

**BSU  
Big Coronation Lunch**

**British Schools  
The Senior School  
Production of "We Will  
Rock You"**

**Literature Matters  
Tan Twan Eng (1972)**

**Music Box  
Why it is easy to hate  
Coldplay and why those  
who do are wrong**





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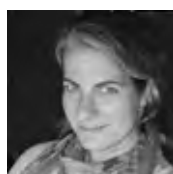
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**BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER**

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Montevideo, Uruguay



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Dear Members,

Queen Victoria is to be thanked for the introduction of sports at schools to instill discipline and channel the energy of young students. She recognized the potential for organized physical activities to cultivate discipline, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility. The idea of introducing sports into schools gained traction.

Sports such as rowing, rugby, and football have been practiced through the years, and Uruguay is always in the news thanks to our wonderful participants who have achieved great results in competitions. Uruguay is doing very well in rowing; Cloe Callorda got the bronze medal in the World Under-19 Championship in France. Cloe is from Mercedes, Rio Negro, and has been rowing since she was 10. In the Men's double scull, Martín Zócalo and Eric Seawright reached the semifinals in the World Under 23 Championship in Bulgaria; they were among the 6 best in the world.

Regarding rugby, the 2023 Rugby World Cup will be the tenth men's Rugby World Cup. It will take place in France from 8 September to 28 October. Being a fan of rugby as my father was, I am checking the fixture and the first match is France vs New Zealand, and on the 14th, Uruguay vs France. You can find the fixture in the link. All our best wishes to the Teros!

As sports lovers, we try to spend time playing sports or games as we did at the Big Coronation Lunch, where we played Croquet and took part in the different races; it was great fun. Hope you enjoyed the Big Coronation Lunch as much as we did, and we were most honored by the presence of HM's Ambassador Faye O'Connor OBE and Mrs. Heide B. Fulton, USA's Ambassador.

Sports lovers and Culture Lovers, let's not forget about the play "12 Angry Jurors" at The Montevideo Players. They keep opening new dates since shows sell out every weekend. If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss it! You can't miss the rehearsals for the Caledonian Ball either; they take place every Wednesday from 19:00 to 20:00 at the Anglo School Carrasco.

September is famous for the ExpoPrado. We will visit the Pabellón Británico, which is always worth visiting! So, there are plenty of activities for this lovely month of the year.

I hope you have wonderful September holidays and get ready for all that we have in store for the coming months: our field trip to the Tea Competition in Conchillas in October, and the Encuentro Británico Oriental in San Jorge in November, among other things.

Hope to see you all soon,

Andrea Davies

<https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023/matches>

## Sonnet 98

By William Shakespeare

From you have I been absent in the spring,  
When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,  
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,  
That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him.  
Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell  
Of different flowers in odour and in hue,  
Could make me any summer's story tell,  
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew:  
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,  
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;  
They were but sweet, but figures of delight  
Drawn after you, – you pattern of all those.  
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,  
As with your shadow I with these did play.



## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can pay your 2023 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

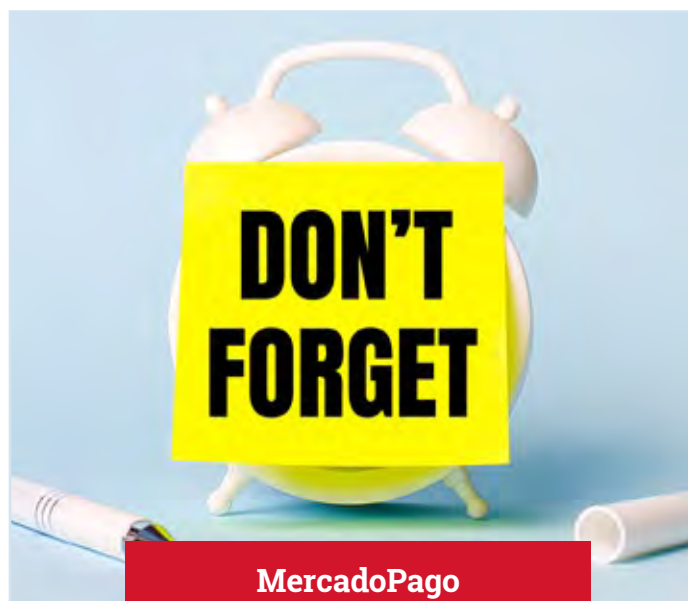
We have also implemented **recurring payments** so you no longer have to remember to pay your fees. You do not need to have a MercadoPago user, by clicking [HERE](#) you can choose to enter your details as “Invitado”, you are 3 clicks away of never having to remember to pay again! This recurring payment 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 - \$700**

**MercadoPago Recurring  
Payments - \$650**



# Birthdays

in September

1. José Luis Ollé González
1. Cecilia Silvosso Lozano
4. Daniela María Caraballo Molina
4. Victoria Inés Stanham Méndez
4. Alexa María Hobbins Llovet
5. Maureen Sharon Hyland Adkins
5. Malena Barrios Campbell
7. Celia Monica Orizabal Martinez
8. Jo Anne Laws Rabey
8. Inés Cristina Lagomarsino Segundo
8. Nicole Funch-Thomsen Mazzucchelli
9. Laura Teresa Rovira Ferroni
9. Daniel Andrés Pereira Pierce
9. Sean Summers
13. Julio Alexander Guridi Archer
13. William Joseph Beare Caraballo
13. Nicholas Teuten Ponzoni
13. Luciana Bossano Caraballo
14. Nicolás Hobbins Llovet
14. Simon James Roberts
15. Conrad Charles O'Neill Malcolm
15. Andrea María Varela Fernández
16. Alexandra Williman Curochquin
17. Neil Donald Morrison
17. María Prevett Vera
17. Pedro Prevett Vera
17. Richard A Cowley Jenkins
19. Paul Edward Beare Drever
19. Andrea Davies Raggio



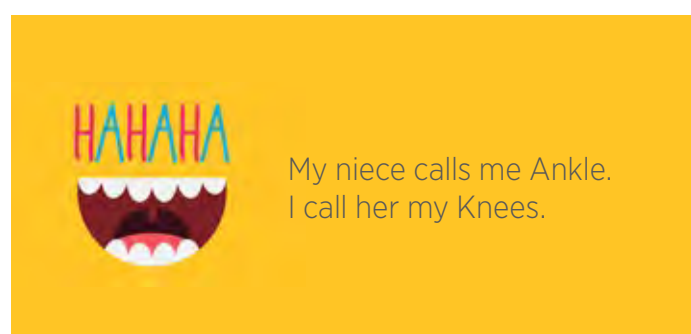
20. Gustavo Ernesto González Alonso
21. Lucie Beare Jorge
21. Alberto Ignacio Wilson Escondeur
23. Luciano Renzo Chinelli Gandini
25. Ira Sonsoles Baison Montiel
25. María María Barrabino Hobbins
25. Mirtha Lourdes De Avila Andrada
26. Stephanie Karen Cooper Bastarrica
26. Adrian Norton Hobbins Forrest
29. Manuela Shaw Blanco
30. Jeanine Beare Drever
30. Hazel Marianne Dee Horne

## New Members

Mirtha Lourdes De Avila Andrada  
Simon James Roberts  
Diego Santi  
Romina Sosa

*welcome*

For news from across the pond visit [www.abcc.org.ar](http://www.abcc.org.ar)



# 2023



## 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).

## SEPTEMBER

**SATURDAY 9: ANGLO CONFERENCE**, Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel [LINK](#)

**SATURDAY 23: BRITISH CEMETERY:** Encuentros a la Puesta del Sol, 190 years of Charles Darwin in Uruguay, 3PM

**MONDAY 27: BSU BUTTON CRAFT TEA** at Christ Church 15:00 to 17:30.

**SUNDAYS 3 AND 17: ANGLICAN CHURCH MASS**, 10am at Templo Inglés, Reconquista 522.

## OCTOBER

**MONDAY 2 - BSU EVENT AT UCUDAL**

**SUNDAY 8 - THE BRITISH SCHOOL'S BIRTHDAY**

**SATURDAY 14 - CONCHILLAS TEA TABLE CONTEST**

**SATURDAY 28 - ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY CALEDONIAN BALL**

**SATURDAY 28 - BRITISH CEMETERY:** Past and Present, guided by Robert Wells at 11am.

**SUNDAY 29 - BSU SPRING CROQUET TOURNAMENT**

**SUNDAYS 1, 15 AND 29: ANGLICAN CHURCH MASS**, 10am at Templo Inglés, Reconquista 522.



## NOVEMBER

**Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 - Encuentro Británico-Oriental (San Jorge, Durazno)**

**Thursday 30 - St. Andrew's Society - St. Andrew's Day**







# Buttons Craft-Tea

Get ready to button up your creativity  
and steep in the fun at our one-of-a-kind  
Buttons Craft Tea!

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 15:00 to 17:30**  
**at Christ Church - Lieja 6437**

Join us for an afternoon of button-fuelled creativity, laughter, and tea-sipping camaraderie. It's time to button up and get your craft on! We can't wait to see you at the Buttons Craft Tea Party!

RSVP: [events@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:events@britsoc.org.uy) - 097 104 020

Ticket: Members \$300 - Non members \$500

*Bring Buttons please!*





## BIG LUNCH

A sense of international flair and camaraderie permeated the atmosphere as the ambassadors from the United Kingdom and the United States graced our grand event. Their presence added a touch of prestige and international flavor to the event, and their graciousness in participating as jurors was highly appreciated.

HM's Ambassador, Faye O'Connor OBE, took on the honorary role of juror for three of the most anticipated competitions: the Cupcake Decorating Contest, the Best Decorated Table, and the Bunting Competition. As the winners were announced, it was a testament to the event's ability to bring cultures together through friendly competition and shared appreciation for creativity and craftsmanship. It was a day when diplomacy and community celebration harmoniously converged.

Families and friends gathered for a day of fun and games, and at the heart of it all were three classic contests: the Spoon and Egg Race, the Three-Legged Race, and the intense Tug of War.





# BIG CORONATION LUNCH



Laughter and cheers echoed through the field as participants carefully balanced eggs on spoons, their faces contorted with concentration as they raced toward the finish line without letting the precious cargo tumble. Friends were joined at the thigh in the Three-Legged Race, stumbling and wobbling their way through the grassy course. And then came the Tug of War, where teams squared off, determined to pull their opponents across the line. Cheers of encouragement filled the air, and spectators couldn't help but get caught up in the excitement.

As the day wore on, these classic games served as a reminder of the joy of friendly competition and the simple pleasures of gathering for some old-fashioned fun. It was an event that brought the community closer, creating memories that would be cherished for years to come.







## Janis Audrey Fitzherbert Dickinson

**D**ear Janis passed away peacefully on the 13th of August. She entered the Home last December, and it was lovely to have her with us for all these months. She was such an interesting person to talk to, with all sorts of anecdotes. She enjoyed our outings and picnics, and always had a kind word for our residents and carers. Janis will be greatly missed.





## Ministerial Visit

**F**oreign, Commonwealth and Development Minister for the Americas and Caribbean, David Rutley MP, visited Uruguay 15-17 August to strengthen bilateral relations in a wide range of areas. His busy programme included meetings with Foreign Minister Bustillo, Minister of Industry and Energy, Omar Paganini. He held trade conversations, visited Centenario Stadium and met parliamentarians who will be travelling on an official visit to

the UK this month. The Minister also witnessed Environment Minister, Robert Bouvier, officially sign Uruguay up to the UK-led Global Ocean Alliance, to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, and visited CEPRODIH, an NGO that gets annual support from the Falkland Islands Government to deliver their women empowerment programmes. You can see a brief summary of his visit [here](#).



## Great news for young people in Uruguay and UK!

**D**uring his visit, Minister Rutley and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo signed a Youth Mobility Scheme agreement that will allow 18-30 year-old people from Uruguay and the UK to spend up to 2 years in each other's country from early 2024. Work and study is allowed, but not compulsory, and participants can travel or volunteer during their stay. There will be 500 quotas for each country, per year, with no language, job or skill requirements. You can find more details about the scheme for Uruguayans in our website (in Spanish) and social media. Information on how to apply will be available soon.





## Supporting Ukraine

Ambassador Faye O'Connor highlighted how the UK and our international partners stand united in condemning Russia's assault on Ukraine at a ceremony to mark Ukraine's Independence Day on 24 August at Club de Golf. "We will continue to provide Ukraine with humanitarian, economic and military aid until Russia's forces leave, which would be the quickest path to peace", the Ambassador said in her speech.



## Visit the British Pavilion at Expo Prado!

Preparations are running at full steam ahead to open our pavilion from 8th until 17th September. British and British-linked companies and organisations will showcase and sell their products and services. This year, our Embassy stand will highlight British culture through interactive activities. You will be able to listen to live music and enjoy a pint at the Pub or a cuppa and cake in our Tea Room. We look forward to seeing you!





**Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Anglican Province of South America, Brian Williams:**

## **“I want to gain an in-depth knowledge of the Church in Uruguay”**

“God has been present in my life since my earliest childhood. My parents led me to Christian faith calmly and simply, without imposing it. They always showed me the wonders of God and the salvation we have in Jesus. That is how I grew up,” Presiding Bishop and Primate Brian Williams said, during his first pastoral visit to Uruguay.

How did you experience God’s calling?

My dream since boyhood was to become an engineer, but by a twist of fate I was forced to attend a business college, and it was there that I discovered that my favorite subject was in the humanities, and that inspired me to study theology, while I made up my mind what my future life would actually be.

I finished my studies in theology, and although I was also working in farm administration, I was daily becoming more involved in the service of the church, until somebody asked me, haven’t you thought of becoming a pastor, an ordained priest?

This question led me to talk with other people, and I came to the conclusion that God was calling me, so I answered “Yes”. In 1996 I was ordained deacon, in 1997 I was ordained priest, and in 1998 I got married. Today I have been married for 25 years, and have two lovely children.

What were your early experiences as a priest?

I began to work full time, and I focused on starting pastoral work among the young people in my parish. I worked there for 20 years, before I was consecrated bishop. Working with young people is a constant challenge, but the results can be very satisfying. The experience helped me to grow as a priest and as a human being.

When you were elected bishop, what challenges did you face?

I had the great advantage of a very good knowledge of the field and I was not an outsider. I was familiar with the characteristics

of the church’s team, both clerical and lay people, and had good relations with them all.

I think the greatest challenge, as a bishop, is to take the Gospel to people, so together with my team we have three points of action. The first has to do with evangelization and getting to know Jesus; the second, with training and equipping people to do excellent work for God; and the third has to do with stewardship, which is to use the gifts we have been given to build and strengthen the kingdom of God.

And now as Primate, what is your vision for the work of the church, in Uruguay in particular?

In the first place, my intention is, at the provincial level, to walk alongside the dioceses. I am not above other bishops, the idea is to work together and develop the identity of the Anglican Church in South America, always taking care that the leadership is healthy.

In particular, I want to get to know the church in Uruguay, in order to be able to support the diocese, and make it known that the Province is here to walk alongside the diocese of Uruguay, that they are not alone, that we are very close to them and wish to do everything in community. We understand that the church in Uruguay is at a developmental stage, and has big challenges ahead. We are here to support them and walk with them.

Our goal is for the church to share the Gospel in a holistic way, which means that we must be aware of social needs and be present within them. It is important that this is potentiated and encouraged, with confidence, and always under God’s guidance.

It is important always to remember clearly what the church is for; the idea is not just to have a comfortable place to gather and share together in an enclosed environment. To be a church is to serve others and take the Gospel to wherever and whoever needs it.

# A MEMORABLE JOURNEY: OUR FORM 4 STUDENTS' UNFORGETTABLE GRADUATION TRIP TO THE UK



As is now a tradition at The Anglo School, our Form 4 high school students have just returned from their 3-week graduation trip to the United Kingdom. The trip was designed to give the students a taste of British culture and history, while at the same time providing a unique opportunity to strengthen the bonds created after so many years together. Accompanied by teachers, they embarked on a long-awaited trip full of excitement for the days ahead.



As soon as the group landed in London they headed to Scotland. On their way to Edinburgh, they had the chance to admire the amazing Scottish Highlands and take a boat cruise around Loch Ness. Although their attempt to see the Loch Ness monster was not successful this time, they did enjoy the beautiful scenery and the fresh air. On the five days they spent in Edinburgh, the group visited its main highlights, such as Edinburgh Castle, the Museum of Scotland, Stirling

Castle, and even had some time to go shopping on Princess Street.

After leaving Edinburgh, they set off to London, where they stayed at a student accommodation in Camden. During twelve remarkable days, students and their teachers could expand on their knowledge of British history and culture, by attending lessons that worked as a trigger to experience the visits to the most renowned British landmarks: the London Eye, the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, the Natural History Museum, the British Museum, the Science Museum, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Westminster and Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Globe Theatre, to name just a few. At the Harry Potter Studios, the group could revive the best known Weekend day trips to Stonehenge and the historic cities Harry Potter films.





## A MEMORABLE JOURNEY: OUR FORM 4 STUDENTS' UNFORGETTABLE GRADUATION TRIP TO THE UK



of Bath, Oxford and Cambridge were also cherished visits that helped our students embrace the heart of British culture. There was also time to experience British theatre, by enjoying the world-famous plays Mamma Mia and The Lion King. After leaving London, the group set off to York, where they discovered the highlights of the city by visiting the York Viking Museum and a memorable city treasure hunt. The trip continued down in Stratford-Upon-Avon, where they encountered the heart of British literature: a guided Shakespeare walking tour, a visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace and to Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

After enjoying all these stunning places, the students returned home with a wealth of new experiences and memories that they will cherish for a lifetime. This

unforgettable trip is the perfect closure after the many years our students have spent at our school. Sharing such a remarkable experience with long-life friends and teachers will etch this trip into their minds and bring smiles to their faces whenever they remember it.





**ENGLISH FOR EFFECTIVE  
COMMUNICATION**

Immerse yourself in a 100% teacher-led online English learning journey. With four comprehensive levels ranging from beginners to Upper-Intermediate, this course is designed to enhance your oral skills. Over the course of 12 weeks, you'll make remarkable progress.

For just \$9.000 Uruguayan pesos, you can access this

invaluable opportunity, including the chance to partake in the speaking component of the internationally recognized Cambridge Linguaskill test, all at no additional charge.

Spaces are limited, and the courses are set to start on September. To gather more details, feel free to reach out to us at [centro@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:centro@anglo.edu.uy).

**2023  
COURSES****▶ ENGLISH  
FOR  
EFFECTIVE  
COMMUNICATION****REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**



# PRESERVING HISTORY: DIGITIZING 19TH-CENTURY NEWSPAPERS IN MONTEVIDEO



In a remarkable collaborative effort, the project titled "Rescue of 19th-century English, French and Uruguayan risk newspapers published in Montevideo" is making significant strides. This joint initiative involves Proyecto Anáforas from the Facultad de la Información y Comunicación at UDELAR, the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute, and the Museo Histórico Nacional. Supported by the Endangered Archives Programme, with backing from the Arcadia Fund and the British Library, this undertaking is proving to be a vital step in safeguarding historical documents for future generations.

Taking place within the historic site "Casa de Lavalleja", the primary headquarters of the Museo Histórico Nacional, this digitization project is set to bring to light a collection of Uruguayan newspapers that were published in Montevideo throughout the 19th century and the initial stages of the 20th century. Among the periodicals being digitized are The River Plate Times (1889-1890), The Montevideo Times (1891-1933), El Comercio del Plata (1845-1850), and Le Patriote Français: journal commercial, littéraire et politique

(1844-1936). These selected publications are indispensable for studying various periods of Uruguayan political, economic, social, and cultural history, shedding light on the foundation of the nation and cultural and political consolidation.

A pivotal aspect of this project is the comprehensive digitization of the complete collection of The River Plate Times (1889-1890) and The Montevideo Times (1891-1933), both of which are housed in the Anglo Library. Due to the considerable size of the oldest volumes, an extensive-scale scanner had to be assembled. The urgency in preserving these invaluable newspapers through digitization arises from the need to prevent the gradual deterioration of periodicals that played a significant role in representing the interests of the British community in Uruguay during a crucial era in history. Of special interest is The Montevideo Times, a newspaper that not only chronicled historical events but also bore witness to the birth of the British Society, the British Schools, the Anglo Institute, and numerous other British institutions in Uruguay.

# PRESERVING HISTORY: DIGITIZING 19TH-CENTURY NEWSPAPERS IN MONTEVIDEO



At the heart of this endeavor is the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP), an initiative designed to digitize archives worldwide that are at risk of destruction, neglect, or physical decay. Since its inception in 2004, the Programme has successfully digitized over ten million images and 35,000 soundtracks, encompassing diverse archive types such as rare printed sources, manuscripts, visual materials, and audio recordings. This continually expanding online collection is made freely accessible through local archival partners, the official EAP website (<https://eap.bl.uk/>), and is easily discoverable via the British Library catalogue. It serves as a remarkable resource for research, inspiration, and the sheer enjoyment of delving into the annals of history.

In a world where the preservation of historical artifacts is of paramount importance, initiatives like the "Rescue of 19th-century English, French and Uruguayan risk newspapers published in Montevideo" project stand as a beacon of hope. By digitizing these priceless newspapers, the project not only safeguards the past but also paves the way for a more accessible and enriched future of historical exploration.

To learn more about the EAP 1466 project, please visit their dedicated site: <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1466> or email [biblioteca@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:biblioteca@anglo.edu.uy)

## Significant Visit to Casa Lavalleja: Harriet Mathews (FCDO) interested in digitization project

Harriet Mathews, Director General for Africa and the Americas at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), visited Uruguay very briefly in the past few days. On Thursday, August 31st, she visited Casa Lavalleja (Zabala 1469) to meet with the Anáforas (FIC) team and show interest in the EAP 1466 project, funded by the British Library.



The Director's visit was very brief and took place between 9:00 and 9:30 am. She was accompanied by the UK Ambassador, Faye O'Connor, and officials from the Ministry of Education and Culture, including Pablo Landoni, Director General of the Secretariat, and Mariana Wainstein, National Director of Culture. The purpose was to gain a brief overview of the digitization process for these valuable documents.







Cycle X “Encuentros a la Puesta del Sol” - Cultural manager Eduardo Montemuiño

23rd of September, 3pm

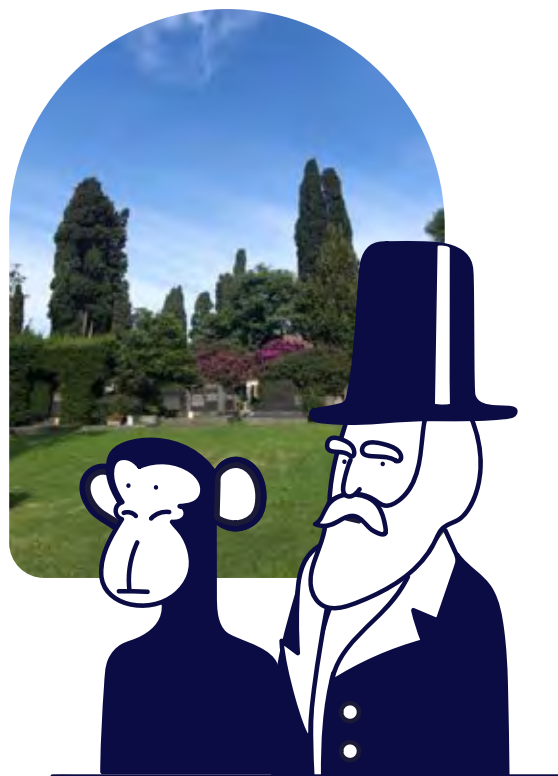
## 190 Years of Charles Darwin in Uruguay

Step back in time to 1833 and immerse yourself into Charles Darwin's exploration of Uruguay's early days. Encounter the landscape, discover the unique flora and fauna he observed, and gain a deep understanding of Uruguayan customs as seen through Darwin's eyes.

### With the guidance of Anthropologist Carina Erchini

Bachelor's Degree in Anthropological Sciences, specialization in Archaeology from FHCE-UdelaR. Master's degree in Human Sciences, with a focus on Anthropology of the River Plate Basin, also from FHCE-UdelaR.

Currently fulfilling the role of Director at the National Museum of Anthropology within DNC-MEC, and serving as a Professor in the Technical Program for Cultural Assets at FHCE-CENUR-UdelaR.



#### IMPORTANT

**This event is in Spanish  
and open to the public.**



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS TILSU /  
UNIVERSITY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES / UDELAR  
URUGUAYAN NETWORK OF CEMETERIES AND HERITAGE SITES  
IBERO-AMERICAN NETWORK FOR VALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE CEMETERIES



**Open Tea** is being resumed, join us Thursday 14th and 28th of September.



# The British Hospital received accreditation from a Spanish medical association, and is a pioneer across the continent

**The Coloproctology Unit of the British Hospital received accreditation from the Asociación Española de Coloproctología (AECOP). It is the first institution in the Americas to achieve this recognition, placing it at the forefront of the speciality worldwide.**

As part of its policy focused on excellence in healthcare services and quality in all its aspects, the accreditation obtained by the Coloproctology Unit of the British Hospital aligns its professionalism, technical expertise and management with the best practices worldwide.

Since its inception, the Coloproctology Unit has embarked on a journey of analysing and objectively evaluating all its processes alongside the AECOP," recalled Dr. Patrick Lyford Pike, a key figure in the process and a member of the service's surgical team.

Dr. Lyford Pike stated that this evaluation includes not only the clinical case approach but also key aspects such as communication, health promotion and the development of clinical conferences, among others, to promote the best clinical practices and advancement in this speciality.

He considered the British Hospital receiving such a significant accreditation as 'historic,' noting that it is the first time it has been granted outside of Spain.

"It is an external and entirely objective evaluation of surgical and oncological outcomes, patient treatment, management, waiting times, involving a thorough review



*The Coloproctology Unit of the British Hospital receiving the accreditation from the Asociación Española de Coloproctología.*

of medical records and detailed data. The result leaves us very pleased, as it validates that we are performing exceptionally well on a global level," Dr. Lyford Pike remarked.

To advance in the evaluation process for obtaining accreditation, a shared database is used with the auditor, who progressively reviews the outcomes. Other variables such as the diagnostic methods employed, materials and available technology, the multidisciplinary team involved in case resolution, and the specific health promotion and prevention policies of the unit are also taken into consideration.

The lengthy evaluation process to obtain accreditation, spanning nearly 3 years, concluded with the auditor's visit to the British Hospital last June. During this visit, there was an opportunity to physically verify all the information accumulated throughout our collaborative efforts.

This represents a step forward in terms of academic endorsement for the services provided by the British Hospital. It offers members and users the assurance that they will receive care in the Coloproctology Unit comparable to or even superior to what they would receive at medical centres abroad.

Furthermore, the British Hospital stands out with the country's top-tier Operating theatre, and one that ranks among the best in the region, thanks to the regular renewal of its equipment, continuous training of its staff, and the ongoing commitment to a policy of delivering excellence in healthcare services.





## The Senior School Production of “We Will Rock You”

**T**he lights dim, the curtains rise, and the stage comes alive with the electrifying energy of the talented Senior School students.

In 2023, the students rocked the School with their rendition of the iconic musical “We Will Rock You.” A classic rock extravaganza brought to life by Queen’s timeless music and an enthusiastic young cast. The production was an unforgettable experience for the audience and a life-changing journey for the students involved.

Putting together a big musical production is no small feat, and doing so within a School environment means the challenges are immense. Everything must be done in advance, considering the School’s huge agenda of events and other logistic and staff requirements: set construction, costume design, choreography, musical training, acting lessons, etc.

For the students this means balancing their academic responsibilities with rigorous rehearsals, music and singing lessons, among others. Yet, the process is also an excellent opportunity for them to learn valuable life skills such as time management, teamwork, and resilience.

Despite the challenges, the rewards of participating in the Senior production of “We Will Rock You” are immeasurable. For students, it is an opportunity to build confidence, forge lasting friendships, and discover hidden talents. It nurtures

creativity and self-expression, allowing them to step outside their comfort zones and explore their artistic potential. The experience also fosters a strong sense of School Spirit and Community, since the whole Company entails students from Y7 to Y12, staff members and alumni, working collectively towards a common goal.

Beyond personal growth, the production is an excellent way to showcase the diverse talents within the School. It becomes a source of pride for the School, the students, and their families, as they witness the fruits of their hard work and dedication on stage. Additionally, it provides a platform to connect with our Community, strengthening ties with the local community and fostering a love for the performing arts.

In 2023, The British Schools celebrates 25 years of musical productions, which provides a fantastic milestone to reflect on and commemorate the incredible contributions that musical theatre has made to School. Besides all the advantages performing, dancing and singing on a stage have for students; musical productions are overall responsible for boosting School Spirit, cultivating life-long friendships between students from different generations, introducing staff members and alumni in current School events and captivating audiences with enchanting stories, memorable characters, and fascinating music. The British School takes pride in its musical theatre tradition, and the fond memories it may bring to many of you reading this now.









Christ  
Church  
MONTEVIDEO

Recently, my wife, Lisa and I drove most of Ruta 2 making several stops along the way. We went to visit the Museo Anglo, walk the Rambla in Fray Bentos, and spend a night in the Gran Hotel overlooking the river.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip! I relaxed and looked up information online every time either of us had a question. For example: Who was Asencio and why did he yell? (*Ruta 2 is called the El Grito de Asencio*). I was impressed by the Museo Anglo. I have previously toured a large meat-packing factory, so I was able to imagine some of the sights, sounds and smells as well as the vast number of people and countless interactions that shaped, inspired, and educated a community and a region.

Using poetic (*hyperbolic*) imagination some workers called it “the Kitchen of the World”. Without any doubt, the impact was felt beyond any means of measurement. Lisa and I had a guided tour for both the Museum and “the Big House”. (*We were the only ones there that Friday although they host approximately 1,000 visitors monthly.*) We could ask questions, but mine were not ones they knew how to answer.

I once bought a book, written and compiled by apparently reputable people, which contains much informative and even entertaining information about the British influence in Uruguay. Curiously, I found and find no mention of the Anglo. Like those authors, I never fully realized during my twenty years of residency what an astonishing, incredible collage of accomplishments, stories, conflicts, investments, planning, lives, and fortunes made and lost. all contained in the crumbling structures now filled with the sound of silence.

I wondered how and when the German influence waned in the years before the first Great War? What were the meetings like in the Board Room and the big House in 1912-15? I asked the young guides, who were delightful

and well informed about many things, but they did not appear to have an awareness of how the international politics of the time would have interfered with local business.

I wanted to compare and contrast the working conditions in the Anglo and the same industry described by Upton Sinclair in his fictional novel “The Jungle” which served as a catalyst to reshape American industry in many ways. I wanted to ask how the Anglo leadership team for several generations managed to leave a historical memory of ethical treatment, community development and a strong sense of positive identity. and how did it slip away?

I have more questions. I enjoy reflecting on these ideas that shape our lives today. How are institutions built and sustained across lifetimes? What is the potential impact of an idea or an individual? What are the roles and responsibilities of the leadership and of the countless “nameless” individuals who collectively form the critical mass required for the institution to exist, perform the tasks, create, and resolve the conflicts, pay the bills, and generate the reputation and credibility?

You might have some questions of your own. or some interest in answering some of mine. My real reason for writing is not related to the Anglo, but to **Christ Church. Our Chapel turns 45 on October 31<sup>st</sup>**. I am applying the same questions about Ruta 2 and the Anglo to **Christ Church**.

**How have we survived? What is our role and responsibility? What are some lessons learned and how do we transmit them? How do we renew in sustainable ways so that future generations benefit?**

I am wondering, asking, listening. I hope you feel curious to wonder, ask and listen in the communities and institutions where you are.

**John Hamilton**

Pastor, Christ Church



Christ  
Church  
MONTEVIDEO

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[www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)





# LUNCH INVITATION



**Wednesday  
6<sup>th</sup> of September  
at 12:15 PM**

**Political Scientist and Journalist  
Lic. Claudio Fantini**

*"Argentina's situation in the  
complex world panorama"*

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

Those in need of 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)**







LAST TICKETS AUGUST	NEW SHOWS IN SEPTEMBER	
<del>SAT 26 th</del>	<del>FRI 1 st</del> <b>SOLD OUT</b>	FRI 8 th
<del>SUN 27 th</del> <b>SOLD OUT</b>	SAT 2 nd	SAT 9 th
		SUN 10 th

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The Pub and doors will be open 30 minutes before and also during the interval.  
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- 1) BOOKINGS only through our LINK
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# CALEDONIAN BALL *coming soon...*

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-  7 pm
-  Anglo School (Av. Dra. Maria Luisa Saldún de Rodríguez 2195, behind Portones Shopping).





# We are Platinum Centre!

*Dear Community,*

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you.

Dickens has received the highest recognition that Cambridge English awards institutions that offer excellent standards in the setting of its examinations.

As from 1st August 2023 Dickens Institute is a Cambridge Platinum Centre!

This distinction is not a prize to exhibit, but a recognition on our part to all the teachers and institutions that trust Dickens to face together the challenge International Examinations represent, and of all the students and their families who also chose to be part of the Dickens Community and enrolled for the Cambridge exams at Dickens. We thank and value their trust greatly, as well as recognise and appreciate the work and effort put in by each student who sits for a Cambridge exam.

Dickens would also like to highlight the work that each member of the Dickens exam team puts in to make an exam session successful. Behind each one there is much work that is carried out with the greatest care and dedication. There are people who arrange the examination rooms, that prepare examination materials and make sure that all the requirements are carried out so that the Cambridge Examinations are administered following all Cambridge requisitions.

The speaking examiners, whose professionalism is flawless, as well as those teachers who perform the examination trainings, to ensure that all involved will be aware of the best performance expected from them, and who will make sure that the students will be able to sit for their exams in ideal conditions, all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Dickens wishes to thank all members of the Team who truly deserve this recognition and thank all the Community for your trust. This distinction is for all and every one of you.

We wish you the greatest of success in your coming examinations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Scherschener".

**Sofia Scherschener**  
Cambridge English Centre Exams Manager  
Dickens General Director



**CAMBRIDGE**  
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## The National Anthem

Once a week, students at the British Schools assembled in the gymnasium for a music lesson. It was an old-fashioned gym, with a worn wooden floor and sturdy exercise bars attached to the walls to be scaled by little gymnasts. The music teacher took her place in front of the children, sitting at a black, upright piano that had seen better days.

We were there to rehearse our two national anthems so that we might perform them on special occasions when we had an audience, which usually consisted of our parents and the faculty and a few official people on a mission of some sort. The gym had skylights in the ceiling that filtered daylight into the hall. During rehearsals there were always specks of dust floating in the air, easily visible on bright, sunny days, and sometimes distracting if I let my mind wander. I can clearly remember the thrill of the whole experience: the high notes the girls sang during the Uruguayan anthem, the excitement of the stirring chorus, and the exhilaration of losing myself in the roar of the choir.

The British national anthem is short and to the point. We only sang the first verse, asking God to save our gracious, noble king or queen, and wishing a long life to our victorious, happy, and glorious monarch. The melody is simple and easy to sing, and we never needed to spend much time on it.

The Uruguayan anthem is another story. For one thing, it is among the longest anthems in the world, lasting about five or six minutes, although we only ever sang an abbreviated version. The music was composed by Francisco José Debali, allegedly inspired by one of Donizetti's operas, and the lyrics were written by Francisco Acuña de Figueroa. The piece was officially declared the Uruguayan national anthem on July 25, 1848. It is a dramatic, emotional, somewhat lyrical cry for freedom that echoes the country's motto: Liberty or Death! It explains in poetic words that the cry of Freedom is what saved the Uruguayan homeland; the cry that, in fierce battles, inflamed its valiant warriors

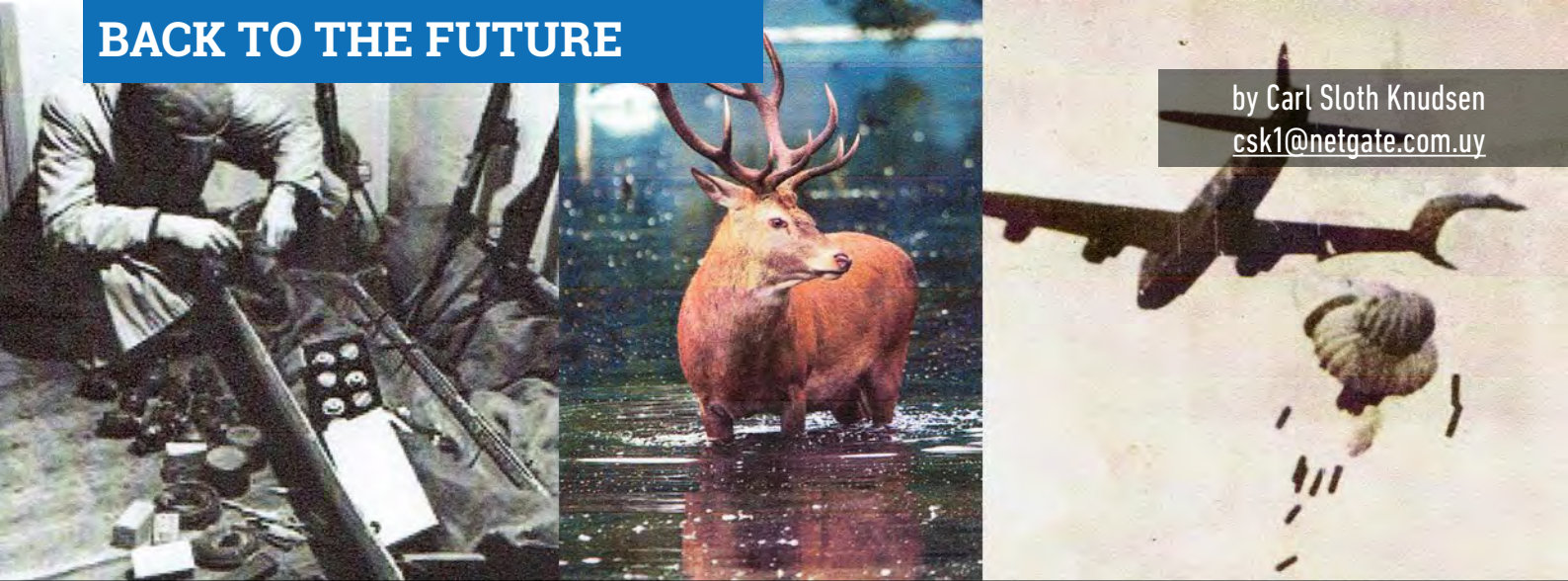
with sublime enthusiasm. Their clamour for freedom on the battlefield and on their deathbed was sure to make tyrants tremble. We all demanded, at the top of our young voices, our homeland or the grave, freedom or a glorious death.

The exact source of the British anthem's words and music is unknown. We are told that it is the oldest official national anthem and has been in uninterrupted use since it was acknowledged as such in 1825. But its origins are even older, having evolved out of a popular patriotic song that had been sung at royal events since the mid-18th century. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, many European countries followed Britain's example and created national anthems of their own. In some cases, these were written specifically for the purpose, and in others they were adapted from existing songs. The themes of these anthems vary, from fervent prayers for the wellbeing and longevity of a monarch to evocations of important battles or uprisings of one kind or another. Of the various styles used, perhaps the most stirring (and famous) is France's *La Marseillaise*, known as the European march.

As in many other fields in the mid-1800s, South American leaders took their cue from Europe and commissioned exuberant, sometimes rather flamboyant national anthems for their recently liberated nations. Uruguay threw off the yoke of Spanish colonialism in 1811, then countered the territorial ambitions of its two powerful neighbours—Brazil and Argentina—and became independent in 1828. Having severed its allegiance to the crown of Spain, there was no monarch to praise, so it is unsurprising that Uruguay's anthem should be inspired by the more militant style to celebrate its long, hard struggle for independence and its commitment to fight to the death to protect it.

Times have changed, and the lyrics of the British and Uruguayan anthems are no longer particularly relevant to the contemporary reality of the countries they represent. But tradition plays an important role in patriotic ritual and ceremony, so I suspect that these songs will continue to be sung on high days and holidays for a long time to come.





by Carl Sloth Knudsen  
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## Back to the Future VI

**W**hile at my uncle's farm, my brother Martin and I (still 9 years old) decided to walk through the forest where he had an enormous plantation of Christmas trees. Danes do not fancy plastic Christmas trees, so he made more money planting pine trees than corn. During our expedition, we reached a small lake of about 50x50 meters when suddenly a very big reindeer stag with huge, branched horns showed up and started drinking water. He looked at us and disappeared like lightning (magic). To complete the picture, the only thing missing was a sledge, snow pouring down, and of course, Santa Claus included. Well, that's what went through my mind in a fraction of a second.

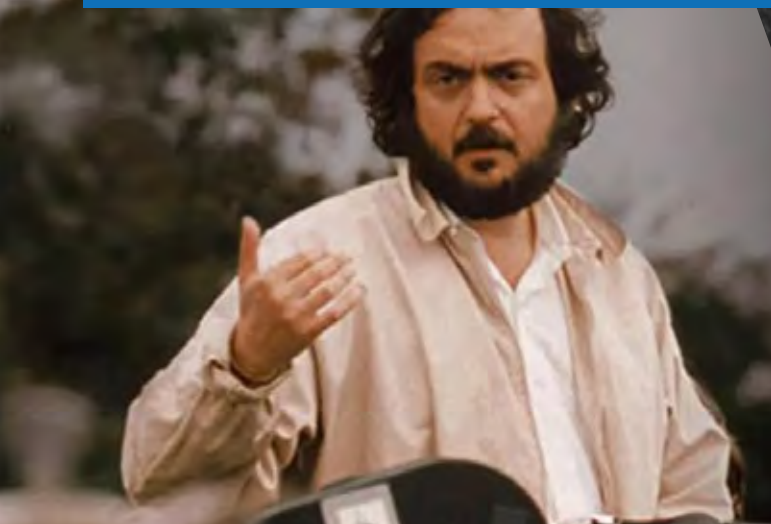
Our instructions were to walk slowly with a stick in front of us due to a very poisonous snake called the "biting snake." Gratefully, we didn't see any. Back at the farm, my uncle Nils told us that he had been attacked twice in his life, but long and thick leather boots kept him safe. We told him about the reindeer. He knew they used to visit his forest, but unfortunately, he never saw any of them. He explained how they swam once a year during the night over the Kattegat Sea from Sweden to Denmark. It's remarkable. I still can't fathom how they can manage to do so.

My uncle said it had been a privilege for us to see the stag, probably unrepeatable. He continued his lecture, adding that during World War II, he was responsible for receiving arms and ammunition dropped in his forest by the English RAF. He received coded instructions the same night it would take place by listening to the BBC of London. He then went to collect the containers which he would empty and then throw into a lake. Sometimes he had to climb the trees to free the parachutes. The resistance group would then take over the "merchandise" and disappear. He showed us several machine guns and rifles he had buried for later delivery. They would be retrieved by the War Museum in Copenhagen and kept for future exhibitions.

One day his 12-year-old son Steen, on his way to school, was stopped by German soldiers. They grabbed him harshly by the arm and shouted, "What is your father doing at the farm?" Realizing the dangerous situation, he started playing mentally sick, uttering nonsense words and stamping on the road, so the soldiers opted to let him go. Later in life, being an engineer, he worked for a Danish firm responsible for building roads in Iran (previously Persia). He also participated in a project sponsored by the USA for an underground airport in Thule, Greenland. From here, planes with atomic bombs were in the air around the clock over Europe during the Cold War. One of the planes lost a bomb in the Gibraltar Strait which, luckily, was found many years later.

During the week at the farm, I learned to play badminton, which the family used to play after a day working hard at the farm. Well, that is what they did in summer. In winter, they used to play cards. There was no TV in Denmark then, so everybody went to bed early. One morning, my father asked us to pack our belongings as we were leaving for Copenhagen. It must have been a very boring tour because I can't remember much of it, except when we had to cross over by ferryboat from Jutland to Sjaelland. We reached Copenhagen by night, and two days later, we were off to Oslo to take a Johnson Line Company vessel called "Chile" to be sailed back to Uruguay.

My elder brother Nils had to stay back as he was going to start working for a wool firm which became partners of my father's export firm, Nilsen Olsen & Cia., in Uruguay. It is not a coincidence, but I also started my career in the same place - but 8 years later. The voyage back was quick, and a new chapter was underway.



by Juan José Castillos  
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## Kubrick Vs. Tarkovsky

**S**ometimes the way people react to films portray not only the cultural level of that population but also how cinema is perceived as an art form or just an expression of elaborate entertainment and little else.

When Stanley Kubrick in 1968 made the film 2001, A space odyssey, after a while it was welcomed as a superb film tracing the adventure of man from the very distant past and into a possible future. Special effects and excellent cinematography left most audiences fascinated everywhere. The Catholic Church gave Kubrick an award and this is hardly surprising since the mysterious stone monolith, supposedly guiding humanity to a steady progress through millions of years, could be linked in some way to divine guidance.

But the basic superficiality of the approach, despite its brilliant cinematography, could not be hidden after an even cursory analysis. It was the shallow thinking so common in the US and many other countries, leaving almost everything ambiguous and uncertain, but with nice music and impressive images.

A similar situation to that of the later Star Wars saga, a superficial action group of movies, again with superb special effects for the time, but devoid of any depth, except for a rebellion against an evil galactic emperor and vague references to the power of a certain 'force', again a wink at supernatural influence on humans.

A few years later, Andrei Tarkovsky, a Russian filmmaker, had made another film, Solaris, based on a book by Stanislaw Lem, that approached a similar subject, human contact with an extraterrestrial entity, but with a much greater conceptual depth.

In this case, humans attempt to study a planet with a huge ocean, that in fact is a brain, that also tries to study them as well, by sending them memories they had buried in their subconscious mind.

Some scenes are very poignant as the main human character gets again and again versions of his dead wife who had committed suicide, and finally the extraterrestrial brain, in a not very clear way, starts to understand these humans by building islands in the ocean depicting aspects of human behavior it has perceived, but not always as accurately as it had thought.

Not only the basic idea of how two very different kinds of intelligent beings could somehow attempt to communicate is here superbly conveyed, but the esthetic brilliance of the scenes, narrated in a deliberate and intense manner, leaves you spellbound at the filmmaker's ability to combine a fairly common science fiction subject with philosophical and psychological aspects in great depth.

How shallow North American audiences, and generally that people as a whole, are, is revealed by an experience I had while living there. The film Solaris was shown by chance at a theater and I highly recommended it to all I could. I also attended, eager to watch it once more, but there were no more than five or six people in the audience, and after it started, two ladies entered and left almost immediately, it was the wrong movie they intended to watch.

Contrary to this, when Solaris was exhibited in theaters in Uruguay in the 1970s, when before the dictatorship the cultural level of the country was very high, the place was completely full, people followed the plot with great interest and at the end, most people stood and clapped their hands in appreciation of a unique cinematographic experience.

The later attempt by the US to try to remake Tarkovsky's Solaris in 2002, with George Clooney as the main character, was an unmitigated disaster, reducing it all to a simple space adventure dealing with human insanity and with a romantic touch, but that many viewers in the US thought it to be a captivating film...





## 1956 - The Anglo Workers' March: A Historic Struggle

In 1956, a significant event unfolded in Uruguay that would forever be etched in the annals of the country's labour history. It was a march that originated from humble beginnings, fueled by a sense of injustice and the determination to reclaim the rights of the Fray Bentos Anglo workers. It must be remembered that these workers played a vital role in feeding the English troops during WW2. However, their rights were gradually eroded, leading to a momentous decision. After an unsuccessful hunger strike that was mocked by the company, they made the decision to march. My dad, who is now 93 years old, took part in that march. He was very young at the time and remembers a lot of it.

The Anglo workers' march occurred approximately a decade after the conclusion of World War II. During the conflict, the Anglo workers had served a crucial role in sustaining the English troops. The Anglo plant provided all employees with a substantial amount of meat on a daily basis from Monday through Friday. However, in the 1950s, the company abruptly terminated this provision, triggering widespread discontent among the workers.

Faced with the loss of their rights, the Anglo workers organized and sought to reclaim what had been taken from them. The union engaged in discussions and, after careful deliberation, decided to embark on a march to Montevideo, the nation's capital. The march was intended as a powerful statement, asserting their rights and demanding fair treatment. In a display of unity and defiance, approximately 150 individuals set out on the arduous journey through cold and desolate roads. Bear in mind that Fray Bentos and Montevideo are 300 kms. apart from each other, and that in those days sneakers were still not available.

Undertaken during the unforgiving winter season, the march posed numerous challenges for the participants. Adequate footwear was scarce, and the bitter cold compounded their difficulties. However, the organizers exhibited remarkable resourcefulness by arranging for a lorry with cooks to precede the marchers and provide them with sustenance at

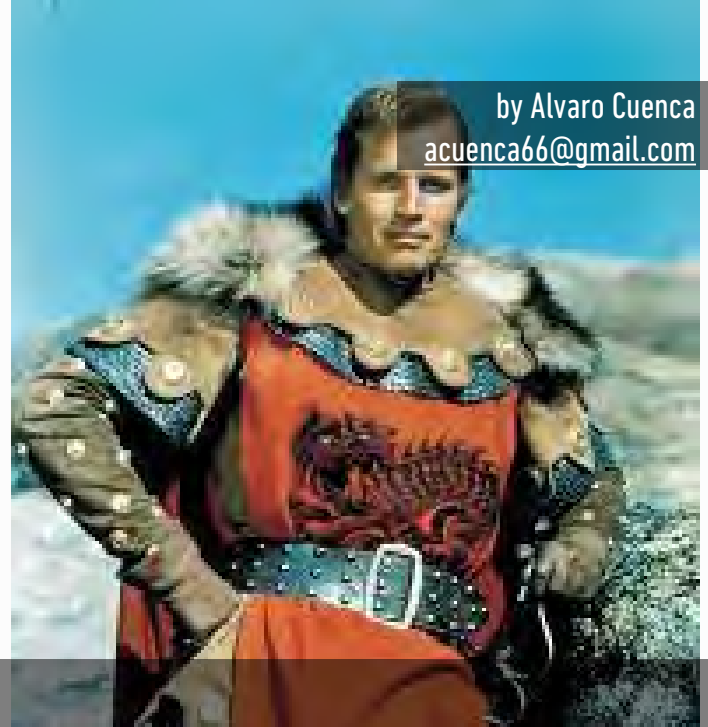
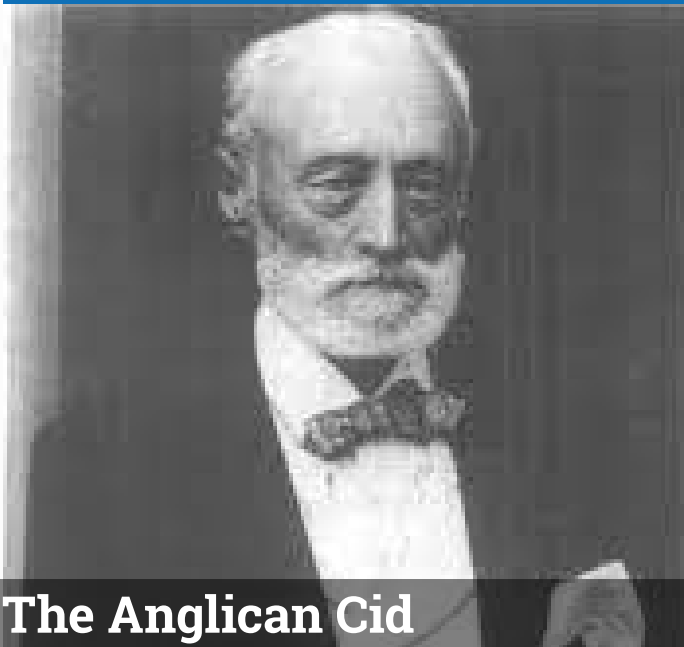
designated spots along the way.

Despite the magnitude of their cause, the Anglo workers' march received minimal attention from the press. The mainstream media largely neglected to shed light on their struggle, thereby underscoring the prevailing indifference and underestimation of the workers' fight for their rights. The workers persevered, driven by their unwavering determination to make their voices heard.

As the marchers approached Montevideo, fatigue weighed heavily upon them. Many had endured broken shoes and injured feet. Yet, a glimmer of hope appeared in the form of assistance extended by the Communist Party of Uruguay. Renting a bus and filling it with doctors and medication, they provided aid to the marchers, offering much-needed respite and solidarity.

Arriving in Montevideo, the marchers made their way through Agraciada street, where they were greeted by enthusiastic crowds. However, the reception was not universal, as right-wing politicians had propagated a perception of the union workers as dangerous. Consequently, most stores remained closed, underscoring the political polarization prevalent at the time. Nevertheless, the march served as a powerful example to all, demonstrating the fortitude and determination of the workers from the provinces, who fought for their rights and the well-being of their families.

The Anglo Workers' March of 1956 stands as a pivotal event in Uruguay's labour history. The unwavering resolve of the workers to reclaim their rights and the challenges they overcame, exemplify the enduring spirit of human resilience. Though initially overlooked and marginalized, their struggle holds profound significance, inspiring future generations to stand up for justice and equality. The legacy of the Anglo Workers' March serves as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of collective action in the pursuit of a just cause.



by Alvaro Cuenca  
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## The Anglican Cid

**E**l *Cid* is a familiar name for my generation. Because of his historical importance as a Champion of Christianity against the Moors in the 11th Century Spain; or by the 1961 film with Charlton Heston which portrayed his exploits in the battlefield and rallying his troops after death to win the decisive battle. Charlton Heston never set a foot on Uruguay, but we can find a similar case on an Englishman in 19th Century Montevideo and similarly trace his footsteps as defender of the faith.

Samuel Fisher Lafone (1805, Liverpool – 1871, Buenos Aires) is credited as being the founder of the British colony of Montevideo. Samuel Lafone arrived to Buenos Aires in 1820 and quickly made a name for himself as successful merchant and entrepreneur, made possible by his family connections in Liverpool. He would cross the River Plate definitively in 1833 to become a legendary figure in the new republic of Uruguay. Quick to assess the needs of the Government before and during the Guerra Grande period he became an overt money lender of the Uruguayan state, the most important merchant of the sieged city, a businessmen respected by both contending armies and a real estate investor and developer ready to grasp every opportunity the war times offered. What is not so known is that Samuel Lafone was also a pious and devoted man that embraced the Anglican faith with a resolute attitude, an unexpected champion of the faith, and as the *Cid*, suffered the consequences of his strong religious stance. Persecution and intolerance for his religious beliefs were a constant company during Samuel Lafone's life, and ironically it came from his family ancestors and also haunted his descendants.

The Lafone's were not native from the Liverpool, but were part of the thousands of French Huguenots who forcibly migrated to the British Isles during the XVI Century religious persecutions. In Buenos Aires, Samuel Lafone would encounter Juan Manuel de Rosas wrath when on a secret Anglican ceremony, officiated by an American minister, he married a patrician girl, María Quevedo y Alsina, daughter

of an important colonial merchant, thus in 1833 he was expelled from Buenos Aires after paying a huge fine. Decades later, Samuel Lafone's daughter, Martha Lucia Lafone Quevedo married under the Anglican rites Thomas Tomkinson, businessman, banker and entrepreneur from Montevideo after receiving a special authorisation from the local Catholic authorities. Samuel Lafone's private and public life was always tainted and driven by his Anglican faith, so it's not a surprise when we find that he was responsible for the construction of the Holy Trinity Church of Montevideo. Samuel Lafone donated the land and the building of the church. The works began in January 1844 in a ceremony attended by the President Joaquin Suarez. The inauguration was set for 1845 when the small British community of Montevideo attended the first Anglican denomination temple in Latin America.

Samuel Lafone did not only pay for his religious devotion, but acted accordingly. His most remembered business in Uruguay is the '*saladero Pantanoso*', on the lands of the actual ANCAP works. But not everything was business, as he built a workers neighbourhood close to the *saladero* with exemplary urban considerations for the workers and their families. Sanitary and leisure conditions were contemplated in the parks and open streets. He called it *Pueblo Victoria* in honour of the Queen, and is today the southern part of *La Teja*. In fact, today's name reflects that the roof tiles of the houses where what traditionally was to be found in British homes back in the British Isles.

He was a Good Samaritan to the very last. When the British community in Buenos Aires was suffering a yellow fever epidemic in 1871 he crossed the river to help, falling ill and dying on April 30 of that year, emulating Charlton Heston, as a XIX Century *Cid* and closing the circle, battling to the end and being an example and driving force for the British communities on both sides of the River Plate.



## John Adams : A British Architect In The River Plate

**J**ohn Adams was born in Brighton towards the end of the 19th century. He attended school in Weybridge, and later, he studied architecture and construction in Bath and at the Royal College of Art in South Kensington, London.

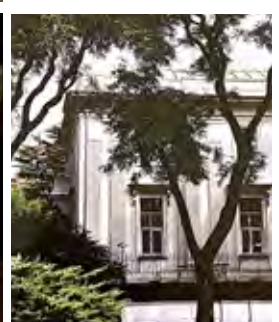
He came to Uruguay in 1890 and was very active in his profession at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, becoming the most important British figure in national architecture.

He had professional connections with Maple & Co., a British furniture and upholstery manufacturer located on Tottenham Court Road in London. The company achieved significant success during the Victorian and Edwardian eras, being one of the primary markers and suppliers of furniture to aristocracy and royalty in both the UK and around the world. The company also had trading locations as far as Paris, Smyrna, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo. This denotes the centrality of British influence during that time in our country.

Adams was a prominent member of the British community and participated in many of the English community's institutions, notably serving as Secretary of the British Hospital. Later in life, he held the position of commercial attaché of the Uruguayan Consulate in London until his death in 1938.

John Adams's main architectural works followed the neoclassical style that was in vogue in England at that time. He is the author of countless and outstanding works in Uruguay the main being the British Hospital, the building of the Standard Life, (later London-Paris) shop, the Victoria Hall (later Victoria Theatre) built to celebrate Queen

Victoria's golden jubilee, the Verdi Theatre, the Montevideo Waterworks Company headquarters, the Pocitos Hotel (completely gone), the Bank of London, and the residence for the British Ambassador on Canning street.





## Tan Twan Eng (1972)

**T**an Twan Eng's 2023 novel, *The House of Doors*, has been longlisted for this year's Booker Prize. Born in Malaysia, of Straits Chinese descent, Tan's three novels are set in Penang. *The Gift of Rain* (2007), his first, before and during the Japanese occupation of Malaya in World War II, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

His second novel, *The Garden of Evening Mists* (2012) was shortlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize and won the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction.

This novel opens with a sentence as wonderful as it is intriguing:

"On a mountain above the clouds, in the central highlands of Malaya lived the man who had been the gardener of the Emperor of Japan."

It's about a survivor of a brutal Japanese camp, Yun Ling, who's spent the last few years helping to prosecute Japanese war criminals. Despite her hatred of the Japanese, she asks the Japanese gardener, Nakamura Aritomo, to create a memorial garden for her sister who died in a prison camp. He refuses but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice 'until the monsoon' so she can design the garden herself.

But who is Nakamura Aritomo, and how did he come to be exiled from his homeland? And is the true reason Yun Ling survived the Japanese camp, connected to Aritomo and his *Garden of Evening Mists*? The novel is chronologically complex, moving slowly as we learn about the fascinating art of Japanese gardening and the relationship between these two main characters. Yun Ling becomes Aritomo's apprentice, then his lover, and finally, the canvas for his masterpiece: *horimono*, a full-body Japanese tattoo. Theirs proves to be a redemptive relationship unfolding through metaphors of gardening, tattooing, tea-ceremonies, and Zen philosophy.

*The House of Doors* is as slow-paced, and similarly written in beautiful prose. It opens in South Africa in 1947 ("A story, like a bird of the mountains, can carry a name beyond the clouds, beyond even time itself. Willie Maugham said that to me, many years ago"). The novel moves to 1921 Penang, when the writer Somerset Maugham was there for some months. Alternately narrated by Maugham ("Willie") and Lesley, one of its themes has to do with the way writers

'Elegant and atmospheric'  
*THE TIMES*

by Lindsey Cordery  
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use real people's lives in their works of fiction. Inevitably, I think, after reading the novel, we'll want to read Somerset Maugham's book of short stories *The Casuarina Tree* (1926) set in the Federated Malay States during the 1920s, and, more specifically, "The Letter".

In a recent interview, Tan Twan Eng referred to the writing process of this book:

"In my teenage years, when I first read Somerset Maugham's "The Letter", I was intrigued to discover that he had based it on Ethel Proudlock's trial in Kuala Lumpur in 1911, the first white woman to be charged with murder in Malaya. She claimed that the man she had shot dead had tried to rape her in her home.

*The House of Doors* is about many things, but at the heart of it all, it's really about the acts of creation: how Maugham had come to hear about the trial, and how he had transmuted it into his story. It's about the power of stories, how they can transcend cultures and borders, transcend even time itself.

I see *The House of Doors* and "The Letter" as mirrors of each other. How you read *The House of Doors* will affect your reading of "The Letter", which in turn will then change how you view *The House of Doors*.

Maugham was a fascinating man: world-famous and immensely wealthy, but at the same time also, due to his lifelong stammer, insecure, shy, prickly, and sensitive. But most of all he was a supreme storyteller.

It's much, much harder to write about real people: To start with I had to bring them back to life again, make them authentic and convincing. The direction of my story, the scenes I set, also had to be subservient to the characters' personalities; they had to be emotionally and psychologically true. I felt more free writing about Lesley and Robert and the other fictional characters".

Both these novels are well worth spending time with.





## Interpandemic Times

**I**t's been a while since the last time I posted about the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the meantime, the SARS-CoV-2 virus hasn't disappeared, although the World Health Organization and most, if not all, Ministries of Health, have declared the pandemic over – and we've all returned to our pre-pandemic life, including a rebound in economic activity.

In spite of this, the pandemic is not over: the virus continues to mutate and every few weeks a new combo of letters and numbers is used to designate the new variants, which tend to escape from our immune defences, either natural or acquired through vaccination. Fortunately, most of the new variants, up to now, have caused mild infections and have not been a reason for major concern. The tremendous effort that led to the development of vaccines in record time in 2020, during the first months of the pandemic, has been replicated in updated boosters, but chasing new variants as they appear, does not seem feasible and the goal now is to try to create a vaccine which will generically target the whole SARS-CoV-2 family. We're not there yet. The recent variants have caused an increase in the number of cases and deaths, which has led some to recommend either to stay masked or return to masking, at least in closed spaces and healthcare environments, where the virus may be present in greater numbers.

During July and August, those who have strolled along the River Plate and Atlantic beaches, have surely noted the number of dead penguins. The possibility that they may have been infected with the bird flu H5N1 virus has up to now been ruled out. More recently, sea lions in the South Atlantic shores of Argentina, have been found dead

on the beaches and this time, the cause was clear: Avian Influenza, caused by H5N1. This virus originated (guess where!) in China in 1996 and has spread around the world via migrating birds, which in turn infect local domestic fowl, as happened recently in this country. Spread to humans is limited to those heavily exposed to infected birds and fowl and has a mortality greater than 50%. Fortunately, human-to-human transmission hasn't been demonstrated yet. Spread to other mammals (and these are closer to humans in an evolutionary sense) like mink in Europe, seals in eastern North America, sea lions in Perú and southern Argentina is reason for concern. Mink-to-mink transmission has happened, but has not yet been demonstrated, at least in a sustained way, between seals and sea lions, but this may change anytime and the chance that it may happen in humans at some point is not zero.

In my recent posts, I have mentioned that extremely hot temperatures and fires, plus flooding due to the return of El Niño, will have an effect on bacteria, viruses, parasites and their arthropod vectors (mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, mites), which may lead to a resurgence of diseases like malaria, typhoid, plague, dengue, Zika and Chikungunya.

COVID-19 may have been caused by a lab security failure or a jump from bats to humans in the Wuhan market; we'll probably never know. In a world torn by ideologically-powered multilateral tensions, including war, between NATO, BRICS, within the UN and the resurgence of populism, the spread of truthful and trusted information about a pandemic may be the first victim.



## Why it is easy to hate Coldplay and why those who do are wrong

Put the words ‘hate’ + ‘Coldplay’ in Google and you will find dozens of articles on the subject. Music critics and aficionados can’t stand them.

But Coldplay is the biggest pop band of the moment. No one can come close to their concert numbers. The band has already embarked on its 2023 world tour. In Argentina, during the 10 days they played at the River Plate stadium, Coldplay performed to over half a million people, despite the fact that tickets cost upwards of US\$100 in a country suffering from a severe economic crisis. And yet, Coldplay’s music is hated just as much as it is loved.

Coldplay was formed in 1998 at University College, London, with the pairing of pianist-vocalist Chris Martin and guitarist Jonny Buckland. The band was later filled out with fellow students Guy Berryman on bass and Will Champion, a guitarist who later switched to drums.

They first entered the UK Top 100 in 1999 with the single “Brothers & Sisters”. Their first full-length album, “Parachutes” (2000), sold millions on the strength of Martin’s vocals. It earned the band its first Grammy Award and paved the way for the more ambitious “A Rush of Blood to the Head” (2002), an album that earned the group two more Grammy Awards and drove the band’s total album sales over the 20 million mark. Their third studio album, “X & Y” (2005), a collection of guitar-driven, arena-friendly rock anthems, elevated the group to the rank of such big bands as U2 and Oasis. Meanwhile, Martin’s 2003 marriage to American actress Gwyneth Paltrow earned him celebrity status independent of his musical achievements.

The band’s 2008 release, “Viva la Vida”, topped the charts in the US and the UK, and the album’s title track was the number one single on both sides of the Atlantic. That popularity was reflected at the 2009 Grammy Awards, where the band collected honours for song of the year, best rock album, and best pop performance by a group. Next came the sleek “Mylo Xyloto” (2011), which notably featured a duet between Martin and pop singer Rihanna. Later releases include the subdued “Ghost Stories” (2014), the upbeat “A Head Full of Dreams” (2015), the EP “Kaleidoscope” (2017), the eclectic “Everyday Life” (2019), and their latest release “Music of the Spheres” (2021), the band’s ninth consecutive studio album to reach the top spot of the British album chart.

So what have the British quartet done wrong?

It is worth highlighting what Coldplay’s critics find annoying about the band’s music: the excess of positivity, songs composed with the aim of being played in stadiums, saccharine melodies, the forced feel-good vibes, and the lack of imagination.

Why do some people have a problem with Coldplay? It’s because the band is seen as too commercial. Those looking for challenging music are put off by the band’s level of success. It is for the same reason that many hate U2, which I think is a band with certain similarities to Coldplay. Also, Coldplay’s tendency to fall into sentimentality is off-putting to some. But the truth is that the mass public wants music that can soundtrack the ups and downs of their lives, and Coldplay’s songs are perfect in that regard.



Given Coldplay's massive success, it's easy to attack them and say that they have sold out or lost their dignity. But if you look at their career, their recent albums haven't been so bad. "Music of the Spheres" may not be an important work in the future of popular music, but it's not an 'atrocious' either, as many critics have said.

Critics of the band also criticize frontman Chris Martin for his meekness as a rock star. He doesn't brag about vices, he grinds at the gym and always has a smile on his face. But this is exactly what many fans like about him: he is simple, rather than fancy or eccentric. His power is that same naturalness. Martin is a new kind of pop star, less cool, but who connects on an emotional level that people can relate to. He is a nerd who grew up an evangelical Christian. And this has paved the way for musicians with similar profiles, such as Ed Sheeran and Lewis Capaldi.

It seems we have entered a time when music culture is closer to the normal person than the classic rock star. Music has taken a turn: records are no longer being sold and music programmes and magazines are no longer so influential. There are no more rock stars, the ones that survive are the ones from yesteryear.

Coldplay are also ever in sync with the times. The band has set itself the goal of reducing the carbon emissions of its concerts by 50%. Measurements at recent concerts have already put reduction at around 48%, which is very close to their target. The band said green measures have included implementing an electric battery system to run the entire show, using electric vehicles and alternative fuels where possible, and reducing waste and plastic. Coldplay have also funded planting more than 5 million trees—one for each concert attendee.

Arguably, Coldplay's early albums are more interesting than their latest ones, but they continue to do wonderfully well. They have tremendous compositional capacity and energy. And collaborating with artists from different styles enriches their music. It is true that Coldplay has been a stadium band for years, but it has exceeded expectations. Nobody can doubt its pull, the figures are tremendous.

Mick Jagger doesn't hate Coldplay. The Rolling Stones singer has published videos on his Instagram account showing him waving his arms to the sound of Coldplay songs and wearing a 'xyloband' – the light-emitting bracelet the band invented for its concerts.

I remember Oasis' Noel Gallagher saying that Coldplay wrote songs for 'children who wet the bed'. The truth is that they make songs that connect with people on an emotional level, and that's why they continue to fill stadiums and Noel doesn't.

## Sailing through history: tracing the Bread Tree's path in Uruguay. Part 2

In a world besieged by climate change, awareness of new food platforms spreads like a hopeful echo. Increasingly, individuals are joining the quest for sustainable food systems, not only for the environment but also for nutrition. Amidst this current of change, the forgotten phytological wisdom reemerges, unearthing ancestral plants and crops whose ties to the environment teeter on the brink of extinction. It is within this backdrop that our modest contribution takes part—an endeavor to salvage the experiences ancient mariners had with exotic plants embedded in what we now call “superfoods”.

Nearly five hundred years ago, a captain hailing from Jerez, well-versed in both the seas and the lands, ventured forth to explore the lush gallery forest that would later become the Jesuit Missions of “Banda Oriental del Uruguay”. During his expedition, he encountered a marvelous plant whose potential future shines brightly on the horizon. Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca arrived on the shores of Brazil around 1541, commanding three caravels and in pursuit of a secure passage to the City of Asunción.

He disembarked on the coast of present-day Florianópolis, splitting his expedition into two parts. His trusted cousin and companion, Pedro Estopiñán Cabeza de Vaca, took charge of the vessels that he had brought from the Canary Islands, embarking on a quest similar to the one Gaboto had undertaken a decade earlier.

As for the Adelantado himself, he embarked on an overland journey to the city of Asunción, going across fields accompanied by most of his men and horses. However, during their journey, the supplies they had unloaded from their ships were depleted, giving rise to a famine within their soldiers.

Fortune smiled upon him due to his prior encounters with diverse Guaraní families, who had taught Cabeza de Vaca how to survive and alleviate hunger by harnessing the knowledge of native flora. Chronicles of this hunger-stricken experience were immortalized in his book “Naufragios y Comentarios,” published in Valladolid in 1555. In this work, he recounted, almost entranced, how he subsisted on the wood of a miraculous tree, following the example of the natives who consumed its fruits and roots.



*Posted by José A. Radins, Flora de Misiones Argentina, 2012.*

Today, we know that this magical tree bore a Tupí-Guaraní name highly evocative of its survival purpose: “yacaratíá,” translated as “tree of maternal lactation fruit”; fundamental nourishment during the earliest months of life.

On March 11th, 1542, at nine in the morning, after four months of terrestrial odyssey, the longed-for destination of Asunción stood before them. The Jerez native Captain arrived barefoot and without horses, yet none of his expedition members had fallen victim to hunger, thanks to the Guaraní secret.

However, Nuñez's secret sadly began fading with time. We know that the last references to this elixir of salvation were those of Jesuit priest Antonio Ruiz de Montoya in 1630 writing and those of the renowned German astronomer Georg Marggraf in his 1648 description of Brazil. Naturally, the changes imposed by Christian reductions eventually led to the definitive abandonment of ancient indigenous subsistence methods, thus once again concealing the secret of the nurturing tree that fed like a mother within the small Guaraní groups that sought refuge in the jungle.

However, something remarkable happened around the year 2000. Forestry engineer Roberto Pascutti, from Misiones, Argentina, immersed himself in the jungle alongside indigenous Guaraní communities for five years. His curiosity centered on seemingly rustic treats that parents fashioned for their children using yacaratíá wood.

This is how he decoded native methods, devising a novel preparation process which he patented. He and his family





then founded a small enterprise dedicated to crafting delectable morsels from yacaratiá wood. The Pascutti family now leads the promotion and production of the virtues of this native plant through a circular economy model grounded in tree reforestation. Having earned numerous international prizes, they are today recognized as the sole producers of edible wood globally.

Modern needs find resonance in the past.

A yacaratiá, or "Jacaratiá spinosa", can reach heights of 8 meters and yield around 100 kg of fruit, equivalent to an orange tree. Moreover, yacaratiá trees offer a carbon capture strategy superior to current monocultures. In terms of biomass, studies reveal noteworthy findings, with each yacaratiá sequestering 122 tons of carbon per hectare annually, surpassing the mere 60 tons captured by eucalyptus species. In essence, one yacaratiá equals two eucalyptus trees, quite literally.

Its fruits, banana-sized, bear a flavor akin to papaya pulp, its botanical relative, but outperform it with superior nutritional qualities. Abundant in B vitamins, alpha and beta carotenes, lutein, vitamin E, calcium, potassium, vitamin K, and lycopene, it stands as an exceptional resource for those needing glucose control and arterial pressure reduction—a vital dietary compensation in today's sugar, hydrogenated, and sodium-laden modern diet.

Yet, the enchantment resides in its heightened concentration of papain, surpassing even the traditional papaya. Papain, a proteolytic enzyme, finds broad application in health and food industries. It boasts remarkable bactericidal, bacteriostatic, and anti-inflammatory properties. Its significance magnified with the SARS COV2 pandemic, as it demonstrated the ability to inhibit certain viral proteases, curtailing replication with potency tenfold that of previously known mineral inhibitors. Moreover, this discovery unveiled that these proteases also inhibit replication in other coronaviruses that afflict 60 percent of the population year after year.

Regarding wood properties, it presents a unique source of magnesium, regulating muscle and nervous system function while balancing cortisol levels (the stress hormone), on par with dark chocolate or quinoa. Soft and

fibrous in nature, its taste is akin to chestnut. Unlike most wood, yacaratiá wood contains mere 10% cellulose, with the rest comprising primarily water and possessing minimal lignin content.

It's intriguing how essential historical knowledge sometimes resurfaces through unconventional means. Chronicles tell us that as Álvaro Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca approached the American coast, he narrowly avoided crashing against the rocks, with his crew saved by the song of crickets that had stowed away aboard his ship in the Canary Islands—forewarning them of the nearing land. We also know that if Engineer Pascutti hadn't taken an interest in the meager treats Guaraní parents offered their children, none of this might have progressed to its current point.

The story of the Guaraní bread tree interweaves with the histories of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina, woven with threads of perseverance and audacity. Now, it reemerges as a green alternative in the present, its roots seeking to nourish and sustain future generations.



Picture: Pablo Tortosa Rivas, 2023.



### Minestrone

**M**inestrone is a hearty Italian soup with many variations. It is always made with chunky cut vegetables which are in season and a tomato-flavoured stock, normally with added beans and pasta, and often with bacon and pesto added. Served with grated Parmesan cheese and crusty bread, it is the perfect one-pot meal for a cold winter's evening.

Its origin dates back to before the rise of the Roman Kingdom, when the local diet was vegetarian by necessity. Since then it has changed time and again. The introduction of potatoes and tomatoes from America after 1521 meant that these two ingredients became an essential part of the soup.

Nowadays there are many versions, but the recipe I have made for this month's issue of the magazine is based on a variant from Liguria, which includes pesto and bacon and a greater variety of herbs.

The word minestrone could be derived from the Latin verb *ministrare*, which refers to the action of serving or distributing food.

#### Ingredients – 4 Portions

- 2 tbsps (tablespoons) olive oil
- 100 g smoked bacon, finely chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 celery sticks, finely sliced
- 1 leek, cut in half lengthwise and finely sliced
- 200 g carrots cut in 1-cm cubes
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 200 g potatoes cut in 1-cm cubes
- 150 g round green beans, cut in 1-cm pieces
- 200 g zucchini, cut in 1-cm cubes
- 400-g tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1 ½ lt vegetable stock
- 1 400-g tin white beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 1 sprig oregano
- 1 cup short dry pasta, cooked
- 2 tbsp pesto
- Grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Method

Heat the oil in a large sauce pan and fry the bacon for two minutes, while stirring with a wooden or nylon spoon to prevent from sticking. Add the onions, celery and leeks and fry for three more minutes while stirring.

Add the carrots and garlic and fry for a further three minutes, occasionally stirring.

Add the potatoes, green beans, zucchini, tinned tomatoes and vegetable stock and bring to the boil.

Add the white beans, bay leaves, thyme and oregano. Simmer gently for between ten and fifteen minutes until the vegetables are cooked. Add the spinach leaves and cooked pasta and bring back to the boil.

Remove from heat. Add salt and pepper if necessary. Stir in the pesto.

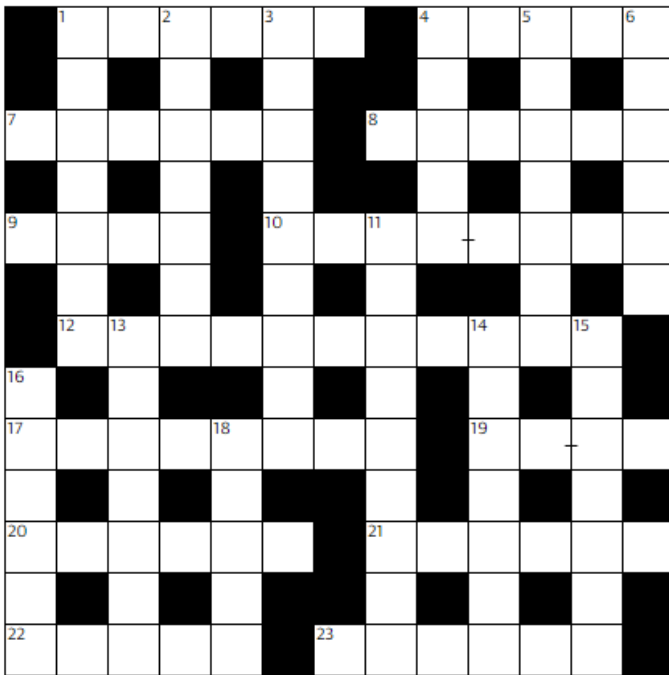
Serve in large soup bowls with grated Parmesan cheese on top and a dash of olive oil and freshly ground black peppercorns.

Accompany with hot crispy bread and a glass of red wine.

#### Notes:

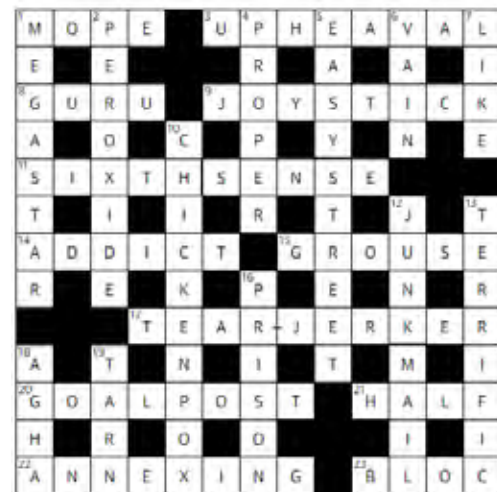
- Use any vegetables which are in season, i.e. cabbage, squash, kale, parsnips, broccoli florets
- Minestrone is not the same as a classic vegetable soup, as it is less watery, with more ingredients and a richer flavour and a heartier and more wholesome consistency.





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Solution in our next Contact issue.

August solution:



## Across

- 1 On the house (6)
- 4 Eat quickly and greedily (informal) (5)
- 7 Little child (6)
- 8 Professional life history (6)
- 9 Small eel (4)
- 10 Type of digital memory storage (4-4)
- 12 Just deserts (11)
- 17 Intensify (8)
- 19 Trouble (informal) (2-2)
- 20 Expat (6)
- 21 Bird house (6)
- 22 Shorthand typist (abbr) (5)
- 23 One who eats no meat or fish (abbr) (6)

## Down

- 1 Non-specific (7)
- 2 Mixed result? (7)
- 3 Break into (9)
- 4 Be upright on one's two feet (5)
- 5 Of the seven seas (7)
- 6 Ventures (6)
- 11 Addition to — PPE agenda (anag) (9)
- 13 An open space? (7)
- 14 A trifle (7)
- 15 Back (7)
- 16 1982-93 Boston-based TV sitcom (6)
- 18 Arthur Marx, d. 1964 (5)



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PLAYLIST

# Coldplay

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