



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

JANUARY 2021

Sir Winston Churchill Home
End of Year Celebrations

British Embassy
12 Days of Christmas

St Andrew's Society
125th Anniversary

www.britsoc.org.uy



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IN URUGUAY
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Edition Number 124 - Year 11 - January 2021



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,
I hope you have enjoyed the festive season in spite of the pandemic and are looking forward to this new year.

For the Society, as for most, 2020 was a taxing year full of challenges. We were forced to do without the vast majority of our planned events and shift to online activities. Events implying get-togethers were at first postponed and then cancelled. Even our AGM and Council meeting took place online. But then lecture-suppers and after office talks were replaced by online forums, and in the second semester were able to have our annual scavenger hunt and the spring croquet tournament, so it was not all bad.

At the start of the pandemic the Society set up a Community Help System, that though little used was much appreciated by all. The feedback we received on that account was encouraging and appreciated. Though the system is currently unused, help from the Society is still available for members who request it.

Last year saw us improve our website and newsletter and start our LinkedIn account. Our number of followers on Instagram is now on a par with the number of followers on Facebook (over 6200 on each, of which only around ¼ coincide).

On the down side, we had few new members throughout the year and the amounts we were able to collect for our two main charitable funds – the Sir Winston Churchill Home Fund and the Benevolent Fund – were lower than in previous years, though both these facts are attributable to the dearth of events and activities caused by the pandemic.

But that was 2020 and we are now in 2021. Your Society never sleeps, so changes are already being considered. As you will see in this edition of Contact, we are revamping this newsletter and will strive to continue to improve it. In this regard, any feedback you may have on the changes made (and those to be implemented in future editions), on the sections included and on anything else you wish to comment on, will be more than welcome.

Other changes will depend in how the pandemic develops and may take a little longer to emerge. In the meantime, rest assured that the Executive Committee is ever working behind the scenes to make your Society better for us all.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you again sometime soon.

Richard Empson MBE
President



One Century

We would like to congratulate British Society honorary member Lucille Best on occasion of her recent 100th birthday!

It is not every day that our members reach this respectable age, which in her case makes only two years younger than the Society itself!

We toast to your health, Lucille, and are honoured to have you as a member of our community and Society.



New Members

Monica Patricia Prevett Vignoles
Peter John Gault

Welcome

Birthdays

in January

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 · Ana K. Fontes | 19 · Silvana M. Frigerio |
| 01 · Karen A. Higgs | 19 · Alejandra Mendioroz |
| 02 · Manuel Ciganda | 21 · María P. Ciasullo |
| 02 · Eric Quevedo | 21 · Anthony P. Prevett |
| 03 · Mark N. Sexton | 22 · Sheila B. Henderson |
| 05 · Adriana de los Santos | 23 · Ondine Aenlle |
| 06 · Marta Arechavaleta | 23 · Eleonora R. Liotti |
| 06 · Maureen Stoutt | 26 · Elvira J. Shaw |
| 07 · Helena Jorge | 27 · Francisco M. Ruvertoni |
| 09 · Virginia A. Brown | 27 · Elisabeth C. Whitty |
| 09 · Teresa Gallette | 28 · Nicolás F. Etcheverry |
| 10 · Heather B. Cobham | 29 · Stephanie Bell |
| 10 · Gabriel L. Rizzo | 29 · Caroline V. Empson |
| 14 · Mariana Fox | 29 · Pedro L. Maisonnave |
| 16 · Joan Lucas-Calcraft | 30 · Elaine M. Horne |
| 16 · Diana R. Surgey | 30 · Cecilia Lebrato |
| 18 · Aída P. Scott | 31 · Verónica Funch-Thomsen |

HAPPY
Birthday

*"Wishing all of you
a day filled with happiness
and a year filled with joy"
Happy Birthdays!*



THIS MONTH'S COVER



With this issue, we are beginning the Scottish cycle theme for our Newsletter's covers. We already saw a Welsh cycle in 2019 and a London cycle in 2020. I hope you enjoy them.

This month's cover shows Glen Etive, a glen in the Highlands of Scotland. The River Etive rises on the peaks surrounding Rannoch Moor, with several tributary streams coming together at the Kings House Hotel, at the head of Glen Coe. From the Kings House, the Etive flows for about 18 km, reaching the sea loch, Loch Etive. The river and its tributaries are popular with whitewater kayakers and at high water levels it is a test piece of the area and a classic run. Glen Etive has been used as the backdrop to many movies, among them Braveheart and Skyfall. Stay safe,

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The British Society would like to kindly remind all members who have not yet done so to get up to date with their membership fees.

Remember you can now do this easily from the comfort of your own home using any local debit card and most credit cards through the [RedTickets](#) platform.

And if you forgot to pay last year's fee (or any previous unpaid dues), you can simply pay two or more at the same RedTickets link or by visiting our [Website](#).

Else you can make a bank transfer (or direct deposit) to the **British Society** account at **Banque Heritage** Uruguay number 62582-03, or pay our Treasurer (in copy) directly. If done by bank transfer/deposit, please send our Treasurer a copy of the transfer/deposit slip.

2021



Once this is done, your membership will be updated.



The British Schools shared Christmas Carols with the residents

We would like to deeply thank the British Schools and all those involved in the recording of the wonderful Christmas carols video prepared for our residents. We know many people were involved and would like to thank them very much. Although we missed having the choir at the Home this year, this personalised version was excellent, and the good thing is that it can be watched many, many times!



The girls sang really beautifully, their voices are so sweet!

The British Antarctic Survey Club Boxing Day Tea

The Residents enjoyed a very festive Boxing Day Tea hosted by the British Antarctic Survey Club in honour of Kenn Back, our newest resident. The SWCH Committee is extremely grateful for the BASC's generosity and encouragement. Although far away, Kenn always feels supported by his former and present colleagues.



The British Hospital's Rincón Infantil

Every Tuesday the residents are visited by the girls of the Rincón Infantil who always provide entertainment and loving care. They popped in last week to leave some Christmas presents. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions their visits have been momentarily set on hold.



Keeping Alive Our British Traditions

Many thanks to Liz Cowley for the delicious Christmas Cake and Plum Pudding and Margaret Mc Connell for the tasty Mince Pies, which help keep alive our British traditions. They were much appreciated by everyone.



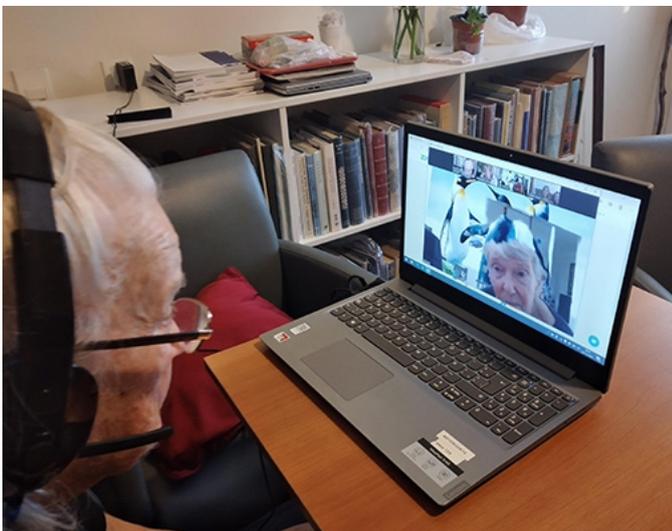
Father Christmas Visited the Home

Since all our residents behaved very well during the year, Father Christmas remembered them all and brought lovely presents.



Joan's Christmas Zoom with her family

Joan had a Zoom meeting with her sister, Yvonne in Australia and with Sheila in Montevideo. They were joined by some grand-nephews and grand-nieces who she hadn't seen for many years which was especially emotional.





We are
searching
for

CONTRIBUTORS

for our newsletter

It can be about any subject you would like to write and read about.

Must deliver:

- 12 entertaining short columns (one per month).
- Upto 500 words.
- Must be written in English.
- The topic can be informative, entertaining, funny, factual, educational, historical, inspirational.
- If it is about British themes it is a plus!!



PLEASE CONTACT OUR EDITOR
editor@britsoc.org.uy





12 Days of Christmas

Being unable to celebrate Christmas in person, the Embassy celebrated “12 Days of Christmas” online on our social media, together with members of the British Society. Beginning a little earlier than the official 12 days, from 16th December we were pleased to share a [solo of The Nutcracker by Archie Sullivan](#), a British dancer from Sodre National Ballet performing from the Residence, [members of Winston Churchill Home](#) and winner of Brit Rock competition singing separate Christmas Carols, [members of Montevideo Players acting at the Residence](#), and piper Patricia Izuibejeres playing from the beach at Cabo Polonio. Ambassador Faye O'Connor shared various messages, including traditions she keeps, such as [decorating gingerbread with her children](#) and [having mince pies and mulled wine](#). We hope you all had a lovely Christmas, despite these strange times we are living.

We wish you a very Happy New Year!

GBUA

Ambassador Faye O'Connor hosted the Graduates of British Universities Association (GBUA) annual reunion on 24 November on women and leadership, with Vice President Beatriz Argimón as the main speaker.

The Ambassador shared with the audience her leadership experience within the FCDO and agreed with Argimón that they “hope the day will come when leadership is spoken of as something generic, not men’s or women’s leadership”.





ANGLO

All of us join in wishing you
a happy Holiday Season and
a prosperous New Year.



ENGLISH SUMMER COURSES

ENROL NOW!
FEBRUARY 2021



Face-to-Face or Synchronic On-line

4.5 hours per week

4 weeks of training

Divided in 4 levels

Start: Monday 1st February

Finish: Friday 26th February

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

8.30 am to 10 am – Face-to-Face

in Anglo Centro

6.30 pm to 8 pm – On-line



ANGLO

MORE INFO

www.anglo.edu.uy

ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY



On St. Andrew's Day, our 125th Anniversary, The Committee called its members to a Virtual connection via Zoom to toast to Scotland and Our Founders.

More than we expected signed in and joined a friendly conversation from Chile, Argentina, United States and Uruguay. The pictures we received for the Photo competition sent us back on years sharing anecdotes and memories of times past and others not that old.

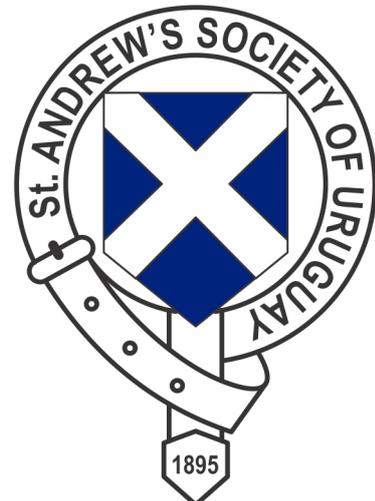
Gonzalo Rodriguez piped in the Haggis and we shared videos of Scottish Country Dances and the Scottish Dance Uruguay video performance.

All in all, it was a wonderful get together amid the pandemic situation which voided us to celebrate otherwise.



Future Event

This Covid-19 situation keeps hitting any plan we make but keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for our next planned celebration: BURNS EVE.



Oldest Photo Competition

The oldest Photo Competition came to an end and the winner was **Andrew Cooper** with his picture dated 1953 where we can see Sylvia Gibson Fraser, his mother, and Jean Gibson Fraser, his auntie, with friends at the St. Andrew's Banquet in Buenos Aires.



The second oldest was sent by **Pamela Manríquez**, it shows her grandparents Gerald Lillie and Joan Campbell at our 1955 Caledonian Ball.



To all our friends at the British Society
HAPPY NEW YEAR
And our wishes that 2021 will allow us to meet again.

It's No Drill Anymore

The official story started one year ago, when someone in China went to a Wuhan live animal market and took home some exotic food and got infected with a new coronavirus that had apparently not been in contact with humans before. Alternative stories point to a breach in the security of a high-level laboratory in the same area. Intentional obfuscating versions by the Chinese government, compounded by what now seems an initial erratic and hesitant response by the World Health Organization, created the perfect storm that continued unabated to become the present COVID-19 pandemic. The full forensic analysis of what happened during those initial weeks is a pending chore.

Fast-forward twelve months, the playout of the pandemic took many forms, especially related to what happened in cities, countries, and regions worldwide. As in Netflix series to be broadcasted, we've seen 'trailers' and 'spoilers' of all the different scenarios. Northern Italy, France, Spain, the UK, Washington state and New York City gave us the menu of what happens in winter and spring. Europe in general and the USA showed what happens when relaxation of preventive measures is tolerated and allowed during the summer season. Certain countries have done pretty well, especially island nations like Iceland and New Zealand. Some experiments failed precipitously, as happened in Sweden. Denial of the severity of the problem as was seen in the USA, Mexico and Brazil, have led to massive, widespread infection, overloading of healthcare systems, too many deaths, burials and cremations.

Uruguay did its homework well: we had our initial patients after a time-lag of around two months. We acted fast and resorted to science as guidance, putting petty politics aside and exerting adequate leadership, making informed decisions. During the initial three months, our population responded and by June we enjoyed a week with a few days of zero cases. But since then, we became somewhat complacent and minimised the virus' ability to travel, transmit and infect persons on a slow, gradual, and progressive way. During the initial six or seven months, we did an excellent job of diagnosing, isolating, contact tracing, quarantining and pre-emptively running ahead of the number of cases. But something went wrong – and it wasn't the virus who got the upper hand: we simply let it do so. And now we have community spread.

'Warp-speed' (faster-than-light) development of new vaccines is now a reality. About 150 are potential candidates, but only around 10 will make it to the finish line over the next few months. As I write this article, two (Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna) have been authorised (please note the difference between 'authorised' for emergency use [EUA] and 'approved') and are already being applied in the UK, USA and EU countries.

Uruguay will get its vaccines in the next weeks or by summer's end, but how they'll contribute to controlling and eliminating the pandemic is still an open question. This moment coincides with a tremendous upsurge of exponential magnitude in the number of daily new cases, with deaths as I write at around 3-5 per day and the inevitable prospect of having 1000 daily new cases by New Year's Day.

This is the real stuff: it's no drill anymore, as we practised during those initial months until complacency and fatigue found its way into our behaviours. The scenarios we face may well be analogous to Armageddon (Revelation 16:16) although I like the classic Western movies best, when the good endings were either marked by the coming of the US Cavalry (the vaccines?) or by the showdown shootout which confronted the good against the bad guys.

The time of reckoning is here: humanity is facing a biological threat analogous to an alien invasion. We must leave nonsense aside and to act united and guided by our best leaders and science.

On another note, I want to clarify my position with respect to the vaccines which will be available in Uruguay in the near future. Over social media and WhatsApp, I've been asked if I'll get a vaccine myself and if I recommend it to all.

My official position is YES: I'll get the vaccine as soon as I'm entitled to it, according to the Ministry of Public Health's plan and I encourage my readers who have doubts, to ask their doctors if it's safe for them to do so. Although vaccination won't be compulsory, unless there is a specific contraindication (allergy or other), the default recommendation is to get it whenever you can.

Washington Black

Some days ago, I watched a marvellous documentary film on Netflix, *My Octopus Teacher*. It's about Craig Foster who goes free-diving (no breathing equipment) in an underwater kelp forest near Cape Town. He documents his relationship with a young octopus, with whom he forges a bond of trust. The octopus allows Foster to follow her around and play with her, for almost a year. He describes his experience as a lesson on the fragility of human life and its connection with the natural world.

This reminded me of some scenes in a novel I read last year, **Washington Black**, which also, like the film, explores human endeavour. In the novel, "Wash" Black, the narrator, is diving for specimens off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada, for the collection of G. M. Goff, an eminent marine biologist, and his daughter Tanna. Wash works with Goff and Tanna to collect and illustrate marine specimens and has the novel idea of creating an aquarium. One of the specimens he collects is an octopus:

"...a shape flashed bright orange, before transforming again into brown rust. Then, in a series of hallucinations, the rock became a slick blue smudge, then a mottled brown rag, then a vile red slash....I stared at the bulb of its pendulous head, and a hot, glorious feeling rushed through me, a bright radiating hope. She was wondrous and vivid and brilliant.... I held my hands out towards her, gently; then the creature shyly began to pulse towards me, small, gelatinous eyes taking me in, then swam directly into my hands....As I hefted the glutinous body, she slowly wrapped herself round my arm, the touch of suckers shocking, like cold little mouths. It felt so intimate. I would unwind one arm only to find it glued back in place by the time I had liberated a second.

"It likes you," said Goff.

Crouched there on the deck of the boat, with the octopus braided over my arms, I felt very calm, very far from the rough, scoured out life I had made for myself. And I began to laugh."

Washington Black opens at Faith Plantation, a sugar plantation in Barbados, in 1830, and relates the horrors of slavery from the point of view of 11-year-old Wash, telling a story about the abuses of the system on the enslaved population, but also about the effects of slavery on the freedom some attain. The slave trade was abolished by Britain in 1807, but slavery itself was abolished later, in 1834, so the early part of the book is set in the context of slavery and the abolitionist movement.

However, when emancipation came in the British West Indies, existing slaves became 'apprentices' and in many cases found themselves working for nothing in worse conditions than before. The system of apprenticeships, a euphemism for forced labour, was one of the concessions slaveholders obtained in exchange for agreeing to emancipation legislation. It guaranteed their wealth, as well as effectively preserving the slavery that underwrote it. No part of the money given by the British government went to those who had actually been in slavery or to their families. The government finalised payment of its debt to the descendants of slaveholders in 2015. (See: **The Price of Freedom** by Michael Taylor)

George Washington Black, so named "with great ridicule" by his master, does experience freedom, but disfigured for life by a horrendous burn, does so only after a series of lucky situations, incredible events, and fantastic adventures. He is befriended by Titch, the plantation owner's abolitionist brother: Titch first "borrows" him for his experiments with a flying machine, the "cloud cutter", in the process discovering Wash's intelligence, and superb talent for drawing. They manage to fly away from Barbados, escape the United States, where slavery was still the norm, and arrive in the Arctic where they discover that Titch's father, a famous naturalist, is indeed alive. Later, Titch leaves, and Wash moves on, managing to find work in, in 1834, in Nova Scotia. That's where he meets Mr Goff and Tanna, his mixed-race daughter. But there's a reward for Wash's capture, and a bounty hunter is after him, something that, in spite of the abolition of slavery, was still in effect for escaped slaves. Mr Goff asks him to illustrate his forthcoming book, and together they implement Wash's pioneering idea of an aquarium to exhibit living species rather than collections of dead animals, in London. From London Wash's search for Titch, plus various circumstances, eventually lead him to Amsterdam and to Morocco, now in the company of Tanna.



Esi Edugyan (b.1978) is Canadian. A mini-series of this multi-prizewinning book is announced.

Cher Ami

On Remembrance Day, a few weeks ago, I was browsing an online site with poppies of all different kinds and memorials to those who fell on Flanders Fields. The bloodred petals made me think of war and all the suffering it causes, all the dying. In this emotional state I came upon a war story that was heart-breaking and inspirational in equal measure.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, communication technology was far more primitive than it is today. In preparation for dire circumstances, six hundred carrier pigeons were provided to the Army Signal Corps to be used when neither signal flag nor field telephone were available. The pigeons were donated by breeders in Great Britain, then trained by specialists in the Signal Corps. Against appalling odds, the birds performed brilliantly on the battlefield, and one of them became a decorated war hero.

On October 3, 1918 the 77th Infantry Division's "Lost Battalion," fighting on the Western Front, was pinned down by enemy fire on the northern slope of the Charlevaux Ravine during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Casualties were heavy and being made worse by "friendly fire" from misguided allied troops trying to protect the battalion with artillery while ignorant of its precise location. Trapped, and with no other way to communicate with his support troops, Major Charles Whittlesey dispatched a carrier pigeon with the message, "Many wounded. We cannot evacuate." The bird was spotted by enemy sharpshooters and didn't get very far. Whittlesey sent up a second pigeon with the message, "Men are suffering. Can support be sent?" That pigeon was also shot down. There was just one left. His name was Cher Ami, French for "dear friend." Cher Ami had been on the front lines for several months at that stage of the war. He was a veteran of a dozen vital missions. The Major wrote a third note: "We are along the road parallel to 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it." He rolled up the tiny slip of onionskin paper and squeezed it into the canister attached to Cher Ami's leg. Then the Signal Corpsman launched the little bird into the air.

Enemy gunners spotted him almost immediately and trained their fire on him as he flapped his wings trying to gain altitude. He was shot down but somehow managed to take off again. This time he made it beyond the range of the guns and flew all the way back to his loft at division headquarters.

Though badly wounded, he covered the 25 miles in as many minutes. He had been shot through the breast and the leg and blinded in one eye. The canister still attached to his shattered leg contained the message that saved the lives of 194 men.

Army doctors cared for him as they would any wounded soldier. They were unable to save his leg, but one of the men carved a little wooden one for him to use. When he had recovered enough to travel, he was sent to the United States, seen off at the docks by General John J. Pershing himself.

Cher Ami died of his war wounds at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey on June 13, 1919. France awarded him the Croix de Guerre with palm for heroic service. Later, in 1931, he was inducted into the Racing Pigeon Hall of Fame and received a gold medal from the Organized Bodies of American Racing Pigeon Fanciers. The man who trained and cared for the pigeons in the Signal Corps—Enoch Clifford Swain—was also given an award. In November 2019 Cher Ami became one of the first winners of the Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery, bestowed on him posthumously at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Cher Ami, the hero of the 77th Infantry Division, was as familiar to American school children in the 1920s and 1930s as any World War I hero.

When it was agreed that this famous pigeon should be enshrined in the Smithsonian Institution, his body was stuffed and mounted by a taxidermist, who discovered that Cher Ami was actually a female. An inspiration to all, she is on display in the National Museum of American History's "Price of Freedom" exhibit.





Roast Chicken Breast, Quinoa Salad with Peaches, Orange, And Almonds

4 Portions

Ingredients

Roast chicken breast

- 600 g chicken breasts
- 3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, grated or finely chopped
- Juice and zest from one lemon
- 20 ml olive oil
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Quinoa salad

- 1 cup of quinoa
- 1 ½ cups of stock or water
- Salt
- 30 ml olive oil
- 3 tb spoons lemon juice
- ¼ small red onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped mint
- 2 tablespoons chopped basil
- 2 peaches cut into wedges
- 10 g butter
- 1 tb sp honey
- 2 tb sp roughly chopped almonds
- 2 tb sp blueberries

Method

Place the chicken breasts in a small nylon bag and shake well with the garlic, ginger, lemon juice and zest, olive oil, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper to ensure all is well mixed. Leave to marinate for at least an hour and maximum six hours. Roast in hot oven basting frequently with the marinade. The breasts could also be cooked on the barbecue or grilled.

To make the quinoa salad simmer gently the quinoa with the stock, covered for approximately 15 minutes until all the liquid is absorbed. Add salt if necessary.

Transfer to a bowl and add olive oil, lemon juice, onions, garlic, mint and basil. Mix well and check seasoning.

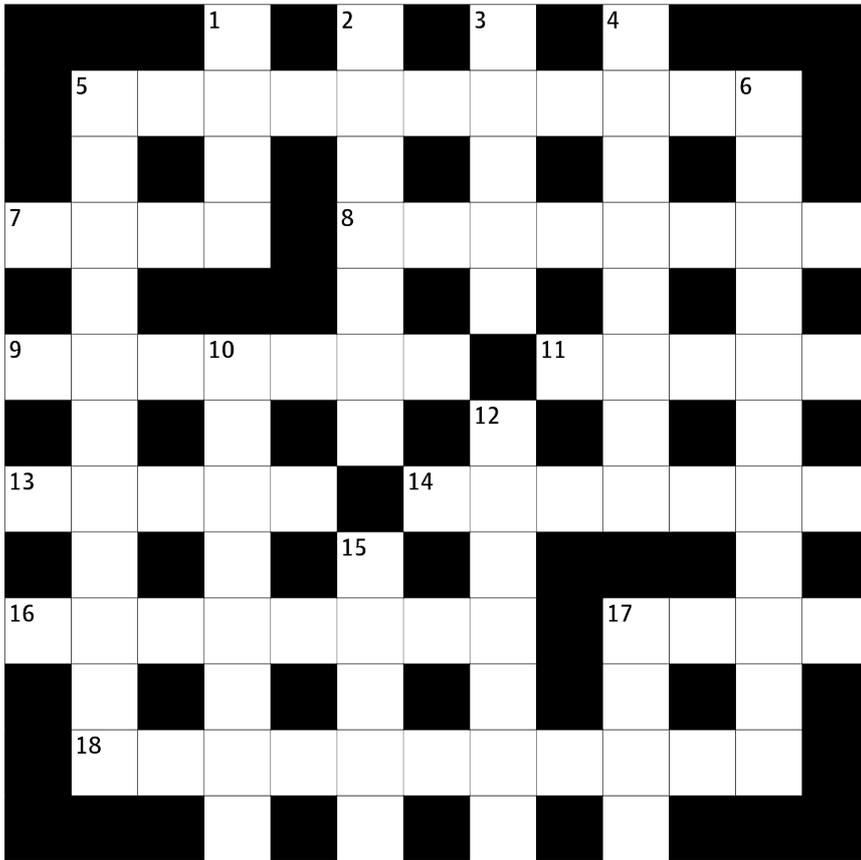
Seal the peaches in a hot frying pan with butter and honey.

Roast the almonds in a non-stick frying pan or on a baking tray in the oven.

To serve – slice the warm chicken breast and place onto the serving dish. Add the quinoa salad and decorate with the oranges, peaches, almonds and blueberries. Serve with salad leaves.

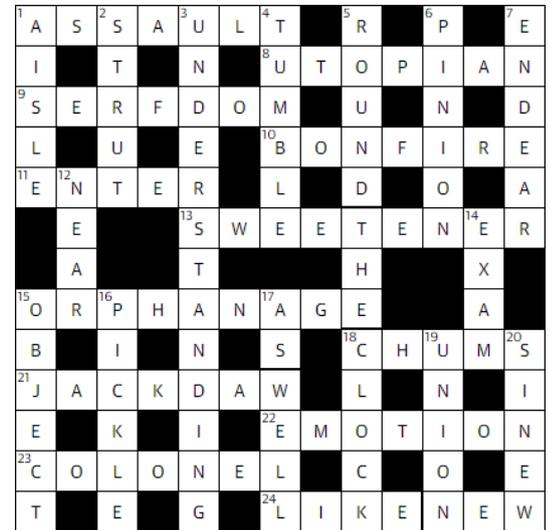
Chicken can be changed for salmon or pork with the same menu and procedures.

For any queries or questions, please contact me via e-mail at sbpberins@gmail.com.



Print this page and start playing!
Solution in the next Contact issue.

December solution:



Across

- 5 A soft-centred chocolate (6,5)
- 7 Shame (4)
- 8 Selfish drivers (4,4)
- 9 Tenpin (7)
- 11 Loose dress for a woman or child (5)
- 13 Trap (5)
- 14 Showing great enthusiasm (7)
- 16 Very hot curry (8)
- 17 Traditional kind of music (4)
- 18 The same length away (11)

Down

- 1 Shop selling alcohol for drinking elsewhere (informal) (4)
- 2 In a very odd way (7)
- 3 Do away with (5)
- 4 Traditional kind of white sauce — calm Hebe (anag) (8)
- 5 Galvanised network with a hexagonal mesh (7,4)
- 6 Remedy that prevents or solves a problem (5,6)
- 10 Shattered (5,3)
- 12 Great bravery (7)
- 15 Glasgow's river (5)
- 17 Textile fibre (4)

LAMB CHOPS

Lunch at The Desk

by Jonathan Lamb
vozinglesa@gmail.com

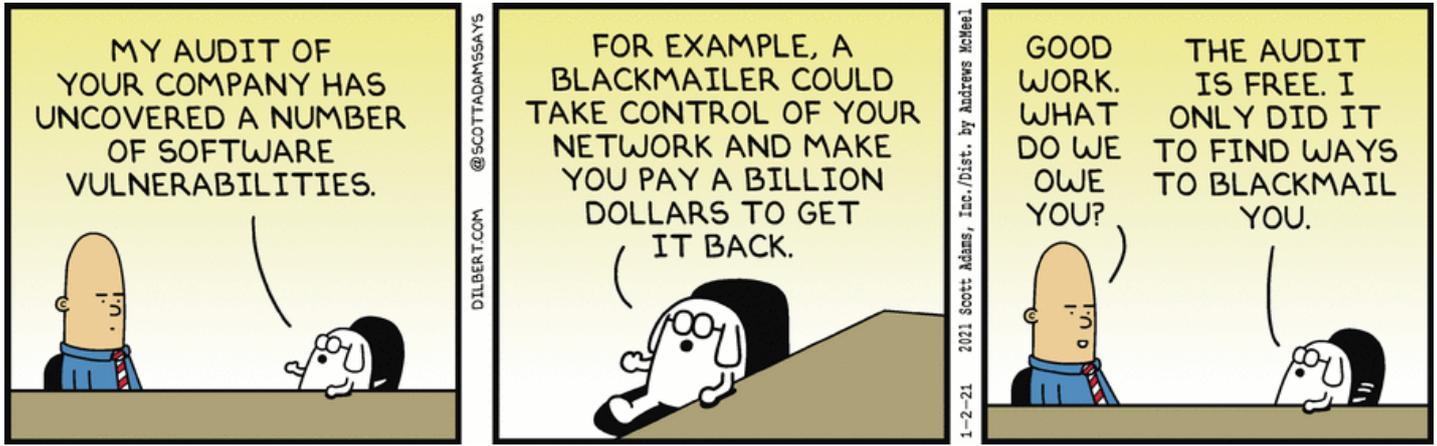
Boxes pokes
Twixes Coxes
Crisps and chocs is
Not for me

Boxes pokes
Twixes Coxes
Shares and stocks is
Not the point

Three-hour munches
Claret punches
That's what proper
Lunch should be

Stock's for sauces
On the courses
Pass the peas and
Carve the joint





BRITISH CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Twelfth Night Celebrations

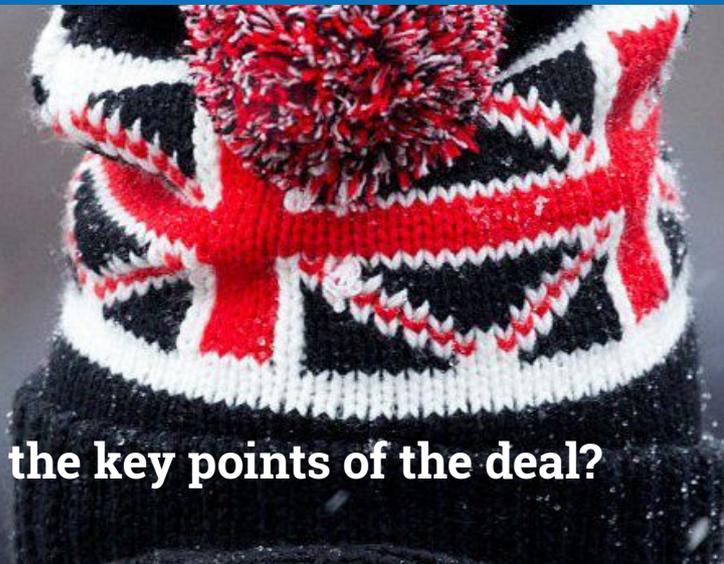
The title of Twelfth Night refers to the twelfth night of Christmas, also referred to as the eve of Epiphany, a day that commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus and is often celebrated with a temporary suspension of rules and social orders. As in the play, Twelfth Night revels in the overturning of convention and general merriment. In the Church of England, the Twelfth Night (or the eve of the Epiphany) was celebrated on January 5th, when celebrants sang songs, defaced doors with chalk, and ate Three Kings' or Twelfth Night cake.

One of the most popular Twelfth Night traditions was to hide a pea and a bean within the cake. The man who discovered the bean would be proclaimed Lord or King of Misrule, while the lady who found the pea would be Lady or Queen of Misrule.

The Lord of Misrule was usually a peasant or commoner who led the drinking and debauchery, as Twelfth Night was one of the few times of the year where servants were allowed to mix with their masters, sometimes even switching roles through disguises or by virtue of the coveted bean.



LINK OF THE MONTH



Brexit: What are the key points of the deal?

The UK-EU trade agreement, which contains new rules for living, working and trading together, took effect from 23:00 GMT on 31 December.

The full complicated agreement is more than 1,200 pages long, but here are some of the key points.



REEL OF THE MONTH

The evolutionary reason we eat so much at Christmas

Experts in the psychology of nutrition explore what is going on in our minds that means no matter how much turkey we eat on Christmas Day, we always seem to have room for that piece of Christmas pudding.

