



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY

# Contact

March 2016

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## THE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



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## PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear Readers,

Summers rest is over, and we're all back to the grindstone, in full activities (although some of us are counting the days left for Holy Week) and coming up very soon is our first Lecture Supper of the year. Coinciding with the International Women's day, we'll be having a very positive and feminine topic, given to us by the Ambassador to the European Union, Mr. Juan Fernández Trigo, on the Female Revolution and how women have changed humanity in the past decades, so many thanks for the enjoyable topic. Thanks also, to the British Hospital, for hosting us once again in the conference center, an always favorite venue. A raffle will be held, organized by The Allies in benefit of the Benevolent Fund. Please see more details of the event on Page 4. We do hope to see you there.

Thanks to Chris Ferrand who gave us a helpful suggestion, at our last AGM, regarding our Honorary members. We will present a list of our voted Honorary members, in order for you to read, and to decide which name you believe should be added to it, and voted, at our next Annual General Meeting, so please send us your nominees.

It will be our dear Queen's 90th Birthday next month, so we'll be having a few celebrations throughout the year. Our Ambassador shall be hosting at the Residence, the Queen's Birthday Party in a grand manner, so reserve yourself the date for a big treat.

Hope you enjoy this edition of Contact.

All the best,

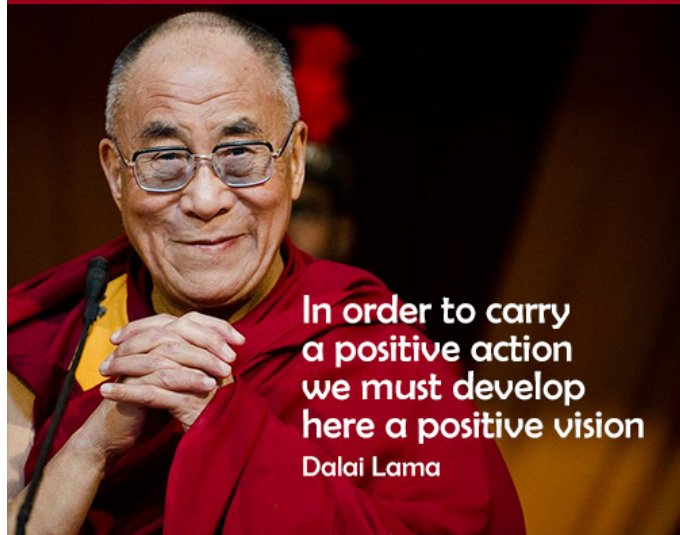
**Madeleine**

### Remember!

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

Please, send us 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.



**In order to carry  
a positive action  
we must develop  
here a positive vision**  
Dalai Lama

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, 8th March**

**British Society in Uruguay**

Lecture Supper

Venue to be confirmed

**Friday, 1st April**

**British Society in Uruguay**

Next Generation Gathering

Philip Davies Atelier

**Thursday, 17th March**

**St Patrick's Day**

...wear your greens...

**Thursday, 28th April**

**The Queen's 90th Birthday Party**

Our Ambassador's Residence

Jorge Canning 2491

## CHRIST CHURCH NEWS



Celebrate Easter at Christ Church during one or more of our three options.

Good Friday, March 24th, from 4 to 7pm, our Chapel on the corner of Lieja and Arocena will be open for a time of musical meditation and prayer. This service format from 2015 was really appreciated by the many who participated. You are free to come for as short or long as you like during this space created for personal reflection. Communion will be offered at several intervals along with brief readings from Scripture.

Our Sunrise Service starts as the sun rises over the river on the Plaza Virgilio (Plaza de la Armada in Punta Gorda at the Rambla end of Avenida General Paz).

Join us Sunday March 27th at 6:53am for a brief, but encouraging experience among new friends and a simple shared breakfast of cinnamon breads, bagels and good coffee.

Our 11am Service on March 27 will focus on the Resurrection of Christ through inspiring music, Scripture readings and a colorful drama. Following the service, everyone is invited to stay for our monthly Potluck Lunch

**Everyone brings food to share and we enjoy it together as a large family.**

Anticipate delicious local and international dishes in addition to whatever you bring.

The weekly activities and Study groups in English and Spanish for Monday through Thursday of Holy Week are suspended to enjoy the vacation and give our volunteers and employees a much deserved break!

For questions and comments, please contact us through our website:

**[www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)**

Warm regards,  
John

**BRITISH SOCIETY IN URUGUAY**

We happily invite you to our first  
Lecture Supper of the year!  
Tuesday, 8th March at 19:30 Hs



With our very special guest speaker: the Ambassador of  
the European Union to Uruguay, Juan Fernández Trigo.

Since it is "International Women's Day" on that date,  
he will enlighten us about

## **"The Female Revolution"**

How women have changed humanity  
in the past decades.

\$400 for Members

\$550 for Non-Members

A vegetarian menu is available for those who wish so.

Please let us know beforehand.

Seating is limited, so please, book your place now at  
[secretary@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:secretary@britsoc.org.uy)

Or call Susan McConnell at 094 384 020

## SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME NEWS

### February was a month full of activities!!!!

Thursday, February 11th, Peter Schor had a wonderful surprise: Ian Brigham, the son of an old friend of the Schor family, came to see him. Peter and Ian met back in the 60's when Ian and his parents went to visit Jimmy Hicks and his family at their farm in Maldonado. Peter used to supply the Hicks family with fertilizers and insecticides. Peter and Ian remembered that the Expats often gathered to have "asados" or go duck shooting along the Cebollatí River and also at the Lago Merín. What was fascinating was the fact that Ian lives in Birmingham and he came on his BMW motorbike!!!! To see more about this incredible journey go to Facebook Ian Brigham Cartor.

March will also be a month full of events. On March 8th, to celebrate Women's day, we will be painting with temperas after tea. On March 17th, St. Patrick's day, we have chosen to decorate paper shamrocks by painting them with watercolours. With the vernal equinox, the arrival of Autumn, we will be reciting poems, and last but not least on March 21st, Herbert will be celebrating his 93rd Birthday. If you would like to join us in any of all our events, please phone the SWCH 2487 1020 extension 2343 and tell Ana that you will be coming for tea.

**Andrea**



## BSU CLASSIFIED CONTACTS

My name is Isabel Stanham (Belita).

I live year round in Las Flores, Maldonado and I am starting a B&B or for rent weekends, holidays, etc. up to seven persons.

Living and Dining room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, fenced in garden, kitchen, and vegetable garden.

One block from the beautiful beach.

My Phone is **4432 1730** or **099 858 095**.



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## ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWS

### HOLY WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

PASSION SUNDAY: Palm Sunday 20 March

9:00 – Liturgia en español

10:30 – Liturgy in English

WEDNESDAY 23 March

10:00 – Eucharist

### CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, BRITISH HOSPITAL

MAUNDY THURSDAY 24 March

9:00 – Blessing of the Holy Oils and Renewal of Ordination Vows

18.30 – Conmemoración de la Institución de la Eucaristía, con la

Ceremonia del Lavatorio de Pies

GOOD FRIDAY el 25 de marzo

15:00 – Liturgy of the Passion and

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY 26 March

19:00 – The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER DAY 27 March

9:00 - Liturgia en español

10:30 – Liturgy in English



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### EU REFERENDUM

The Electoral Commission has launched a global campaign to encourage an estimated five million Britons living overseas to check their eligibility to vote ahead of the referendum on EU membership on 23 June.

Go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) for more information.



### *Oh no! My passport's expired!*

Check your passport validity ahead of time to avoid any unnecessary stress. All passports must now be applied for online at:

**[www.gov.uk/overseas-passports](http://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports)**

You will need to send your form and any supporting documents via secure courier directly to Her Majesty's Passport Office in the UK.

Read the above link for all information relating to your passport application from abroad.

### DOUBLE TAXATION CONVENTION



The United Kingdom and Uruguay signed a convention to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion related to taxes on income and on capital. Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns and Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa signed the agreement in a ceremony held at Palacio Santos. The convention will protect and promote existing and future investments.



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

## BRITISH EMBASSY NEWS

### MONEY LAUNDERING

Experts from the International Governance and Risk Institute (GovRisk) delivered a seminar for over 50 professionals and officials in the non-financial businesses sector on fighting money laundering and terrorism financing. The training was a joint project of the National Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat in Presidency and the Embassy.



### TRAINING FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

The Ambassador and the Minister of Education and Culture, María Julia Muñoz, launched the Programme for Education and Academic Exchange for Science teachers, held in Maldonado. The programme included a series of capacity building opportunities for school, high-school and UTU teachers from all over the country by British experts in areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The project was funded by the Science and Innovation Fund ran by the Embassy in 2015-2016.



### SAVE THE DATE - THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

This year the Embassy will celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday on Thursday 28 April from 19:00 to 21:00 hours in the British Residence.

The invitation from the Ambassador and Belinda to members of the Community will issue in the next edition of the newsletter.



## ANGLO NEWS

EL ÓMNIBUS ROJO &

EL SUBMARINO AMARILLO



**CULTURA BRITÁNICA**  
VEN A VIVIRLA AL ANGLO



**ANGLO**

WWW.ANGLO.EDU.UY

## 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** How and when did Freemasonry start?

**A** It is not known. The earliest recorded 'making' of a Freemason in England is that of Elias Ashmole in 1646. Organised Freemasonry began with the founding of the Grand Lodge of England on 24 June 1717, the first Grand Lodge in the world. Ireland followed in 1725 and Scotland in 1736. All the regular Grand Lodges in the world trace themselves back to one or more of the Grand Lodges in the British Isles.

There are two main theories of origin. According to one, the operative stonemasons who built the great cathedrals and castles had lodges in which they discussed trade affairs. They had simple initiation ceremonies and, as there were no City and Guilds certificates, dues cards or trade union membership cards, they adopted secret signs and words to demonstrate that they were trained masons when they moved from site to site. In the 1600s, these operative lodges began to accept non-operatives as "gentlemen masons". Gradually these non-operatives took over the lodges and turned them from operative to 'free and accepted' -or 'speculative' lodges.



The other theory is that in the late 1500s and early 1600s, there was a group which was interested in the promotion of religious and political tolerance in an age of great intolerance when differences of opinion on matters of religion and politics were to lead to bloody civil war. In forming Freemasonry, they were trying to make better men and build a better world. As the means of teaching in those days was by

allegory and symbolism, they took the idea of building as the central allegory on which to form their system. The main source of allegory was the Bible, the contents of which were known to everyone even if they could not read, and the only building described in detail in the Bible was King Solomon's Temple,

which became the basis of the ritual. The old trade guilds provided them with their basis administration of a Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary, and the operative mason's tools provided them with a wealth of symbols with which to illustrate the moral teachings of Freemasonry

## MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

### The new UK alcohol guidelines

On 8 January 2016, the UK Chief Medical Officer's guidelines on alcohol consumption were issued, to the dismay of many, especially the brewers, importers, pubs and many others who felt that the UK was going too far and being too restrictive in its recommendations. The Government was labelled as acting as a 'nanny state' and patronising the British with the new rules. The most recent recommendations were from 1995 and gave a greater leeway to men than women (men could soak safely up to twice the amount that was felt ok for women) and still considered that a small or moderate amount of even daily drinking was probably not only harmless but had a favourable health effect: the J-curve phenomenon. Well... it seems that the evidence that has piled up over the last two decades has tipped the facts against ethanol: there is no safe limit. Besides, men have to feminise their intake: both men and women are now subject to the same daily and weekly limits. Alcohol is now considered harmful at any level and this is especially so for some cancers (see the links below). So, someone had to come out and spell out the new truth clearly.

I understand how upset and outraged many of the interested parties may feel and certainly the gut feeling that the public was being nannied, is an expected reaction. The issue here is that if the evidence contradicts or at least twists concepts strongly rooted in culture, not making it public is irresponsible. Remember the time when Big Tobacco

companies hid information on the harms of smoking for many years and were held liable by justice for doing so. It was the government's call to break the news and to weather the storm.

The result, in my impression, is a bit confusing. If alcohol is that bad, it should be fought against as many countries (especially Uruguay) have done against tobacco. Instead, we have been issued rather complex recommendations on the 'safe limit' of 14 'units' of alcohol per week and how they should be spread out over the weekdays so as to minimise the risks of harm. The links included below graphically show how much we can safely drink, but I needed my computer's and my smartphone's calculator to work out the math... certainly an ordeal most of us will do without at the next party or meeting. To begin with, not all countries define their 'units' uniformly: 1 UK unit equals 10 mL (cc) of pure alcohol. Imagine asking the waiter to show you the bottle's label with its alcohol concentration and then asking him to pour not more than a measured amount into the glass! (There may now be a niche market for laboratory-style glasses with the mL's engraved for use both at home and in booze-pickled events!)

After the tsunami shock-like effect of the new guidelines, we should think: Now what? Remember that last year a worldwide guideline on the risk of eating red meat shook the foundations of our beef cattle industry – for a week or so. I certainly don't think it has had a significant (if any) effect on meat consumption in our

## MEDICAL COLUMN *...Continued*

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE  
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

country, beyond that of price increases. The new alcohol guidelines, however, are a significant change in widespread held beliefs and truths. Although the impact on consumption may not be great, it does raise awareness that humanity's relationship with alcohol is not harmless, even at what were believed safe levels.

So, next time we're offered a drink or grab one on our own, we must remember that anything we humans do is not without long-term effects, although in comparison, the risk from drinking lightly or moderately, pales against greater threats that surround us and are part of our culture and civilisation. The water we drink is threatened with contamination from many sources, most of which have to do with monoculture in modern agribusinesses, new forms of petroleum extraction like fracking and faulty waste disposal. The air we breathe is toxic in many cities and regions. The food we eat is riddled with additives and preservatives

(just check the labels for 'INS!'). We still don't know how safe the long-term consumption of genetically modified foods is. Even healthcare can harm by over-testing, over-diagnosing and over-treating. An 'unhealthy workweek' is that which extends beyond 55 hours, and so on.

But for the time-being, we'll have to have our calculator handy when we uncork our next Cabernet or unscrew a Red Label.

### Links

[New alcohol guidelines](#)

[Alcohol limits to reduce health risks](#)

[New alcohol advice issued](#)



**Six pints of beer (4% strength)**



**Seven glasses of wine (11.5 strength, 175ml)**



**Fourteen single shots (40% strength, 175ml)**

## BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith  
tony@tonybeckwith.com

### A Night on the Town

My friend—I will call him Gerald—was a year older than I was and I had just turned eighteen. Our dates for the evening were younger, but their precise ages had never actually come up. Until that night. I should make it clear from the very outset that all names mentioned here have been changed to protect the essential innocence of those who were involved in the events I am about to describe.

I was wearing what my mother called my “snazzy outfit”: a blue blazer, grey flannel trousers, chestnut brown moccasins, pale blue shirt, and a tie with dark blue and red angled stripes separated by very thin yellow lines. The tie was given to me for my recent birthday and I thought it made me look more grownup. We were in Gerald’s car, of course; I had left my Vespa at his house. We picked up our dates, who filled the car with their fragrance and their laughter, and drove off in high spirits. La Boite was a cosy night club, tucked away in the eucalyptus woods of Carrasco, where couples went for an evening of cocktails and dancing in a discreet setting. We were escorted to a booth in a secluded corner and settled in; Gerald and I on the outside, the girls against the wall. The lights strung from the low thatched ceiling were subdued, and a candle flickered in a wax-coated Chianti bottle on the white tablecloth beside a Cinzano ashtray. We felt as though we were in our own private world.

We ordered four rum & cokes and Gerald and I smoked the Chesterfields I had bought especially for the evening. I lit mine from the candle flame and felt so grownup, so very sophisticated. We danced to the band’s lively sambas and slow boleros as twinkling lights swirled over us like snowflakes on the club’s

tiny dance floor. Inge was exactly the right height and seemed to share my sense of rhythm, which made dancing a pleasure. When we returned to the booth she was bright-eyed and chatty and, as the evening wore on, we were having a wonderful time.

We had just ordered another round of Cuba Libres when the lights were suddenly turned up and the music came to an abrupt stop. About eight police officers and one lieutenant strode into the club, an ominous presence in their dark blue uniforms and serious faces. Two of them blocked the door while the others checked everyone’s documents, and that’s when we learned that our dates had not quite reached legal age yet. They were in fact sixteen, and as such were “committing a grave infraction” by being in a club of this sort at this time of night. It transpired that both sets of parents were under the impression that their daughter was spending the night at the other’s house. Gerald and I talked to the police officer who came to our table, inventing convoluted and far-fetched stories about notarized parental permission and diplomatic immunity, but all in vain. Our delinquent girlfriends were marched into a paddy wagon and we watched in horror as the door slammed shut behind them. The lieutenant explained that the young ladies’ parents would have to present themselves at the comisaría in person to claim their errant offspring, then drove off, leaving Gerald and me feeling as though the weight of the universe had just been dropped onto our shoulders. For of course, in order to facilitate the aforementioned claiming process we would have to call their parents. At one thirty on Sunday morning. There were

## BACK IN TIME *...Continued*

a million things we would rather have done than make that call, but we had no choice.

"Hello, Mr. Berenson, sir, this is Anthony Beckwith."

"Who?"

"Um, Anthony Beckwith, sir, and, um, I have some news about Inge.

"Inge?"

"Yes sir, um, your daughter, sir." I launched into an account of the evening's activities, and what had once seemed like good, clean fun now sounded devious, deceptive, and faintly sleazy. I tried to portray Inge and me as innocent victims of capricious fate as I stood squirming by the phone at the Bar Arocena, where Gerald and I had gone for a drop of Dutch courage before making the dreaded phone calls.

Mr. Berenson met me at the comisaría and we shook hands, sort of. He was tall, fair-skinned, and forbidding. I tried to make some ingratiating remark about getting him out of bed at this time of night and he gave me a look that turned my blood to ice. I started squirming again as he narrowed his cold, blue eyes, shook his head very slightly, and turned away. I wasn't feeling at all grownup any more, and had never felt less sophisticated. We stepped inside the police station. Mr. Berenson had to sign something and then had a somewhat heated conversation with the lieutenant, asking why his daughter had been swept up in this sordid affair. The lieutenant, who was apparently in no mood for diplomatic niceties, explained that it was part of an official campaign to round up "subversive elements" and, while they were at it, teach a lesson to the wayward children of people who think the laws do not apply to them. I stood pressed up against the wall by the door with my hands behind my

back, and the feel of the rough stucco surface soon had me thinking about firing squads. Then my erstwhile dance partner came through the gate and her father drew her to his side with a look like the one he had given me earlier. She didn't resist. She'd been crying, and looked dishevelled and wilted, a far cry from the radiant young thing who had recently nestled her cheek against mine on the dance floor. Her eyes darted in my direction and immediately looked away as her father took her arm and escorted her out of the station. I glanced nervously at the lieutenant but he just shrugged and nodded toward the door.

Gerald said his version of the same scene had gone quite differently. His date's father had evidently been in similar jams when he was a young man, and was inclined to be much less severe than my Mr. Berenson. This tended to confirm what some of us had long suspected, which was that parents were a decidedly unpredictable bunch, and should always be approached with a great deal of caution. We were back at the Bar Arocena, which was open till all hours, having one for the road. As luck would have it, one of the tunes on the jukebox was "Sweet Little Sixteen",<sup>1</sup> so of course we played it a time or two. The eastern horizon was turning a delicate shade of pink as I rode home, ruminating on the evening that had started out so brilliantly and ended so badly. After thinking it all through, I had to acknowledge that feeling grownup and sophisticated was not necessarily the same as being grownup and sophisticated, and ruefully admitted to myself that on both counts I obviously had a long way to go.

**[Click here to listen to Chuck Berry's Sweet Little Sixteen](#)**



## CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde  
carolinaconde@teachers.org



## Chocolate Coconut Blancmange

### Ingredients

- **1¾ cups milk, plus ¼ cup cold milk**
- **3 tbsp corn-starch**
- **¼ cup sugar**
- **2 tbsp cocoa powder**
- **¼ tsp salt**
- **2 eggs, separated, yolks well beaten**
- **½ cup shredded coconut**
- **1 tsp vanilla extract**
- **Whipped cream and shaved chocolate, for serving**

### Instructions

In a small saucepan, scald 1¾ cups milk and set aside.

In another saucepan, combine corn-starch, sugar, cocoa powder, salt, and ¼ cup cold milk. Add scalded milk to corn-starch mixture. Cook until mixture thickens, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly; mix in well-beaten egg yolks, coconut and vanilla, and transfer mixture to a medium-size mixing bowl. Place a piece of plastic wrap directly onto the surface of the custard to prevent a skin from forming. Allow to cool.

Just before ready to serve, beat egg whites to form stiff peaks. Fold half the egg whites into the custard and stir until well combined and there are no white streaks. Repeat with the remaining egg whites.

To serve, spoon blancmange into small glass dessert bowls or broad shallow goblets, and top with dollops of whipped cream and shaved chocolate.

**Enjoy!**

## LINK O' THE MONTH



This issues'  
"Link o' the Month"  
is about:  
**World's Best  
Ever Dronies\***

\*Drone Selfies

**ANDY CAPP** by Reg Smythe



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