

**St. Andrews Society
Burns' Night at the Neil
Fairless Centre**

**Era Britons
Montevideo, Bewitched
Royal City.**

**Medical Column
Doctors as Writers**

**Musical Box
The Most British Band
from Down Under**



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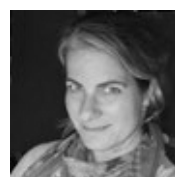
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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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Montevideo, Uruguay



Now that we are back from our holidays and most of us back at work, 2024 is really getting started, although people say that in Uruguay the year starts after the last cyclist from the “Vuelta Ciclista” arrives. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season somewhere warm and sunny!

I would like to take the opportunity to give a quick summary of what happened by the end of 2023.

On 5th December Alfredo Etchegaray delivered a talk about the Sinking of the Graf Spee and the British Fleet at Betalba House. Only the chairpersons of each Sister Society were invited. It turned out to be a lovely evening. On the 16th December Betalba House sent us an invitation to a Toscana Night which was awesome.

We are well known around the world for three things: Uruguay was the first World Champion of the World in 1930, known worldwide for the Battle of the River Plate (sinking of the Graf Spee) and to The Tragedy of the Andes; harrowing ordeal in the Andes Mountains, following the crash of Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571.

The name “Tragedy of the Andes” stemmed from the plane crash but when the world learnt that they had survived for such an extended period in harsh conditions the term “Tragedy of the Andes” turned to “The Miracle of the Andes” I reckon it has to be seen as a miraculous outcome.

We are once again in the public eye of the world for the “Society of the Snow” has been nominated as best International Film. The critically acclaimed film “Society of the Snow,” directed by J. A. Bayona, has achieved significant recognition with an Oscar nomination for Best International Film, along with a nod for Best Makeup and Hairstyling. Who inspired the film? Pablo Vierci, author of the book “La sociedad de la nieve,” which inspired the film, emotionally shared his journey from almost abandoning the project to witnessing the strength of the survivors.

The British Hospital Service is excellent as you may know. I underwent surgery on 22nd January and it was fantastic, the hospital’s commitment to excellence shone brightly before, during, and after the surgery, providing unparalleled care, support, and a seamless experience that truly underscored the pinnacle of healthcare service.

Burns Night was celebrated on 25th January at the Montevideo Players. You must have been thrilled to hear that Burns Night was an incredible experience with an impressive turnout! It seems that the celebration was a resounding success, bringing together people for a memorable and enjoyable evening of festivities.

Karaoke Evening at the Montevideo Players - Save the Date – Thursday 22nd February 2024 Choose Your Songs: Pick songs that you love and are comfortable singing. Consider the crowd and choose tunes that will resonate with the audience.

“Raise the Roof” Exciting news! The British Society is extending a helping hand to The Anglican Church. Together, we are embarking on a journey to raise funds that will make a meaningful impact to repair the pluvial. Your contribution will make a difference. Let’s unite for a cause that matters. Together, we can achieve more!”

Andrea



The Summer Sun

By Robert Louis Stevenson

The summer sun shone round me,
The folded valley lay
In a stream of sun and odour,
That sultry summer day.

The tall trees stood in the sunlight
As still as still could be,
But the deep grass sighed and rustled
And bowed and beckoned me.

The deep grass moved and whispered
And bowed and brushed my face.
It whispered in the sunshine:
“The winter comes apace.”



MEMBERSHIP FEES

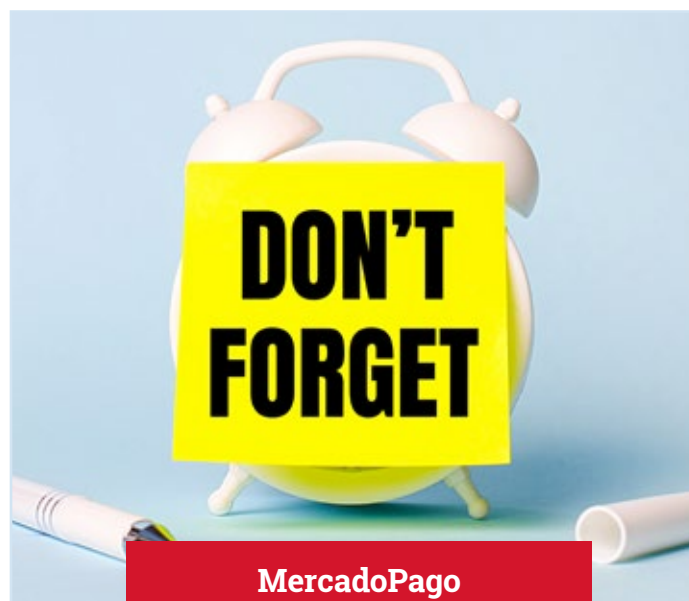
Remember you can pay your 2024 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

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 to learn about ways to pay past dues.

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



MercadoPago
Annual Fee - \$700

MercadoPago Recurring
Payments - \$650

Once this is done, your membership will be updated.

Birthdays

in February

1. Valeria Caputto Barboza
1. Laura Cecilia Aguirre Launy
2. Luisa Joanna Nunes Hambrook
2. Sebastián Sosa Rippe
4. Alfredo Viglietti Gomez
4. Cristina Anne Rowan Greene
4. Carolyn Cooper Gibson
5. Thomas Hobbins Vilar del Valle
5. Tomás Romay Buero
7. Federico Alberto Heller Pérez
8. María Mercedes Linn
8. Diego Luis Payssé Salgado
9. Gonzalo RODRÍGUEZ ANGUIANO
9. Dalehl Saadien Geuskens Ajhaar
10. Robert John Wells Gibson
12. David Keith Rogerson
12. Rosa Perera Dueñas
13. Florencia Castro Pool
13. Keoni Edward Guridi Archer
13. John Reuber Hamilton Crocker
14. María Pía González Lessa
14. Carlos Manuel Hedengren Corragioni d'Orelli
15. Flavia Faedo Rojel
15. Romina Sosa
15. Camilo Pintos Acosta
16. Alan James Henderson Rojas



17. Nicholas John Prevett Gomensoro
17. Horacio Castro Guecaimburu
18. María Carolina Ferrés Blanco
19. Michael Hobbins Vilar del Valle
20. Florencia Castillo Arroyo
20. Anita Marie Olsem
20. Rodrigo Antonio Tito Blanco
20. Maria Alexandra Mendoza Omaña
20. Jennifer Mary Sprigings Pastori
21. Dorothy Wirgman Cuello
21. Ignacio Rivela Rodriguez
21. Kathleen Elizabeth Stoutt Zierord
22. Roy Axel Gordon-Firing Sandberg
23. Carmen Emilia Hill Posse
24. Felipe Ciganda Pool
24. Joan Gregllie La Brooy Towers
27. Susan Drever Ginzberg
28. John Andrew Grierson Bruce
28. Ana Maria Vidal Medeiros
28. Lieselotte Ensink Van Der Woude

New Members

Patricia Antelo Noll
Josefina Pascal
Belen Yanes Busto

welcome

For news from across the pond visit www.abcc.org.ar



The views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of The British Society in Uruguay or any individual associated with the creation or distribution of this newsletter. The editorial team assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the content of this newsletter.

2024



List your events in our calendar:

We invite all sister societies to send us dates of your upcoming events to editor@britsoc.org.uy.

FEBRUARY

THU 15TH

MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS

AUDITIONS

6PM AT ACEVEDO DÍAZ 2324

-

THU 22ND

BSU - MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS

KARAOKE EVENING

7PM AT ACEVEDO DÍAZ 2324

-

SAT 24TH

BSU

RAISE THE ROOF

4PM AT ANGLICAN CHURCH



RAISE THE ROOF!

Saturday 24th February
at 4:00 p.m.

Anglican Cathedral (Templo Inglés)

**All proceeds in aid of Anglican Cathedral
roof repairs**

Programme:

SUMPTUOUS AFTERNOON TEA

Fun and Games for the Kids

Performances:

- Live Music
- Guided Tour of the Cathedral
- Choir Presentation
- Jonathan Lamb

Activities for all ages including:

- Treasure Hunt
- Lucky Dip
- Bookstall (Bring. Swap. Buy)



Tea Ticket:

ADULTS \$ 300

FAMILY \$ 500

Under 12s Free.

Bring a Friend!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Cooks
(Sandwiches, Scones, Brownies, Cakes)
- Kids Patrollers
- Washers-up
- Waiters and Waitresses
- Set-up Crew (Saturday morning)
- Clean-up Crew (Saturday evening)

To offer Volunteer help:

Please register with Andrea Davies
(WhatsApp +598 99 123 906)
or Valerie Dee
(WhatsApp +598 92 790 417)

YOU ARE INVITED



22 FEB

TICKET \$ 300 

7 PM

ACEDEVO DÍAS 2324 ESQUINA AMÉZAGA



THE MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS SOCIETY



CHOOSE YOUR SONGS AND PRACTICE
DRESS THE PART - BRING FRIENDS
GRAB A DRINK - HAVE FUN



We hope you had a Merry Christmas and an excellent start of 2024! These last two months we have had a number of events, beginning with the move to our new Home on November 30, to which we give many thanks to the British Hospital! The Hospital organized a small inauguration party on December 21, with the presence of the Hospital authorities and HMA Faye O'Connor, who cut the ribbon.



We had our Christmas party on December 5, with family and friends of our residents.



On December 10 Valerie celebrated her 69th birthday!



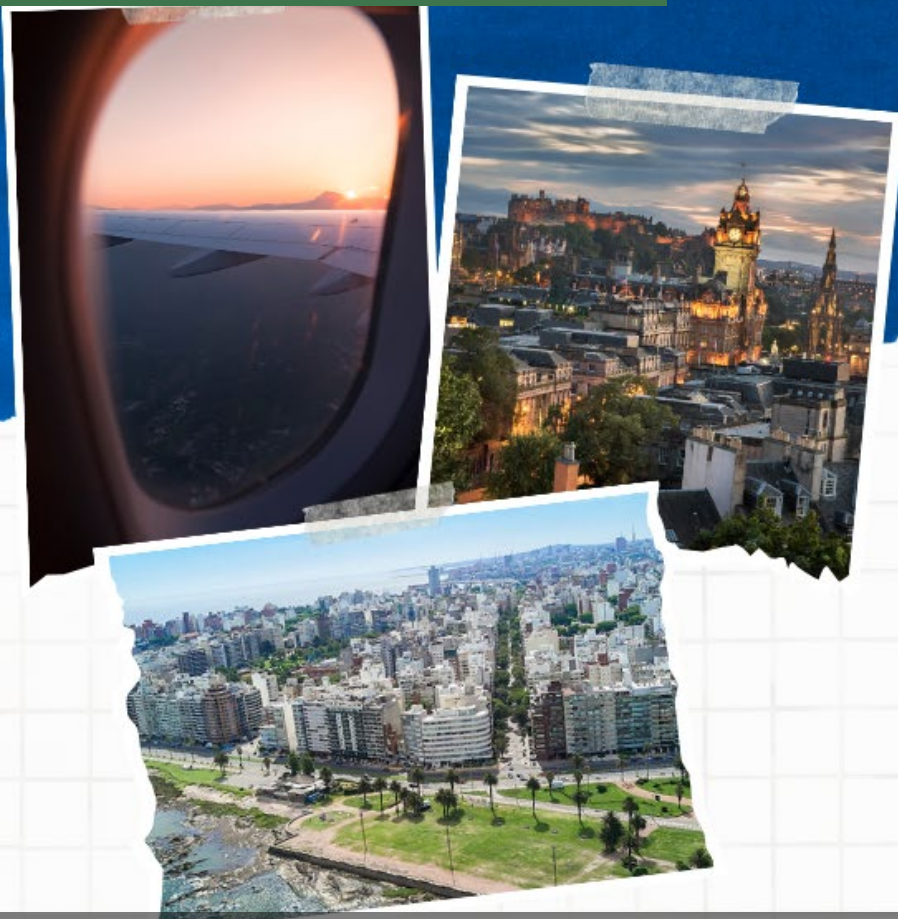
On December 21 the choir of Form 5 of The British Schools came to sing as they do every year. They get everybody singing, and even dancing!



Our Boxing Day lunch is always a success, kindly funded by Kenn's friends from The British Antarctic Survey Club.



Finally, Norma celebrated her 86th birthday on December 30 with family and friends.



2024 YOUTH MOBILITY SCHEME

Youth Mobility Scheme

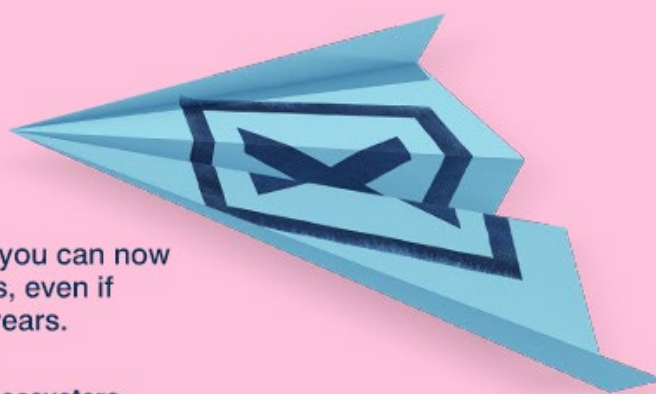
The Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) will award up to 500 visas each to British and Uruguayan people aged between 18 and 30 years old, which will allow them to work and travel in each other's country for up to 2 years. The Scheme desires to foster close relations between British and Uruguayan nationals, intending to promote and

facilitate access to opportunities that enable youth to gain a better understanding of the other participant's culture, society, and languages through travel, work, and life experience abroad. This is the first YMS that the UK holds with a South American country. Please check out our social media for more information.

All Abroad!

British citizens living abroad – you can now vote in UK Parliament elections, even if you've lived away for over 15 years.

Find out more and how to register at electoralcommission.org.uk/overseasvoters



Are you a British Citizen living in Uruguay?

British citizens can now register to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, no matter how long ago they left the UK. This right to vote includes UK Parliament general elections, by-elections and recall

petitions. Previously, only British citizens who had been registered in the UK within the past 15 years were eligible to vote. Please find more information [here](#).



“Leader for a Day” competition

Ambassador Faye O'Connor OBE, together with a variety of leaders in Uruguay, will share their day on March 8 with women from across the country aged 18-29 who are themselves poised to be leaders of the future. The objective is to promote greater representation and inclusion of women in leadership positions, giving them the opportunity to experience the daily work of outstanding professionals, and to connect with top-level leaders. For more information on how to participate please visit the Embassy's social media channels (@ukinuruguay).

UK-Uruguay co-operation in film industry

At the Jose Ignacio International Film Festival, JIFF, The British Film Institute and the Cinema and Audio-visual Agency of Uruguay (ACAU) signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the audio-visual sector. It is hoped that the MoU will open opportunities for mutual collaboration, including co-productions, training and participation in festivals. Ambassador Faye O'Connor and Minister Elisa Facio attended the ceremony. Four British film producers and a BFI representative also attended the festival and presented the [UK Global Screen Fund](#), an opportunity for international filmmakers to access funds for co-productions.



Uruguayan student participated in regional trip to the Falklands

Bettina Alberti, student of Archivology at UdelaR and winner of the annual regional student competition to visit the Falkland Islands, had a fulfilling experience together with students from Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. You can see [some photos in our Instagram](#) and read a post she [shared on LinkedIn](#) about her visit to the Jane Cameron National Archives, where she dug into records and learnt more about the history of the Islands. You can read more about her experience in this newsletter. If anyone would like to share any stories linking the Falkland Islands to Uruguay we would love to hear from you. Please send your message or article and photographs to embajadabritanica.montevideo@fcdo.gov.uk



It's a truth universally acknowledged for anyone living in the Falkland Islands that it's "better to layer up than to layer down." That's one of the first lessons I learned during my unforgettable week-long journey to the islands, thanks to the program "Why would I like to meet my neighbors in the Falkland Islands?" Even in summer, the weather can be unpredictable, making layered clothing the most appropriate choice to handle the "four seasons in one day" phenomenon.

The Falkland Islands are home to around 3600 people, many of them immigrants from over 60 countries. Upon our arrival, we discovered that the islands are also home to families who have been a part of the Falklands for centuries. In fact, it's common for them to keep track of how many generations ago their first ancestor settled on the islands (generally, but not exclusively, from the UK).

Life in Stanley is full of surprises for newcomers. Especially from this side of the continent, one of the first things you'll notice is the city's strong commitment to safety. Additionally, you'll hardly come across small cars on the streets; islanders love their 4x4s, perfect for navigating the bumpy roads leading to the Camp. As for driving, can we take a second to praise the driving-waving system of the Falklands? Anyone you run into during a car journey will receive one of two signals: a greeting by raising one or two fingers from the steering wheel (if it's a stranger) or a fully raised hand from the wheel to wave at familiar faces.

When you arrive in the islands, you might learn some new words as well. Especially those related to food! "Smoko" or "Diddle Dee" are a couple of them. You might also discover that, after years of studying English as a second language, "dinner" might not only mean the last meal of the day but also a synonym for "lunch" (especially for the older islanders). You could also end up "windburnt," so it's better to use proper protection!

During our visit, we had the opportunity to meet three Members of the Legislative Assembly. MLAs Leona Roberts, Jack Ford, and Roger Spink kindly answered our questions regarding the administrative and power structures in the

Falklands. From this conversation, we learned that a total of 8 MLAs are elected by the islanders (and anyone with "status") to take charge of the local government. Once elected, the MLAs decide which portfolio (equivalent to our ministries) each will handle. What's peculiar? There are no political parties. Anyone over 18 and registered on the electoral roll can run and be elected as many times as the citizens decide.

Furthermore, we had the honor of meeting the first female Governor of the Falkland Islands, Alison Blake, and her husband, Peter Henry. They kindly welcomed us into Government House to share some curiosities about the building. Did you know that the last time the billiard table at Government House was used was during a visit by the British Ambassador to Uruguay, Faye O'Connor? Interestingly, it wasn't Ambassador O'Connor but her young son who won a match against the governor's husband.

Nevertheless, the bonds connecting the islands and Uruguay go much deeper. Many of the fruits and vegetables available in Stanley are exported from our country. Moreover, for several years, young islanders were sent to Montevideo (or "Monte," as some warmly call our capital) to further their education. I learned this firsthand from Ailsa Heathman, whose mother studied in our country in the 1940s and maintained friendships with Uruguayan classmates throughout her life.

Besides, Uruguay is well-known on the islands thanks to the medical care offered to islanders at the British Hospital or the "Expo Prado", an annual event that brings together several visitors from the Falklands.

Finally, what stands out most about my experience in the Falkland Islands is the warmth of its people. Both my wonderful travel friends (students from Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile) and I were warmly welcomed by loving host families (special mention to the Murphys!) who showed us the most beautiful corners of Stanley while making us part of their day-to-day life. To them and those responsible for organizing this program, my deepest gratitude.

I won't reveal more; now it's your turn to be amazed by our neighbors in the Falkland Islands.





ANGLO



The Anglo turns 90 this year. 90 years fostering the spread of the English language and promoting British Culture in Uruguay, with the firm belief that English opens up new roads into manifold opportunities. This is not for us alone to celebrate, but for all who make the Anglo the largest educational network in Uruguay.

www.anglo.edu.uy

SUMMER COURSES

90
YEARS


ANGLO

The best is yet to come



THIS SUMMER, IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH AT THE ANGLO

NEW START: FEBRUARY 2024



Welcome to ANGLO Summer Courses 2024. This intensive self-contained programme stretches over four weeks, starting February 2 through March 1. With a strong focus on oral communication and listening comprehension and groups spanning from Elementary to Advanced, chances are there is a group that fits your level and caters for your language needs.

Some of the courses strengths and takeaways:

Our teachers: the programme is led by experienced and flexible professionals with the training and capacity to adapt to the heterogeneous needs, challenges and areas of improvement present in summer courses groups in general.

Boost your confidence: we understand that the process to acquire a second language is arduous and stressing partially from an emotional point of view. With that in mind, we go to lengths to ensure an atmosphere that will contribute to the class being a safe space for students to try new things and run linguistic risks without feeling observed, judged or even ridiculed.

Emphasis on communication: our summer courses pivot around the development of the two main skills essential for effective communication (listening and speaking) by means of strengthening the participants' grammar foundations and expanding and activating their passive lexical system. Lessons are interactive and promote learning through content that result from a conscientious instance of needs analysis.

Focus on pronunciation: raising awareness and providing practice in this area is also a key element to our summer courses programme.

Extensive feedback: we understand feedback as the essential component to every learning process. Our experienced teachers identify areas in need of improvement and, through detailed, specific and personalized feedback, ease the transition from where each student currently is as far as his command of the language goes and where they aspire to be.

Emergent language: emergent language is spontaneous, personal, and unrehearsed language that comes up during interactions. It happens when students are trying to express themselves and communicate a meaning or a concept. Emergent language usually occurs in freer, fluency-type activities which are the type of activities that are promoted by our teachers in our summer courses classrooms.

Face-to-face or synchronic on-line: students can opt between these two formats, the traditional classroom face-to-face dynamics and the remote synchronic on-line class.

For more than 15 years ANGLO Summer Courses Programme has made a difference for hundreds of students, enhancing their confidence and bettering their command of the English language. We are really looking forward to having you with us next February, we know we can help out providing for your language needs and achieving your academic goals.

[MORE INFO](#)

TEACHER TRAINING COURSES AT THE ANGLO

ANGLO DIPLOMA IN TEFL

(2-year course)

ANGLO CERTIFICATE IN TEFL

(1-year course)

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

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

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

TTC: Tuesday 6th February - 6:00 pm

ACT: Tuesday 6th February - 7:30 pm

Online talks via Zoom

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

Summer '24

Summer coverage outside Montevideo

Types of medical assistance for Emergencies in the countryside.



Home doctor in Maldonado

To arrange for a doctor to see you at home please call UCM directly on 147.



For life-threatening presentations

Maldonado, Punta del Este:

La Emergencia, call: 4266 3535

Canelones, Costa de Oro: SAPP, call 1910

Ciudad de la Costa: UCM, call 147



Private Medical Facilities at the East coast with reciprocal consultation

Maldonado: Mautone and Cantegril

Rocha: Comero



Private Medical Facilities with reciprocal consultation in the rest of the country

- SIEM (UCM) network polyclinics
- Medical assistance can be arranged with prior appointment with the duty doctor

Call 2487 1020, ext. 3000

(no payment is required, the bill will be sent directly to the BH).



Telemedicine (telephone or virtual consultation) with our doctors

Use HB App or call 2487 1020, ext. 1 to request a virtual or telephone consultation.



Online chat, 365 days a year 24 hours a day, for medical advice with UCM

Download the UCM app to your mobile phone from Play Store (Android) o Apple Store (foriPhone). Access is also available on the website: www.portal.ucm.com.uy



Medication prescriptions issued in an Emergency

Prescriptions issued in the rest of the country must be validated in our Medical Guidance Service for electronic entry and purchase under agreement. Validate before, call 2487 1020, ext. 3000.

Before going to the Emergency, schedule yourself.

If your situation is low risk, you can book an appointment for you in the day. Organize your time better and avoid delays.

2487 1020, int. 3001



BH

**SERVICIO DE
EMERGENCIA**



A Principal's Perspective Looking back and looking forward

One of the first questions I was asked when I arrived at The British Schools was why I had seen the move to Uruguay, as the next step in my professional career. The answer, in all honesty, was a very simple one. The British Schools was everything I was seeking in an educational setting; it is a School I felt I already knew, and it was a personal opportunity to come home. To give this answer some context, I left the UK at the start of 2010, with my wife Jo and our, then 3 year old son, Elliot, to pursue a career in International Education. Our destination was Buenos Aires where we stayed for the next seven years, before returning to Europe. During this time, I was steeped in IB education and became passionate about the continent as a whole. It is also during this time I came across a copy of The British Schools yearbook at St George's College North and I became fascinated by the history and founding ethos of The British Schools. I remember saying to myself and my wife, one day I would love to be Principal at this school. Fast forward to late 2022 and I was able to realise my dream, taking up my new position as Principal at the start of 2023.

In this short article, I want to look back at some of the highlights of 2023 and very much look forward to 2024. January, wrongly named after the Roman God Janus (apparently Janus was destined to be the month of June) because he was seen as the god of beginnings and transitions, hence his two faces, one looking forward and one back. At the start of any new year, I think reflection and developmental goal setting are key, and I hope to be able to highlight why I feel this is so important.

2023 was a very important year in the life of The British Schools. Not only was it our 115th Anniversary, but also the year we welcomed students into our newly constructed Pre-Kinder section of the Early Years building. In my role

as Principal, I hope to be seen as an innovative educator, a developmental leader and an accessible listener. I firmly believe that in any organisation the people are at the heart of any success, and to this end see my role as very much custodian of the founding traditions of the School. I want our staff, students and parents to feel part of something very important, very historic, but at the same time, something innovative and forward thinking.

Earlier in this article I mentioned the 115th Anniversary. This was a theme that ran throughout the year. A celebration of our traditions, traditions I am passionate about continuing to build upon, and an amazing opportunity to unite the community as one. The anniversary culminated in a community event attended by 5000 people. There were live performances, family games, student led activities, tours, songs, sporting events and various competitions. Families were asked to wear their House Colours and this was very much in evidence on what was a very enjoyable and historic moment in our history.

In welcoming Pre-Kinder students to School for the first time we opened our gates to the future of The British Schools. To be able to shape the future of students who are beginning the educational journey at the age of 3, has been an honour and a privilege in my first year as Principal. The recruitment of outstanding teachers has played a key role in what has been an extremely successful first year and we very much hope the Pre-Kinder will continue to flourish as we move into the 2024 academic year and beyond.

Student Wellbeing has become a key part of a British Schools education and a highlight of 2023 was certainly about strengthening student support in all areas of the School. I am extremely confident that the development of the Wellbeing department in 2023 will become a cornerstone



academic success I hope will be self-evident. Plans are also in place for enhanced provision for our Music Department. In a school with such an illustrious history, I want all facets of the education we offer to be broad and holistic. Having equal strength in academic disciplines, sports, wellbeing and indeed the arts is key to educating the whole child. With this in mind, I eventually want to see a music programme that delivers individual instrumental tuition, leading to high quality ensembles such as Orchestras and Bands.

As we look forward to starting the new academic year in February, it is with a huge amount of pride and honour that I continue to serve The British Schools community as Principal. As I say to staff and students on a daily basis, my door is always open and I am always ready to listen.



THE BRITISH SCHOOLS
Founded 1908

to our success in 2024. Other 2023 highlights included our all but professional level performance of We Will Rock You, multiple successes on the sports field, excellent examination results, community activities, representation at formal events and a multitude of trips, camps, tours and out of school activities.

So, as we stand at the beginning of a new school year, with Janus very much looking forward, what can we expect at The British Schools:

To start, we formally welcome Natalia Tomás and David Longworth as our new Heads of Senior School and Junior School respectively. Both Natalia and David are UK educated and bring with them a wealth of leadership experience. I am very much looking forward to working extremely closely with them as we further develop our academic standards and expectations and continue to strengthen the founding ethos and traditions of our School. We continue the process of re-accreditation with the Council of International Schools (CIS), which as many of you know is an internationally recognised benchmark of excellence amongst the international schools community. An emphasis on the standard of School uniform and the heightened awareness of the House system will also be important success indicators in 2024, as will the continued achievements of our Wellbeing department. I am confident that students this year will feel more personal support than ever before and the knock-on effect that this will have on

JANUARY 21 TO FEBRUARY 11

A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

CLARITY FOR MY YEAR



Christ
Church
MONTEVIDEO

NEW SERIES OF MESSAGES



We're a local uruguayan church with
a global community and family



Our Service

SUNDAYS 11am
In-Person & Zoom

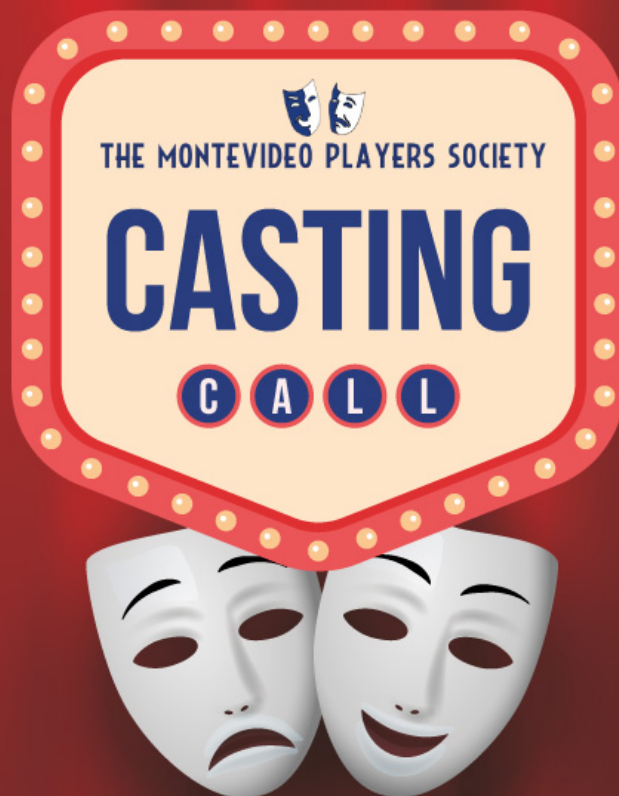
ENGLISH
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

SPANISH
2nd & 4th Sunday

Everytime with
simultaneous interpretation with headphones

Have you already chosen your Verse of the Year?

At the beginning of each year, we choose a Bible
verse as our guide and promise from God.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15TH - 6:00PM (STARTING TIME)

Our amateur theatre company “The Montevideo Players Society” is thrilled to announce
OPEN AUDITIONS for its 2024 season.

Would you be stepping on the stage for the **VERY FIRST TIME?**

Are you a **SEASONED PERFORMER?**

Oh, you have been with us before! **PLEASE AUDITION AGAIN!**

This is a chance to be involved with a wonderful theatrical community in an
enthusiastic creative environment.

We have **FOUR** exciting productions in the works, roles for men and women of all ages.

DATE: Thursday February 15th - 6:00pm (starting time)

PLACE: Neil Fairless Centre (Acevedo Díaz 2324)

Reading material will be provided.

Please contact us if you have any questions!





Burns' Night at the Neil Fairless Centre

On Thursday the 25th of January, we celebrated Rabbie Burns at the Montevideo Players' facility. We invaded their garden with a huge turnout, but both the place and the evening ended up being perfect for our celebration to be a huge success.

We had a very lively introduction to Robert Burns by Lindsay Cordery, followed by a quiz by Claudia Ourthe, and Richard Cowley compared Robert Burns with another Scottish poet. It was very informative in many aspects, shedding light on the history of Burns, his adventures and misadventures, and his poetic ability to win over a myriad of lasses. The Captain's Bar team won the quiz, and their prize was to perform two lovely songs by Robert Burns.

We then moved on to the more barbaric stage, where Jonathan Lamb recited the Ode to the Haggis, "Chief O' The Pudding Race", piped in by Germán Villar. And they both toasted to and stabbed that poor little Haggis, "And So Die All Enemies O' Scotland!!".

There can't be a proper Burns' celebration without Haggis (an' neeps an' tatties), and this year we were very fortunate to have 4 members of our community, who risking disruption in their homes and chaos in their kitchens, presented us with several Haggis, so we had a competition to decide which of these was the most delicious. This was settled by a jury of five Haggis enthusiasts, who decided that Agnes from Punta del Este had made the best. We also had some hamburgers prepared in the parrillero by Thomas Hobbins and Marcelo Rodriguez, just in case the Haggis wasn't enough to go around.

We later had a Toast To The Lassies by Richard Empson, and

a reply from the Lassies by Patricia Arroyo, both classically elegant and sharp. We all ended a very entertaining evening savouring George Stewart's fantastic Atholl Brose.

The St. Andrew's Society of Uruguay's committee want to thank the Montevideo Player's for allowing us to have this party at their premises, it was the perfect place. Federico, George & Raquel, thanks for making this happen. We would also want to thank the crowd that came. We really appreciate your support.



The St. Andrew's Society team.



The Purple Land

W. H. Hudson was a naturalist, an ornithologist, and a writer. His British grandparents emigrated to the United States and settled in Boston. Their children later moved to Argentina, where Hudson was born in 1841. He grew up in the camp and developed a keen interest in the natural world. When he was thirty-three, he completed his family's triangular migration pattern by moving to England, where he remained until his death in 1922. Once settled in London, Hudson began writing about his youthful experiences in the Río de la Plata region. In 1885 he published his first book, *The Purple Land*, which draws on his memories of a visit he made to Uruguay in the 1860s.

The plot is a simple one: Richard Lamb, a young Englishman, marries an underage Argentine girl in Buenos Aires and they run away to Uruguay to escape her father's wrath. He leaves his wife with a relative in Montevideo, saddles up a horse, and rides off to find work. His travels take him across the country, where he has many adventures and meets interesting characters while observing the landscape and the culture of its inhabitants. This novel is considered a classic; it has been compared to both the *Odyssey* and *Don Quixote*.

It was a perilous time to be traveling alone in the wilds of Uruguay. After gaining its independence in 1828, the country suffered decades of internecine warfare between its two main political factions, the *Blancos* and the *Colorados*. The slaughter Lamb witnesses inspires the title of the book, for, as he says: "What more suitable name can one find for a country so stained with the blood of her children?" Though frequently in danger, he is resourceful and seems quite at home with the language and customs of the Banda Oriental [Eastern Strip], as Uruguay was known in those days. He knows that if he drops in at a modest shack or a grand home on an estancia at mealtime, he will be invited to partake of whatever is being served. In this way he spends time with a cross section of Uruguayans, sharing the inevitable *yerba*

mate and tobacco and enjoying the conversation that goes with them.

Lamb meets several women on his travels, some of whom evidently make a deep impression. One of them challenges him to join the rebel army, despite his abhorrence of violence and his belief that, as a foreigner, he should remain above such local affairs. Will beautiful, passionate Dolores tempt the principled Englishman to betray his marriage vows? Will he take up arms as she urges him to do? Hudson is a skilful storyteller; he sets up intriguing scenarios that had this reader turning pages, anxious to find out what happens next. As a naturalist, he also provides descriptions of the Uruguayan countryside: "Occasionally, the long, clear cry of the *ventevéo*, a lemon-coloured bird with black head and long beak like a kingfisher, rang through the foliage."

One of the main functions of a novel is to show how a character evolves over time. Here, Hudson chronicles the transformation of his protagonist's feelings about Uruguay. At the beginning of the story, when Lamb arrives in Montevideo, he is critical of Uruguayans, deeming them unworthy of the beautiful land they inhabit. He laments that, when the British invaded in 1807, they didn't stay and impose their way of life. Halfway through the book, he is having second thoughts: "Oh, civilization, with your million conventions [...], your feverish striving after comforts that bring no comfort to the heart, are you a mistake altogether?"

At the end of the book, Lamb sits on the hill overlooking Montevideo and soliloquizes: "I cannot believe that if this country had been conquered and recolonized by England [...] my intercourse with the people would have had the wild, delightful flavour I have found in it. We do not live by bread alone, and British occupation does not give to the heart all the things for which it craves." Lamb came to Uruguay as a young Englishman who "regards the people of other nationalities with a certain amount of contempt." He then went native and developed a love for the country that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

All school desk's have a story to tell.

This is only one of the many.

One of the pupils who sat on this bench is me, Carl Sloth, still going strong, in spite of the many detentions, and penal drill's imposed during the hard days of school during the period of 1945 and 1956.

I had the privilege of sitting in this bench during the year of 1954, and had a certain connection to it, which up to date I cannot find an explanation to.

The first thing I saw when I sat on the bench in the year 1954 was a small initial- J.R.L. ~. I said to myself, if somebody wrote this, well, then I may just as well have the same right. So I did: I wrote my name and year: C. SLOTH 1954 with the knife of a pencil sharpener, and told it: "I will sooner, or later, see you again, in the meantime good luck".

The bench was lucky, also me. We met again in 1984 exactly 30 years later. Somebody told my wife (known as Misses Sloth) who was a kindergarten teacher at the school, that there was a school bench for sale in a furniture shop in Montevideo with the inscription C. Sloth.

I bought it, and today it forms part of my house furniture and every time my grandsons/daughters lifts the desk top, they inhale my past and the wisdom received from the British school.

The message from this bench, is not to forget what the school has given you, but use the wisdom you received, to promote the welfare of mankind.

P.S.
I still do not know who J.R.L. is.

British School Centennial
Year 2008

Carl Sloth

by Carl Sloth Knudsen
csk1@netgate.com.uy



Back to the Future X

After having enjoyed every day of my holidays in Atlántida, and having no options, one of the British's School benches became my destination. It was very difficult for me to follow the imposed lessons given at the time. Later in life, and as a grown-up, I learned that my problem was called dyslexia, which at the time did not figure as being a problem, at least I was not informed.

Year 1954 passed by in a dragging way so I decided to write my name and year on top of my designated desk, with the blade of a pencil sharpener. Nice and clean work, with a: "see you". Interestingly, my wife Anne, a kindergarten teacher at the British school in Carrasco after the dictatorship, informed me that a bench with my name was available for purchase at a Teak wood furniture shop in Montevideo. I bought it –almost told the seller it had belonged to me - but restrained, as we had been discussing price "due to knife cuts, and so on ". The desk was exhibited at the school building in Carrasco during the 100 years celebration of the British School with a message inside. It is now in the hands of my family and will always be at disposition of the British School whenever required.

Can't remember what my father had to pay for a brand-new desk. Anyhow, good business for the school, and for me too. All of my grandchildren have opened the desk and inhaled what I told them was in a figurative way "knowledge". Today when my dog sits there- and looks out of the window, and back to me again- I know she wants to go out to the street as I did when young. Funny situation, appreciated by both.

I recall that once a week, on Thursdays, I used to disappear from school in the afternoon after playground break and go to cinema Casablanca, where strangely enough, as it may sound, I learned more there than staying in school, about life, surroundings, industry, business, history, geography, science, Socrates point of view, games people play, and whatever you can think of.

When living in Denmark, my aunt Thyra knew I had special predilection for the Cinema, and always asked me: are you going to the "Temple" tonight? – Yes of course. During one of my repeated detentions at the headmaster Mr. Peter Schor's office, he asked me to sit beside him, and then started asking what I thought and what I expected from life. At the time, a difficult question to answer.

I started telling him, I don't like to play marbles, I have classroom companions, but I feel better when speaking to people many years older than me, for example friends of my 10 years older brother Nils, and now with you. After 1 minute complete silence, he replied: Sloth, you will do fine. You are at a difficult moment in the right place, now return to your classroom. Never knew what he really meant, but I took it as a compliment and walked away.

Later in life when I was 40 years old, his son Peter dropped by my house in Parque Miramar in a green Mini Moris truck, offering vegetables and fruits from his plantation. I was very happy to meet him, and introduced him to other neighbors. We saw each other weekly until we sold our house and changed address to La Paloma in Rocha. Since then, I lost contact. He reminded me much of his father's way of being and was a hard worker.

By the way, our good friends Peter Prevett and family moved near to our house, some time before we left for La Paloma. We had good moments together, among others visiting the art gallery "San Pedro", owned by my friend Julio Cesar Loureiro called "Pocho" by all who knew him, a highly appreciated person. His father was one off the owners of "Bazar Mitre". Pocho taught me practical skills and many other things that made life easier and more foreseeable for me. A practical person who saved my life twice. Details will soon follow.



Euthanasia

We all at the end of our lives must face the moment of death and we never know how it will be. For some fortunate ones, death comes while they sleep, in other cases, quickly and suddenly, of some kind of stroke or as a result of a terrible accident.

But in many other cases, a lingering and painful death makes terminally ill patients start wishing to put an end to their misery once and for all.

There are many ways in which such pain can be alleviated by drugs, that make the transition to death more humane and with less suffering.

For many of those who believe in a god, it is up to that deity to decide the time of death and nobody else should interfere with that. But what about those who don't have such a belief and want to avoid unnecessary suffering?

It should be a simple personal decision to end your life in such cases and often people shoot themselves or drink poison or contrive fatal accidents in order to achieve that goal. But if you are terminally ill in a hospital bed, then your options are curtailed to the point that you are unable to speed up your demise,

Whenever euthanasia laws are considered, religious groups invoke a series of lame excuses to deny others the right to end their suffering, that no available drug can eliminate. I believe that they are trying to impose on others their own prejudices.

Perhaps an element that without being relevant, plays a role in this debate is the high rate of suicides in any society, and especially our own, in which too many people, often quite young, kill themselves without a real reason to do so, suffering from depression or unbearable personal situations, that with appropriate counseling, can be cured, removing such a death wish.

It is a very common occurrence that as we see no way out of certain problems, death appears to be the only solution. However, when those people are treated before taking any

drastic actions and manage to pull out of those delusions, they cannot imagine that death seemed to be the only solution to their problems.

However, when a person knows he is going to die for clearly outlined medical reasons and there is no hope of survival, and that death involves a great amount of suffering, that no drugs can dissipate or improve, then I believe the patient has a right to decide to put an end to such an ordeal.

I would like to quote two cases with which I'm perfectly acquainted and that have a bearing on the issue. The first one has to do with a relative whose elderly father was terminally ill and in great pain. He made incessant gurgling sounds and was very agitated in bed, the doctor attending him, that was a compassionate man, gave his daughter an injection to give him, saying, I can't do this, but if you do, he will pass away peacefully. She did, crying pitifully, and said that as he expired, she perceived a last grateful look he gave her.

The other example had to do with my late wife. She was a heavy smoker for many years and when unsuccessful chemotherapy and other means to fight her lung cancer ran their course, she decided to go into the hospital when she saw the end was coming.

Knowing me too well, she pretended to be there for just a few days for some kind of treatment. If I had known, I would have been unable to sleep or do anything else during those fateful days.

As the suffering increased, in spite of all the drugs she was given, the last time she spoke to me, she said: This is not living, which turned out to be her last words, although she lingered several more days in that awful condition.

I sincerely hope that euthanasia laws are implemented everywhere for those patients who choose a painless transition out of this world, disregarding prejudices and religious beliefs, that should prolong a painful death only for those who prefer to die that way.



Early Frustrating Experiences

As to my very early fascination with Nuclear Physics, I remember that my father bought me for Christmas a book, Introduction to Nuclear Physics, which I immediately devoured and was a source of enormous learning.

When I was a high school student I already knew a lot about the subject, then at the Faculty of Engineering of the state university, there was a symposium on the handling of radioactive substances, ran by Germán Villar, the professor of Atomistics there and meant for engineers and medical doctors.

I begged him to be accepted just as a listener at the lectures and in spite of being only 17-years-old, he finally relented and let me attend. One of the lectures was to involve a member of the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission, a very well known professor with an international reputation.

During this lecture, the speaker said that when an electron and a positron meet, they disappear with the emission of X-rays. I had read everywhere that it was in fact gamma rays, so at the end I timidly raised my hand and asked him about it. He thought for a moment and agreed that I was correct. Everybody in the room, the youngest being a 38-year-old medicine student, were quite surprised and wondered where the hell had I come from.

The next day, the professor spoke to say that it depended on the energy of the particles, it could be either X or gamma rays, but it seems I forced him to check his data. Another professor at the Faculty of Engineering, Walter Hill, had given me a test tube with beryllium, an element essential to prepare my neutron source, and I asked the Argentine scholar what thickness of paraffin I would need to slow down my neutrons to the required effectiveness: 30 cm he said and I was over the moon.

I had been for a long time collecting chemical elements for my intended irradiations and it was a pleasure to find out since oxygen was almost impervious to slow neutrons, I could use for the purpose the elements or also their oxides.

But then he asked me who had given me the beryllium. He said that it was a very dangerous element that can cause a very serious illness. I replied it was someone at the university, but I begged him not to say anything, I promised to be extra careful in handling it, to which he reluctantly agreed.

Actually, Prof. Hill was running at the time a laboratory for the treatment of cancer patients with radioactive sources, MC2 in 8 de Octubre street, and he often and very kindly received me at night to answer many of my questions.

Another of my early pursuits was travelling to Atlantida to gather black sands there, with a high content of thorium and rare earths, which I planned to extract with concentrated sulphuric acid. With great trouble I could bring home by train a bucket of the heavy sand. My mother was very angry when the acid vapours from my experiments corroded her curtains and they all had to be replaced. Unpleasant side effects of having a laboratory at home, But I had at least one gram of thorium and rare earths from the bucket of sand I had brought home. Thorium is a radioactive element,

Then when I asked Prof. Villar to let me work in their laboratory in any capacity, even as a cleaner if necessary, in order to do some work there, he also accepted, but asked one of his assistants, an engineer, Novales, to check my level of expertise. He gave me several books and after a little while, and to his great surprise, he started asking me questions, I was already familiar with all those books, so I promptly answered.

He didn't know how to get rid of me, so when I mentioned my Atlantida expedition, he said, all right, when you have 10 grams of thorium and rare earths come back to see me. That was beyond my possibilities, my mother would have thrown me out of the house, so he succeeded in killing my chances to work there. What I saw as a very frustrating experience, might in fact have saved my life.



Self-Reflection and Moral Ownership

Our moral compass often begins as an inheritance, woven into the fabric of our lives by those who surround us. During the formative years of childhood, we learn by imitation, absorbing the values and beliefs of our environment. However, it is not until the dawn of adolescence that the cognitive capacity to question these inherited ideals begins to take root.

The journey to truly claim ownership of our values demands a courageous exploration. We embark on a profound process of uprooting the relics of early indoctrination, subjecting them to the scrutiny of a critical eye and rigorous self-examination. This introspective endeavor may lead us to surprising revelations, challenging the very foundation upon which we have built our understanding of right and wrong.

The capacity for self-deception extends beyond our daily choices to the core of our values. When we find ourselves passionately desiring or enjoying something, a frantic search for rationalized loopholes follows — a human tendency to justify our actions, even when they may conflict with our professed moral beliefs.

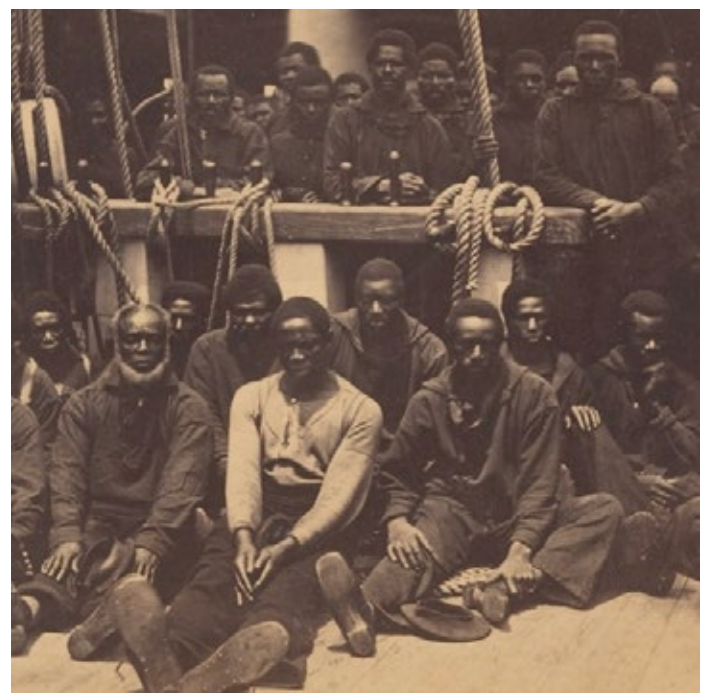
As we navigate the complex landscape of morality, a crucial question emerges: What historical atrocities might we unknowingly be contributing to in the present? It requires a deep dive into our actions, an unearthing of potential deceptions, and an honest evaluation of whether we are inadvertently perpetuating modern-day equivalents of the concentration camps that stain our history.


Conformity, a potent force in shaping human behavior, not only influences our life choices but has played a pivotal role in justifying some of history's most heinous acts. Reflecting on the laughing spectators of the Roman Colosseum, the supportive majority in Nazi Germany, or the God-fearing slave owners in the American South reveals the dangerous power of conformity. Placed in those historical contexts, we might have found ourselves conforming to mainstream

norms, rationalizing actions that, in retrospect, horrify our modern sensibilities.

Social influence, often subtle and insidious, can impose pseudo-values onto our deepest intrinsic beliefs. This external pressure may lead to behaviors that, upon reflection, breed self-hatred. The reflective individual, unaware of the source of their internal conflict, grapples with the consequences of ideas and actions that conflict with their true moral compass.

Convincing ourselves that certain actions align with our values does not alter the essence of those values. No matter how intricate or eloquent our justifications, we cannot escape the consequences of ideas that deviate from our true moral core. The path to moral ownership, therefore, requires a continual commitment to self-reflection and a willingness to unravel the layers of conformity and inherited beliefs, paving the way for a more authentic and ethically grounded existence.





The future George V and his elder brother Albert Victor (Eddy), dated by George 1878, cadets on board the training ship HMS Britannia



Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence 1864-1892)

Montevideo, Bewitched Royal City

Uruguay had three Royal visits before the Second World War. The official visit of Edward Albert, Prince of Wales (later, briefly, Edward VIII; even later, Duke of Windsor) in the winter of 1925. The older son of King George V would return to Montevideo on an unofficial visit in 1932, during his South American Tour with his younger brother George. George was scheduled to visit our capital, and have a day trip to Fray Bentos, though he never showed at the links of the Golf Club where he was supposed to play with the Paysandú Britons, nor at Montevideo. These visits were well remembered by the late XX Century British community of Montevideo who had had a glimpse of their future king and later could gossip about the Prince's famous locks and his infamous conduct. Not so well known and remembered is the first Royal visit, of none other than Edward Albert's father, George who came for a day's visit in 1880 with his older brother Albert Victor, then Prince of Wales.

Albert Victor was born at Windsor in 1864 followed a year later by his brother George. This proximity would mark their upbringing as from then onwards they would be educated together. Their grandmother, Queen Victoria, would appoint John Neale Dalton as their tutor and sole responsible for their education. In 1877 they joined the *HMS Britannia* as Ensigns, and in 1879 *HMS Bacchante* with Dalton, for a three year long visit of the British colonies overseas. In that capacity they stopped at Montevideo in December of 1880, where the British community organised a gala dance at the Hotel Oriental. As the venue was not considered big enough, a wall was demolished and the entrance of the adjacent stock exchange building was added to the hotel's dining room (Today the block of the main building of the Banco República). It is believed that on the way to the gala, they stopped at the English Club, then at the Plaza Constitución (Today Plaza Matriz). Unluckily the Visitor's Books of the club, where all visitors had to sign, were lost after the club's dissolution. On their return to England, Dalton presented to

the Queen several photo albums of the trip. On one of them we can see the pictures of Montevideo taken by the local firm Bates & Company. After the trip, Albert abandoned the Royal Navy and started his specialisation in scandal. He was linked to homosexual practices and even was a strong candidate for a while, for the dubious honour of being Jack the Ripper. His brother George decided for a career in the Royal Navy. In 1891, Albert Victor became engaged to the German Princess Mary of Teck, but they would never be married as he died of influenza in January of 1892. With Royal swiftness, Mary's engagement was changed to George who was recalled from the Royal Navy to take his elder brother duties and become number two in the line for the throne. In 1910 he would be crowned George V.

Both Albert Victor and Edward Albert (Edward VIII) visited Montevideo to the delight of the British community in Uruguay, but later had a complicated life and a sad ending in what respects to their Royal lineage. Albert Victor never had access to the throne while his brother George is known as the "Reluctant King", as he never expected to be crowned nor wished to be.

Edward Albert, though eager to be crowned, had a short life as Edward VIII and had to abdicate after a few months as monarch. Again, his brother George who should have come to Montevideo in 1932, but remained on board the Royal Navy ship that took them both on the Royal tour, had to save the House of Windsor in these troubled times for the monarchy and be crowned, against his wishes, emulating his father. Definitively Montevideo was not a very promising destination for anyone with possibilities of acceding the British throne.

The spell may have been broken now, as Charles III visited Montevideo as the Prince of Wales in 1999 and now seems on the way to a normal and happy reign.

The Towers House

The Towers House is a palace in the heart of Pocitos neighbourhood and the official residence of the Italian Embassy in Uruguay.

Around the end of the 19th century the aristocracy started to populate this area moving the summer resort from the Prado area to the coast where they built hundreds of chalets and summer houses.

The then accountant Pedro Campbell Towers, descendant of a British family, who was born in Montevideo in 1856, found a reason to build his summer house in this area, appropriating a series of plots until he reached half a hectare.

For the project the rather unknown Scottish architect Arthur Inglis was hired, so much so that there is no record of any other construction of his own in Montevideo. He designed a house with the concept of a “domestic castle” surrounded by a green environment where his owner could live “after the English way”, influenced mainly by the eclectic style in vogue, seen at the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1900.

The work began in 1910 and completed in 1912. The following years Towers lived there with economic difficulties as a result of the crisis the country was going through and he had to sell it. His time in the house was short but his legacy to the heritage of the city was remarkable.

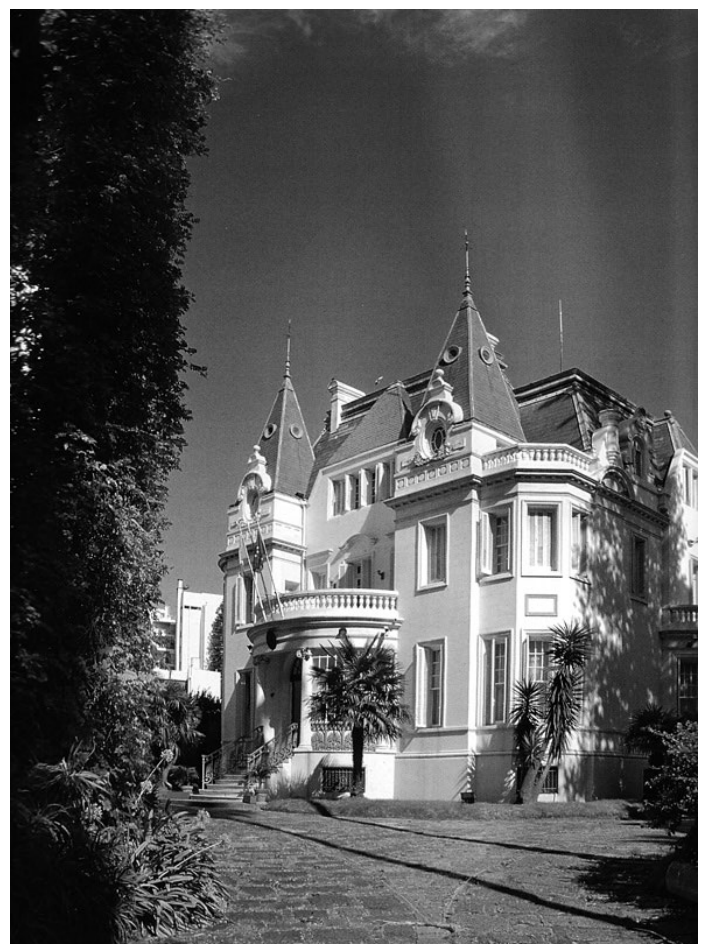
Finally in 1926 the property was sold to the Italian delegation that established its headquarters there.

The house is extremely pretty and the concept of “domestic castle” is given by the fact that from the external point of view the house imposes its image of splendor without losing the feeling of home inside.

The main features are the attic with the use of turrets

and battlements and also the mansards with their notable windows. Also the large and beautiful gardens that surround it.

This splendid house is today the centre of celebrations and gatherings and has a relevant meaning in diplomatic circles but what it's very remarkable is that it managed to survive within a neighbourhood that has changed so much and it represents a tribute to the people who dreamed, designed and built it.





Doctors As Writers

Physicians are often revered for their expertise in the scientific realm, their ability to heal, diagnose, and treat ailments. However, beyond their clinical duties, many doctors are also gifted writers (hope this will someday apply to me!) and possess a unique ability to intertwine the worlds of medicine and literature, offering insights, narratives, and experiences that resonate beyond the confines of the medical field.

At first glance, the idea of doctors as writers might seem paradoxical. Modern medicine is steeped in empirical evidence, clinical trials, and objective analysis. On the other hand, writing is often associated with subjective expression, storytelling, and creativity. Yet, doctors adeptly bridge these apparent gaps, leveraging their medical knowledge and personal encounters to craft compelling narratives.

One of the most profound ways in which doctors express themselves as writers is through medical literature. Medical journals, articles, and research papers are essential avenues through which physicians contribute to the collective knowledge of the medical community. Through these scholarly works, they share their findings, discoveries, and insights, advancing the field and shaping medical practices.

Beyond the academic sphere, many physicians delve into creative writing, producing memoirs, essays, and even fiction that draws from their experiences. These works offer glimpses into the human side of medicine, exploring the emotional and ethical complexities inherent in healthcare. From poignant reflections on patient encounters to introspective pieces about the challenges and triumphs of their profession, doctor-writers illustrate the many times unseen aspects of healthcare.

The ability of doctors to communicate effectively through writing is rooted in their daily interactions with patients.

Physicians navigate intricate narratives every day, listening to patients' stories, interpreting symptoms, and translating complex medical jargon into understandable language. This intimate understanding of communication nuances allows them to craft narratives that resonate with authenticity and empathy.

Moreover, the act of writing itself can be therapeutic for doctors. Amidst the demanding and emotionally taxing nature of their profession, putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) serves as a cathartic outlet. It allows them to process their experiences, reflect on their journey, and find solace amidst the chaos of healthcare.

In an age where healthcare is not only about treating diseases but also about understanding the human experience within illness, the role of doctors as writers becomes increasingly significant. Their narratives bridge the gap between clinical expertise and compassionate care, enriching both the medical community and society at large.

In essence, doctors as writers embody the convergence of science and art. Through their prose, they offer a unique lens into the multifaceted world of medicine, enriching our understanding of health, humanity, and the intricate tapestry of life itself.

Over the last two centuries, many physicians have been notable writers: Anton Chekhov, Russian playwright, short-story writer; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes; John Keats, a Romantic poet, trained and practiced as a surgeon-apothecary before pursuing poetry full-time; Axel Munthe wrote his memorable narrative 'The Story of San Michele' in the Capri-Anacapri setting; Viktor Frankl, the author of 'Man's Search for Meaning', describing his experience as a Jewish prisoner in Nazi war camps; Abraham Verghese, known for his memoirs and novels



The most British band from down under

AC/DC is undoubtedly the most famous rock band to emerge from down under. The band was formed in Sydney in 1973 by Scottish brothers Malcolm and Angus Young. Over the years, the band has undergone several line-up changes – some even before releasing “High Voltage” their debut album in 1975 –, Angus being the only founding member still in the band. Currently members are lead guitarist Angus Young (born in Glasgow, Scotland), rhythm guitarist Stevie Young (born in Glasgow, Scotland), vocalist Brian Johnson (born in Dunston, England), bass guitarist Cliff Williams (born in Romford, England) and drummer Phil Rudd (born in Melbourne, Australia)... the only Australian in the band. Which makes this Aussie band more British than many British bands!

Malcolm and Angus first formed AC/DC with vocalist Dave Evans, bassist Larry Van Kriedt and drummer Colin Burgess. The band played its first public gig at Chequers, a Sydney nightclub, on New Year’s Eve, 1973.

The idea for the band’s name came from Margaret Young, Malcolm and Angus’ older sister, who saw the initials “AC/DC” on the adapter of their mother’s sewing machine. It is, of course, an abbreviation for alternating current / direct current electricity. The brothers felt that the letters symbolised the band’s raw energy and the power-driven performances of their music, so adopted it immediately. The name “AC/DC” is pronounced one letter at a time, though the band are colloquially known as “Acca Dacca” by their Australian fans. The band name is stylised with a high voltage sign separating the AC and DC, a style that has been used on all their albums with the exception of the international version of “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap”

(1976).

AC/DC’s characteristic logo was designed in 1977 by Gerard Huerta. It first appeared on the international version of “Let There Be Rock” (1977). Huerta did it as a favour, and never received a penny in royalties from the sale of logo-related merchandising!

The Young brothers always had a penchant for the theatrical, which led Angus to use costumes on stage from the band’s very first shows. He initially disguised himself as a gorilla, Spiderman, Superman and Zorro. But it was also Angus’ sister Margaret who first inspired him to wear a high-school uniform – from Ashfield Boys High School, which Angus attended –, a costume which he has been internationally known for ever since.

Perhaps AC/DC’s most infamous story is also their most tragic. After six years and seven albums with the band, vocalist Ronald ‘Bon’ Scott, who had replaced Evans in 1975, died at the age of 33. Scott had a long history of substance abuse, and the Young brothers had come close to firing him after he overdosed on heroin in late 1975, but his death in early 1980 was a surprise to all. Following a night of heavy drinking at London club The Music Machine, Scott was left to sleep off the alcohol in a friend’s car. The next morning, however, his friend discovered Scott’s lifeless body and the star was pronounced dead on arrival when he reached the hospital. The cause of death was established as “acute alcohol poisoning”, though some believe the car’s exhaust fumes could have been his true killer. In any case, Scott’s demise was classified as “death by misadventure”.



After Scott's death the other members considered disbanding. However, at the insistent request of Scott's parents, they continued to play together and recruited singer Brian Johnson as their new frontman. Their first album with Johnson, "Back in Black" (1980), was dedicated to Scott's memory. It was a widespread success, launching the band to new heights and becoming the second-best-selling music album of all time (after Michael Jackson's "Thriller").

There are many other surprising true stories surrounding AC/DC. Here go a few...

"Highway to Hell", arguably the band's most famous single, took its name from the nickname of Australia's Canning Highway, which starts very close to where Bon Scott lived, in Fremantle, and ends near where a bar called The Raffles was located, where the band listened to rock 'n' roll in the 70s.

During the recording of "Back in Black", Brian Johnson destroyed 10 microphones by the sheer force of his vocal cords. It is no wonder that, 35 years later, doctors recommended that he no longer go on stage at the risk of becoming deaf. Johnson was diagnosed with Barrett syndrome, causing AC/DC to cancel several shows. Guns N' Roses singer Axl Rose was recruited to replace him. However, doctors were able to prevent the disease from developing into cancer and in 2020 Johnson officially re-joined the band, now using special sound-reducing

earplugs!

In 1981, a couple sued AC/DC for \$250,000 for giving their phone number in the 1976 song "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap". The song lyrics say "Call me any time, just ring 3-6-2-4-3-6... hey! I lead a life of crime". The 'hey!' was misinterpreted by many as '8', the final digit of the couple's home number, which led to them being harassed by fans of the band for years!

In 1989 in an operation dubbed 'Nifty Package', the US military planned to extract Panama dictator Manuel Noriega from his bunker using only the power of rock. Noriega had found refuge in the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, and the American military was at a loss as to how to get him out without an outright assault on Papal territory. The answer turned out to be AC/DC's high-powered tune "You Shook Me All Night Long". By mounting industrial speakers and cranking up the volume, the US military blared the music directly at the Nunciature for hours on end. Eventually, the noise grew too unnerving and Noriega surrendered!

It is worth noting that by 2020, AC/DC had sold more than 200 million records worldwide, making them one of the top 20 best-selling music artists of all time.



by Phillip Berzins
sbpberzins@hotmail.com

Salade Niçoise

Now that the summer and warm weather are once again with us, it is the ideal time to enjoy one of the finest summer salads of them all: Niçoise salad.

Originating in the French city of Nice during the XIX Century, there has always been debate over which ingredients should be included. Traditionally made with anchovies or tuna, olives, hard boiled eggs and tomatoes, Niçoise salad nowadays often also includes potatoes and seasonal vegetables such as green beans or artichokes.

Recipe – 4 Portions

- 350 g can of tuna fish in oil (save the oil for the dressing)
- 400 g tomatoes cut in wedges
- 12 pitted black olives
- 1 lettuce or mixed green leaves
- 6 eggs – hard boiled, peeled and cut in half
- 300 g green beans trimmed and halved
- 750 g potatoes – peeled and cut in 1 cm cubes
- 2 tbsp capers

Dressing

- 1 clove garlic finely chopped
- 2 anchovy fillets (optional)
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 20 ml wine vinegar (red or white)
- 80 ml reserved oil from tuna can, topped up with olive oil if needed
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Pass the anchovy fillets through a fine sieve into a bowl

and add the garlic. Mix in the mustard and add the vinegar. Slowly add the olive oil while continuously mixing to create a smooth emulsion. Add salt and pepper to finish.

Place the potatoes in a sauce pan with cold water and salt and cook until soft but not overcooked, to prevent them from breaking up. Drain and reserve the potatoes.

Boil the green beans in salted water until al dente. Drain, refresh in cold water, drain again and reserve.

Serve in a large salad bowl to be shared or on individual bowls or plates. Arrange the lettuce leaves in the bowls. Scatter over the potatoes, green beans, eggs, tomatoes, tuna fish, black olives and capers. Drizzle the dressing over the salad and serve.

NOTES

Basically, there are three types of salad:

- a) Tossed salad – all the ingredients are mixed together and tossed with a salad dressing before serving. i.e. – Caesar Salad
- b) Composed salad – when the ingredients are presented separately on the same plate with the salad dressing drizzled over the top or served on the side. i.e. Caprese Salad
- c) Bound salad – is held together with a binding agent like mayonnaise or a thick dressing. i.e.: Waldorf or Russian Salad.

When making Niçoise salad I personally prefer to make a bound salad with the potatoes. Once the potatoes are cooked, remove them from the boiling water and while still hot add finely chopped onions, white wine vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Mix carefully to prevent the potatoes, breaking up too much. Taste and add more seasoning if necessary. The hot potatoes will readily absorb the flavours and become much tastier than they would be if seasoned once the potatoes are cold.

Serve as a composed salad with ingredients presented separately and the dressing drizzled over the top.

- Use red or yellow cherry tomatoes instead of, or as well as, regular tomatoes

- When making the dressing, place all the ingredients in a sealed jar and shake vigorously until homogeneous

- Instead of canned tuna, use fresh or frozen tuna. Seal in a hot frying pan with olive oil until it reaches your desired doneness. Serve either in cubes or, if the pieces are too large, break them up into chunks

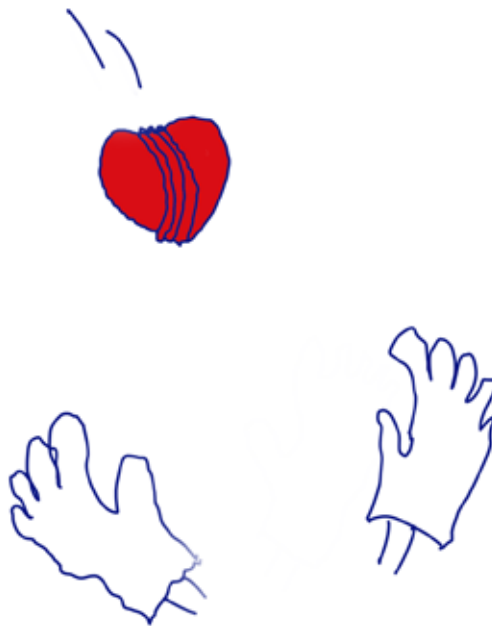
- Any type of salad greens may be used, but crispy leaves stand up better in this type of salad.

CATCHABLE HEART

‘Catchable heart!’
Said the commentator,
Kiwi in voice and name.

‘Half arves in the field,
It’s tiken!’
So back from the crease you came,

Past my seat on the boundary
Pain in your eyes of blue:
I wanted to leap up and tell you
My heart was catchable too



All the takings from Jonathan's second comedy collection, *Speaky Stuff*, go to Ukrainian Disaster Relief at www.dec.org.uk. You can either give him \$1000 via vozinglesa@gmail.com or donate them direct and he'll send you a book, with gift dedication if required.



EVERY FRIDAY FROM 8PM

SOCIAL DARTS
IN PUNTA DEL ESTE

at El Mercado, corner of Virazón and La Salina.

Contact: Jonathan Lamb vozinglesa@gmail.com

VALENTINE'S

activities



Valentine's Word Search

S F G P G C Y C S V
N E U I N A C H S A
O B H H I R A O I L
O R T S L D N C K E
L U R D R M D O R N
L A A N A Y Y L O T
A R E E D J O A S I
B Y H I U V R T E N
A D O R E P O E M E
L Y T F I G G S G A

ADORE	BALLOONS	CANDY
CARD	CHOCOLATES	DARLING
FEBRUARY	FRIENDSHIP	GIFT
HEART	HUG	KISS
LOVE	POEM	ROSE
VALENTINE		

Find the cupcake!



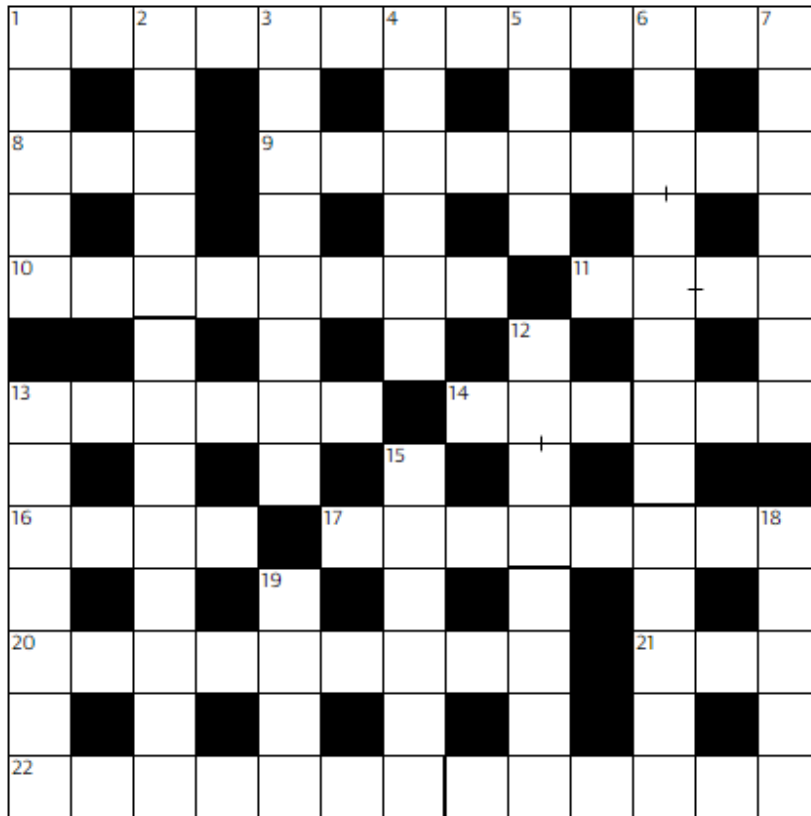
Tic-Tac-Toe Game



X's & O's

Color the Unicorn!





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

December solution:

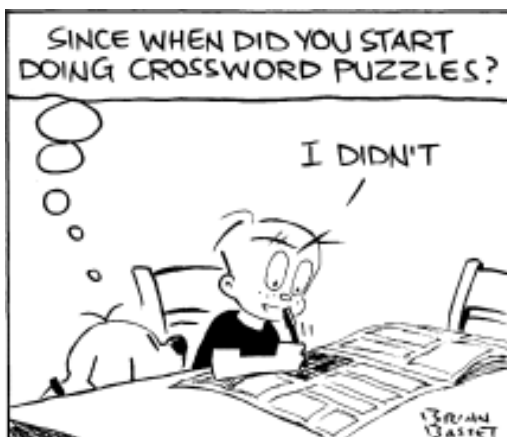


Across

- 1 No to musicians (anag) - taking the moral high ground (13)
- 8 Spoil (3)
- 9 In an engaging way (9)
- 10 Organised – and articulate (8)
- 11 (Old-fashioned) sound system (2-2)
- 13 Glossy paint (6)
- 14 1935 film starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers (3,3)
- 16 Crochet, curtain or coat? (4)
- 17 Airport luggage holder (8)
- 20 One outranks a colonel, but not a major general (9)
- 21 Equip with a weapon (3)
- 22 Lovely Rita, for instance (7,6)

Down

- 1 Spice popular in Middle Eastern cooking (5)
- 2 South-eastern US state which has Raleigh as its capital (5,8)
- 3 Less tasteful (8)
- 4 Underground activity? (6)
- 5 Tucked-away spot (4)
- 6 Single sexual encounter (3-5,5)
- 7 Fashion consultant (7)
- 12 Place that's too dangerous to visit (2-2,4)
- 13 Item on show (7)
- 15 One may be very keen on football – or sex (6)
- 18 Juicy fruit (5)
- 19 Chunky part of the lower leg (4)



<https://www.gocomics.com/>



First Meeting Of The Macentyre Family, Cardona.

Because our roots make us who we are and because we are one big family.

We are not only the present, we are the past and the future...

For the first time, this December 2, 2023, the MacEntyre family decided to get together, and gather all those descendants of James or Diego MacEntyre, that Scotsman who arrived in our lands back in 1833 and settled here in Uruguay, making great contributions.

THE STORY:

Diego MacEntyre was the first landowner established on the land where years later the city of Cardona would be born. His ranch, in the middle of the desolate vastness of the countryside at the beginning of the 19th century, was the first immediate settlement prior to the embryo of civilization that became the “pulpería” and stagecoach post of La Lata del Perdido.

He was a true pioneer who contributed to the social, economic and political development of our country.

He arrived in Buenos Aires in December 1825 and in June 1833 he married Margaret Campbell. In Buenos Aires and around 1837, he entered into a partnership with the Englishman Miguel Hines to exploit fields (which he had acquired in 1835) on the Perdido stream. In 1845 his wife Margaret died leaving three daughters: Julia, Felicianita and Susana.

His daughter Susana MacEntyre married Manuel Berres López in August 1858, making Diego MacEntyre the great-grandfather of Luis Batlle Berres and great-great-grandfather of Jorge Batlle Ibáñez, both presidents of Uruguay.

In April 1846, in Durazno, he married Inocencia Correa. From this marriage were born: Margarita, Diego, Pedro, Ramona, Eduardo, Donaldo and Enrique MacEntyre Correa.

Diego MacEntyre and his children, rooted in this land, contributed to the development of new production lines through the introduction of Merino Negrete or Rambouillet sheep for the crossbreeding of the Creole sheep and the essential importation of wire for the fencing of the fields. On May 24, 1861 he died in his ranch and was buried three days later in the English cemetery of Montevideo.



THE MEETING, SOCIEDAD CRIOLLA LA LATA VIEJA, CARDONA:

The meeting was something magical, even though many of our families did not know each other, the good vibes and energy was incredible, as if we really knew each other all our lives.

Getting together was the excuse, getting to know each other was the reason and sharing a moment of anecdotes and traditions was what happened.

LETTERS FROM THE READERS

It was a historic and special meeting in every way. A meeting where we got to know each other and talked about our history, our grandparents and great-grandparents, reaching those things we have in common. A joyful gathering of music, conversation and enjoyment.

A way to pay tribute to those who are still here and those who no longer are. Nothing as valuable as oral tradition, to be able to share that before it is lost is priceless. And to remember the importance and value that the family has for us.



HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

María Inés Pittamiglio Mujica and Ana Elisa MacEntyre Reyes had a common desire, even without knowing each other. Both wanted to know a little more about their history, their families, and so with time and dedication, they joined forces and made this meeting possible. Obviously it required a lot of research, searching and communication, but all those efforts were worth it.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning three people who made great contributions in this sense.

Julio MacEntyre Dibot, grandfather of the aforementioned Ana Elisa, made many contributions and by remembering they started building that huge genealogical tree that forms the MacEntyre family.

On the other hand, María Inés highlights the teachings transmitted to her by her mother María Inés Mujica MacEntyre de Pittamigglio regarding the Scottish tradition and history. She always transmitted her love for the land of her ancestors to all her descendants with fervor.

And finally the Anglo-Uruguayan genealogist Mr. Robert Wells who has studied the history of this family making great contributions.

THE BAGPIPES AND THE PIPER:

The highlight of this great party was the presence of the piper, German Villar Drever, president of the Saint Andrews Society, with his bagpipes and his Scottish costume, who added his incredible music to this meeting.

The bagpipe is a popular wind instrument in Scotland, so being present at this meeting was very special because it



allowed us to travel back in time and let us be embraced by those sweet melodies, making our skin crawl and moving most of us. That music that some of us had never heard before, but that is so much our own.

It was a memorable meeting, where nothing was missing, there was a lot of emotion, reunions, laughter and hugs, a promising meeting, the first of many. There remains the commitment and willingness of all to meet again, and to continue seeking to contact so many more who missed out on this occasion.

Because as we said at the beginning “we are one big family”, and “our past makes us who we are today”, for that reason and because it fills our soul to meet again and to know more about who we are, we know that “we will meet again”.

Signature:

Ana Elisa MacEntyre Reyes

Ana Inés López Pittamiglio



AC/DC



Click to listen on Spotify