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## Coming Events

### ► Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November

- This Is Brumour Too, 20:00 hrs. at the William Shakespeare Theatre, San José 1426.

### ► Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

- British Society Croquet Tournament, 10:00 hrs. at the Yatch Club Uruguayo's 5-a-side football pitches in the Puerto del Buceo.
- The Green House Bingo, 17:00 hrs. at Christ Church.

### ► Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

- Remembrance Day Service, 10:00 hrs. at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

### ► Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November

- Remembrance Day Service, 10:40 hrs. at the British Cemetery.

### ► Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

- St. Andrew's Society Dinner, 20:30 hrs. at the Regency Suites Hotel (Gabriel Otero 6428).





## President's Blurbs

Dear members

This month brings us The British Society's annual croquet tournament, which has moved back to the Yacht Club Uruguayo given the demise of the Lamb Stadium. Forecasts predict a cloudy day, but no rain, so I hope to see many of you on there trying to wrest the British Society Cup from serial champion Richard Cowley and his wife Liz.

We will also be having the Society's annual outing, this time to Bodega Artesana – sponsors of this year's lecture-supper cycle and producers of some first-class wines – where we hope to savour some of their wines as well as tour the vineyards and enjoy a hearty lunch. That will be on December 1st, but I wanted to let you all know now, since our next Newsletter is due that same day. Places are limited, so I recommend you book now rather than later.

We will be calling an Extraordinary General Meeting later this month to present the revised Society statutes – which we have updated to reflect our current reality – to you, our members, seeking your approval before proceeding to send them to the Uruguayan Ministry

of Education and Culture. I look forward to your attendance at this Meeting.

As announced last month, the Society is looking into getting deals from commercial operators which favour our members. The first is with telephone operators Claro, and is detailed further on in this Newsletter. However, to prove your membership of The British Society we have had to produce membership cards, which will be ready in the next few days and you are welcome to request from our Honorary Secretary Susan McConnell at your convenience. We hope you like the idea, and welcome any feedback you may want to give us in this regard.

**The British Society in Uruguay**  
**Sociedad Británica en Uruguay**



John Smith

## British Society Lecture Supper

The sixth and last lecture-supper of the 2013 cycle will be held on Wednesday 4th December starting 19:30 hrs. (venue to be confirmed).

The event will feature British climate risk economist Simon Atkins MBA/PhD/DSc, an atmospheric scientist and an expert on planetary electromagnetics, energy medicine and cerebral energetics, among other fields, who will be talking to us about the "Top 10 Global Hotspots & Planetary Threat Predictions That Will Likely Challenge Us Into 2014 & Beyond". Simon is the CEO of climate change hazard and planetary risk consulting think-tank Advanced Forecasting Corporation, and has over 20 years of experience providing ground-breaking insight, predictions and strategies to over twenty industries, Fortune 500 businesses and investment groups affected by natural-based perils, so you can be assured that this talk will be interesting to say the least!



As is the custom, the meal to be served immediately following the lecture will be specially prepared for the occasion by our excellent British Community cooks.

Tickets are set at \$300 for members and \$400 for non-members. Seating is limited, so book your place a.s.a.p. at [events@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:events@britsoc.org.uy) or by calling Susan McConnell on 099267413.

## SWCH News

Our Committee has been blessed with dedicated members. David Bolger was quiet, kind, efficient and ceaseless,

along with Patricia, in supporting so many of our Community Members in need. He has been sadly missed for a long time, as he and Patricia coped with his long illness. Our thanks for sharing David with us and our love, and sympathy to all his family.

Sadly on the same day, Betty Machado died peacefully in her home accompanied by Raquel Montero who has cared and indulged her lovingly for so many years. Pastor Diego Frisch led the farewell ceremony surrounded by friends and a chapel beautifully decorated by Victoria Cooper. Later in the week Diego held a short service with residents, staff and Committee members at the SWCH.



Andrea Davies has freed herself to visit the Home more frequently and have FUN! With Bingo, trivia and even Hangman! If you have games/puzzles/ideas the team is here for you!

One of a series of posters created by our staff to share at a training day. The British Hospital have established a new profile for our staff and implemented training and encouragement for them as they care for our residents. As Gerry Fairless tells us – the girls could not be kinder!



We continue with gradual improvements in the Home although the cry goes up continually that we just do not have the space needed. Spring always draws our attention to the lack of access to a garden. So we took pictures of the daffodils and roses for the residents to have a peek!

Elizabeth Hyland and Liz met with Martin Wells to welcome him as the new Chairman of the British Hospital. As former Chairman of the Sir Winston Churchill Home he is well aware of our needs!

Andrea is also posting our pictures on the BritSoc Facebook Page! Thank you one and all!





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To have access to this plan you must present proof of membership of the institution. The 12 instalments without surcharge paying with OCA offer is valid until 30 November. The 10 instalments without surcharge paying with VISA offer is valid until 31 December. Contracts are for 2 years. The unlimited calls to all Claro numbers free of charge pack is valid for 6 months. As from the 7th month, clients may choose to keep this pack by paying \$100 per month on top of the cost of the plan. If they chose not to do so, they must request cancellation of the pack (at no additional cost). For further information see <http://www.claro.com.uy>



*Si. Claro si.*



## British Society Croquet Tournament

The British Society has set the date for its annual croquet tournament for Saturday 9th November, starting at 10:00 and ending at 13:00.

This 7th edition of the tournament will be held at the Yatch Club Uruguayo's five-a-side football pitch, in the Puerto del Buceo.

Rules of engagement will be the usual: players compete in teams of 2 people in a knock-out easy version of learn-as-you-play golf croquet.

Players must be at least 13 years old. Everyone is welcome; no previous experience is necessary. No special clothing is required, though tennis shoes are recommended and ladies should avoid long skirts. Given that it will be late spring, caps or hats are a good idea too.

Don't miss your chance to wrest the famed British Society Cup from current holders Richard & Liz Cowley!



The entry fee will be \$200 for members of The British Society and \$350 for non-members. Iced tea will be included; soft drinks will cost \$15 the glass. Fallback date in case of foul weather will be Sunday 10th November.

There will be a maximum of 24 players, so book your place now at [secretary@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:secretary@britsoc.org.uy) or by calling Susan McConnell at 099267413.

## British Society Annual Outing



This year's much-awaited annual Society outing will be a visit to Bodega Artesana, sponsors of the 2013 lecture-supper cycle whose wines have been repeatedly complimented by attendees of those events, on Sunday 1st December.

Departure will be from the British Embassy (Marco Bruto 1073) at 09:30 hrs. The bus will proceed towards Carrasco and make a single stop at the junction of Avenida Arocena and the Rambla at 09:45. From there the bus will continue to Las Brujas, Canelones, estimated time of arrival at the Bodega being 11:00.

There we will make a guided tour the vineyards

and visit the wine plant, after which we will savour Artesana's excellent wines over a delicious three-course meal. Lunch will consist of a variety of cheeses, cold meats and quiches as a starter, stuffed pork with grilled vegetables and roast potatoes and yams as a main course, and apple pie with ice cream for dessert followed by coffee. A special menu for children with soft drinks will also be available.

Tickets, which include transport, the guided tour, the meal and the wine-tasting, will cost \$950 for Society members and \$1200 for non-members. Spaces are limited, so book your place now at [events@britsoc.org](mailto:events@britsoc.org) or by calling Susan McConnell on 099267413.





## British Embassy News

Follow us on **Facebook**  
and keep in the loop!

### Falklands Business Visit

A delegation of 14 members of the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce came to Montevideo to develop business contacts and links. The UK-Uruguay Chamber of Commerce organised an excellent programme for them, which included over 50 meetings and a visit to the stadium to watch the Uruguay vs. Argentina match. Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns held a reception at the Residence attended by the delegation and a number of business contacts.



### Heritage Day

Hundreds of Uruguayans chose to visit the Ambassador's Residence during Heritage Day. This year, the Embassy prepared a special presentation about Tango in the UK. We wish to thank all the volunteers who generously gave their time and acted as guides, explaining the history of the house, its furniture, pieces of art and showing the gardens to the visitors.



### Honour

Mr. Chris Pool received a "British Empire Medal", BEM, an honour awarded by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in recognition of his very considerable service to the community in Uruguay. The Ambassador presented Mr. Pool this award during a private lunch for him and his family.



### Run For A Cause

Our Consul, Katharine Felton, took part in the "Passport to Freedom" 5K run organised by Sabre on 17 October. With the theme "run against people trafficking", the aim was to raise awareness about this illegal practice.



### Chevening Scholarships

Interested in studying a Master's degree in the UK? There are still two weeks to apply for a Chevening-ANII scholarship. Fields: Energy, International Relations, Health, Environment and Biodiversity, and Information and Communications Technology. Deadline is 15 November. Visit [www.chevening.org/uruguay](http://www.chevening.org/uruguay) for more information.



## Holy Trinity News

Greetings, One and All.

Summer seems to be taking its time getting here. Let's hope it has good weather in store for us when it does arrive!

The month of November will be quite a busy one for people connected with Holy Trinity, and for the Diocese as well.

When you receive this, I will be visiting in our Companion Diocese of Oklahoma, where they will be having their annual Convention (Synod). The Bishop and people of Oklahoma have been very supportive of our efforts to move towards self-subsistence and we look forward to thanking them for their support, as well as exploring ways in which this partnership can be strengthened.

I will get back in time to help out, on Saturday, November 9th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at a Sale of Handicrafts, Used Clothing and Tea in Lafone Hall.

The following day, Sunday, November 10th, the Cathedral will host the annual Remembrance Day

service and parade. Several ambassadors have been invited and are expected to attend. The service begins, as always, at 10 a.m.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to participate in the Cemetery Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 11th, as I have to travel to Chile for our Triennial Provincial Synod. However, the Cathedral will be well represented at this service.

On November 23 and 24th, the Diocese will be holding its annual Synod meetings in Lafone Hall. Part of this year's Synod will be a Service of Installation for the Diocesan Bishop. This will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday (Nov. 24th), beginning at 10 a.m.

We look forward to welcoming you to one or more of these events.

As always, should you have specific needs or requests, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Wishing you every blessing,  
Bishop Michele Pollesel

## The Green Residence



The Green Residence will be lodging for permanent living, part-time, recovery time or summer time. It will always be professionally supervised and will contemplate English traditions. Living in this community will allow elderly residents to enjoy a social life in the best of conditions.

We welcome you to join us at our informative Bingo that will take place on Saturday, November 9th from 17:00 to 19:00 hrs. in Christ Church. There you will be able to play, look, ask, listen, and who knows... Maybe even win a prize! Tea will be included.

More information next month!



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Anglo News

Tongue-in-Cheek presents



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

Friday, 8th November 2013, 8.00 pm  
William Shakespeare Theatre,  
San José 1426  
Tickets \$250 from RED UTS  
or Boletería del Anglo





## St. Andrew's Society News

St. Andrew's Society Of Uruguay Requests the pleasure of your company at our St. Andrew's Day Dinner to be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013, at 20:30 hrs. at the Regency Suites Hotel (Gabriel Otero 6428).

For organizational purposes, kindly let us know by November 9<sup>th</sup> if it is your intention to assist.

Raquel Stewart: [stewartmermaid@hotmail.com](mailto:stewartmermaid@hotmail.com) 24801453, 099157615

Gonzalo Rodriguez: [iagrimgr@adinet.com.uy](mailto:iagrimgr@adinet.com.uy) 24805826, 099682625

Or e-mail us at: [standrewssocietyofuruguay@gmail.com](mailto:standrewssocietyofuruguay@gmail.com)

## WDA News

The WDA takes pleasure in informing you about our next event. It will be our Annual Bazaar, which will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 hrs. at Lafone Hall in Holy Trinity. Although we have many beautiful things, donations of clothes and other things are always welcome.

## Obituaries

### David Bolger

A dear member of the British Community, always ready to lend a hand to assist those in need, who ever they may be.

For many years served as Treasurer of the Sir Winston Churchill Home and likewise Secretary of the British Cemetery Society. These two offices took up much of his time, he gave that with pleasure. When thanked he always had an approval with a very timid grin.

He shall not be forgotten. His deeds will remain in many hearts.

### Betty Machado

A lively, active member of our Community remembered by many for her yoga and bridge classes and for being President of the BWA. Gladys Symonds and Jean Martin opened their homes during later happy years for Betty.

Most eloquent would be to share the following memories among the testimonies given at the Chapel

service led by Pastor Diego Frisch:

'Many of you may know that during the war, Betty and her husband performed at the London Palladium under the stage name of "Lamar and Rosita". A Google search of "Lamar and Rosita Palladium" will lead one to a book entitled "The London Palladium: The Story of the Theatre and its Stars", wherein one will find our dear Betty and her husband performing delightful ballet sequences, particularly in special performances for the troupes. Many many blessings to our Rosita, now reunited with Lamar.'

'I was so very sorry to hear the news about Betty. It was impossible not to have tender feelings towards her because of her rare and lovely smile and the trusting childlike look in her eyes. She brought out the best in everybody, her companions at the home loved her, looked after her and felt very gently protective about her. She will be missed very much. Didn't it always seem that she was the one person everyone could agree on loving and liking with all of us different characters and personalities that meet, work and live at SWCH? She truly was a gift of God to all of us.'



## Geoff the Chef's Corner

by Geoffrey Deakin  
gde@boskejo.com

Last Saturday night, we had the pleasure of having over for dinner my uncle Fred, who was a long time in finally coming over, and my dear parents-in-law. This is why today's recipe is named after him, the oldest Deakin in Uruguay.

### Chicken A La Fred

#### Ingredients:

- 8 chicken thighs (with skin if your cholesterol is OK)
- 2 cups parboiled rice
- 250 grams tomato paste
- 3 cubes of chicken bouillon
- 1 whole onion
- 1 green pepper
- 1 red pepper
- ½ celery
- 300 grams chopped carrots
- 300 grams green peas
- 300 grams sweet corn
- Salt, ground pepper, Soy sauce, Sesame seeds, Olive oil

#### Instructions

##### The chicken & rice

1. Peel and chop half of the onion
2. Stir fry the chopped onion in a large pot or a pressure cooker (best to use if you're in a hurry)
3. Add the chicken thighs and cover with lots of water
4. Season with salt, ground pepper, Soy sauce (generously) and 2 chicken bouillon cubes.
5. Add the tomato paste and stir, stir, stir...
6. Cover and cook in medium heat for 1 hour or 30 minutes in pressure cooker. It's important not to let the sauce dry up.
7. After the chicken is cooked, add the two cups of rice and let it slow-cook for 20 to 30 minutes. Lower the heat to minimum.

##### The veggies

1. Slice the peppers into long strips
2. Cut the onion into rings
3. Trim and cut the celery into small pieces
4. Put the onion, peppers, celery, carrots, peas and sweet corn in a large Wok and stir fry adding Olive oil.
5. Add a chicken bouillon cube and season to taste with salt, pepper, etc.

6. Stir fry for 15 minutes in high heat.
7. Add lots of Soy sauce a few minutes before serving so the veggies will keep their original colour.

It's very important not to let the chicken and rice dry up. The rice should have a fairly liquid consistency. Should you notice that it's drying up, add small amounts of warm water.



### Martin Fierro Jr.

Do you want to try a different way of relishing the traditional Uruguayan dessert, "Martin Fierro"?

Cut the same amount of Colonia cheese and Quincy jam and place in a ceramic mug; the type used for large coffees. Cook in the microwave for 30 seconds in medium high or until the cheese and the jam are melted.

After taking out of the oven, let it rest for a few seconds. It's very hot!

Slowly mix with a spoon and have it for an easy sweet on a cool night.

### Tip O' The Day

A baked potato bar is easy to assemble. Pierce each potato a couple of times with a fork and microwave on High until cooked throughout. Meanwhile, get your toppings ready (shredded reduced-fat cheese, fat-free sour cream, chopped chives or green onions, and/or turkey bacon bits.).

Enjoy!



## Arts & Culture

by Alice Tourn  
aytourn@gmail.com

### Alice Goes Nobel

Canada's Alice Munro won the Nobel literature prize last month, thus becoming the 13th woman to win a Nobel literature prize in the history of the coveted award since it was first awarded in 1901. She is also the first Canadian to win the prestigious honour.

The Swedish Academy honoured Munro, aged 82, as a "master of the contemporary short story". It hailed her finely tuned storytelling, which is characterised by clarity and psychological realism. Some critics have called her the Canadian Chekhov.

Munro will receive the prize sum of eight million Swedish kronor (US\$1.24 million). She will be presented with her award at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

Born on July 10, 1931 in Wingham, Ontario, she grew up in the countryside. Her father Robert Eric Laidlaw raised foxes and poultry, while her mother was a small town schoolteacher.

Munro sets her taut, acutely observed stories in small town environments of the rural Ontario where she grew up, where the struggle for a socially acceptable existence often results in strained relationships and moral conflicts.

Despite her vast success and an impressive list of literary prizes awarded over the past four decades, Munro remains as unassuming and modest as the characters in her collections of short stories and novels. These are usually women who do not fit the normal stereotype of the beautiful, ravishing heroine, possibly reflecting the puritan values of her childhood.

As brilliant, dignified and elegant as Munro is, she is sometimes described as the complete opposite of another great dame of Canadian literature: Margaret Atwood.

At just 11 years old, she decided she wanted to be a writer, and never wavered in her career choice. "I think maybe I was successful in doing this because I didn't have any other talents", she explained in a recent interview. "I'm not really an intellectual", Munro

said. "I was an okay housewife but I wasn't that great. There was never anything else that I was really drawn to doing so nothing interfered in the way life interferes for so many people".

Munro's first story "The Dimensions of a Shadow" was published in 1950 while she was studying at the University of Western Ontario. It was at school that she met her first husband James Munro. The couple married in 1951 and moved to Vancouver in westernmost Canada, where they raised three girls. In 1963, they bought a house in Victoria and opened a bookstore, Munro's Books, described by author Allan Fotheringham as "the most magnificent bookstore in Canada and possibly in all of North America".



Munro was three times awarded the Governor General's Award for fiction, first for "Dance of the Happy Shades" (1968). "Who Do You Think You Are" (1978) and "The Progress of Love" (1986) also won Canada's highest literary honour. Her short stories often appeared in the pages of prestigious magazines such as The New Yorker and The Atlantic Monthly, with her latest collection "Dear Life" appearing in 2012.

After Munro's first marriage ended in divorce in 1972, she took a post as a writer-in-residence at her alma mater in Ontario. Four years later, she remarried, to geographer Gerald Fremlin, and published new works every four years on average.

Munro said earlier this year that she was "probably" not going to write anymore. She insisted in an interview with the New York Times that she meant to retire and said "Dear Life" would be her last work.





## Back In Time

by Tony Beckwith  
[tony@tonybeckwith.com](mailto:tony@tonybeckwith.com)

### Subtitled Saturday Night

In my sixteenth summer I spent a couple of months at my father's cousin's estancia near the small town of Venado Tuerto, in Argentina. VT (as the local Brits call it) is in the province of Santa Fe, three hundred-odd kilometres from Buenos Aires.

I was a city boy, and that summer was something of a rite of passage for me. I was thrown from an enormous horse at the end of a terrifying gallop through fields of waving corn. I drove a car for the first time and peeled the entire left-side door off the garage as I honed my reversing skills. I learned about gin & tonics with a slice of lemon (from a tree just outside the kitchen door) and discovered the thrill of carrying my own cigarettes and lighter. I developed a crush on my father's cousin's daughter-by-a-previous-marriage who was some years older than I and seemed so glamorous that I grew weak at the very thought of her. Well, that may be a little over-dramatic, but I was going through a rather theatrical phase at the time.

One Saturday the whole family went to the Venado Tuerto Polo and Athletic Club. It was a tiny British Isle in a vast *criollo* sea; a classic vision of Empire with its fine pavilion and splendid playing fields, an iconic image of that green and pleasant land, the Anglo-Argentine's mythical "home." The members were *ingleses* of one kind or another: those who were born in the UK, those with one or more British-born parents, those with British grandparents, those who were married to one of the above, and so on. There was a cricket match in progress on the immaculate pitch, with players dotted around in strategic positions. None were as dashing as the batsmen in their cream-coloured flannel trousers, white shirt, and short-sleeved pullover, with pads strapped on and a bat slung over the shoulder. Tea was served on the long veranda where spectators watched the game, clapping occasionally as leather struck willow in the golden light of a late-summer afternoon. "Oh, well played Nigel!"

Of all the stirring memories of that period, there is one that stands out above the rest. In those days VT was a huddle of houses and a few stores at a highway intersection in a vast expanse of flat, fertile land. There was one large building in town that served as the venue for any event of any size. About once a month,

someone brought a projector and a couple of reels from the nearest large town and showed a movie on Saturday night. People came from far and wide, from shack and farmhouse and estancia. Everyone brought a chair and something to eat and drink, and after an eternity of milling and settling, the crowd was ready for the show.

The movies were often foreign productions with Spanish subtitles. After a few scenes, during which the subtitles glided across the bottom of the screen at their usual pace, somebody would invariably call out, "Hey, slow down! I can't read everything if you go so fast." A brouhaha would ensue, with some people making rude remarks about other peoples' education, other people saying it was better to be a little slow at reading than to have a face like a donkey, and still others calling out: "Next time, why don't you stay at home and send your chickens instead? I bet they can read faster than you can!"

While everyone was busy letting off steam, the projectionist would cut back the throttle on his machine and the movie would slow down. Scenes and subtitles now remained on the screen for a good long time and there was scattered applause and enthusiastic cries of "That's better!" The actors now moved as though they were under water: their speech was slow and gravelly and slurred, their gestures surreal and absurd. Any music on the soundtrack was ruined, sounding now as though it was being played by a band of exhausted bagpipers at the end of a particularly long day. And of course, the film dragged on for hours.

During the numerous intermissions needed for changing reels and assorted technical difficulties, people would mingle, share food and gossip, occasionally arrange a marriage, and always trade tall tales about the weather. Children gathered under the long admissions table near the door and giggled hysterically at everything that any of them said. Teenagers with bright, darting eyes exchanged loaded looks, smiling and whispering behind cupped hands. Sometimes the hubbub was so loud that people didn't even notice when the picture lurched back onto the screen again. But it didn't much matter. Nobody really came for the movie anyway.



# Lamb Chops

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

## Hearts Of Oak

Is it true that Brits like wine with a bit of oak in it? If so, this column recommends Don Pascual's Tannat 2011, 'Crianza en roble', which according to the label spends six to nine months in oak barrels before bottling. 'Vigorous, structured and complex', it says, with notes of red fruit and minerals. Not sure about the red fruits and minerals, but the oak does seem to help it along. Around \$230. Or, if you live in Miami, \$1053.35.

## Progress

Waitrose seem to be the only supermarket chain in the UK that is currently selling Uruguayan wine: Carlos and Ana Pizzorno's excellent and elegant bottles of red at £8.79, discounted to £6.99. 'A sturdy, plump blend of brooding Tannat and plummy mellow Merlot. Try with a sausage casserole'. Hmm. Seen on a jar of Waitrose mixed nut mixture: 'Contains nuts. May contain other nuts'. Seen on a can of Belgian fruit juice: 'Jus de pomme a base de jus de pomme'. Seen on a sociology textbook in the UK: 'This book is not to be used underwater.'

## UK Summer

Dreadful in May and June, lovely in July, August, September - and even some of October. Who expects summer in May anyway? Consternation all round until July - 'wettest on record', etc - then more consternation

about global warming after that. Some might contend that one of the factors contributing to this national love of consternation is technology. If you look at the sea through a powerful enough telescope, every wave is a tsunami.

## Players Quiz

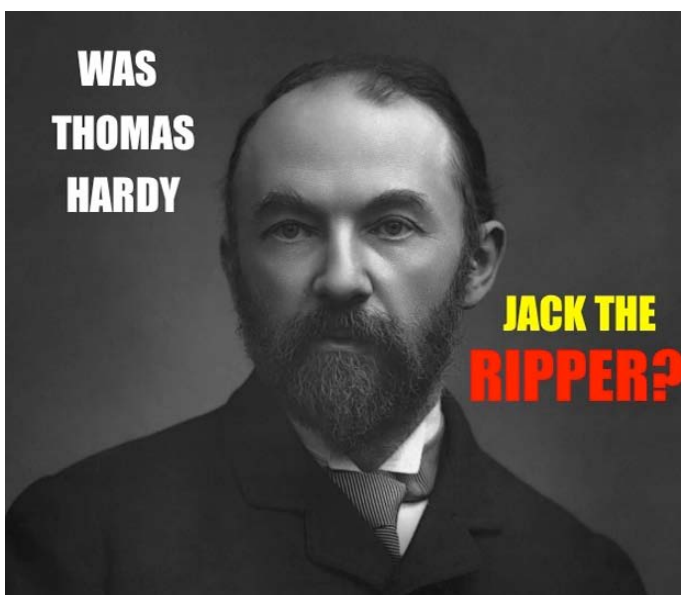
What a great evening this was. This column has what the police call 'previous', having applied for University Challenge in undergraduate days and failed dismally at a series of test questions beginning 'Which British colony has a name meaning fragrant harbour'? (Answer: Hong Kong). The secret of success is to ask for a copy of the questions, use them at family quizzes for several years, and then apply for University Challenge again as a graduate student - amazing the questioner with correct answers to a series of test questions beginning 'Which British colony has a name meaning fragrant harbour'?

## Screwed Up

Moving house from Montevideo to Punta del Este, with all the dodgy house repairs it involves, brings to mind the words of the Head of Chancery's wife thirty years ago. 'The window was loose - it needed mending', she said. 'So we had some workers in and they screwed it up'.

## Here We Go Again

The average asking price of a house in London is now £509,000 (USD 816,000). Everybody's blaming the Government, as if the capital were not full of boltholes for the international rich from Szechuan to Syria. But HMG is doing its best to be noticed. After the last global inferno, in which minimal-deposit mortgages were lavished on those with a YMBJ credit status (You Must Be Joking), the Government's new solution is something called 'Help to Buy', with - guess what? - loans for those who can put down a deposit of 5%. Hold onto your hats, guys, here we go again.





## Medical Column

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

### Waiting Lists

You've just come out of your doctor's office and go directly to the reception desk. The assistant asks "How can I help you?" and you promptly state: "Dr X wants me to come for follow-up in two weeks to see me with the new tests he just ordered." "Sorry," says the clerk, "the next available appointment is next month." – which is about five weeks ahead. Does this sound familiar? Unfortunately, this is all too common and reflects a generalized mismatch between the demand and the supply of services, which leads to unnecessary stress for the patient who needs to lobby for an extra slot and for the physician who has to accommodate an extra patient in an already full schedule. This also happens for appointments with specialists, for diagnostic imaging like computed tomography and magnetic resonance, plus other services.

Why does this mismatch happen? If we discount downtime for personal and national holidays, illness or other externalities, the basic reason lies within how services are programmed and how demand is managed. Most services, including doctors' appointment slots and workdays, diagnostic and treatment procedures, are initially designed to provide just the enough number of services per time to accommodate to the perceived demand. To a certain extent, this means that the supply of services is expanded in reactive mode, depending on the length of the waiting list and the pressure of demand requesting services labelled as urgent, even if they are not such, because the waiting time is unreasonably long. Providing just the number of services so as to keep the amount of pressure of demand in the tolerable range is self-defeating, even if it makes sense from the point of view of the balance sheet; ie: we spend as little as possible in providing the service so as to keep our overhead low and maximise our income. The reason for the uncomfortably long queue is simply crude mathematics as expressed in common formulae, of which a simple one is given at the end of this article.\*

To avoid excessive waiting lists, models of service provision have been designed which are called open access or advanced access. The theory behind these is based on queueing theory and that demand is to a certain extent predictable. For example, in primary medical practice (general, internal, paediatric and family medicine) demand is usually estimated at 8-9 requests per 1000 persons per day, which is less than 1 per cent of the population base. There are expected fluctuations, like the Monday surge and the autumn-winter season with upper and lower respiratory infections, plus during epidemics like influenza and other readily transmissible diseases. This means that, most of the time, having ample slots available for a defined population base, will never encourage swamping by inexhaustible demand. Many doctors and services feel falsely reassured by having long waiting lists with their slots filled weeks ahead, as this give the reassurance of steady future income – which looks good for overhead expenses. In reality, if they offer more slots per day, some will be maybe be left empty, but the queue will be a lot shorter, increasing the quality of the service provided and in the end the total number of services effectively provided won't decrease – maybe even increase slightly. It may require extended service times and more personnel, but the quality of the service and care given will benefit enormously. Waiting will always be with us to a certain extent, but unreasonable lengthy queues are a reflection of poor service design. The reason behind this is simple: too few services for too many demands, which is sometimes the result of overselling the service to a larger population base that will eventually overwhelm the number of services that will be provided. In the end, the trade-off is between the balance sheet and the quality of the service.

*\* If saturation (sat) = demand/supply then the length of a queue is  $(sat)^2/(1-sat)$  where sat is a fraction of 1, ranging from 0 to 1. Whenever supply of services is very close to or barely exceeds demand, the queue is very long. Providing a service at a rate which aims to equal demand defeats itself: the queue is theoretically INFINITE! (division by zero).*





# Crossword Puzzle

by Leonard Thane

By LEONARD THANE

#26

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

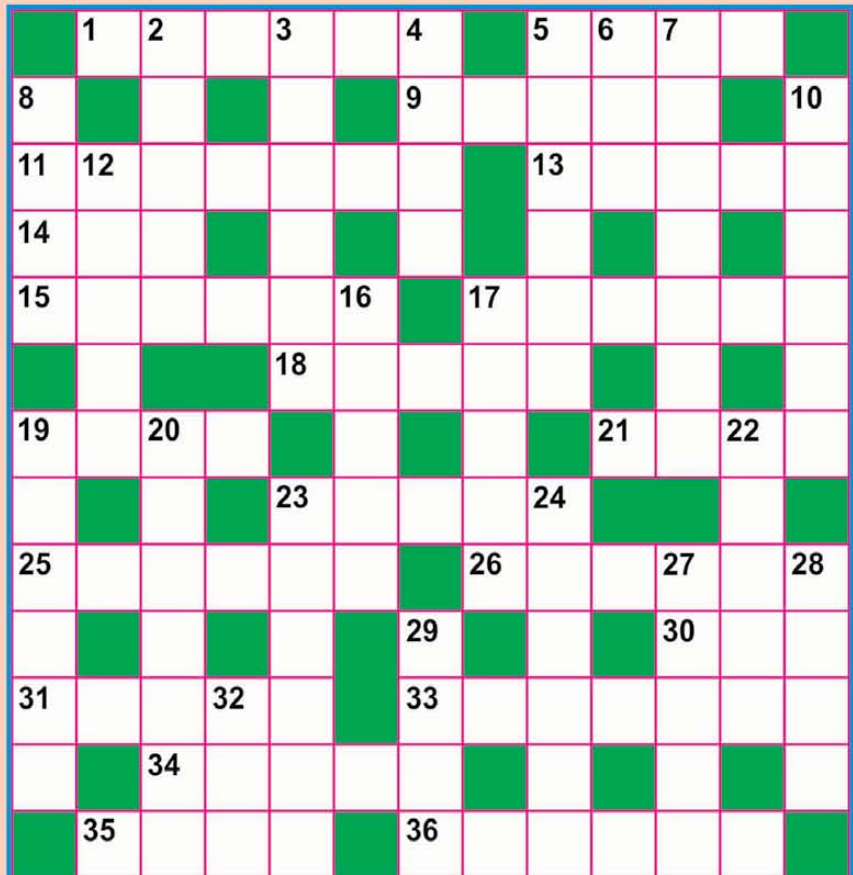
BACK AFTER MANY HECTIC WEEKS IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

## Across

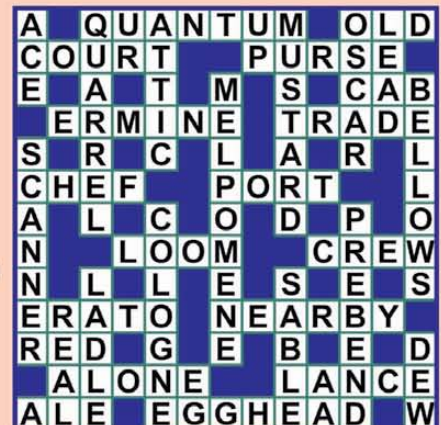
- 1) Obstruct, hinder.
- 5) Small, poisonous snakes.
- 9) Il signor Alighieri, poet.
- 11) Set on fire.
- 13) Artificial silk.
- 14) Fib.
- 15) Not an expert.
- 17) Package, wrapped object.
- 18) Female prophet or fortune teller.
- 19) Interrupt movement or other action.
- 21) Burden of proof.
- 23) Beautiful English county.
- 25) Placard or bill posted in a public place.
- 26) People who wander from one place to another.
- 30) Hawaiian wreath of flowers for visitors.
- 31) Played slowly, in a dignified way.
- 33) Console, try to make someone feel better.
- 34) Short match with a wood or wax shank.
- 35) A special occasion to celebrate something.
- 36) Tool used to play croquet or polo.

## Down

- 2) ... makes the world go round, they say.
- 3) Actors in the crowd.
- 4) Small whirlpool.
- 5) Happening once a year.
- 6) Porky's dwelling place?
- 7) Water bird with a baggy bill.
- 8) Place where grain is crushed into flour.
- 10) Lower leg joints.
- 12) Sudden, overwhelming fear.
- 16) African country.
- 17) Tall metal structure that supports electric wires.
- 19) To provide what is needed or requested.
- 20) To see and notice, to watch.
- 22) Below or at a lower level.
- 23) Oust, remove from a position of power.
- 24) Usual, typical or expected.
- 27) Without company.
- 28) Place where something important or interesting happened.
- 29) Clever but dishonest way to get money.
- 32) Obtain.



## Crossword # 25





## Future Events

### ▶ Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

- ▶ British Society Annual Trip, departing 9:30 hrs. from the British Embassy (Marco Bruto 1073)

### ▶ Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

- ▶ British Society Lecture Supper, 19:30 hrs.

### ▶ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

- ▶ WDA Bazaar, 14:00 hrs. at Lafone Hall.

## Link Of The Month

You'd never expect such a voice from a child, right?  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yf6UMg7JPEU>



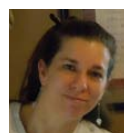
## The Society At A Glance

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### Others

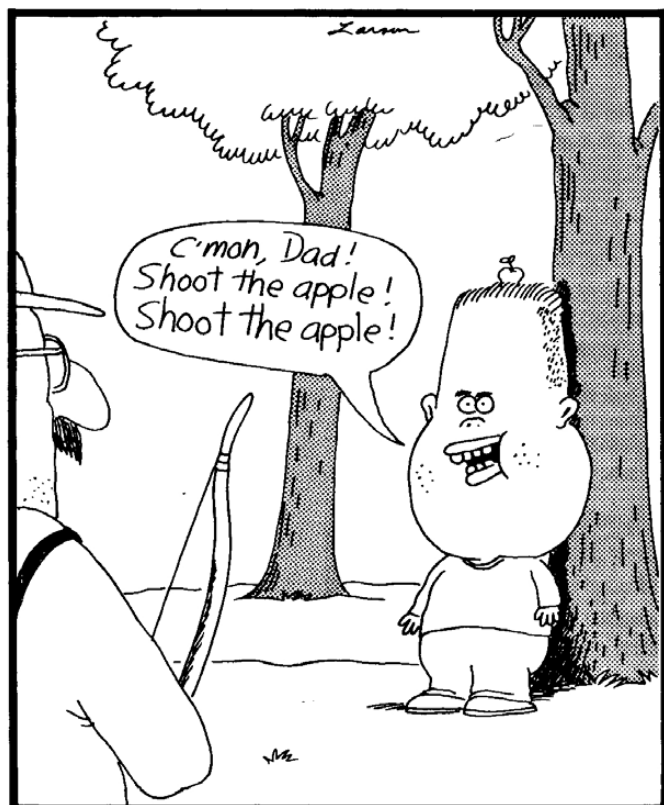


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## The Far Side

by Gary Larson



Unknown to most historians, William Tell had an older and less fortunate son named Warren.