

CROQUET FUN-TIME!



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# Contact

November 2015

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## Remembrance Day

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month

[www.britsoc.org.uy](http://www.britsoc.org.uy)





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## THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



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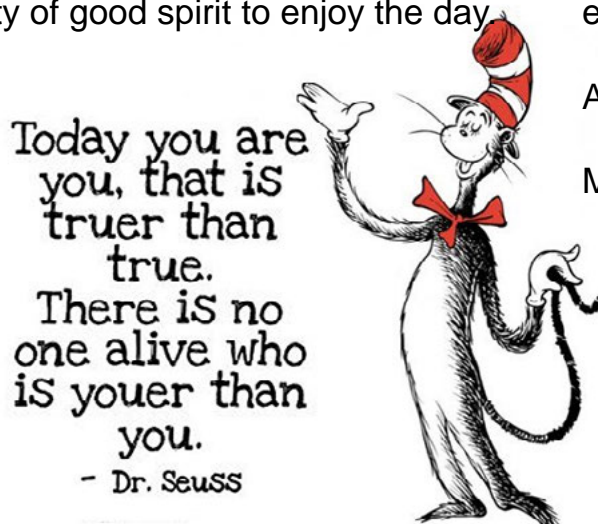


## PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear readers,

We've had a very busy month. First a Lecture Supper at our Ambassador's Residence, where our Defense Attaché, Cap. Andy Hancock, put us up to date on The Royal Navy. And, just recently, our end of year trip to Bodega Los Nadies, where Manuel Filgueira and his wife gave us a warm welcome, walked us through the process of winemaking, and gave us to enjoy tasting some of his finest wines. Accompanying us was London actor Neil Titley, who visited Montevideo and Buenos Aires, with a dramatized reading on one of England's funniest writers: Oscar Wilde. With a quite outstanding backstage, Neil gave a wonderful show, with all the wit and humour, we'd only best hope for, from Oscar. Please see below more details.

Coming up soon will be our last event of the year, and a new opportunity to regain the always elusive cup of our croquet tournament! The Yacht Club will, once again, host this event, for its 9th running year, so please join us on the 15th November, get a partner (or let us know if you need one) and enjoy some fun in the sun. No need to actually know how to play, the rules will be explained on the field, so just bring a hat and plenty of good spirit to enjoy the day.



We've had quite a nice input from George and Andrew Beare, regarding our elected new name for the Newsletter. George's good memory brought to us that "Contact" was a magazine that circulated during WW2, bringing news from the front to Montevideo, and Andrew has sent us a copy (that his father Arturo had so carefully kept), so thanks to them both. I'm copying its cover page, so see if that jogs your memory enough!

Remembrance Day is coming up, and with it, a good time to be grateful for what was achieved, with so much sacrifice from our previous generations. See our upcoming events and join its remembrance with us.

All the best,

Madeleine





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, 11th November**

### **Fields of Remembrance Service**

The Allies

British Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.

**From 12th to 27th November**

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Montevideo Players Society

Neil Fairless Centre, Acevedo Diaz 2324

**Saturday, 14th November**

### **Green Yard Sale**

The Green Residence

Avenida Italia, 6485

**Sunday, 15th November**

### **Remembrance Day Service**

The Anglican Church & The Allies

Holy Trinity at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, 15th November**

### **Croquet Tournament**

The British Society in Uruguay

Yacht Club

**Saturday, 28th November**

### **The 4 Seasons**

British Cemetery

At 3:00 p.m.

## ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWS

The Anglican Church of Uruguay has a brand new Website that can be seen on your PCs, Tablets and Smartphones.

Take a look (click here): <http://anglicanchurch.uy>



## SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME NEWS

October was a very busy month for the Residents inspite of the lousy weather.

On the 10th October, Patrimonio Day, Joan was one of the Tour Guides at the Templo Inglés, Herbert watched the Rugby Match Uruguay vs England at the Residence of the British Embassy, and on the 15th October Mrs. Bertha Jackson escorted Herbert, Joan and Peter to the Lecture Supper.

The physical exercises keep them really fit.







## BSU LECTURE SUPPER

Mid October saw our final Lecture Supper of the year with a grand finale, hosted at our Ambassador's Residence and with a new lecturer into our ranks, we were happy to welcome our Defense Attaché Captain Andy Hancock to give us a talk on The Royal Navy, Today and Tomorrow. With a good video presentation and heaps of knowledge on the subject, we came up to date on what The Royal Navy does, where it's going, and how it relates to Uruguay. Many thanks for the talk to you and we hope to have you back in the future.

A delicious meal of pumpkin ravioli with filetto sauce and Chicken tandoori with several salads followed the talk with a choice of dessert, of brownie with ice cream, and apple crumble and cream. So many thanks to Belinda and her organizational skills, and to the residence's team for the handsome meal. It was a good rest for our cooks to enjoy and a cherished event for our community.







## END OF YEAR TRIP

Our end of year trip took us to Bodega Los Nadies, where owner Manuel Filgueira and his wife opened his vineyard to us, and took us into the wine making process. It was a pleasure to receive such knowledge from someone who displays such a vocation for the wine making, and shows passion for his work. Many thanks for the warm welcome we received. We also worked on the vines, tasted the wine, and had a lovely lunch with a lucky sun shining day.

London actor Neil Titley, who had just come back from giving a show in Buenos Aires the previous day, and joined us for the Sunday day out, got a big change of scenario, and so with an open air stage, vineyards as a backdrop, and a few geese cackling in the background, got us all enthralled in his production of Oscar Wilde's life story as if told by the great man himself, with all the spice and humour of Oscar, kept us laughing throughout the performance. A fantastic show. Congratulations and a huge thank you, it was very much enjoyed.

Tea and scones and we were back, thanks for a much agreeable day.







## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### BRITLAN

Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns hosted a UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) presentation to the Latin American British Chambers of Commerce (Britlan) during their annual meeting, held 6-9 October in Montevideo. Tim Hanson, Director of Trade and Investment in Argentina, talked about UK's commercial opportunities and priorities, followed by a lunch. The Uruguayan British Chamber of Commerce hosted the conference in Montevideo as part of their centenary celebrations.



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

### SECURITY IN SPORTS

Inspectors of the Sports Ground Security Authority, SGSA, delivered training sessions for those in charge of security at football stadiums and basketball courts in Uruguay. Martin Girvan and Geoffrey Robert were invited by the National Sports Secretary, Fernando Cáceres to learn from the British experts in preventing violence at sporting events.

The Embassy facilitated a visit by SGSA experts earlier this year and Cáceres participated in a conference in the UK a few months ago where he was able to learn first-hand about the UK's experience in this important area.





## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### OPEN DAY



Over 600 people visited the British Residence which was open to the public during Día del Patrimonio on 10 October. The Ambassador was delighted to personally guide some of the groups.

That afternoon, members of the British Society and Embassy staff watched the England-Uruguay rugby match.

### DEFENCE COOPERATION

Experts from the UK Defence Academy along with Defence Attaché Captain Andy Hancock delivered a course called "UK Strategic Leadership Programme." 39 officials from the Uruguayan Ministries of Defence, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Police Department and Armed

Forces took part in the training sessions that took place 12-15 October. The group also participated in the Battle of Trafalgar 210th anniversary celebration held at the Ambassador's Residence.





## ANGLO NEWS

**-WANTED-**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT WHY, A CENTURY AGO THIS MONTH,  
THESE TWO MEN KILLED 240 HEROES.**

**AND WHY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES COVERED IT UP.**

**"Quintin's Hill", a 40-minute play for voices about the biggest train crash in British history,  
a century ago this year. Anglo Library, 7 pm Thursday 26 November.  
Admission free. First come, first served.**

[anglocultural@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:anglocultural@anglo.edu.uy)



**ANGLO**



## SILVER RIVER LODGE NEWS

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

For further information please contact us at [secretarysrl876@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysrl876@gmail.com) or call Mr. Martin Macadam at 096 001 995.



### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ABOUT FREEMASONRY IS:

**Q** What is the relationship between Freemasonry and groups like the Orange Order, Odd Fellows and Buffaloes?

**A** None. There are numerous fraternal orders and Friendly Societies whose rituals, regalia and organisation are similar in some respects to Freemasonry's. They have no formal or informal connections with Freemasonry.





## THE MONTEVIDEO PLAYERS SOCIETY



We are very excited to present our next production...

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by William Shakespeare

**Directed by Marcelo Garmendia.**

At 9:00 pm, at the Neil Fairless Centre, Acevedo Diaz 2324.

#### **SHOWS IN NOVEMBER:**

Thursday 12th - 95% BOOKED

Friday 13th - 95% BOOKED

Saturday 14th - 20% BOOKED

Thursday 19th - FULLY BOOKED

Wednesday 25th - 70% BOOKED

Friday 27th - 25% BOOKED

#### **TICKETS:**

Adults - \$ 250.-

Students & OAP's - \$ 150.-

**Members - FREE!**

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR STUDENTS -**

**ONLY FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY PERFORMANCES**

Groups of 10 or more (including the teacher!) pay only \$ 100.- each!

Bookings exclusively through: [montevideoplayers@gmail.com](mailto:montevideoplayers@gmail.com)



## MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

### Medical marijuana: weed, pot, THC and CBD1\*

Marijuana products are being progressively legalised all over the world. A wave of decriminalisation of its use and increased market availability is sweeping western societies. Uruguay is no exception and the past government changed the law and the present one is already on its way to regulating marijuana growing, processing and dispensing. Before these changes, marijuana products for personal use were not illegal, but paradoxically growing or selling it was a crime. In other words, if you had it on yourself, it simply had dropped from the sky... The advantages of legalising marijuana have been hyped, claiming that it would reduce drug traffic-related crime, that its purity would be safer when regulated and at the same time that it was supposedly beneficial for some (or many) medical conditions. Whatever my personal or my readers' position on recreational marijuana use, this will not be the issue of this article. My concern is that medical marijuana is a concept fraught with half-truths (if not outright lies) and that political-emotional pseudo-science is replacing medical evidence.

The marijuana plant (*Cannabis sativa*) has more than 100 compounds, called cannabinoids. Of these, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the most potent psychoactive component and the reason why marijuana is used recreationally, analogous to alcohol in booze, caffeine in coffee, cocaine in

crack or base, morphine in opium and so on. At present, all marijuana prescribed for medical use, contains THC and therefore there are issues related to its efficacy, safety and toxicity that must be taken into consideration. In countries or states where medical marijuana is legal, it has been said to be effective for cancer and cancer-related pain, glaucoma, the spasticity of certain neurological disorders and other conditions. Although some symptom relief is possible for these conditions, the strength of the evidence is at best very weak if at all and to a great extent the benefits are offset by the acute and chronic toxicity of THC. THC causes definite physical and psychological harm. It has been demonstrated to cause damage to the cardiovascular, respiratory, neurologic and reproductive systems. It can increase the damage to the liver caused by hepatitis C virus and can damage the foetal brain during pregnancy. Marijuana is clearly associated with mortality due to accidents, AIDS and lung cancer. Mental and cognitive disorders, including depersonalisation, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, psychosis and permanent brain damage, especially from early-onset, intense or continued use are the consequence of marijuana exposure. Marijuana is clearly addictive and there is a diagnostic code for cannabis withdrawal syndrome in the DSM-51, a worldwide standard for virtually all psychiatrists. In a nutshell, to say that marijuana is innocuous is an absolute fallacy.







## MEDICAL COLUMN ...Continued

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
jorgestanham@yahoo.com



Marijuana contains another substance called cannabidiol (CBD)... and this is an entirely different story. To a certain extent, the CBD component of marijuana offsets the euphoria associated with THC. Although still incompletely studied, it has been found of use in difficult-to-treat epilepsy, some manifestations of Parkinson disease, pain, dystonia and spasticity associated with some neurological disorders. It needs to be tested further for cancer-related pain. It has been found beneficial in anxiety disorders, sleep duration, some psychoses and may have a potential use in the treatment of addictions.

Up to now, marijuana to be labelled as 'medical' and available in the near future in Uruguay through pharmacies selling it on

a voluntary basis, would have a high THC content and therefore its true benefits for medical as opposed to recreational use are very doubtful. Besides, when used recreationally, CBD counteracts many of the psychoactive properties of THC, making it commercially unattractive. In the USA, legal dispensaries selling medical marijuana, have been known to have a higher than average THC content. Those seeking the more beneficial high-CBD products are having to pay an exorbitant price. An existing proposal to label marijuana as medical when the contents of THC and CBD are respectively less than 5% and more than 10% may be a good idea.

Claiming that the marijuana that will be marketed in Uruguay has medical benefits, looks more like a Trojan horse for recreational use with clear physical, developmental, mental and cognitive consequences. I definitely support the owners of pharmacies and the chemists who are responsible for dispensing medications, which are opposed to disguising recreational use as beneficial for health or making it look as harmless.

*\*My main source for this article is: Medical Marijuana: The State of the Science, by Martin E Schuman PhD, published on 06 February 2015 in Medscape (www.medscape.com).*

*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. American Psychiatric Association.*





## DICKENS INSTITUTE

### Dickens Awards Ceremony: CertTESOL & DipTESOL

On October 1st Dickens had the greatest pleasure in celebrating the CertTESOL and the DipTESOL Awards Ceremony at the Residence of the British Ambassador, Mr Ben Lyster-Binns.

As you may imagine this was a spectacular setting for such an important occasion. The Embassy is everything you expect it to be. When you arrive you are ushered to a big hall where the Ambassador and his wife will be waiting to greet you. Behind them there is a most imposing marble staircase that sweeps up to the upper floor. There are typically English flower arrangements everywhere.

At a little after six o'clock The Ambassador, Monica Harvey (Dickens Founder), Patricia Alvarez (Dickens Director) and Julio Churi (CertTESOL Course Director) were sitting behind a long table waiting for the audience to settle down.

The first to give a warm and excellent speech on the importance of English and Education was the Ambassador. Then, Monica told the story of how the TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Course had become the Cert TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Course. Julio Churi read a warm congratulatory message from Trinity College London and Patricia told all teachers to keep on studying and made us laugh a lot and cry a little.

The reps of the CertTESOL and DipTESOL former students gave funny but at the same time moving speeches remembering their hard times as students. The Certificates and Diplomas were duly handed over to their owners, photographs were taken and then the celebration began: really lovely food and drinks, including champagne!

This was a special evening indeed that included one generation of CertTESOL Teachers and one generation of DipTESOL teachers.



*The CertTESOL course is validated by Trinity College London, one of the two main UK national accreditation bodies in the field of teacher training. The course content has been designed to provide skills and knowledge for initial teacher training and to satisfy Trinity College guidelines and requirements.*

*After you get the CertTESOL you are ready to go on the job market. With three years of certified experience you can enter the Licentiate Diploma in TESOL, one of the highest international teaching qualifications worldwide, accredited at Level 7 by the English regulator of qualifications (OFQUAL).*







## BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith  
tony@tonybeckwith.com

Behind the shelter in the  
middle of a roundabout  
The pretty nurse is selling  
poppies from a tray

Penny Lane, The Beatles

### POPPY DAY

By 1955 the British Empire was no longer the powerhouse it had been in its glory days at the turn of the century. The imperial tide first turned then receded, leaving distant outposts feeling somewhat high and dry. In our community in Montevideo, our British roots were still a source of identity and pride, but it was our rituals and traditions that now kept our sense of Englishness alive.

One of those rituals was Poppy Day, celebrated on Armistice Day in remembrance of the moment when hostilities came to an end on the Western Front at “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918. Every November 11th since then, poppies are exchanged for donations to charities that benefit military personnel and their families. Everyone in our community wore a poppy. It would have been unthinkable not to. I was probably nearly six when I was given my first poppy, and I wore one every year after that, all the way through school and beyond. I can still picture that splash of blood-red petals on the lapel of my grey flannel jacket. It looked better, I thought, against the dark green uniform the girls wore at our co-ed school.

As I grew into my teens I started wondering about all kinds of things, one of which was what I would do if war broke out and I was either called up or expected to volunteer. At about that time, I came across the literary work that inspired the poppy ritual, and learned about the circumstances surrounding its origins. In early 1915, during the second battle of Ypres in Flanders, Belgium, Major John

McCrae, a Canadian doctor, was so moved by the death of a friend and fellow soldier that he wrote a poem. “In Flanders Fields” was published later that year in Punch magazine, and went on to become an iconic work, one of the best-known and most popular poems from ‘the war to end all wars’.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
between the crosses, row on row,  
that mark our place; and in the sky  
the larks, still bravely singing, fly  
scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
loved and were loved, and now we lie  
in Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
to you from failing hands we throw  
the torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
in Flanders fields*

McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies growing on the graves of fallen soldiers. Apparently, the environmental devastation inflicted by the war on Flemish battle fields contributed to a higher lime content, and poppies were among the few plants that could grow in that soil. As I read the poem and thought about those graves, I was torn by two conflicting emotions, each as powerful as the other.





## BACK IN TIME *...Continued*

“I would volunteer,” I thought. “I’d sign up and go wherever I was sent and fight to the death to protect my country and all that it means to me.” At other times I could see myself standing in a desolate field in the middle of nowhere on a cold, grey, drizzly day, up to my ankles in mud, as a soldier in a different uniform charged at me with his bayonet affixed.

a measure of shame) as other young men headed off on what must have seemed like the glamorous adventure of a lifetime. Many years later I came to understand something of how my Dad must have felt on being told he was unfit for active duty, and realized that those who are spared the actual fighting can also be scarred by war.



My uncle volunteered and spent the Second World War as a bomber pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for “outstanding ability, cool determination, and devotion to duty,” having completed many successful missions during which, “under a quiet and determined manner” he had been “an inspiration to his crew.” And he came through it all without a scratch. I wondered if I could ever be an inspiration to my crew. Or whether I’d turn and run from the bayonet pointed at my belly.

My father also volunteered, but was turned down on medical grounds. He was stricken with diabetes when he was fifteen—he always said it was brought on by the shock of his father’s untimely death—and had to swallow his disappointment (and, I imagine,

I was lucky, and never had the chance to find out how I would respond to a call to arms, or how I would perform in the heat of battle. Not for any lack of wars since my teens, but there have been none that threatened or involved me directly, and I am certainly no soldier of fortune. Nonetheless, in November I am always reminded of—and immensely grateful to—those who “lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow” and now lie in Flanders fields.







# LAMBCHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

## Oh No!

An amusing card game for two players, derived from demon patience. Take two packs of cards with different backs, shuffle each one separately and exchange it with the other player (to ensure good shuffling). Hands off the table. At the word 'go', both players cut their pack into two equal halves, and leave one half – the **Tower** – facing up. From the other half of their pack, both players deal out a line of five cards, face up (the **Line**). Then they fan out the remaining cards in their hand (the **Fan**) and play patience, selecting cards from the line, the fan and the top of the tower. They can, if they wish, build on the line (black 6 on red 7, red Jack on black Queen etc), filling any holes from the tower; and they can put aces out into the middle where both players can build on them (**Ace Piles**).



If they play a card onto an ace pile they have to announce it ('Five of clubs', etc). Of the cards in the line, only the five uncovered ones can be played into the middle, as in patience. Cards on ace piles score one point except for Kings which score ten. At any moment in the game, both players can agree to say 'Down' and put the exposed card on the top of the tower to the bottom. Play has to cease immediately as soon as someone gets rid of all 26 cards in their tower, and shouts 'Out!'. They get a ten point bonus for going out first. Then the fans and lines are discarded and the other player has to subtract the number of cards remaining

in their tower from the total of their cards in the ace piles (distinguishable because the backs are different). The player who goes out first has to have an extra card in the tower next time, but they can be one to shout 'go!'. NB: to avoid fist fights, cards may only be played onto ace piles with one hand. There can be a kitty into which players have to pay an agreed forfeit every time they swear. 'Oh No' is a euphemism.

## Resto Rat

What do you do when you run one of the most prestigious and expensive restaurants in the country, and are just showing a couple to their table one evening when a large rat emerges from beneath the seats in the waiting room and lumbers off towards the kitchen? Alerted by the startled couple, do you say

- 1) "What rat?" (risky);
- 2) "Yes, that's Oscar, we use him to keep down the cockroaches" (even riskier); or
- 3) "Sorry about that, dinner's on us."

In this instance, unfortunately, option 3 was not selected.

## Drats

Congratulations to defender George Stewart for lucking out in another Uruguayan Champs at the Players. George beat dark horse Syd Blackwell from Canada in two straight legs at the end of a fun evening with lots of people. The Players is looking in great shape at the moment – new carpet, air conditioning, light and sound box...

## Globe Visit: Much Ado About Nothing

This was really good. Everyone was fit, dynamic and multi-talented, playing instruments, singing beautifully and dancing. What chance is there for the rest of us?





## LAMBCHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

### Last Chance to see *Quintin's Hill*, 26 Nov

Back by popular demand in November for one performance only is ***Quintin's Hill***, the play for voices about Britain's biggest railway accident a hundred years ago, and official attempts to cover it up. Last performed for the Society in June, to very kind reviews, this show features a fine performance by Dame Jane Silverwood and a great soundtrack by Dave Torres. The 40-minute performance is at the Anglo Centro (San Jose 1426) at 7pm on Thursday 26 November, and is absolutely **FREE**: bring friends and reserve your places at .....

### Competition

The son of Kansas fans Mr and Mrs The Wind was of course **Dustin** The Wind. A Davok beer to Fernando Bonilla. The comp now moves - with the whole column in fact - to a new publication called **The Magpie**, as in '[Magazine for Punta in English](#)'. This is an experimental fortnightly broadsheet designed for English speakers living or holidaying in Punta del Este. It will come out free in hard copy (two sides of A4 to start with) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month from November to March. **The Magpie** will also be available electronically to anyone who wants to read, forward or post it on social media: to subscribe free, just send a mail to [vozinglesa@gmail.com](mailto:vozinglesa@gmail.com) with 'Magpie' in the subject line.



## The MAGPIE

A magazine for Punta in English

### Turn Back the Clock

Sometimes I wish I could turn back the clock  
and return to an earlier day  
Go back to the boats I managed to rock  
in my careless, regrettable way

A thoughtless word can wound or worse  
and I've uttered my share, to my shame  
The weight of remorse is a constant curse  
but I've only myself to blame

This is my moment to make myself heard:  
I regret having caused any pain  
I'll say I am sorry and mean every word  
then I'll never be careless again

tony beckwith 2015







## CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde  
carolinaconde@teachers.org

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

*These are great warm,  
and they also store well,  
if they don't all get  
eaten straight away!*



#### Ingredients

- 125g butter, softened
- 100g light brown soft sugar
- 125g caster sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g self-rising flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 200g chocolate chips

#### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Cream butter and sugars. Once creamed, combine in the egg and vanilla.
3. Sift in the flour and salt, then the chocolate chips.
4. Roll into a long, thick sausage shape and slice to make neat looking cookies.
5. Place on ungreased baking paper. Bake for just 7 minutes, until the cookies are just setting - the cookies will be really doughy and delicious.
6. Take out of the oven and leave to harden for a minute before transferring to a wire cooling rack.

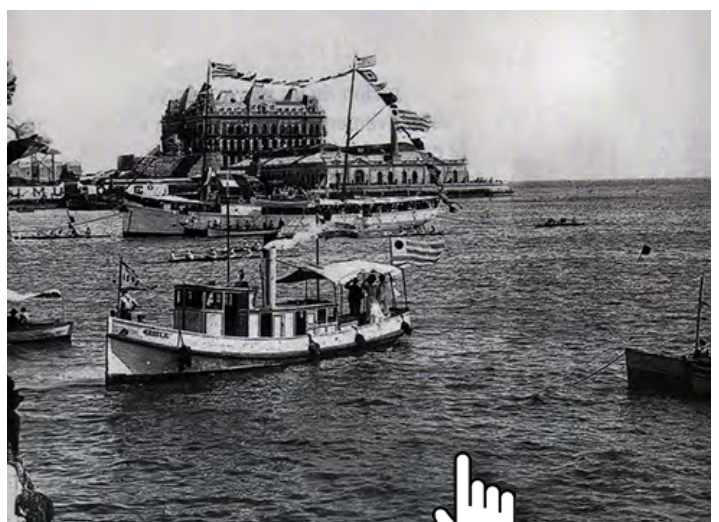
## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

### How Uruguay Helped Spark a Global Financial Crisis in 1890

This may be of interest to Society members.

Kind regards

Alvaro Cuenca





## LINK O' THE MONTH



This drone video compilation takes place all over the world, and is made from some of the best footage that has been submitted to Youtube's Epic Drone Videos

Click here to watch it!



## THE FAR SIDE



"Mr. Osborne, may I be excused?  
My brain is full."

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