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Coming Events

► Sunday 2nd June

- The Big Lunch, 12:30 hrs. at The British Schools' Pavilion.

► Tuesday 4th June

- 60th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen, 12:30 hrs. at the Ambassador's Residence.

► Friday 7th June

- WDA Bridge-Tea, 14:30 hrs. at Christ Church.

► Friday 21st June

- Encuentros a la puesta del Sol, 18:30 hrs. at The British Cemetery.

► Wednesday 26st June

- St. Andrew's Society AGM, 18:30 hrs. at The British Schools' Conference Room.





President's Blurb

Dear members

The British Society's Annual Council meeting was well attended by its member institutions, who gave us an interesting update on their activities and plans for the coming year. Judging from the exchange, it is clear that the British community's diverse institutions in Uruguay are healthy and active, so expect a full calendar of activities.

As some of you may have already discovered, in early May The British Society launched its own Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/BritSocUy>. We hope it will become a useful communication tool, especially in aid of our efforts to reach out to the younger members of the British community. I am happy to see that in less than a month and without having publicised it more than 70 people have already liked our page, but we hope to get that number up into the hundreds soon. To that end, I encourage you all to like our page and share its contents as widely as you see fit. We will strive



to keep it always up to date and use it as a means of communicating what we do to a wider audience. So, please



This month will see The Big Lunch, the celebration of the anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation and the third lecture-supper of the 2013 cycle, so I hope to see you all around at one or another of these events.

SWCH News

The Sir Winston Churchill Residents and Committee wish to express their sincere condolences to the family of Dr. George E. Stanham, CBE a great friend and physician to many of our residents over the years.

We were touched to receive a visit from Dr. George Stanham Jr. MBE and we shared many memories together. Dr. George Stanham Jr. told us that his family had received a generous donation from Mrs Monica Massey-Hoyos in honour of Dr. George E. Stanham, and they had decided that they would like it to be given to the Benevolent Fund.

The picture below was taken at the presentation, and Phyllis Day is receiving the donation on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. Fittingly, Phyllis worked with Monica at the United Nations for many years.

Your Committee has suggested to the family that a

photo of Dr. George E. Stanham should be dedicated to his memory in the Sir Winston Churchill Home.

It is hoped that both Mrs Pauline Stanham and Mrs Monica Massey-Hoyos will be present on that occasion.

We would like to encourage other contributions in honour of Dr. George E. Stanham and the charity his family has chosen.





British Embassy News

Follow us on [Facebook](#)
and keep in the loop!

Uruguay And The UN

On 10 May, the Embassy welcomed Kirsty Hayes, Head of International Organisations Department from the FCO, to Uruguay. Kirsty spent a full day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sharing the UK's experience of being a Permanent Member of the Security Council at the United Nations. Uruguay is preparing for their candidacy to a non-permanent seat on the same body in 2016/17.



Cambridge Exams: 100 Years Of Excellence

The Ambassador hosted an event to celebrate 100 years of the prestigious Cambridge English Language Assessment Exams on May 20th. Chief Executive Dr. Michael Milanovic and his team came to Uruguay as part of a regional trip to celebrate their anniversary. The Anglo, along with other institutions that enrol and prepare students for Cambridge exams, joined in the celebration.



Ambassador On-Air

Gastronomy was the topic chosen this year to celebrate Europe Week in Uruguay. As part of a series of interviews on Radio Espectador, Ambassador Lyster-Binns talked about British food, the classics and the diversity of what is on offer thanks to immigration into the UK. You can have a listen [here](#).



Tea At The Residence

Belinda Lyster-Binns was delighted to host the monthly ADA tea at the Residence on 16 May. Members of the Diplomatic Association that works to help Uruguayan society learned about the British influence in Uruguay through an excellent presentation delivered by Richard Cowley, whilst enjoying a traditional English tea of cucumber sandwiches and scones with jam and cream.



Twitter

Another tool to stay in touch: follow us on Twitter! Look for us under [UKinUruguay](#)

More news on our [website](#)



Holy Trinity News

Greetings, One and All!

I begin this letter on a personal note.

I want to express my thanks to the many who attended my Episcopal Ordination service on Sunday, May 26th.

The weather cooperated fully, with bright sunshine and moderate temperatures. The Cathedral was quite full, with people in attendance from several countries, including Canada, the USA, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina. We were also joined via Internet by folks from England, Spain, and Germany, and some of the other countries already mentioned.

My thanks to all who participated, and especially to those who assisted in some way with making the whole event as successful as it was.

As Bishop Tamayo mentioned in his sermon, he will soon be leaving the Diocese and going into retirement. Plans are underway to acknowledge and mark Bishop Miguel's and his wife Martha's, departure, and you will be notified when these are finalized.

When Bishop Miguel retires (at midnight on July 31st), I will automatically become the new Diocesan Bishop in Uruguay. Later, likely in September, there will be another service during which I will formally be installed into the office. Invitations will be issued in due course.

In the meantime... life goes on.

Holy Trinity and the Anglican Diocese of Uruguay are on the verge of beginning a new chapter. And, as with all endings and new beginnings, it will present us with an opportunity to look back, give thanks for the good things that have happened, and to look forward, thinking about and planning for new ways through

which we can be an effective and meaningful presence in peoples' lives here in Uruguay.

If you are reading this and you have some ideas about how we can plan for the immediate and distant future, please don't hesitate to contact me. We are in the early stages of a companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma and we are confident this will bear a great deal of fruit over the next few years. This means that we aren't "starting from scratch", as the saying goes. We already have some strong and supportive fellow Anglicans who are committed to further the mission and ministry of the Church in this small corner of the world.

As I said, if you have ideas, or wish to join in this new chapter of the Church's life, please be in touch (iglesiaau@gmail.com). Writing this email address reminds me that we also have a diocesan website. Have you ever visited it? The website address is: <http://uruguay.anglican.org/>

As I mentioned in my last submission, the Anglican Church of Uruguay is keen on hearing from some local business leaders who would be willing to give us some ideas as we work at becoming more self reliant and sustaining. I know there are many out there and a couple have already indicated their interest and support. Will you join with them?

In the Church calendar we have just entered the period commonly called "Ordinary Time". It lasts all the way through to the end of November. It's seen as a time of growth. May the new chapter we are entering in the life of the Anglican Church in Uruguay also be seen as a time of growth for all of us.

Wishing you every blessing,
Michele Pollesel

WDA News

The WDA takes pleasure in informing you that the next event of the year, our second bridge-tea, will be held at Christ Church on Tuesday, June 7th, starting at two thirty in the afternoon.

Those wishing to reserve tables, please contact Mrs. Joan Lucas-Calcraft, tel.26001836.



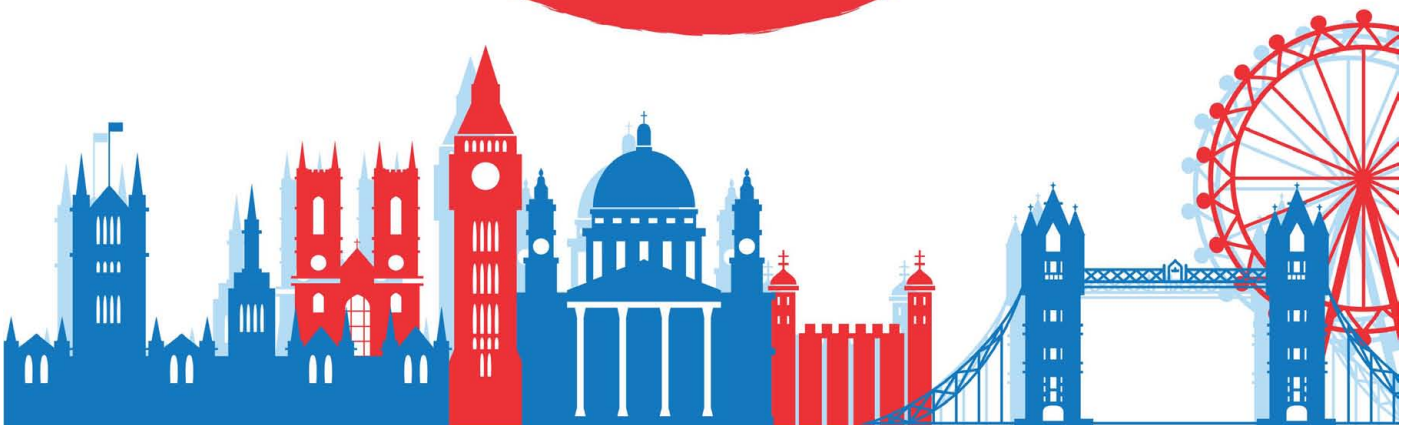
THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY



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Montevideo Players News

The Montevideo Players Society presents
a Tongue-in-Cheek Production



A brand new
collection of old time
favourite skits,
scenes and sketches.

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Neil Fairless Centre, Acevedo Díaz 2324.



Montevideo Players News

Our very successful show returns!

THIS IS BRUMOUR TOO!

An entirely new selection of hilarious gags, skits and sketches by Monty Python, The Two Ronnies, Rowan Atkinson, Billy Connolly and many others

New performances at 9:00pm, at the Neil Fairless Centre (Acevedo Diaz 2324) on:

Tuesday 18/Jun
Thursday 20/Jun
Tuesday 25/Jun
Thursday 27/Jun

Limited capacity - ONLY 28 SEATS PER SHOW

Tickets:

Adults - \$ 250.-
Students & OAP's - \$ 125.-
Members - FREE!

Bookings exclusively through:

montevideoplayers@gmail.com, or call 099 087 776
(and leave a message indicating a call-back phone!)

British Cemetery News

What next?

In Montevideo we've seen cultural events in unusual places; Scottish Country Dancing in the School Gym, Cinema on the Beach, Rock Concerts in the velodrome.

As a joint venture with Eduardo Montemunio, for the first time in Montevideo, we're organising a series of monthly cultural events in the Chapel of the British Cemetery. Over 120 years ago the Cemetery established its new site in the Buceo district and the Chapel has been used by families of more than 50 nationalities as part of the funeral service that we provide, but May saw the first use of the Chapel for a different purpose, our first "Sunset Talk".

Evangelical Church, discussing different aspects of life and afterwards, from the point of view of different religions. They both used their vast experience to manage the subject with sensitivity and respect, including a sprinkling of amusing anecdotes which kept the audience interested until the last minute. There then followed an open conversation between the guests and the invited speakers.



The main entrance and Chapel were specially illuminated for the event, highlighting the sculptures on the main avenue. At the end of the evening a small plant was given to each person as a memento thanks to our Landscape Gardener, Virginia Crotti.



We were honoured to have Michael Pollesel, the Anglican Church and Armin Ilhe, from the German

In June we shall continue with the same theme, with invited speakers from two other congregations.



St. Andrew's Society News

Dear members,

We are glad to announce our upcoming Annual General Meeting which will take place on Wednesday June 26th, starting 18:30 hrs. at The British Schools' Conference Room.

During the AGM we will elect our authorities for the 2013-2015 period. We invite you to join our current Executive Committee replacing retiring members or to propose alternate lists, thereby supporting the job of our committees in benefit of St Andrew's Society.

Lists of candidates for the Executive Committee and the Fiscal Committee must be presented to the current Executive Committee by June 16th.

Lists for the Executive Committee must have at least 5 candidates and 3 reserve candidates, and should be headed by the proposed president.

Lists for the Fiscal Committee must have at least 3 candidates and 2 reserve candidates.

Chef's Corner

by Mirita Pool
cpool@netgate.com.uy

Paella

This is a very tasty recipe from my nephew Alejandro Rinaldi, and ideal to cook in the parrilla in a big frying pan. Serves 8 to 10.

Ingredients:

- ½ kg. mussels
- 300 gr. sea food (shrimp, squid, etc)
- 1 kg. pork, cut up
- ½ kg. chicken, cut up
- 200 gr. bacon, cut up
- 2 peppers, cut up
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 ½ cups parboiled rice

- 5 cups liquid (wine and water with Knorr cubes)
- 2 tins of corn
- Peas

Cook all the sea food, and remove from frying pan. Fry the bacon, pork and chicken. Remove from frying pan. Fry the peppers and remove from frying pan. Fry the rice, add the onion and garlic for 5 minutes. Add the pork and chicken, the liquids and the sea food. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add the peppers, corn and peas. Simmer until there is no more liquid. Put aside and rest for 5 minutes covered up.

Note: There are some Knorr cubes "Sabor Paella y Gallina" which are very tasty.





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VIRGEN WATER A miracle of nature

Virgen de las Ánimas Natural Mineral Water has a perfect balance of minerals and oligoelements, and also a great level of virginity as evidenced by the absence of nitrate (pollutants), which makes it one of the most delightful and pure waters in the world. Due to its low mineralization, softness and the subtlety of its distinctive flavor, Virgen water is the favorite choice for the perfect marriage between water, fine wines and gourmet meals. The perfect balance of calcium and magnesium hardness of Virgen water is equivalent to one of our body, therefore, it is optimal for digestion and body's requirements. Virgen de las Ánimas water is considered one of the best natural mineral waters worldwide for its quality, taste and presentation by renowned international sommelier Michael Mascha, creator of the reference website of luxury waters worldwide: www.finewaters.com.

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Arts & Culture

by Alice Tourn
aytourn@gmail.com

Quartet: Old Age Is Not That Bad

Dustin Hoffman was 30 when he made his screen debut as the 21-year-old Benjamin Braddock in *The Graduate*. Three years later, in 1970, he played the 121-year-old frontiersman Jack Crabb in Arthur Penn's western *Little Big Man*. In his 50s he returned to star as Willy Loman and Shylock. So he knows something about the vagaries of ageing. Therefore, it seems appropriate that he makes his confident directorial debut at 75, directing a formidable ensemble cast ranging in age from 31-year-old Sheridan Smith to actors pushing 80 and beyond in a movie adapted by the 78-year-old Ronald Harwood from his own adroitly crafted play *Quartet*.

As portraits of old age go, *Quartet* is better than that other recent retirement comedy, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, but only in the way a touch of lumbago is better than shingles. The link between them is Maggie Smith, who plays in both films a querulous old lady in need of a hip replacement.



A racist ratbag in *Marigold Hotel*, here Smith is a once-renowned opera singer arriving at a genteel retirement home for classical performers like herself. Naturally, she's a study in pinched hauteur – no one looks down their nose quite like Dame Maggie – and at first refuses to partake of the pensioner camaraderie or to lend her services to the charity show they're putting on to celebrate Verdi's birthday.

I was not sure how this ossified play by Harwood could be rejuvenated, and Hoffman's impersonal direction provides no miracle cure. Perhaps he thought the cast would take care of themselves. I passed the time deciding which of the characters was the most annoying: the potty-mouthed old goat (Billy Connolly), the forgetful Mrs. Pepperpot (Pauline Collins) or the bumptious luvvie producer (Michael Gambon).



I found Tom Courtenay an elegant cut above the rest as Reginald, Dame Maggie's heartbroken ex-husband, though he too had to endure a mortifying scene in which his character attempts to posit a link between opera and rap. The producers needn't have bothered with that: nobody under the age of 25 will voluntarily watch *Quartet*, and on this occasion I don't blame them.

Old age is a tricky one for cinema. On the one hand, we can't bear too much of the reality. On the other, we shouldn't have to sit through feeble stuff like this, with its patronising view of "silly old folk" and its stale arthritic jokes.

There is a great film yet to be made about ageing. There are great actors to play in it. The question is: are there writers and directors up for a challenge?



Back In Time

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

The Battle Of The River Plate

There was a time during the early 1960s when I travelled back and forth to Buenos Aires almost every week. They were business trips and I would sometimes take the Night Boat but usually fly PLUNA or Aerolíneas Argentinas. On most of those flights the pilot would dip his wing so that his passengers could see the tip of the mast of the Admiral Graf Spee, the German battleship, sticking up out of the waters of the River Plate. On one occasion I was travelling with my father and as we peered through the window at the mast he said, "I saw her go down." He noticed my look of surprise and, as we enjoyed our café con leche and croissants, he told me the story.

The Second World War broke out in September 1939. One of Germany's early tactics was to disrupt the flow of supplies bound for Britain from the Río de la Plata. The Admiral Graf Spee, a German pocket battleship, was thus assigned to raid merchant shipping in the South Atlantic. The British Admiralty responded by dispatching three cruisers—the Exeter, Ajax, and Achilles—that found and engaged the raider on December 13, 1939 a few miles off the coast of Uruguay, in the wide estuary of the River Plate.

After a long day of battle all ships were damaged, especially the Exeter, that suffered the lion's share of casualties. The British ships took positions at the mouth of the estuary as the Graf Spee limped into Montevideo where her Commander, Captain Hans Langsdorff hoped to make repairs before attempting a run back to Germany. Uruguay was neutral at the time but had a longstanding, cordial relationship with Great Britain and was known to favour the Allies. The Uruguayan government was scrupulous in its reading of the Hague Convention and informed the German captain that he could have no more than 72 hours in port. British intelligence, meanwhile, was working furiously to feed false information to the Germans, who became convinced that additional Allied naval power was standing by to challenge the beleaguered battleship.

Captain Langsdorff had a reputation as an honourable man who avoided pointless loss of life by evacuating merchant seamen in lifeboats before sinking their ships. He earned the respect of British officers for his humane treatment of prisoners. By all accounts, "he was not a typical Nazi but a German gentleman of the old school. A decent chap." Langsdorff now faced a difficult

decision. The German High Command was adamant that the Graf Spee should not fall into enemy hands. Given Uruguayan sympathies, remaining in Montevideo would be tantamount to just that. His options were therefore to make a run for Argentina, which was pro-Nazi at the time, or scuttle his ship. Rather than risk the lives of his men for no military advantage, Captain Langsdorff chose the latter option, a decision that was rumoured to have infuriated Hitler.

The German sailors were taken off the Graf Spee and interned in Argentina, while arrangements were made for British prisoners to be released into Uruguayan custody. All the wounded were taken to the British Hospital in Montevideo. The German dead were buried in the Cementerio del Norte; Royal Navy casualties that had not been buried at sea were laid to rest in the British Cemetery.

On the evening of December 17, 1939 Captain Langsdorff and a skeleton crew sailed their ship out of Montevideo's harbour and dropped anchor just within Uruguayan territorial waters. After setting scuttling charges the Germans boarded an Argentine tug and were taken to Buenos Aires. As the sun set and thousands of people—including my father—watched from the Montevideo shoreline, the Graf Spee exploded and burst into flames. In classic naval tradition, Captain Langsdorff wanted to go down with his ship, but his officers reminded him that it was his duty to help his crew navigate their new circumstances. Once he had taken care of those formalities, Captain Langsdorff retired to his hotel room and took his own life. He was buried with full military honours in La Chacarita Cemetery in Buenos Aires.

My father finished the story as we taxied towards the airport, then we went our separate ways to take care of the business that had brought us to Argentina. That evening we were on the same flight home to Montevideo. Shortly after taking off the airhostess brought us a couple of scotch and sodas and some peanuts. Just then the pilot dipped his wing and we were once again peering down at the water. Dark waves rippled around the mast, now ghostly in the moonlight, rising up from the battered wreck that had been sitting on the bottom of the sea for twenty-five years. My father raised his glass and said, "To Uruguay." I touched my glass to his and agreed.



Dr. Jorge E. Stanham, CBE

by Dr. Jorge Stanham, MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

Hard work. Long hours. Phone calls, home and hospital visits at night. Working on weekends. As I grew into consciousness, childhood and adolescence, this was typical of my father's – and our family's – life. In spite of this, I revered him as a role model and chose to be a doctor myself, knowing what was in store for me and my future wife and family. I wasn't alone: at medical school, instructors and professors asked me what relationship I had to *el profesor* Stanham – *el Inglés*, as he was nicknamed; they too had him as a model physician, teacher and mentor. Up to now, even doctors younger than I who had a chance to work with him, describe how they were touched by his very special approach to the practice of medicine. Socially, those I met who were either his patients or their close relatives also spoke greatly of him, of his listening, diagnostic and treatment skills, but especially of his highly personalised approach to caring for his patients.

From the time of my graduation to the day he retired, I had the opportunity of working alongside him for eighteen years. During that time, I saw how he was able not only to adapt to the changes in the practice of medicine and healthcare, but also to be the agent of needed organisational change himself. Although at first sight he seemed somewhat conservative, he accepted and embraced those new ideas which he believed would be beneficial and encouraged those who proposed them to go ahead.

He practised in many different environments: in the public sector, where he cared for people of humble background; as an instructor and professor at the medical school; he had an extensive list of private patients, many of whom were expatriates from embassies and foreign companies; he had a surgery at the British Hospital, where he also cared for his inpatients and the railway personnel in the now disappeared general wards, where he was a role-model and a teacher for many nurses and young physicians. His main teachings, as I recall them were: *"There's only one way to do this: the right way"*; *"You don't enter medicine to become rich"*; *"The only way to start to make a right diagnosis is to listen carefully, ask the right questions and do a thorough physical examination."* In spite of being shy and appearing stern, he was well known for his witty sense of humour, which sprang up in the most unexpected circumstances.

From 1978 till 1996, he was the Medical Director of the British Hospital. During this timespan, extensive changes took place within the hospital: the opening of the Intensive Care Unit, the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, the Dialysis Unit, the installation of the first magnetic resonance equipment in Uruguay, the opening of the new outpatient and casualty area and the original Cecil Stevenson wing, plus many other changes and improvements. He saw the phasing out of the general

wards and the end of the longtime relationship with the railway, together with the incorporation of new customer groups like the notary publics and the new insurance plans. During his last years as Medical Director, he lived through the changes in healthcare typical of that time, when management had more say in the running of what was considered a business as much as a service. After leaving the Medical Director position, he practised privately for two more years, until he retired in March 1998, when I was the new Medical Director of the British Hospital.

Due to his many services to the British Community and to Her Majesty, he was awarded the OBE and more recently the CBE, a distinction held by less than a handful in Uruguay.

After retiring, he travelled a bit, but what he most liked was to take care of his garden together with my mother, which he did until the day before he died. Their roses won many prizes and I learned from him some tricks of the trade. He enjoyed walking on the beach, especially on the ocean shores of Rocha. In his mid-eighties, he surprised the lifeguards at La Pedrera by swimming beyond the breaking surf.

When we were children and adolescents, his extended work hours did not impede him from being an extraordinary father. He enjoyed family outings to the beach, river boating, sailing, camping and travelling within Uruguay and neighbouring countries; he was a great outdoorsman, an excellent swimmer and an enthusiastic football player. He worked hard so as to provide us with the best education available. His commitment to work and family was such that he travelled abroad only after the age of fifty.

He is survived by our mother Paulina, his wife of sixty-one years of marriage, six children, twenty-one grandchildren (plus one on the way) and nine great-grandchildren (plus one on the way).

It has been more than fifteen years since he retired. Over these years the British Hospital has changed so much, that you can barely identify any part which is unchanged since my father worked there for around forty years. In these few weeks since he departed, I finally found an untouched part of the hospital: the old *art deco* staircase which connects the ground floor to the Maternity ward. It still has the same steps and the same chrome handrail that I recall from my childhood, as I remember my father coming down those stairs to the main entrance on Avenida Italia to take me and my mother home at the end of a long workday. Whenever I go up or down those steps today, I think that my father looked at them many thousands of times, in the same way I see them now. As long as those steps are there, they'll be my little sacred place where we'll connect.



Dr. Jorge E. Stanham, CBE





The Far Side

by Gary Larson

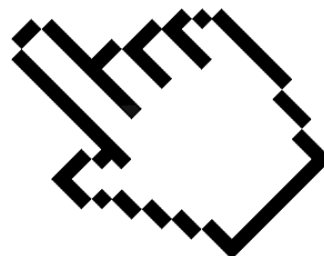


"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"

Link Of The Month

The beauty of pollination

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4>



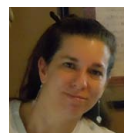
The Society At A Glance

Executive Committee



President: Richard Empson
president@britsoc.org.uy / 099 658 497

Vice-President: Jessica Bell
vp@britsoc.org.uy / 099 210 984



Treasurer: Madeleine Pool
treasurer@britsoc.org.uy / 098 503 920

Secretary: Susan McConnell
secretary@britsoc.org.uy / 099 267 413



Newsletter Editor / Webmaster:
Ricky Medina
editor@britsoc.org.uy / 094 547 279

Others



Chairman of the Sir Winston
Churchill Home and Benevolent
Funds: Liz Cowley
swch@britsoc.org.uy / 099 692 757

Auditor: Ian McConnell
imccConnell@winterbotham.com / 099 155 663