



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# Contact

January 2016

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## THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



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## PRESIDENT'S WORDS



# Welcome 2016

We have a few interesting anniversaries that will be calling to our attention this year.

2016 will be hosting the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, a battle so significant that it completely changed the course of English history, and was the last time that any foreign power conquered England. The 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, arguably England's most renowned playwright, the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, the three day fire, that started in a small bakery in Pudding lane and rapidly swept across London, a few anniversaries of the birth of some of our favourite childhood authors, 200 years of Charlotte Brontë's birth, 150 years of Beatrix Potter's birth, and 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth.

So, surely, some of these events and people will be brought into our Lecture Suppers this year. If you think you are knowledgeable on any of these topics, and would like to share with us your enthusiasm on the matter, please let us know, we are always happy to lure more lecturers into our ranks.

This end of month, St. Andrews Society will be hosting their annual Robert Burns Eve, in Balneario Solis again, where the benefits will be kindly donated to the Benevolent Fund. So, we are hoping for kind weather, to enjoy the "Tea Haggis" and a pleasant afternoon. Please see details on Page 12.

Well, I hope you are taking your summer holidays seriously enough!

All the best,

**Madeleine**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 30th January**

**St Andrew's Society**

Robert Burns' Eve 2016

Balneario Solis



## ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWS

### *Christmas Championes!!!*

Hello All.

Season's greetings and as we all celebrate here's an opportunity to bring joy to the children in our homes run by the Anglican Church. We hope to give each child new shoes from the Three Kings.

From \$U500 - \$U1.000, we can buy a quality pair.

Please contact Liz Cowley on 2710 2809 or 099 692 757 or pecowley@gmail.com if you would like to join in!

Homes are Posada de Belen in the Old City and San Pablo, Progreso, for adolescents. In Parque Battle we have a new home for Mothers and Children.



More details available of how to become involved from Liz.

Thank You All!!!



## NEW YEAR IN SCOTLAND

### Hogmanay\* hootenanny: Top Scottish traditions for bringing in the bells at new year

The New Year celebrations as hosted by Scotland can be undoubtedly called as one of the best and grandest celebrations of the world. In Scotland, New Year celebration is referred as 'Hogmanay', which is also the name of an oatmeal cake given to small children on New Year's Eve. People in Scotland also follow the first footing tradition, similar to the way it is followed by the people of England.

#### Fireworks

There's no better way to kick off the Hogmanay night than a fireworks display.

Whether you have your own display at home or attend one of the street parties in Glasgow or Edinburgh, a great display really creates a feeling of celebration.

For something a bit different, traditional fire ceremonies in Scottish towns are always an exciting event.



Hogmanay fireball swingers illuminate the streets of Stonehaven.

At the end of the ceremony, any fireballs that are still burning are cast into the harbour.

#### The Bells

Bringing in the bells is the beginning of the new year. The countdown brings everyone in the room together as the prospect of a fresh slate approaches. Or a winch. Potentially from your granny.



The bells at Edinburgh Castle

#### Auld Lang Syne

Scots love an opportunity to indulge in patriotism and the Rabbin Burns favourite brings the best out in all of us. The song has since been stolen on a global scale for new year parties worldwide. But we really do it justice. Especially after a wee dram.



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip take part in Auld Lang Syne

*\*The Scots word for the last day of the year*



## First Footing

Scots love taking part in traditional 'first-footing' after the bells. Heading to your neighbours, friends or shoving the kids out on to the front door step to come back in armed with a packet of shortbread and a bottle of whisky.



A pile of shortbread for a first-footing

## The great Scottish breakfast

There really is nothing better than a full Scottish breakfast to pick yourself back up after a new year's celebration. Nothing does the trick better than a greasy fry up and a pint of Irn-Bru to kick the Hogmanay hangover.



A full Scottish breakfast will set you up for the day

## Looney Dook

One for the more adventurous Scots amongst us. The annual Looney Dook takes place in the afternoon of New Years Day when a brave group fling themselves into the icy waters of the Firth of Forth in South Queensferry, in the name of charity. While this one isn't traditional, it's for a good cause. And it will certainly cure that hangover.



Swimmers take part in the Looney Dook New Year's Day 2015 dip in the Firth of Forth

## The Redding

Out with the old and in with the new - an old tradition that continues on today and splits us as a nation right down the middle. You either find great satisfaction in sanitising the house and recycling last year's clutter in a new year's day cleanse. Or you rage in your bed with a pounding headache at the sound of the Hoover firing up before midday.



**Bliadhna mhath ur! • Happy New Year!**

## SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME NEWS

Before we embrace the New Year, let's take a look back and think of the things that were accomplished. The Residents have been receiving friends and visits at tea time. A lot of cooking and cookie painting has been going on for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, for Mother's Day, Grandparents day. The SWCH had the visit of the Ambassador and his children in August and then again with his wife Belinda before Christmas. The Residents took part in all Lecture Suppers and events of the British Society and will continue to do so.

Now we are looking forward to a New Year with lots of projects. The main one is to try to get the Residents to be more time outdoors. Being outdoors is one of the greatest feelings in the world.

***There is nothing like taking a deep breath of fresh air.***



## THE ALLIES

Remember to donate any items which you feel could be used as nice or interesting raffle prizes. These donations will then be raffled off by The Allies and the proceeds given to the Benevolent Fund.

Raffle prizes 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](mailto:cpool@netgate.com.uy) by phone at **2711 4491** or by text message at **099 528 681**.

Thank You!

**PLEASE HELP US HELP  
THE BENEVOLENT FUND**



## BSU CLASSIFIED CONTACTS



Hoping to contribute in solving the needs of our Society's members, we are happy to announce the start of a new section of our monthly newsletter,

**“CLASSIFIED CONTACTS”.**

Each member is invited to send us their first classified Contact (ad), free of charge.

Ads can be about soliciting or offering job opportunities, housing advertisements, special messages, etc. We reach a widespread audience of more than 750 direct subscribers and many more monthly readers.

All classified ads should be sent to [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy) in text format before the 25th of each month. Images may be attached in JPG or PNG format.

## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Instead of the forecast rainstorms, the sun once again shone for the Christmas Carols traditional celebration at the Ambassador's Residence. Some 400 friends, including many members of the British community, joined us for a delightful evening of Christmas songs performed by "A capella Voices." The Ambassador even surprised guests by joining in with the encore of classics!



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

### URUGUAYAN JOURNALISTS VISITED THE FALKLANDS

Radio, print and TV journalists from different parts of Uruguay were invited by the Falkland Islands Government to see first-hand how islanders live in the archipelago. María Eugenia Dupin, from Radio Espectador, Enrique Sánchez, from El Telégrafo in Paysandú and Andrés Sena from Red de Televisión Color went live and wrote daily articles for their websites and print editions. Special programmes are due to be aired shortly. You can find links to most of their coverage on the Embassy's website.



## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### SHARED PRIORITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

On January 1, Uruguay will join the UN Security Council for a two-year period. David Concar, head of the Foreign Office's International Organisations Department, visited Montevideo on December 7-8 and exchanged ideas with ministers and officials who will lead Uruguay's work in this area over the next two years. We identified many shared priorities and look forward to working with our Uruguayan colleagues on the important security challenges the world faces.



### SCIENCE PROJECTS

Almost 40 researchers and scientists took part in two courses delivered together with the British Council and ANII with the aim of improving their writing skills.

More courses will be offered in February and March in Montevideo and Rocha. There is still time to register for the one to be held in Rocha.



## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### VISITS TO SORIANO AND MALDONADO



Consul Katharine Felton visited Soriano and Maldonado to take part in cultural events. She was invited to the 100th anniversary of the Altos del Perdido public school in Soriano, where the schoolhouse was donated by the “River Plate Estancia Company”.

In Maldonado, she attended the inauguration of the photo exhibition that is travelling round the country to celebrate the Anglo site in Fray Bentos’s new UNESCO World Heritage status, and had the chance to meet with the Intendente, Police and Director de Cultura.



### ALTOS DEL PERDIDO

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Altos del Perdido public school in Soriano.





## ANGLO NEWS



*We wish you, the members of the British Society in Uruguay, a very productive 2016 filled with challenging projects and dreams coming true.*

*Rest assured the Anglo will continue to offer inspiring events with the purpose to bring the rich and diverse British Culture nearer to our country and people.*

*It is our hope that you keep joining and supporting us with those events and that you go on enjoying them as much as we do.*

**CULTURA  
BRITÁNICA**  
ESTO TAMBIÉN ES 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** or call Mr. Martin Macadam at **096 001 995**.

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

**Q** Why do you wear regalia?

**A** Wearing regalia is historical and symbolic and, like a uniform, serves to indicate to members where they rank in the organisation.





## ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY

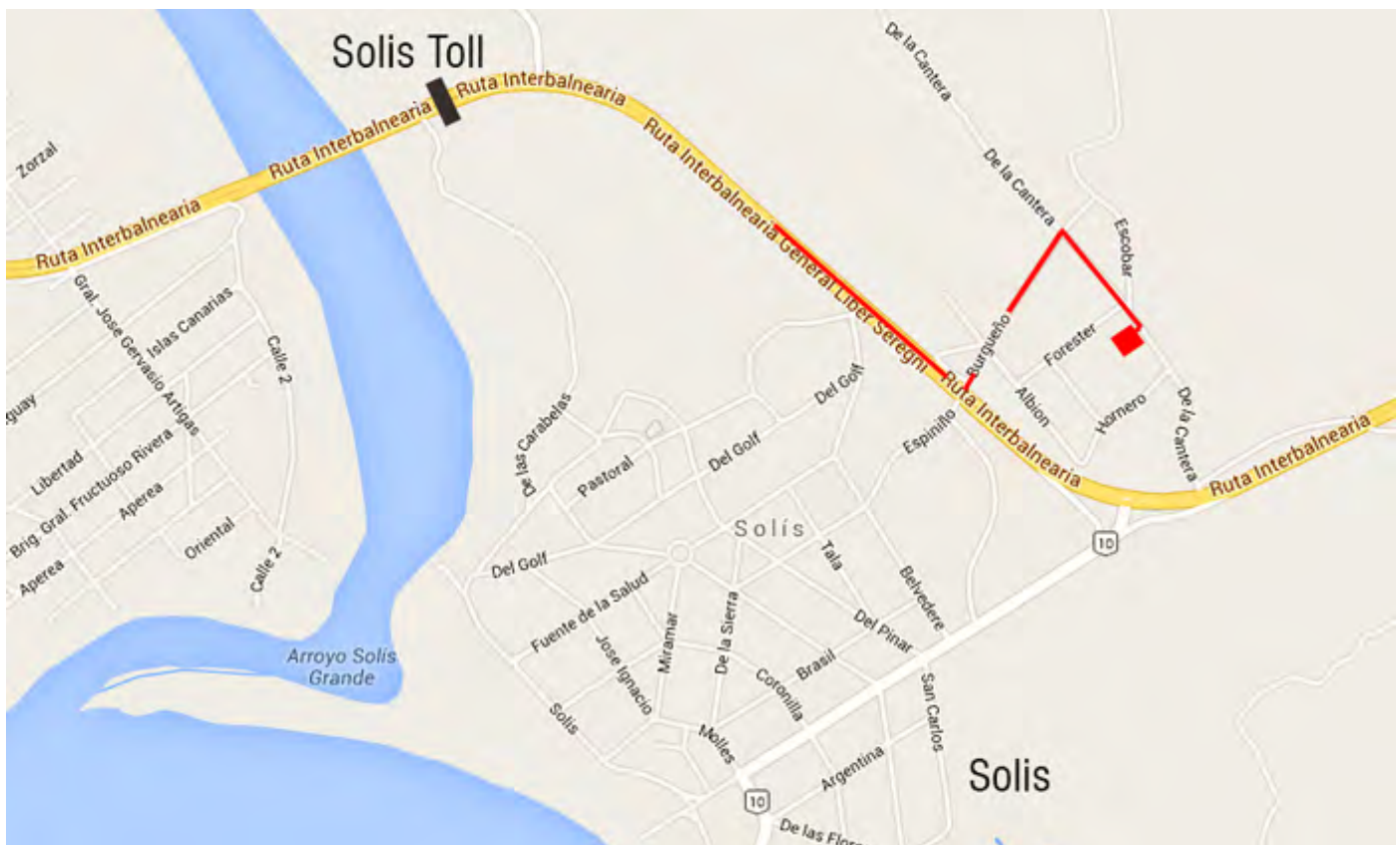
The St. Andrew's Society will celebrate its 2nd Robert Burns Eve (afternoon) on Saturday the 30th of January in Balneario Solis.

June Martin has, again kindly lent us her garden for the event which will commence with reciting Burns' "Address to a Haggis" at 4.45pm followed by 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 goes to The Benevolent Fund.

To get to the event, going East from Montevideo along the Interbalnearia, after crossing the River and Toll on the Arroyo Solis Grande, km. 80, about 300mts. further on take the second turning left (first after the road to Pueblo Aznárez). Go one short block and one long block and turn right and another long block once past the crossroad first gate on the right.

Being outdoors, the event will be cancelled in case of rain or poor weather.

[standrewssocietyofuruguay@gmail.com](mailto:standrewssocietyofuruguay@gmail.com)



### Remember!

All society members are very welcome to contribute to our monthly newsletter, "Contact".

Please, send your stories, articles, news, memories, anecdotes, etc. to [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy) in text format before the 25th of each month. Images may be attached in JPG or PNG format.



## URUGUAYAN BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On December 4, the Uruguayan British Chamber of Commerce held a new commemorative lunch of its 100 years in Uruguay. The lunch took place at the residence of HMA Ben Lyster-Binns and had as special guest Cr. Enrique Iglesias. The event was attended by national authorities and representatives of British subsidiaries and members of the Chamber. In his dissertation Cr. Iglesias stressed the importance of trade relations with the United Kingdom and particularly over the past 100 years in which the Uruguayan British Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to strengthen them. He also said that Uruguay needs to move forward with reforms

According to him, the programs of the different parties have many points in common and he cannot understand why reforms are so hard to take forward, for example, in education. Cr. Iglesias went on to say that better quality is needed in determining policies to achieve the required reforms. The Ibero-American former secretary general also said that Mercosur should be integrated with other large blocks, such as the Pacific. He stressed the importance of joining now, otherwise the large blocks may end up fragmenting the world and leaving us out. As for the region, he expressed concern over inflationary pressures and said that there are 80 million people who receive transfers of state resources, which appears as a serious problem for countries like Brazil and Argentina's new government. Special thanks to Cr. Enrique Iglesias for his speech and to Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns for the realization of this event at his residence.

Our best wishes for Christmas and a great start in 2016.

CÁMARA DE COMERCIO  
URUGUAYO BRITÁNICA





## URUGUAYAN BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





## MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
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In November 2011, Richard Empson, then President of the Society, asked me to write a Medical Column for the monthly Newsletter. The first column appeared in the December 2011 issue; if I'm counting well, this January 2016 post will be the



Seeing and caring for patients has always been a challenge, since I started medical school in 1972 and graduated as an MD in 1980. However, writing about what I do on an everyday basis, chasing diagnoses, ordering tests and prescribing treatments, seemed like a bore, both to myself and my potential readers. A year before my first Newsletter column, I had published my short book on The Doctor & Patient relationship: a path from biomedicine to existence, where I researched and wrote about the experience of being a physician and the experience of being a patient. Although some posts did venture into specific medical subjects, the vast majority of the articles have been about backstage on one side, the environmental factors affecting health care and the changes that are happening both in Uruguay and the world in how clients and patients, provider organisations and physicians and other health professionals are interacting.

The time of medical paternalism is over. Fewer and fewer patients expect or want their doctor to be in charge of everything. The term empowered patient appears repeatedly in lay and medical journals and books. Patients expect to own at least a small but progressively greater part of what they can control over their health. This can mean anything from accessing medical information on the internet, sharing their experiences with patients with similar conditions, requesting copies of their test results and seeking second opinions... and asking those uncomfortable questions...

The time of the one-on-one & face-to-face office visit is also over, at least as a one-size-fits-all (or none!) approach to health care. A 15 to 30 minute office visit is no longer the single answer to living with a health condition 24/7. Patients not only expect the different doctors who care for them to talk to each other, especially in their presence, so they can have a say in what's in store for them, but to have other routes of access to the healthcare team beyond having to book, drive, wait, see and rebook on the way out.

The hamsterwheel model of doctors churning more than 20 or 25 patients on a typical day reeks of the 19th and early 20th century industrial model and is bad answer to present day health care. Long waiting lists for each doctor, to be booked (or overbooked) in series doesn't work well anymore. A parallel approach with 2 or 3-sided interaction (patient and family included if appropriate) is by far the best



## MEDICAL COLUMN *...Continued*

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
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tool, even if not happening at the same time, but over the multiple channels that present-day information and communications technology offer. This is becoming the norm in organisations that have challenged business as usual and embarked in a new way of providing care and interacting with their patients. (Is their the right word?)

This is the time when patient-centred care, focussed on the patient experience, should take over. Organisations and professionals on their own cannot provide the best answer, nor can patients alone do it. Patients are not healthcare professionals and only a few work in a healthcare facility. However, all of us will sometime be patients, including those who work in healthcare, in professional, administrative, support or leadership roles.

The needs of the patient come first, but it will take all on both sides of the interaction to challenge the status quo which is satisfying no-one.

An important tool for change is to listen to narratives: the stories behind, around and under the experience of being a patient and the experience of providing the care to make that patient experience exceptional and memorable.

I hope that by sharing my narrative fifty times around I have been not only part of the brainstorm but part of the solution.

# 50TH





## BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith  
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# It Could Have Happened Like That

I was at the dentist's office, and the effects of the anaesthetic were beginning to wear off. Dr Fazio Calmet had removed a wisdom tooth and the left side of my face felt numb. He insisted on practicing his English—as a student, many years ago, he had spent a year at the College of Dentistry in Chicago—and smiled broadly every time he said “*Awpen wie*” and stuck some sort of instrument into my mouth. I couldn't wait to get out of there.

Until the nurse came around from behind the chair to remove my bib. Instead of the usual mousy little assistant, she was a voluptuous brunette in a tight-fitting white uniform with an eye-catching décolletage. She was having trouble unfastening the bib strap so she sat on my lap with her arms around my neck. Her proximity was disconcerting, to say the least, since she looked remarkably like Isabel Sarli, the erotic film star whose posters were plastered all over the *Ciudad Vieja*, the older, shabbier part of town. I pretended not to look at those posters when I was with my mother, on the way to my father's office, for example. But when I was on my own I inspected these works of art with great interest, since Isabel left little to the imagination of a twelve-year-old boy.

The lift was an ornate birdcage model, in keeping with the ancient building where my dentist had his office. I pushed the button on the brass panel inside the wrought iron gate and the cage descended silently, surrounded by the tiled stairs that spiralled up around the walls. Looking up, I saw a man crouched on the roof of the cage, sawing through the cables with a hacksaw. He had a cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth and a dark brown fedora pulled down over his eyes. He looked like a gangster, probably hired to rub me out and make it look like an accident. I braced myself, but the lift reached the ground floor in the nick of time. Without a backward glance, I hurried through the lobby and into the street.

I pushed through the crowd waiting on the corner of Rincón and Zabala and saw the 119 heading my way. I had just bought a newspaper cone full of hot peanuts from a *manicero*<sup>1</sup> [peanut vendor] when a terrorist bomb went off under the bus, flipping it over on its side. People started screaming. The pretty girl beside me fainted but I caught her in my arms before she fell. Her grateful mother thanked me and invited me to dinner that night. She was making her specialty, *puchero* [peasant stew]. The girl's eyes fluttered. I slipped a couple of warm peanuts into her jacket pocket as her mother took her from me, then stepped away.

A 118 pulled around the flaming wreck on the street and stopped right where I was standing. I jumped on and sat down in my favourite seat, by the window at the very back on the left, just inside the door from the back platform. It was a CUTCSA<sup>2</sup> bus, an open-backed Leyland, one of those fabulous old wrecks with the engine jutting out in front. A battered and abused rattletrap, painted battleship gray with a red stripe along the side, endowed with nightmarish exhaust. There were two rows of lightly upholstered seats on either side of the aisle. Parallel bars hung from the roof, where standing passengers could hang on. Shorter passengers could use a metal grip on the backrests of the aisle seats. Right in front of me was one of the pair of *asientos de los bobos* [silly seats] set parallel to the aisle, facing inwards. They were the most uncomfortable and undignified seats on the bus, where everyone stepped on your feet as they moved up the aisle.

The conductor—in his gray uniform and military-style cap with its shiny black visor and a money purse slung over his shoulder—encouraged passengers to move forward and make room for more people to board. “*Corriéndose que hay lugar.*”<sup>3</sup> There were official limits to the number of passengers the bus was allowed to carry, but they were routinely ignored, and people were soon packed in tight, pressed up against each



## BACK IN TIME ...Continued

other in unwelcome intimacy. I was finishing my peanuts when I spotted a man with his hand in a woman's purse. My parents had always warned me to be wary of "people like that" because they could be armed. ("What if he has a knife?" my mother gasped in horror). Undaunted, I stood up, pointed at the man and shouted "*¡punguista!*" [pickpocket]. A brouhaha ensued and the man was set upon and bundled off the bus as his victim whacked him on the head with her purse. Then everyone turned to me and applauded. "*Sos un fenómeno, pibe*"<sup>4</sup> said the woman's husband and pressed a hundred peso note into my hand.



When the bus arrived at my stop—at the corner of 26 de Marzo and Pereyra de la Luz—I stood up and, to scattered applause, stepped onto the back platform and jumped off the bottom step. The *Bar Los Dos Hermanos* had been on that corner

ever since we moved into the neighborhood, and—until the UTE<sup>5</sup> finally installed our own phone at home—that is where I called to advise my parents if I was going to be home late. Raúl or Manolo would send one of their regular bar customers to call my father, *el inglés*, from our home half a block away. Dad would come and take the call, and always had a coffee or a glass of wine to repay the kindness.

Out of habit I looked in the window, and froze in my tracks. There was a holdup in progress! A man was pointing a gun at Manolo, who was standing behind the cash register. Raúl and the regulars were standing around stiffly with their hands up, looking at the man with the gun. I kept walking to the corner then ducked down the side street to the far end of the building and stepped through the other door. I was in the shadows and nobody noticed me. I pulled my catapult from one pocket and my lucky marble from the other. I knew it was a one-shot gamble and I would have to make it count. I took one step into the bar and fired off my shot. My lucky marble knocked the gun out of the robber's hand, just as I'd seen it done a hundred times in the movies. Everyone jumped on him and sat on him while Raúl phoned the police. Manolo waved at me and said "*sos un crack, Antoñito!*"<sup>6</sup> I waved back and went home. Over dinner I told my parents all about my exciting ride home from the dentist's office, omitting only the part about the nurse, for my mother's sake. They listened politely, as they always did, then asked if I might not be exaggerating just a little. I said what I always said when they challenged the accuracy of my narratives: "It *could* have happened like that."

(Endnotes)



<sup>1</sup> **Peanut vendor**

<sup>2</sup> **CUTCSA** Compañía Uruguaya de Transportes Colectivos Sociedad Anónima

<sup>3</sup> "Move forward, there's room."

<sup>4</sup> "You're brilliant, kid."

<sup>5</sup> *Usinas y Teléfonos del Estado*, as it was called in those days.

<sup>6</sup> "You're an ace, Antoñito."

## CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde  
carolinaconde@teachers.org

### Beef Ragu



#### Ingredients

2 large onions, chopped  
A few tablespoons of olive oil  
2 tins of whole peeled tomatoes  
1 tin of tomato purée  
1 cup of red wine  
½ head of garlic, chopped  
1 tablespoon of dried oregano  
1 tablespoon of paprika  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1 kg. Chuck roast, or similar cut for braising / stewing, trimmed of some fat and cut into large chunks

#### Instructions

1. In a clay pot or Dutch oven, sauté the onion in a few tablespoons of oil over medium heat for 10 minutes, until soft and translucent. Add the whole tomatoes (break them up with your hand), tomato purée, red wine, garlic, oregano, paprika, salt and pepper, and bring the sauce to the boil.
2. Reduce the heat to low, and add the beef.
3. Cover the pot with a tight-fitting lid, and simmer the sauce for 2 to 3 hours or until you can cut the beef with a spoon.
4. Remove from the heat, and let it stand for 10 minutes.
5. Serve with your favourite pasta.

## MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Many thanks to **Joanna N Hambrook** for sharing with us these three links to the videos she filmed of the Oscar Wilde Reading we had at the End of the Year Trip of 2015.

Also, thanks to **Neil Titley** for allowing us to publish them for your enjoyment.

**Video #1**

**Video #2**

**Video #3**



## LINK O' THE MONTH



This month's "Link o' the Month" is thanks to **Malisa Rouse** who recommends the website **EMBASSY WORLDWIDE** that contains detailed and accurate information about Embassies Worldwide.

An excellent source of information to all our world travellers which we will also share on our Website.

## THE FAR SIDE



"Bob, you fool...  
Don't plug that thing in!!!"

Newsletter Design by  
[www.boskejo.com](http://www.boskejo.com)

