

XMAS IS HERE!



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

Contact

December 2015

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Croquet Tournament

The Allies
A Special Request

British Residence
Christmas Carols



www.britsoc.org.uy



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THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



President: Madeleine Pool
president@britsoc.org.uy / 098 503 920

Vice-President / Webmaster: Geoffrey Deakin
vp@britsoc.org.uy / 098 586 168



Treasurer: Ivan Zimler
treasurer@britsoc.org.uy / 091 211 003

Hon. Secretary: Susan Mc Connell
secretary@britsoc.org.uy / 094 384 020



Chairman of the Sir Winston Churchill Home
and Benevolent Funds: Andrea Davies
swch@britsoc.org.uy / 099 123 906

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Beare
editor@britsoc.org.uy / 099 652 559



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



PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear readers,

A very merry month is December, and so, very welcome it is. A few activities are still coming up before the year is ended, so don't panic too much over endless Christmas shopping and leave time for some enjoyment.

The British Cemetery will have their museums at night on the 11th, with a special lecturer, Diego Fischer, and an always favourite, the Residence is opening their doors to our Society's members on the 17th for the traditional Christmas Carol singing, so reserve your place and I hope to see you there.

I was lucky with the weather, but not so much with my shots, at our 9th croquet tournament, held at the Yacht Club (I'm still undecided if I'm improving at all or not!) So I just stand in awe at some fantastic players we have, congratulations to all for a fun day, and to the new winners of this year's tournament, Richard and Andy Empson. Please see page 4 for more details of the day.

A complicated agenda for us, made the croquet tournament sadly coincide with the Remembrance Day Service at Holy Trinity Church. My apologies for those who wished to attend both events.

We need your help to improve our membership database system. Membership is growing and needs to be attended with improved tools at our disposal. Very soon, you will receive an email with a link to update your information, so we can create an improved and more efficient database.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you, for all the help received, helpful hands, kind inputs, a cheery crowd that accompanied us in all our activities throughout this year, and especially to my committee whom is always gladly pushing along. This year has been a great pleasure, thanks for joining in.

From all the Committee, we wish you and your loved ones, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Madeleine





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 9th December
Gala Dinner CLUB de Lunch
At the Hotel NH Columbia
Rambla Gran Bretaña 478
At 20:30 hs

Thursday, 17th December
Christmas Carols
British Residence
Jorge Canning 2491
At 6:30 p.m.

Friday, 11th December
Museums at Night
British Cemetery
From 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME NEWS

Can you tell me what you did at Christmas when you were a child?



Elaine told us that she used to leave a pair of shoes underneath the Christmas tree for Santa Claus to put the presents there.

"Did anyone play kissing games under the mistletoe?" I asked. Nobody answered...

Mistletoe- the name for mistletoe in the Celtic languages is all heal. Mistletoe could cure diseases, render poisons, make humans and animals fertile, protect the house from ghosts and bring good luck.

Andrea Davies

Peter told us that "The decoration of the Christmas tree was a family occasion, with everyone helping" "I used to hang my socks" he recalls. "And a lot of stockings" and he laughed.





CROQUET TOURNAMENT, YACHT CLUB

The Yacht Club, hosted once again, our 9th running Croquet Tournament. A superb day of sunshine, sunhats, and a good game was much enjoyed.

Quite a change from the football normally played in their pitches; we must have been quite a spectacle for the people passing by stopping to see what was that, that was going on.

Some were quite pro's in the game, some playing for the first time, some of us somewhere in the middle there, and some yelling goal when their ball made it! (ok, I'm saying no names for this one).

Thanks to Jonathan Lamb for the organization of the event, and to the World Croquet Federation for helping in sponsoring it.

After 3 matches, the final was a close game between Richard and Andy Empson, and Jonathan and Beatriz Lamb, where the Empson team managed to recover, once again, the shining cup.

Third and fourth place went to our last year's winners, Leo Boeing and Peter Hoyer, and Pilar Ellis and Conrado de León respectively.

Congratulations to all the winners, and for making it a very enjoyable day.

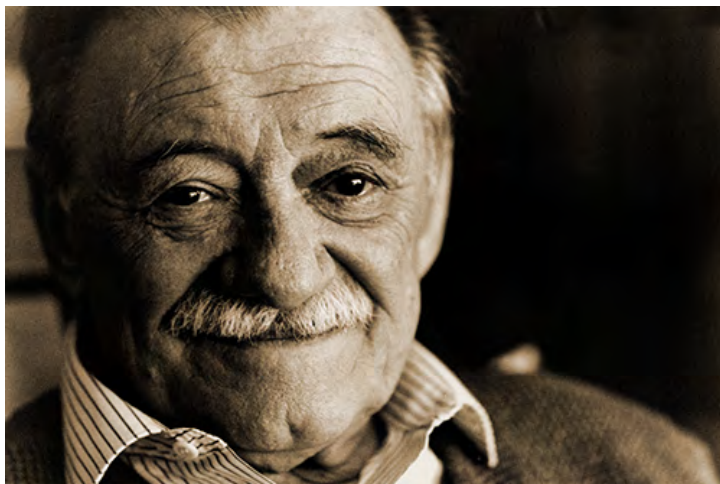






“HOW IS YOUR DAY GOING TO BE TODAY?”

- This morning I woke up excited about all the things I have to do before the clock rings.
- I have responsibilities to fulfil today. I am important.
- My job is to choose what kind of day I will have.
- Today I can complain because it's a rainy day... or I can give thanks to God because the plants are being watered.
- Today I can feel sad because I have no more money ... or I can be glad that my finances are pushing me to plan my purchases wisely.
- Today I can complain about my health ... or I can rejoice that I am alive.
- Today I can grumble about all that my parents didn't give me while I was growing up ... or I can be grateful that they allowed me to be born.
- Today I can cry because roses have thorns ... or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.
- Today I can have self-pity for not having many friends ... or I can be excited and then embark on the adventure of discovering new relationships.
- Today I can complain because I have to go to work ... or I can shout for joy because I have a job.
- Today I can complain because I have to go to school ... or I can open my mind and fill it with rich new knowledge.
- Today I can grumble bitterly because I have to do housework ... or I can feel honoured because I have a roof over my mind, body and soul.
- Today day is presented before me, waiting for me to shape it and here I am. I am the sculptor.
- What happens now depends on me. I must choose what kind of day I will have.
- Have a great day ... unless you have other plans.



Mario Benedetti



THE ALLIES

As many of you already know, The Allies have been organizing raffles at the British Society lecture/suppers and all the funds raised are donated to the Benevolent Fund.

Raffle prizes have ranged from DVDs, books, CDs, sweets, wine racks and wine to more unusual prizes such as Australian bush hats, Wedgewood ashtrays and collector's items such as framed WW2 newspaper cuttings announcing the end of the war.

Members of The Allies have nearly exhausted their stock of items in their homes which would make interesting prizes so we would like to appeal to all members of our community to donate to us please any items in their house which they feel could be used as raffle prizes. These donations will then be raffled off by The Allies and the proceeds given to the Benevolent Fund.

Items should be in good condition and easily portable.

The Allies will arrange to pick up your donation from your home.

So please contact us at cpool@netgate.com.uy, by phone at **2711 4491** or by text message at **099 528 681**.

PLEASE HELP US HELP THE BENEVOLENT FUND

THANK YOU!





BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION PROJECTS

The Embassy is pleased to announce that 24 of the 128 projects submitted to the Science and Innovation Fund were approved, for an amount of £600.000, to be implemented together with the National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII). Additionally, Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns and British Council Country Director Graham Stanley signed an agreement to deliver projects focused on improving scientists' communication skills and English language training. The main goal of the cooperation funds is to create strong links and strengthen those already existing links between researchers and institutions in the UK and Uruguay.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

For the third consecutive year the Embassy was part of McDía Feliz. This time, Consul Katharine Felton enjoyed preparing Big Macs on Friday 13 November as part of the successful campaign to raise money for the two Ronald McDonald houses in Montevideo and Tacuarembó.





BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

REMEMBRANCE DAY



The Ambassador, the Deputy Defence Attaché Ian Clements and members of staff attended the Remembrance Day service at the British Cemetery. As we do every year, the Embassy offered poppies during various events and donations were sent to the Royal British Legion.

MUSIC TO URUGUAYAN EARS

The Ambassador was delighted to host a small reception for members of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales after their performance at Teatro Solís. This was the first South American tour for the Orchestra which included two concerts

and a series of workshops for children in Argentine Patagonia, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of a community of Welsh settlers. The concert here was a great success and the only one of the tour to feature four encores





Christmas Carols

at the British Residence

The Ambassador and Belinda Lyster-Binns
are delighted to invite members of the British
Society and their families to join them for
carols and mince pies.

Thursday 17th December
18:30 - 20:30 hs.
Jorge Canning 2491

Please confirm
by 14th December to
RSVP.Montevideo@fco.gov.uk





ANGLO NEWS

ANGLO DIPLOMA IN TEFL - GRADUATION CEREMONY 2015

Last 27th October the Anglo had the pleasure to hold the Anglo Diploma in TEFL Graduation Ceremony at the Residence of the British Ambassador in Uruguay.

Eleven graduates were awarded their diplomas in a very heart-felt ceremony, where they were addressed by the British Ambassador -Mr. Ben Lyster-Binns-, one of the members of the Anglo Board of Directors – Mr. Andrew Cooper- and the Director General of the Anglo, Mr. Gerardo Valazza, all of whom emphasized the importance of the teaching profession and most specifically, the relevance of learning and teaching this foreign language and the culture that comes with it.

Graduates were also presented with engraved pens with their names and the Anglo logo, a reminder of the institution that helped them become the professionals they longed to be and a most useful tool in any teacher's life.

As the ceremony progressed, those trainees who graduated with the highest grades received a special gift for them to relax and enjoy after all the hard work.

Towards the end of the ceremony, one of the graduates - Ms. Gabriela Maceiras- treated the audience to a funny and moving speech that summarized the thrilling experience that was to be an Anglo TTCer.

Finally, Ms. Teresita Curbelo, Head of the Academic Department and a major referent for teachers and teacher trainees at the Anglo, reminded these new teachers of two maxims in the teaching profession: to be the best teachers they could be and to always be caring teachers.

During the cocktail party that followed, guests enjoyed the high standards of the catering service provided by the staff at the British Residence and took every opportunity to record this special moment in setting provided by this magnificent house.





CLUB LUNCH URUGUAYO BRITÁNICO



Club Lunch Uruguayo Británico

CLUB

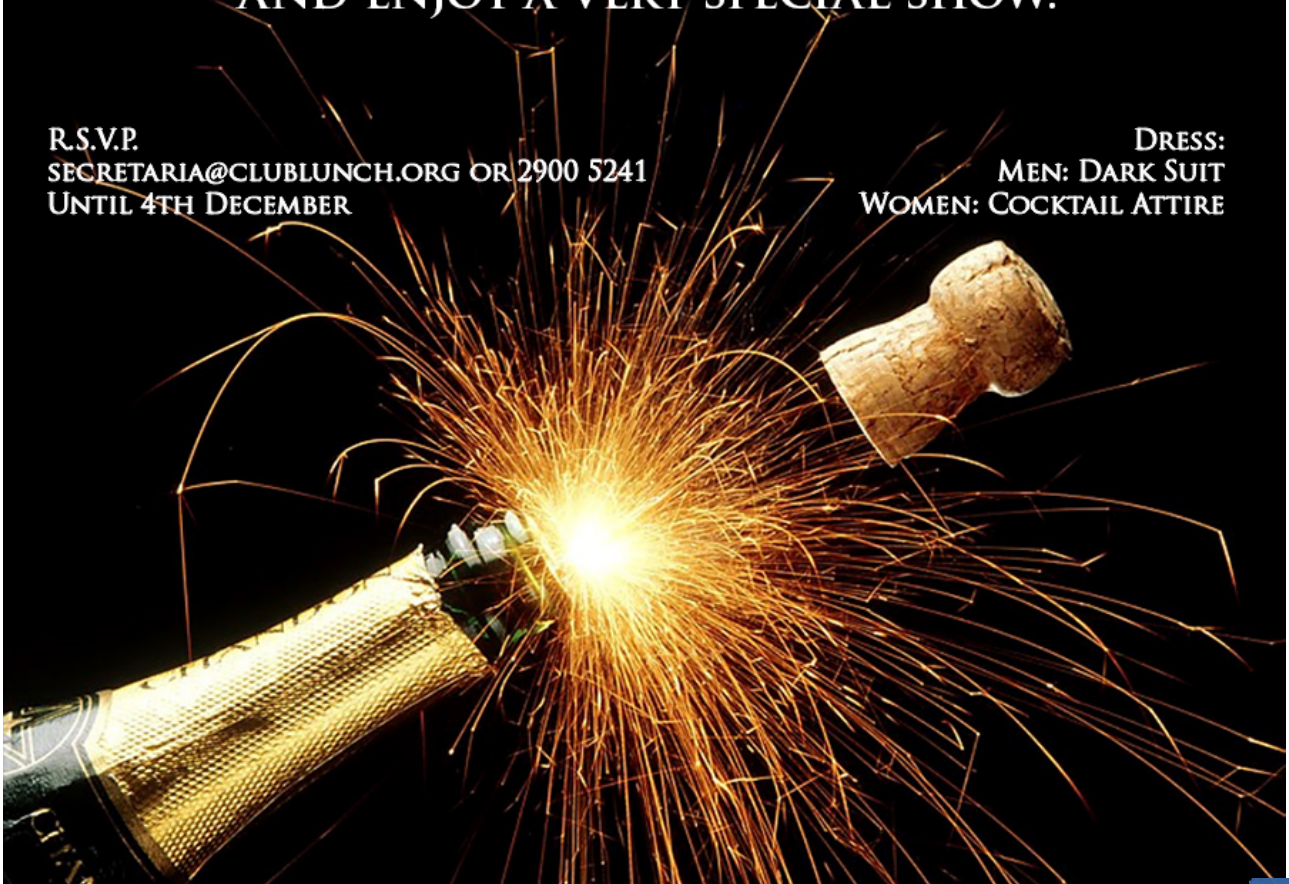
2015 GALA DINNER

CLUB LUNCH URUGUAYO BRITÁNICO INVITES
YOU TO OUR GALA DINNER
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER
AT THE HOTEL NH COLUMBIA
RAMBLA GRAN BRETAÑA 478 AT 20:30 HS

AS ALWAYS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WILL GET TOGETHER ACCOMPANIED
BY OUR SPOUSES TO CELEBRATE
THE END OF 2015,
HONOUR OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES
AND ENJOY A VERY SPECIAL SHOW.

R.S.V.P.
SECRETARIA@CLUBLUNCH.ORG OR 2900 5241
UNTIL 4TH DECEMBER

DRESS:
MEN: DARK SUIT
WOMEN: COCKTAIL ATTIRE





URUGUAYAN BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On October 20 the Uruguayan British Chamber of Commerce held a commemorative lunch for its 100 year anniversary.

The lunch took place in the Prelude hall of RARA AVIS, the Minister of Finance and Economy Danilo Astori attended and gave an oratory in which he reviewed the strategic guidelines of a national project being conducted by the government, saying that Uruguay is struggling to transcend in the region and carry out an agenda of trade in which it is committed not only to the region but the world at large.

The Secretary of State gave an interesting speech in which he mentioned the strategic guidelines of the government, which are part of “an orientation, based on three pillars: inclusive growth, openness and commitment to quality,” said Astori.

The Ambassador of the European Union, Juan Fernández Trigo, also said some words.

The President of the British Uruguayan Chamber, Marcelo Mercant, thanked those present for attending and all those who accompanied them and worked over the years to promote and develop commercial and cultural relations with the UK.

For those who could not attend please see the link below with the complete conference that was televised by public affairs:

www.asuntospublicos.tv

CÁMARA DE COMERCIO
URUGUAYO BRITÁNICA





BRITISH CEMETERY

CLOSING OF YEAR 2015

On December 11, from 20:00 to 24:00 as part of the activities of **MUSEUMS AT NIGHT / MEC DNC** - Enjoy our night tours: **"Trails of History"**.

At 21:00 writer **Diego Fischer** will tell us about his award-winning book: **"Three Men and a Battle"**

At 21:30 Bagpipes of the **CITY OF MONTEVIDEO PIPE BAND**.



THE BRITISH CEMETERY SOCIETY





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 or call Mr. Martin Macadam at 096 001 995.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ABOUT FREEMASONRY IS:

Q Why don't you have women members?

A Traditionally, Freemasonry under the United Grand Lodge of England has been restricted to men. The early stonemasons were all male, and when Freemasonry was organising, the position of women in society was different from today. If women wish to join Freemasonry, there are two separate Grand Lodges in England restricted to women only.



THEO FUNCH-THOMSEN
shared the following link to a
video on freemasonry:

- Benjamin Franklin -
Freemasonry:

YOUTUBE





MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

Is healthcare UBER-isable?

UBER is becoming a game-changer in the transportation of persons in major cities. It's also a headache for entrenched and sometimes monopolic services like taxis, at the same time that it seems to work through, around and between laws and regulations, designed for the needs of mid-20th century city dwellers. Although I haven't used UBER yet, I'm one of the 20,000 Uruguayan downloaders of the smartphone app. Going back to the question in the title, the answer is YES: it's been done already. In the 20 November online issue of Becker's Hospital Review, there's an article on UberHEALTH, an application created by Boston Children's Hospital, to deliver and provide vaccines by a nurse transported by a UBER vehicle, at home, on demand by anyone entitled to receive the immunisation, the same way as pizza delivery. In addition to this, I received an unrequested app on my smartphone during a software update, called Dr on Demand, where you can have a video consult or ask a FREE question NOW, to a doctor, besides offering paediatric, psychological and obstetric & new-born counselling and services (with a charge to your credit card, of course!).

Is this good? Are people going to get healthcare as a fast-delivery service and eventually request office visits less frequently to see their doctor? My impression is that indeed this is what's going to happen, to a certain extent, especially with the millennial generation and the ones which follow. Despite a

counterculture which advocates going slower, more mindfulness and more care for oneself and others, the mainstream mentality is accelerating at speeds that defy even instant responses.

To qualify something as better or worse, we have to take three things into account: safety, quality and content... and these also apply to UBER transport services.



When we request a UBER service, we should expect not only a timely-arriving, well-maintained, clean, relatively new vehicle plus a sober, good humoured, well-dressed and groomed driver but, most of all, we want to be transported



MEDICAL COLUMN ...Continued

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

from A to B safely, so as to arrive at our destination on time and in one piece. The fact that as passengers we may differ in gender, age, ethnicity and language, has some but not too much bearing on the content of the service provided: getting from A to B safely.

In healthcare, we want timely services (ie: minimal or no waiting and delays in getting appointments, tests and treatment decisions) which should be of high quality and provided with maximum safety. Patient safety should be an intrinsic property of all healthcare services and all professionals and organisations should strive for it, even at the expense of immediate patient satisfaction, for example, having to explain that we must wait for more information before committing to misguided tests or treatment.

Another difference with a UBER transport service is that the patient's background matters a lot more: gender, age, ethnicity, language, PLUS prior medical conditions, family history, social, educational and work status, are not just parts, but central to our personalised jigsaw picture. Without this picture, the quality of the service is at best mediocre, as a one-size-fits-all approach is bad healthcare.

In spite of this, a not insignificant part of patients' needs don't need much sophistication. In Uruguay, we've had mobile emergency services for nearly four decades and to a certain extent, are analogous to UBER. Once a serious medical condition is ruled out, much of the care can be provided in delivery-mode.

However, if you look at the footnote of the copy of the record they leave with the patient after providing the service, it invariably reads or has a checkbox labelled:

"See your personal physician."





BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com



December was a busy time at the agency. I'd worked there for nearly four years and it was always like this. As the month accelerated towards its grand finale, last-minute projects kept popping up, chaining us to the office all day long and preventing us from slipping down to the café on the corner for the usual coffee and a *media luna de jamón y queso*¹. And then Pan American called, needing something done on a very tight deadline. We were their advertising agency; the JWT Company handled the account worldwide, so when Pan Am wanted something done by January 1st, we said "of course, with pleasure" and then tried to figure out how to do it. We were already going to be very busy during the last two days of the year, so there was nothing for it: someone would have to work late on New Year's Eve.

It was my account, so I'd have to be involved. And it was an art project so Varela would have to be there. That was great, because we were pals. He was a few years older than I but we were good friends. We had produced some ads for the Uruguayan press that had caught someone's attention at the client's head office in Miami. They wanted copies of the ads, translated into English, for a presentation in early January. Our job was to produce the artwork and deliver it to the local Pan Am people by 8 a.m. on January 1st, and they would get it there on time.

There were six rather complex ads to produce, and Varela estimated he'd need about four hours to assemble the photos, logos, and type on sheets of cardboard, each one covered with a white paper flap. My job was to check the English and make sure it was correct, so I actually had quite a lot of time on my hands.

We were both very upbeat. There was something quite exciting about working late on this night of all nights. It was a departure from routine and involved a rather pleasant sense of tension because of the deadline and, in my case especially, because of what the rest of the evening held in store. Varela said that when we were finished he'd go back to his flat where his wife was waiting for him. "What are you doing?" he asked, and I said I'd be going to the New Year's Eve party at the Cricket Club. As soon as I made my delivery to the Pan American office downtown, I'd be on my Vespa and off to Carrasco. Varela laughed and said "*inglés de mierda*". I replied "*Gallego podrido*"² and we were even. We were friends, as I say, and this is how we usually addressed each other. In those days, anyone with any Spanish ancestry was called *Gallego*, regardless of where in Spain their family was actually from. I'm not sure I ever knew Varela's first name because we always called him *el Gallego Varela*. His parents uprooted from Andalucía and came to Uruguay when they were in their twenties. That actually made me more Latin American than he was because my Anglo-Argentine parents were born in Buenos Aires, and they brought me to Uruguay when I was three years old.

Since arriving in Montevideo, Varela's parents had focused on becoming Uruguayans and, in their way, had chosen assimilation over





BACK IN TIME ...Continued

nostalgia. The British community to which my family belonged, on the other hand, though thoroughly integrated into Uruguayan life over the course of several generations, held on tightly to its identity and created a British island in a Uruguayan sea. This island was anchored by well-established institutions—the British Cemetery Society, the British Schools, and the British Society,³ among many others—and by attendance at events held at the Montevideo Cricket Club, where the New Year's Eve party was the highlight of the year. Some members of the Club sounded more British than others; some didn't sound British at all. But we were all part of a tightly-knit group of people, most of whom had family trees with roots that reached back to the British Isles.

It wasn't long before Varela and I started thinking about dinner. The company was paying, of course, so we weren't thinking of a light snack. I called the café on the corner, which was also a restaurant, and ordered dinner for two. In a little while, a waiter in a black bow tie and a white jacket delivered a *milanesa a caballo con papas fritas*⁴ for my companion and two *chivitos*⁵ for me. And *Doble Uruguay* beer, two bottles each. We had the radio on, of course, and Radio Oriental was playing all the hits of 1964. The Beatles had just released *I Feel Fine*⁶ and people couldn't get enough of it. I taught Varela how to sing those three words and we joined in every time they were sung, which was quite often that night. We were definitely feeling fine and having a very good time and, for a while, forgot that we were working on New Year's Eve.

Having such a good time meant that the job took longer than we thought it would, but we finally got it all done. We wrapped up the ads, locked the office, and took the lift to the ground floor. Humberto, the concierge, was

sitting at the desk in the lobby with his wife, and they were sharing a bottle of cider. They raised their glasses and we all wished each other a Happy New Year. Varela sat behind me on the ride to the Pan Am office, holding the package under his arm. We delivered it to the duty officer, then went across the road to the bar in the Palacio Salvo and had a shot of whiskey to toast the New Year. “*Feliz año nuevo, inglés podrido.*” “*Feliz año nuevo, Gallego de mierda.*”⁸ It was now just after eleven o'clock.

After dropping Varela off in the Tres Cruces neighbourhood at the far end of 18 de Julio, I headed down Bulevar Artigas to Bulevar España then out along the Rambla, with the beaches on my right. It was a balmy night with a gentle breeze. The sand shone white against the dark sea and the sky was ablaze with stars. I was looking forward to the party but was thoroughly enjoying the feeling of accomplishment that came from having put business before pleasure. My twentieth birthday was three weeks away, and tonight's experience had given me a taste of the profound satisfaction that my father, in his hopeful way, had often told me was the reward for developing a sense of responsibility. I arrived at the Club just in time to join in as everyone sang *Auld Lang Syne*, and suddenly it was 1965.

1 Croissant filled with ham and cheese

2 Stinking Galician

3 The British Cemetery in Montevideo was founded in 1828, the British Schools in 1908, and the British Society in 1918

4 Breaded and fried pounded steak with a fried egg and French fries: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milanesa>

5 Thinly sliced grilled steak sandwich

6 Listen to *I Feel Fine* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFleHMgn8dg>

7 Happy New Year, you stinking Englishman

8 Happy New Year, you sodding Galician





CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde
carolinaconde@teachers.org

Parmesan Pretzels



Ingredients

- 4 teaspoons dry yeast
- ½ cup baking soda
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 ¼ cups warm water
- 4 cups hot water
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast and one teaspoon of sugar in a 1 ¼ cup of warm water. Let stand for about 10 minutes or until creamy.
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, ½ cup sugar, and salt. Make a well in the center; add the oil and yeast mixture. Mix and form into a dough. If the mixture is dry, add one or two more tablespoons of water. Knead the dough until smooth, for about 7 to 8 minutes. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl, and turn to coat with oil. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place for about one hour, until doubled in size.
3. Preheat oven to 230 degrees C. Grease two baking sheets.
4. In a large bowl, dissolve baking soda in four cups of hot water, and set aside. When risen, turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a rope and twist into a pretzel shape. Dip each pretzel into the solution of baking soda and hot water, and place pretzels on baking sheets. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.
5. Bake in preheated oven until browned, for about eight minutes.
6. Sprinkle finely grated cheese.



LINK O' THE MONTH



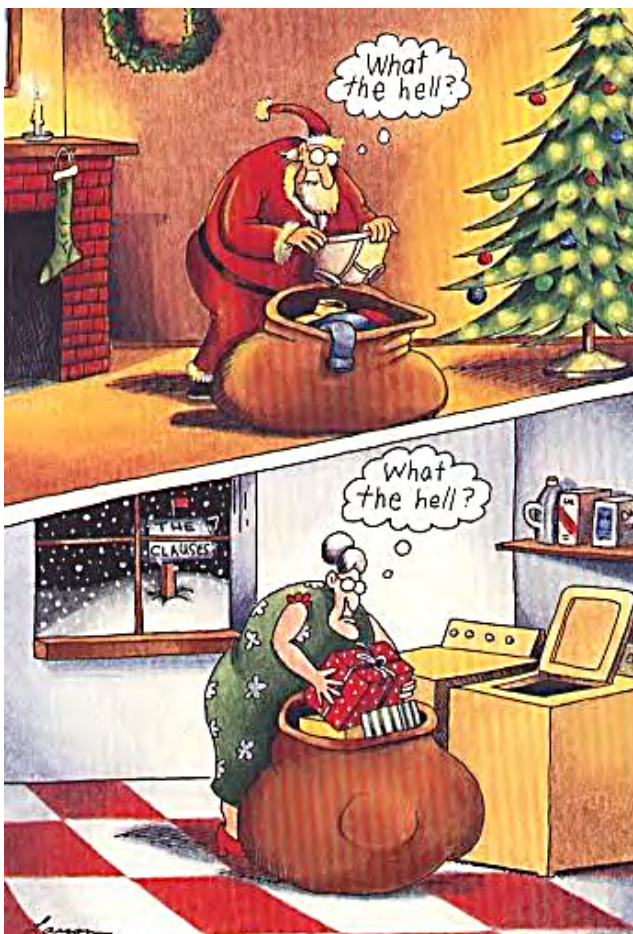
The Secret Life of Beefeaters

Having guarded the Tower of London since 1485, the Yeoman Warders welcome 3 million visitors a year. But the Tower doesn't shut down when the tourists leave – nor does its hidden pub.

Click [here](#) to find out more!



THE FAR SIDE



Merry Christmas!!!



Newsletter Design by
www.boskejo.com

