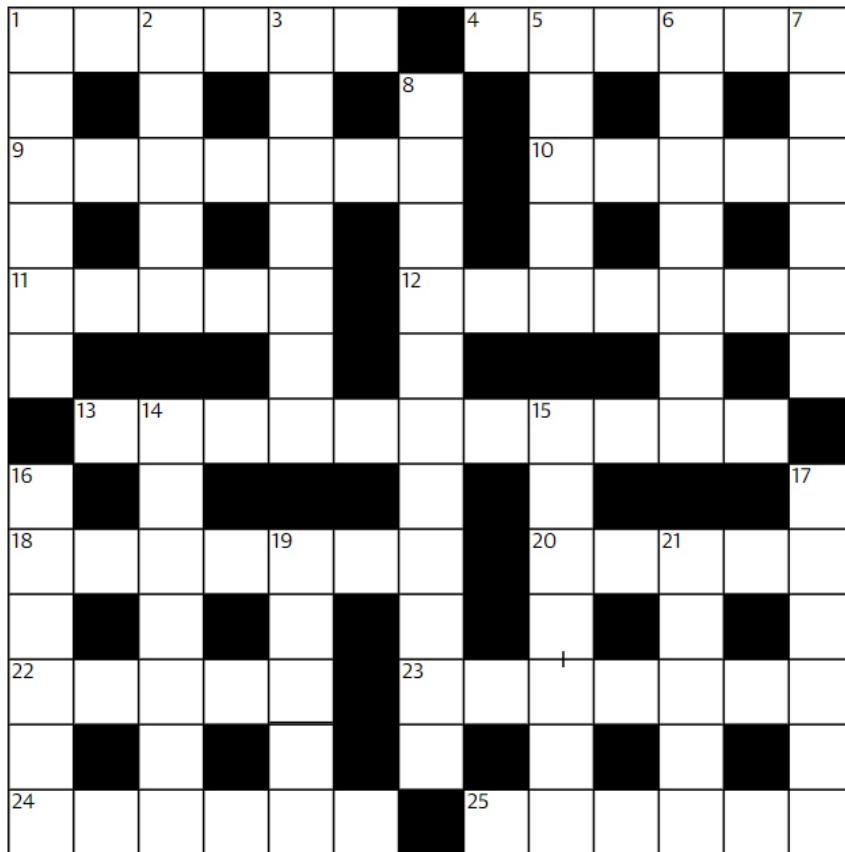
Our mission has been to create a community for the elderly within the residence, sharing meals like a big family, joining in various activities (Tai chi, card games, singing, etc), enjoying celebrations and leisure time together as well as accommodating time and spaces for private living and family visits.

We provide nurturing care for each and every person individually taking into account different needs and abilities.

There is experienced personnel working at all times of the day and night supervised by our doctor in charge.

Certified by   

26039418 | 096741264 | tgr.uv.2013@gmail.com | Av. Italia 6485



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

June solution:



## Across

- 1 Lazy drooping posture (6)
- 4 Assassinations (6)
- 9 Sideboard with open shelves (7)
- 10 Large cooking pot used by soldiers (or campers) (5)
- 11 Uniform colour (5)
- 12 Scheme — jut out (7)
- 13 Meticulous (11)
- 18 Not including (7)
- 20 Colourless gas, O<sub>3</sub> (5)
- 22 Unspoken (5)
- 23 Dramatic Moor (7)
- 24 Concealment (6)
- 25 2022 Nato candidate (6)

## Down

- 1 Puzzle — UK's duo (anag) (6)
- 2 Greek vowel (5)
- 3 Part of a snooker table (7)
- 5 Exhibition of cowboy skills (5)
- 6 Square number (7)
- 7 Detective (informal) (6)
- 8 Rope in attic (anag) — crackling sound (11)
- 14 Indigestion remedy (7)
- 15 Ingenuity, aptitude or skill (4-3)
- 16 Jerk (6)
- 17 Prestige (6)
- 19 Take part voluntarily (3,2)
- 21 Made eyes at (5)



Frank and Ernest by Thaves - <https://www.gocomics.com/>



## REEL OF THE MONTH



### The surprising origins of the modern conspiracy theory.

The medieval period proved the perfect breeding ground for what we have come to know as conspiracy theories, and one particular king, Philip IV of France, could be seen as perhaps the greatest conspiracy theorist of that time.

**BBC**  
**REEL**



## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



### The people who 'danced themselves to death' - BBC Culture

In 1518, a 'dance plague' saw citizens of French city Strasbourg reportedly dancing uncontrollably for days on end – with fatal results. It's a bizarre event that continues to fascinate artists and writers, writes Rosalind Jana.

**CLICK HERE TO  
READ THE ARTICLE**



**BBC**





## St. Swithun's Day

A standing joke worldwide is the English preoccupation with the weather. So how did it come to pass that the English summer should be determined by a long dead Anglo-Saxon Bishop?

St Swithun's Day (or 'Swithun' as he is also known) is the feast day of a ninth century Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester who died in 862 AD. Swithun was born in the Kingdom of Wessex and educated in Winchester, the Kingdom's capital. Little is definitively known about Swithun's life although he is said to have been the spiritual adviser of Æthelwulf, King of Wessex, and the tutor of Æthelwulf's son Alfred, who then went on to become the mighty ruler of Wessex and the only English monarch to date to be bestowed with the title 'the Great'. However, whilst Swithun was a popular bishop, his only known miracle during his lifetime was the repair of a basket of broken eggs, dropped by a flustered lady of his parish on unexpectedly encountering the Bishop.

His enduring legend is due to events after his death on 2 July 862. With his dying breath Swithun is said to have requested that his final resting place be outside, where his grave could easily be reached by both members of the parish and the rainfall from the heavens. Swithun's wishes were met for over 100 years. However, in 971 it was decreed that Swithun was to be the patron saint of the restored Cathedral at Winchester where an impressive shrine was built for him. Swithun's body was removed from its simple grave and interred in the new Cathedral on 15 July 971 (a shrine to the Saint remains in the modern Winchester Cathedral to this day). According to legend, forty days of terrible weather followed, suggesting St Swithun was none too happy with the new arrangements!

Ever since, it has been said that the weather on 15 July supposedly determines the weather for the next forty days, as noted in the popular Elizabethan verse:

"St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days will rain na mair"

Jane Austen also wrote a light-hearted poem titled *Venta* about the Winchester races, which features Saint Swithun

as the antagonist of the race attendees. Jane Austen died three days after writing this poem, and was shortly thereafter buried in St. Swithun's Cathedral, Winchester. In her poem she has the furious saint say,

*"Oh subjects rebellious, Oh Venta depraved... When once we are buried you think we are dead... But behold me Immortal. – By vice you're enslaved... You have sinn'd & must suffer. – Then further he said  
These races & revels & dissolute measures... With which you're debasing a neighboring... Plain Let them stand—you shall meet with your curse in your pleasures... Set off for your course, I'll pursue with my rain.  
Ye cannot but know my command in July... Henceforward I'll triumph in shewing my powers... Shift your race as you will it shall never be dry... The curse upon Venta is July in showers."*

It is also possible that the legend springs from a particularly heavy rainstorm on Saint Swithun's Day in 1315, coupled with St Swithun's supposed posthumous miracles. Or, less spectacularly, the superstition may have evolved from pagan beliefs around the changing weather of the Midsummer period.

Saint Swithun's feast day is also familiar to fans of David Nicholl's popular novel *'One Day'*.

'What's tomorrow?' she mumbled. 'Today you mean?' 'Today. This bright new day that awaits us.' 'It's a Saturday. Saturday all day. St Swithun's Day as a matter of fact.' 'What's that then?' 'Tradition. If it rains today it'll rain for the next forty days, or all summer, or something like that.' She frowned. 'That doesn't make any sense.' 'Not meant to. It's a superstition.' 'Raining where? It's always raining somewhere.' 'On St Swithun's grave. He's buried outside Winchester Cathedral.'

Whatever you choose to believe, it certainly makes for an interesting conversation whenever the weather is mentioned!

Source: [St Swithins Day or St Swithuns Day 15 July - Will it Rain?](#)



# Meet our columnists

## Lindsey Cordery

**Column: Literature Matters**  
**Topic: Literature in English**



*How long have you been a writer for Contact?*

I've been contributing to Contact for the past 2 years approximately, following an invitation from Richard Empson.

*What inspires your monthly column?*

My idea is to signpost writers and topics which I've found interesting for a variety of reasons over the years, and which I hope Contact readers might become enthusiastic about. I bear in mind Virginia Woolf's comments on the Common Reader: a non-academic, though nevertheless informed person, who reads for personal enjoyment.

*Which is your favourite article to date?*

As I've enjoyed reading all the writers and /or topics I've written about, I can't really say any of the pieces was a "favourite". I do of course have "favourite" writers, those whom I consider wonderful and important, those whom you re-read and go back to at different stages in your life and find the text offering new views, different perspectives, powerful lines. Shakespeare of course, and others too.

*Tell us a little about your academic and working background.*

I went to the British Schools, trained as an English language teacher at the Anglo and later at Aston University in Birmingham, U.K. At the Anglo I was one of the lucky people to have had Vincent Driscoll as a teacher of literature – certainly it was he who showed me the way!

I completed the Licenciatura en Letras at the Facultad de Humanidades, UdelaR, and then embarked upon a Maestría en literaturas comparadas. I taught English language and literature at Traductorado Público and licenciatura en Letras Modernas at the Facultad de Humanidades, both UdelaR. Also, the University of London B.A. External Programme course in English.

And earlier on, mainly delightful primary and secondary school teaching at The British Schools, Ivy Thomas Memorial School and St. Catherine's School, and lately also St. Brendan's School. Yes, like so many teachers in this country, I've done a lot of running around.

*And when you are not working, what do you enjoy doing?*

When I'm not working -I don't rush to classes anymore- my grandchildren keep me busy. And I'm happy to report that they are all keen readers -or listeners, of all kinds of stories. Children love being read to -nothing can replace cuddling up with a parent or grandparent for a story ---no screens! And schools should have lots of story sessions too.

*What projects are you currently working on?*

I've recently written on two authors, among those you read again and again, Geoffrey Chaucer and Virginia Woolf, for publications forthcoming this year. The Chaucer essay looks at connections between The Canterbury Tales and Boccaccio's Decameron and the one on Woolf is an article on Jacob's Room for a special edition of SIC journal of literary studies commemorating the annus mirabilis of literature and art, 1922.

*Do you have a message for our readers?*

Please let me know if you have suggestions or comments for the column!!! I'd love to hear from you.

[lcordery@gmail.com](mailto:lcordery@gmail.com)





## Jane Austen's House Museum

Jane Austen's House Museum is a small independent museum in the village of Chawton near Alton in Hampshire. It is a writer's house museum occupying the 17th-century house (informally known as Chawton Cottage) in which novelist Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life.

The house was the property of Jane Austen's brother, Edward Austen Knight, who allowed his mother and sisters to live in the house, so they had a permanent residence. Jane Austen lived in the house with her mother, her sister Cassandra, and a longtime family friend Martha Lloyd, from 7 July 1809 until May 1817, when because of illness she moved to Winchester, where she died on 18 July 1817.

When she arrived at Chawton, Jane Austen had written three novels in draft form: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey*. It is possible that she revised these novels at the house before getting them published. In addition, it was here that she wrote *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*.

Link: <https://janeaustens.house/>

