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Coming Events

▶ Thursday 29th January

- ▶ St. Andrew's Society's Burns Eve, 18:00 hrs. at Balneario Solís (Look at St. Andrew's Society News for directions)



President's Words

Dear readers,

The end of the year has come upon us fast, and with it, the satisfaction of having seen this community enjoy many events, delivered our Newsletters, carried on updating fun news on our Facebook page, redesigned our web site, worked on making e-communications more attractive, and put in plenty of care and dedication into the Sir Winston Churchill Home and Benevolent fund. Many people are involved and committed into making all this possible, to all of you my sincere thanks.

This is what keeps this community so active and alive.

This New Year finds us with renewed spirits and new goals we have set ourselves, and which we will surely achieve with your help.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and happy holidays to you all!

"Big girls need big diamonds" Elizabeth Taylor

SWCH News

On December 12th, The British Schools Choir visited to sing carols. HMA Ben Lyster-Binns and his three children visited on the 16th at tea time. They brought a Christmas cake, a large beautiful flower arrangement and a bottle of sherry. Ana and the carers had the table set very nicely and everyone enjoyed the visit. Ernesto's granddaughter delighted everyone with Petit Lemon Pies.

Three years ago HMA Ben Lyster-Binns suggested taking a collection to benefit the Benevolent Fund of

The British Society as guests exited the Residence after the Christmas Carols reception. The proceeds have increased each year and the Committee is very grateful to announce that the collection this year totalled UYU 13.530, more than double last year's receipts.

The Committee offers its sincerest thanks to the Ambassador and Mrs. Lyster-Binns for their continued support and to each and every one of the attendees who took the opportunity to contribute. Thank you and best wishes for the New Year!



British Embassy News

Follow us on Facebook
and keep in the loop!

Christmas Carols

The Ambassador and his family invited the British Community and friends of the Embassy to the traditional Christmas Carols at the Residence. Hundreds of people sang together a selection of carols along with The British Schools children who delighted everyone with their beautiful voices.



Queen's Honours

The Ambassador presented Silvio Di Marco with a British Empire Medal, BEM, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of his services to the British Embassy in Uruguay. Silvio worked for 30 years in the British Embassy until he retired in 2013 as Corporate Services Manager.



Battle Of The River Plate

The Ambassador and Defence Attache Andy Hancock took part in the many commemorations held in Montevideo and Punta del Este to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate. In his speech, the Ambassador shared messages from the family of Admiral Sir Henry Harwood and from the Ajax, Achilles and Exeter River Plate Associations sent especially for the occasion.



Changes To Birth And Death Registrations

UK birth registrations and death registrations in Uruguay have been transferred from the British Embassy in Montevideo to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK.

There are no changes to the entitlement to register a birth or death. The processing time will remain the same. However, you will now need to allow extra time for the documents to be sent to and from the UK. See <https://www.gov.uk/register-a-death> and <https://www.gov.uk/register-a-birth> for further information.



Anglo News

by John Robinson


ANGLO
IMMERSION
SUMMER
COURSES
2015

THIS SUMMER, GIVE YOUR ENGLISH A PUSH!



3 LEVELS
OF COMMUNICATION

PRE-INTERMEDIATE
INTERMEDIATE
ADVANCED

Days and times

Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays
8.30 to 10.00 or
18.30 to 20.00

Venue

Anglo Centro
San José 1426

Price (materials included)

2 payments of \$2400
(no enrolment fee)

Enrolments are open

as from January 26th,
2015 onwards

Starting date

Monday 2nd, February

Finishing date

Friday 27th, February

www.anglo.edu.uy

 /Anglo-Incompany

St. Andrew's Society News

The Society will celebrate Robert Burns Eve on Saturday the 24th of January in Balneario Solis.

June Martin has kindly lent us her garden for the event which will commence with Jonathan reciting Burns' "Address To A Haggis" at 6pm. followed by others reciting and singing some of his poems and Ballads. So bring your Garden Chair a mug and something to share for Tea. We will serve hot tea, ice tea and lemonade plus a slice of our special "Tea Haggis". Cost

per person \$100 (15 year olds and under free) money raised go to The Benevolent Fund.

To get to the event coming from Montevideo after crossing the River and Toll take the second turning left (first after the road to Pueblo Aznarez). Go one short block and one long block and turn right and another long block once past that road first gate on the right. Being outdoors, the event will be cancelled in case of rain or poor weather.

Silver River Lodge News

All our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month from March through to November at the William G. Best Masonic Temple, located at calle Canelones 1429, Montevideo.

For further information please contact at us at secretarysrl876@gmail.com or call Mr. Martin Macadam at 096 001995.

This month's answer about Freemasonry is:

Question: Isn't it true that Freemasons only look after

each other?

Answer: No. From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been involved in charitable activities. Since its inception, Freemasonry has provided support not only for widows and orphans of Freemasons but also for many others within the community. Whilst some Masonic charities cater specifically but not exclusively for Masons or their dependents, others make significant grants to non-Masonic organisations. On a local level, lodges give substantial support to local causes.



Lamb Chops

by Jonathan Lamb
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Hmmlet

Those lucky enough to have been at the Solis on 22 November have had good things to say about the Globe's visiting Hamlet. Except, that is, for JJ Castillos, who writes: 'I was very disappointed and wondered what cast was this they sent us. Women playing the roles of men, it destroys credibility. When the ghost of the dead king shows up, the text is clear, he moves slow and majestic, the actor playing him moved fast and his lines were read with very little body language and without the chilling, dramatic undertone you see in any decent Hamlet.' Quite a putdown – but not as good as W. S. Gilbert, who was asked to describe a performance by his arch-enemy Sir Hubert Beerbohm-Tree in the role of Hamlet. His reply was, 'Funny without being vulgar'.

Three Men And A Battle

Unquestionable histrionic talents were on display in December, however, when B. Lyster-Binns took to the boards to give Rudyard Kipling's 'If' at the launch of Diego Fischer's new book about Sir Eugen Millington-Drake. (Cracking good book it is too: Fischer weaves together the lives of Sir Eugen, patriotic dockowner Alberto Voulminot and Juan Spielmann, whose family Sir Eugen saved from the Holocaust by letter the very day after the Graf Spee went down. Juan was there at the Imperium Building to recall this almost casual act of generosity, pointing out that he had only discovered the delights of Uruguay because Millington-Drake was posted there and not somewhere else. He does seem to have had no shortage of chutzpah, the Minister Plenipotentiary. On entering the residence the first thing you met was the blade from his Blue Boat, and you were liable to get talked through all the other trophies he had won. But what vision he had, what purpose. And he went on sponsoring the Spielmanns for years after the war.) Millington-Drake was a great fan of 'If', which is actually rather a dispiriting poem, though always voted top of the UK's popularity polls. The father is in effect warning his son that everyone will doubt him, blame him, tarry with him, lie to him, hate him, twist his words to make a trap for fools, break his life's work and bankrupt him at gambling. Death will be long and painful. Particularly chilling is the line 'If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you'. So, Rudyard, we must all ensure we can't be hurt by loving friends? Just lie back on the couch, will you?

One of the achievements of British education in the 19th century was that it produced so many writers with memorably awful childhoods. Kipling himself had a miserable time. Later, the great writer was a slight figure, all eyebrows and moustache, with the spectacles and voice of a bank clerk. His cousin was Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, who sounds not dissimilar.

<http://www.shelfactualization.com/2012/08/the-writers-voice-rudyard-kipling.html>

<http://www.history.com/speeches/stanley-baldwin-on-the-world-situation#stanley-baldwin-on-the-world-situation>

Native English voices sought

For casting purposes, any native English speaker (UK, US, South African etc) living within easy reach of Punta del Este is invited to get in touch with vozinglesa@gmail.com. There are no voiceover jobs on the books at the moment but it would be useful to have a list of people to tip off when something comes up, usually every couple of months and at short notice.

Hidden Painters

In December's comp, Marge and Tina were the aunts whose tears made their parting nephew say, 'Don't cry for me, Marge and Tina': and Mr and Mrs Christmas's daughter was of course Mary. This month, find the five French painters hidden in this text, when spoken aloud:

"Trekking shoes, sir?" said the salesman. "For Easter weekend? No time to lose! Low trekking, sir, or altitude work? Treads, or spikes? Treads? These ones are also suitable for holiday gardening. Try putting them on. Aching feet can quickly blister and go gangrenous, sir, so these are good, we sell a lot of them at Easter time."

Clue: In alphabetical order, Degas, Gauguin, Matisse, Monet and Toulouse-Lautrec.



Medical Column

by Dr. Jorge Stanham, MBE
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The Santa Claus Syndrome

About a week before Christmas, my wife Alice took our late-midlife Corsa station wagon to the mechanic, to check on a few strange sounds which came from the front of the car. To our shame, it was simply that the bonnet was incompletely closed. But what really impressed her was that the mechanic's business was flooded with cars which were there for eleventh-hour check-ups at the end of the year. He said that this is something that happens every year: car owners wait until the last week-day-hour-minute to check on any possible malfunction, prior to the holiday season.

The story immediately evoked what happens with a significant proportion of my patients. Some have skipped planned tests that could have been done earlier in the year, probably because they had competing priorities (very understandable) but as the end of the year approaches, their medical balance sheet shines in bright red ink and they frantically grope aimlessly for a last-minute appointment, competing with others in the same situation... a real bottleneck! I call this the Santa Claus syndrome: everything that could have been done earlier in a more relaxed and planned fashion, suddenly becomes deadlined by Christmas Eve, as happens with presents we have to buy and give plus parties and celebrations competing for every evening and night.

In a prior article, I mentioned that regular yearly check-ups for persons without any active disorder and no clear risk for an underlying illness, were probably of little value. However, the end of the year sends the alarm clocks ringing for many who find out that they have lived (pretty much ok, in fact) for more than a year without seeing me or having any tests, which I may have suggested be done during in the year that is

ending. When I get requests from these 'worried well' patients, to be seen ASAP before Xmas, my message is clear: "Just go on vacation! Do you want to spend your holiday in permanent worry? See me in February or March." I even write them orders for tests to be done in this timeframe, but believe me, some of these patients will end up next December test-free and repeating the cycle again! Fortunately, many of my patients get the message and show up early in the work year, giving us plenty of flexitime to plan any further needed tests in the following weeks or months.

Healthcare in the present age can be considered a commodity and as such its supply, demand, consumption and market cycle parallel many other products and services we use. To a certain extent, we may apply to healthcare the same criteria we use with other products and services we consume. I can describe two typical behaviours. One of them we can call the 'balance-sheet approach': if the numbers start to be printed in red, we enter alarm-mode and activate our crisis management system; everything is urgent and we start working as if we were surrounded by deadlines; i.e.: the Santa Claus end-of-year syndrome. The alternative behaviour can be labelled the 'budget approach': we plan for the next year and schedule the important things (e.g. healthcare follow-ups) as early as possible. As the end of the year approaches, only the 'urgent and important' things will concern us, as most of the routine chores will have been completed.

To all: My best wishes for Christmas and 2015.

Notice To Society Members

To our Community Members:

This following period shall have vacancies to be filled in several positions, so if you are a member of our British Society and are interested in taking a more active role, please let us know.

We shall be needing a new Newsletter Editor for our monthly editions, a Treasurer for the Sir Winston Churchill Home and Benevolent Fund, and we would very much appreciate the involvement of the younger members of our community with our Home and Fund.



Geoff the Chef's Corner

by Geoffrey Deakin
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Finally, 2015 begins, amongst huge fanfare and great expectations. This year I am going to dedicate most of my recipes to very traditional dishes, always keeping simplicity in mind. Enjoy!

Mom's Yorkshire Pudding

The recipe calls for two tablespoons of good grease. The grease can come from a roast beef, roast lamb, or roast turkey. In case you do not have grease, just use regular cooking oil.

A few hours before dinner, whisk together the following in a mixing bowl:

- ½ litre of milk
- 5 eggs
- 250 grams of flour
- A pinch of salt

Refrigerate the batter for a few hours before baking.

Preheat the oven to 250°C / 480°F degrees and place a 13x9 Pyrex pan inside. The pan must be very hot – sizzling hot.

Once it is heated, throw in the 2 tablespoons of grease (or oil) and return the pan to the oven for a few minutes.

Pour the batter into the pan when the grease has melted and coated the bottom and is sputtering like a small volcano.

Take out the batter out of the refrigerator and whisk it once more vigorously.

Remove the hot pan from the oven, pour the batter into it, and return it to the oven for 30 minutes.

You should never open the door to check on the pudding while it bakes. Instead, peer through the oven door window as its various corners begin to bubble and rise into the peaks and valleys that constitute a truly great Yorkshire pudding. Remember that the best Yorkshire puddings are half air.

Make sure you have warmed up some gravy and meat to serve atop the pudding as the clock ticks down, because you will want to eat as soon as it comes from the oven.

If the pudding is completely flat, which sometimes happens, do not despair. It will still taste good. Next time, try to heat up the oil a little bit more.

Thanks as always Mom!

And remember, love and cook with wild abandon and a very Happy New Year!





Back In Time

by Tony Beckwith
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The Best Of Both Worlds

Who hasn't dreamed of enjoying the best of both worlds? It's one of those coveted experiences, like being on cloud nine or in seventh heaven. My brother and I once caught a fleeting glimpse of just how blissful it could be, but we also learned that sometimes you can ask for too much, and then be doomed to watch that bliss slip through your fingers like sand.

In the early 1950s we became aware that, for some lucky children, there were not one but two opportunities to rake in toys and other loot during the holiday season. My British grandparents brought their Christmas traditions with them when they settled in Argentina, and passed them on to my parents who brought them with us when we moved to Uruguay. So we grew up with the story of Santa Claus and a decorated tree with presents under it, to be opened in a frenzy on Christmas morning. Most Uruguayan children enjoyed essentially the same ritual, but instead of Santa Claus they waited for *Los Reyes Magos*—the Three Kings—who delivered presents in the early hours of January 6, *Día de Reyes* [King's Day], or Epiphany in the Christian calendar. The lucky ones mentioned above were visited by both!

The *Reyes* event began in Catholic Spain and became a fixture in the countries that were once part of the Spanish Empire. Commercial establishments were naturally more interested in sales than in the precise boundaries of religious or cultural traditions, so the northern European Christmas was also celebrated everywhere in Latin America. Department stores and other retailers embraced both Santa Claus and the *Reyes Magos* in an orgy of promotion that no doubt helped the bottom line while encouraging a materialistic interpretation of the two traditions at the expense of their more exalted meanings. Not that one can blame the retailers, since they were merely responding to the demands of parents who, over the course of many generations, had been conditioned to believe that children are happiest when they get what they want. I wouldn't describe my parents as being particularly over-indulgent, but they certainly wanted their children to be happy. This was an Achilles heel that my brother and I successfully exploited for one brief, shining moment before overplaying our hand and executing the proverbial golden goose.

Our main strategies for trying to get our way involved the usual, unimaginative claims that "everyone else was doing it" or that life would be a miserable, wretched experience for all concerned if some particular thing was not done or purchased. Somehow, on this occasion, we managed to convince our parents that, as British children living in Uruguay we owed it to everyone to

celebrate both Christmas and *Reyes*. Giddy to have pulled off such a coup, we set about researching this newfound cornucopia. We learned that the Three Kings were also known as Wise Men or Magi whose knowledge of astronomy helped them to navigate by the stars and find their way to Bethlehem. Their names were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar and they brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the baby Jesus. We assumed we could probably trade the gold for something, but had no use at all for frankincense or the other one, so were greatly relieved to hear from our little Uruguayan friends that the Kings actually had a far broader range, and could deliver modern toys and even bicycles.

In all the pictures we found, the *Reyes* were always riding on camels, with what looked like a shooting star in the night sky above them. This was of some concern because they did not appear to be equipped to carry significant quantities of gifts. Santa Claus had a large sled but the camels didn't even have saddlebags, as far as we could tell. I should mention that this all happened at about the time of the Great Uncertainty. My brother, who was a little older, had heard rumours at school that Santa Claus was a fiction created by parents, and some of our friends were whispering the same thing about the Three Kings. This was a radical idea that we decided was best ignored until after the 6th of January, as there was a lot at stake in the coming weeks and we didn't want to rock the boat.

Our most alarming discovery was that, according to the tradition, children left their shoes out on the balcony to be filled with gifts by the night visitors. *Shoes?* How many gifts could possibly fit in a shoe? A penknife, maybe, and a small torch, but not much else. This was no good at all. Our friends assured us that shoes to the Kings were like stockings to Santa Claus; a symbol, nothing more. But we were new to the game and unwilling to take any chances. When we casually questioned the suitability of shoes as receptacles for the Wise Men's gifts, our parents asked what we had in mind. We replied that pillowcases seemed far more appropriate, and in that moment knew that we had pushed our luck too far. The look on their faces revealed that our parents had finally understood that their children were in the grip of Greed, one of the seven deadly sins, and that they were on the verge of failing us as stewards of our moral and spiritual development. Horrified, they said that perhaps celebrating *Reyes* wasn't such a good idea after all, and somehow my brother and I knew that it would be pointless to protest. It was over. The 6th of January came and went as just another day, and the subject was never mentioned again.



Future Events

- ▶ **Sunday 15th March**
 - ▶ St. Andrew's Society Picnic.
- ▶ **Friday 9th May**
 - ▶ St. Andrew's Society Ceilidh.



Link Of The Month

The City Of London... It might catch a few of you off guard!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrObZ_HZZUc



The Society At A Glance

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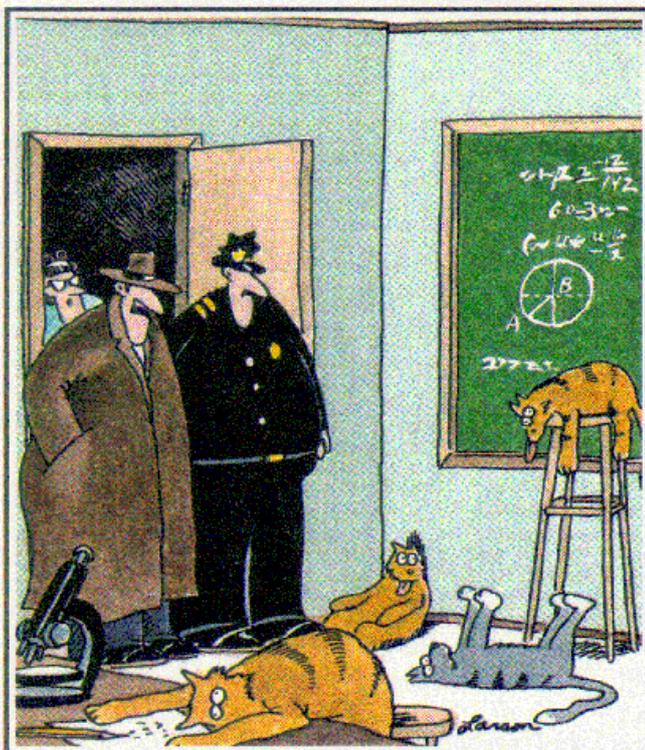


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The Far Side

by Gary Larson



"Notice all the computations, theoretical scribbings, and lab equipment, Norm. ...
Yes, curiosity killed these cats."