



THE BRITISH SOCIETY IN URUGUAY

Founded in 1918

Honorary President: HMA Patrick Mullee

New Series Volume 1 Issue 7

THE NEWSLETTER

1 March 2010

March Calendar Highlights

Wed 3	Lunch club: C Aguiar
Fri 5	Players Games Night
Sat 13	St Andrews Picnic
Sun 14	Picnic fallback
Wed 24	Sarum Voices UK choir Anglo, 8pm, \$225
Thu 25	Sarum Voices, 7.30pm

For further details of these and other events see p4 and the online calendar at <http://freecal.brownbears.com/BritSoc>



UK CHOIR TO VISIT IN MARCH

Thanks to generous support from the British Embassy, the Anglo and other sponsors, an up-and-coming young choir from the south of England will be visiting Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Maldonado in late March. *Sarum Voices* is a semiprofessional choir from the city of Salisbury, where they have strong links to the famously spired cathedral. On the tour their mix of ancient and modern *a capella* music, by eleven singers out of a pool of around 90, will be punctuated with comedy readings so as to provide an entertaining



introduction to theatre, music and poetry for English speakers and students of all ages from about 11 upwards. A teacher's resource pack will be available on the Anglo's website in early March.

Sarum Voices with the Ugly Baby, Teatro Millington-Drake, San Jose 1426, on Wednesday 24 March at 8pm and Thursday 25 March at 7.30pm. Show lasts around 80 minutes. Tickets \$225 from the boleteria and Red UTS. School rate for groups of 20 or more: \$150. Contact lamb-fam@adinet.com.uy. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to www.actorstouruguay.com so as to bring a new show next year, maybe from a London drama college.

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Doing anything newsworthy in your English language school? If so we would like to know, for a feature due to start in April with feedback from a drama workshop at the Anglo Ombú.

STOP PRESS 1

The British Society Annual General Meeting will be held in March or early April. Details will be circulated as soon as they are confirmed. Posts coming vacant are those of President and Secretary.

STOP PRESS 2

LUCKY DIP. The British Society has a new Lucky Dip for competition prizes, filled with goodies that were all bought for £1 in one of the UK's burgeoning 'Nothing over a Pound' shops. Examples of what you can get these days for a quid: three pairs of stereo headsets, a 2010 UK road atlas, a box of liqueur chocs, three packets custard powder, 10 tubes of superglue, 100 Tetleys teabags. Amazing when a coffee costs £1.60. If anybody going to the UK could buy a fiver's worth of pound shop things they think would make good prizes, we'll pay them back.

Inside this issue:

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V.E.DAY: NO MORE SUBS

VE = Very Exciting. The first Newsletter of 2010 brings the news that for a three-year trial period at least, British Society annual subscriptions are no more. It was agreed at last year's AGM that rather than leave the Treasurer with the distasteful task of chasing serial debtors, the BS would try following the example of the St Andrews Society and charge a one-off life membership of \$1000 (pesos, not dollars, though philanthropic members can always donate more—for example by leaving a bequest.) Members who were paid up for 2009 by 20 January 2010 don't have to pay. Meanwhile the Society will try to make up for the loss of revenue by seeking donors for the Newsletter, like the firm of Teuten Abogados in this issue, and by charging non-members more for functions as is done in the Montevideo Players. Donations to the Newsletter have been working fine, as the circulation is now over 500 and the readership is almost entirely influential, international, distinguished and affluent - with the exception of the serial debtors, above, for whom the word 'affluent' applies only if spoken by Celia Johnson. The bow wave of progress has swept all that away, however; and meanwhile the member Societies of the BS have had few problems with the AGM's recommendation that they should pay a small annual fee to their 'umbrella organisation', as sports clubs do to national federations. So for the time being the coffers are not in bad shape, and the Committee will soon be organizing some social functions to celebrate the return from holidays and the arrival of 2010. If after three years the experiment has not worked and the coffers are empty, the AGM can always agree a return to subscriptions, but at \$350 a year (plus inevitable increases) members will have saved money in the meantime. To keep saving that money, readers are asked to do three things: print out a copy of the Newsletter for offline friends so as to save the BS postage; get more people to receive the Newsletter - free! - by writing to britsoc@gmail.com; and of course, recruit new members to this excellent Society.

Membership: write to britsocmem@gmail.com

CHANGES AT THE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME

As many of you will have heard, we are reorganizing the running of the Sir Winston Churchill Home in order to establish a more efficient operation that will enable us to render better care to our current residents and also to take in more people in need.

With this in view, we would like to request the Community's help. Please come and visit our elderly people in the Home as often as you can. However, if you intend to carry out any special activity with the residents or bring donations or food other than normal cakes or cookies, we would ask that you coordinate beforehand with the Home Manager, Lic. Enf. Guadalupe "Lupe" Estellano. This will avoid problems with special diets, duplication of activities, etc.

Lupe can normally be found in or around the Home Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm. The Home's telephone number is 487 1020 extension 2343 and Lupe's email address is lupestellano@hotmail.com.

If you are not able to reach Lupe,

please feel free to contact any of the Committee Members. These are our contact numbers and emails:

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Susan Medina 710 1551
sdaymedina@gmail.com

We have recently organized a Social and Wellbeing Sub-Committee to encourage and facilitate the Community's involvement in the welfare and entertainment of our residents. To be part of this effort or for further details, please contact Linda Brady at 606 1453. Thank you!

THAT ENGLISH VILLAGE



(NL Dec) sparked a correspondence. Juan Jose Castillos writes that he would like to see investors build an exact replica of an English village - real, not fake - for English-speaking UK or Commonwealth passport holders only. Dwellers would benefit from lower costs and better weather than in the UK, and investors would reap an attractive profit from the unusual idea, particularly if the village could be given tax breaks as a tourist attraction. For JJ the key to success is authenticity.

Any other views? On this or indeed on any topic of interest to the Community, feel free to write to britsoc@gmail.com

UK Commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Plate

Those who fought in the Battle of the Plate on 13th December 1939 were remembered at two main functions, the first a most moving dinner for 170 people at H.M.S. Drake, the naval base at Plymouth, on 26th November, sponsored by the West of England branch of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, with the permission of the base commander, Commodore Ian Jesse, who was present.

The intention was to bring together as many as possible of those connected with the battle and its diplomatic aftermath. This effectively meant children and grandchildren of the participants, who were there in force, led by Captain Stephen Harwood, son of Admiral Harwood, and Tristan Millington-Drake, grandson of Sir Eugen, but there were four actual veterans of the battle, in their late 80s and 90s, wonderful for their years, including Basil Trott.

There were unforgettable kaleidoscopic impressions: the magnificent wardroom of H.M.S. Drake with its unique fleet of models of warships from the days of sail suspended from the ceiling; the mess dress and orders of the naval and Royal Marine

officers (outdressing the ladies present); Beating Retreat before dinner; the specially commissioned painting of H.M.S. Exeter, Montevideo's own ship, presented during dinner to the C-in-C; the Dartmouth cadets, who met guests on arrival so charmingly; the resumé of the battle by such a tremendous character and ultimate authority on the subject as the naval historian Eric Grove; the playing of the Uruguayan national anthem by the woodwind quintet of the Royal Marines band, and the special pleasure of meeting the new Uruguayan Ambassador to the UK, Dr. Julio Moreira; the address by the Deputy C-in-C Fleet, Vice-Admiral Richard Ibbotson (in the enforced absence at short notice of the C-in-C himself, Sir Trevor Soar); the absolutely immaculate naval organisation of the whole evening; and above all the privilege of being there to commemorate that historic action off the River Plate 70 years ago and to pay tribute to the Royal Navy of today.

The second function, organised by the British Uruguayan Society, was the talk by Stephen Harwood at Canning House on 7th December. This, too, was a most moving occasion, at which Stephen focused on his father's longstanding connection with South America, dating from 1919 when he was a young

lieutenant in H.M.S. Southampton and met the young Eugen Millington-Drake at a cocktail party on board in Montevideo harbour. With family photographs and extracts from Harwood's letters home while serving on the South American station between the wars, Stephen explained how his father built up a great interest in and love for the area, learning Spanish, making valuable contacts at all levels, and asking people what they would do in the event of a world war. He was struck by the amount of British shipping sailing to and from the River Plate, and his ideas were crystallized by the World Trade Conference in the US in 1939, which caused him to formulate the plan which he put into action so successfully in December 1939. The event was sold out and it was a great pleasure to see so many members of the Harwood family together with many members of the Society and distinguished guests at this festive pre-Christmas gathering, which was combined with the Society's Christmas party.

— Jill Quaife de Rigamonti

FURNITURE WANTED. Table, chairs, sideboard, bar, night stands.
susanjd@peelbooks.com 037 25934

HOW TO BE CAST. *Tim Dickinson, recently picked for a Chilean TV ad, describes what it's like.*

Audition Day: Find the street number in Palermo and walk straight in through an open garage door. People hanging around, waiting, in silence. After a while a lanky woman appears with a form for me to fill in. Experience? No. Agent? No. I am No.97. She takes me to meet the casting director. I am filmed from different angles as if in London, enthusing lamely about a trip to Chile. Back to the garage. Two weeks later, the phone rings. I've been picked. Wow, money!
Wardrobe Day: There are 5 of us, 'stereotypes' from France, Russia, Japan, Italy and the UK. I'm the British Professor.
Film Day: Prado. Six of us get there in a van at 6.30am. Trucks, cables everywhere. They say I'm the first to film so no breakfast. I protest. They give me breakfast. Then it's back to enthusing about Chile again, but after a few goes I can't remember what I've enthused about before. Suddenly the director says 'cut' and it's over. Yo! Still waiting for the money.

Embassy News

EMBASSY WEBSITE: ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk

San Jorge. On Sunday 4 October 2009 the Intendencia de Durazno organised the annual 'Encuentro Británico-Oriental' in San Jorge, Durazno. The town as founded by a Scot named Tomas Fair in the 1800's who farmed the land, built a windmill (between 1824 and 1860) and made San Jorge the economic and social epicentre of the area. Other English and Scottish families settled in the area too: McClelland, Wilkins, Hall, Mutter, Lockwood, Thompson, McIntyre, McIntosh and MacKinnon. The 'Cementerio de los Ingleses' which can be found on what used to be Fair's land, 'Estancia San Jorge', has been declared national heritage in Uruguay. The day's festivities included lunch (asado con cuero) pericón and other local dances, gaucho procession, Scottish dancing and pipes by The Riverside Pipe Band amongst other things. The Embassy was well represented by the Vice-Consul Sarah Cowley.

The Battle of the River Plate. The 70th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate on Sunday 13 December 2009 was commemorated with a special service at the Holy Trinity Cathedral followed by drinks at the Ambassador's residence. Members of the British Community were invited along with Uruguayan authorities and the captain and crew of HMS Scott.



San Jorge, left; River Plate, right



IMPORTANT. Travelling to or via the US? British travellers must register their travel details on the US' Department of Homeland Security website: ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. This must be done prior to travel, preferably at least 72 hours before departure.

We strongly recommend that you carry a copy of your ESTA clearance as an airline may refuse you to board your flight if you cannot provide evidence that clearance to enter the US has been granted. This also applies to those with a valid US visa. Further information can be found on FCO Travel Advice: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>.

UK elections nearing..... Although estimates of the number of British expats vary from 5.5 to 13 million, there are only about 13,000 overseas voters registered in the UK. For more information on how to vote from overseas please see the following websites: Electoral Commission: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/> Latest registration forms, postal and proxy applications for British citizens living overseas: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Information leaflets: <http://www.dopolitics.org.uk/order-resources-form/nocache>. You can have your forms witnessed by any other British citizen living overseas other than a close relative.

WDA NEWS. The Women's Diocesan Committee for 2010 is as follows: President, Joan Lucas-Calcraft (tel 600 1836). Vice-President: Florence Diaz (710 2648). Treasurer: Sylvia Carrara (408 2776). Secretary: Barbara Kitchen (209 5480).

The WDA will be holding their first bridge tea afternoon at 2.30pm on Tuesday 27 April at Christ Church (Lieja y Arocena). For tables please call Joan.

ROLLING STONES: DAVID HAMMOND

(<http://ParadiseUruguay.com>)



Extracts from an interview with this US expat in his 50's, seen here with his daughter Claire.

What made you choose Uruguay? I was first attracted to Uruguay for its real estate opportunities and then the beauty of the country and people got under my skin.
Not the cost of living? I think there are cheaper places than Uruguay. Energy, electronics, and manufactured goods are much more expensive here than in the US.
Do you have any favorite restaurants or nightspots? Punta del Este has a lot of great places for fine dining, but for everyday living I like La Balanza in Maldonado for a barbecue lunch. Empanadas Ricas y Famosas. Virazon for afternoon coffee.
Do you have any tips for other English speakers seeking residency? Find a reliable residency attorney. I used Mark Teuten in Montevideo.
And making money? Uruguay is not anyone's top pick as a place to make money as an employee or small business owner. However, it can be a good place to headquarter an international business and has several tax free trade zones. For the individual with a nest egg, the best money-making opportunities are probably in real estate investment.
Any other advice? Be open to living a different life than you lived in your previous country. If a life more focused on rich personal interactions and less focused on material possessions sounds attractive, than Uruguay might be your cup of tea.

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MAKE A DONATION

and we will thank you on every page! On behalf of a growing number of Uruguay's most affluent and influential movers and shakers, plus diplomats, international firms, settlers and language institutes. Contact britsoc@gmail.com

ST ANDREWS PICNIC. 1230pm on Sat 13 March at the Montevideo Cricket Club, Ruta Interbalnearia Km 23.5 (entrance turning left at Camino de los Horneros, traffic lights after the old entrance, and turning left again after two or three blocks). Bad weather fallback Sunday 14th. Lamb, hamburgers and salads on offer. Wine available. Bring plates and cutlery, plus your own drinks if you like. Ladies bring cakes. Door prizes, games, tea, pipe music. Call 901 3841, 480 1453, 099 682625 or 099 992400.

Truffic lights, eh Jimmy? What's in those pipes? Usually a great party though — Ed.

The Newsletter is fortunate to have secured the services of professional restaurateur Ian Stanton, late of a certain prestigious French restaurant in Twickenham, London. On his fork this month: **Umaga**.

One of the plusher restaurants in Montevideo, UMAGA is well located on a quiet cobbled street bordering Punta Carretas and Pocitos at Federico Ros 2757 esq. Luis de la Torre. Open only in the evenings, this small restaurant is on the ground floor and a lounge bar is available upstairs. The decor is contemporary, design-led. The staff wear smart black uniforms and offer a professional, though not overly friendly service. The restaurant is suitable for special occasions as well as an evening out with friends.

The menu offers a mixed European-style of cuisine, consisting of relatively sophisticated dishes such as "Foie gras a la plancha" or "Ensalada de pulpo a la Gallega" to begin with, followed by "Magret de pato al sartén" or "Sorrentinos de osobuco". The desserts are equally appealing such as "Marquise de Chocolate Blanco". The French, Spanish and Italian influence is apparent throughout the menu, although the wine list is predominantly South American. First courses range from \$200 to \$290, main courses range from \$290 to \$395 and desserts from \$130 to \$190.

But how does UMAGA score on the "returnability" factor – the litmus test for any restaurant?

It is the quality of the food which, for us, did not match our expectations which were based on the menu, the design and ambience as well as the positive write-ups on the internet on restaurant review sites. The food was well presented and of a reasonable standard, but there was nothing memorable which would encourage an immediate return visit. The price to quality ratio, always a key factor in the success of a restaurant, was acceptable but not great.

Price to quality ratio	3 / 5
Service	3 / 5
Ambience	4 / 5
Hygiene	5 / 5
Overall "returnability"	3 / 5

UMAGA - Federico Ros 2757 esq. Luis de la Torre, Montevideo. Tel . 7123141, www.umaga.com.uy



TEUTEN ABOGADOS was formed by British Society member Mark Teuten in 2004 shortly after he finished his legal studies in Uruguay. This made him the first lawyer to be qualified in both the UK and Uruguay.

The firm specialises in Intellectual Property and has built up a substantial clientele of international and local clients in this area, including several large multinationals.

In addition the firm has expanded into other areas and has lawyers who deal with many other areas of law, including employment, family, commercial, immigration, conveyancing (one of the associates is a notary) and probate matters.

Likewise the firm has contacts with law firms throughout the world, so can deal with all kinds of international matters.

The firm prides itself on providing a high level of professional, personal and practical advice for all of its clients.



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COOK IN RESIDENCE. Joanna Mullee has been in the UK recently looking after her poorly Mum, but we hope to welcome her back to these pages in the next issue with a delectable recipe for fruity gingerbread.

Coming events

- MARCH**
Wed 3 Club de lunch with politólogo Cesar Aguiar
Fri 5 Games night, Players, (A. Diaz 2324), 8.30pm
Sat 13 St Andrews Picnic, see above
Sun 14 Foul weather fallback for picnic
Wed 24 Sarum Voices choral music & comedy concert, Anglo, **8pm** (80 mins) : \$225, schools \$150
Thu 25 Sarum Voices, Anglo, **7.30pm** (nb: earlier)
- APRIL**
Thu 22 British Hospital Guild AGM with tea & talk by Winston Willans on recent improvements, 3pm
Tue 27 WDA games tea, 2.30pm
- MAY**
Sat 8 Dilmah Croquet Champs, Solymar (tbc)
- JUNE**
Sat 26 Junior Caledonian

PLAYERS MEMBERS IN EYE FILM

BS member Chris Ferrand makes her acting debut in a short film by Gonzalo Torrens (music by Ed.) for an eye awareness comp. Pity about the title... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRa3aF1b9g>

COMPETITION. Congratulations to Facundo Duarte, and a box of Tetley teabags from the Society's new Poundshop Lucky Dip (p1), for correctly guessing that Sr y Sra de la Pizza's son was called Edmundo de la Pizza. Another dip in the sawdust for the first reader to guess the name of Mr and Mrs Moore-Knight's son, conceived in Ibiza to the sound of a Phil Collins record.