



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY  
FOUNDED 1918

# CONTACT

MARCH 2021

The British Society in Uruguay  
**Scavenger Hunt**

Montevideo Players  
**Summer Quiz Night**

British Customs and Traditions  
**Oranges and Lemons**

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BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER



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+598 96 021 918

Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear members,  
March is here, and – despite the pandemic – the Society cannot wait for the last proverbial cyclist to arrive to kick off 2021, given that Holy Week will not be until the very end of the month.

After a very dampened 2020 thanks to coronavirus, we hope to be able to offer our members a more interesting calendar of activities this year, some of which will be 'old classics' you are already familiar with and others which are new.

As has been the case in recent years, our first event will be the annual **Scavenger Hunt** on 20 March, which this year is planned to take place in Buceo. We look forward to having a lively and diverse group of contestants, as we have had in all previous editions (even last year's diminished one). You will soon be informed of further details by special mailing.

Our next event will be the first of a new cycle of "Literary Teas". The idea is to have a book (or a series of books) from a British author presented by the Society's literature expert, **Lindsey Cordery**, and then have a discussion on it with everyone participating, all over good tea and nice nibbles. Due to government recommendations in view of the pandemic, the events will initially be for a maximum of 10 participants, though we are hoping to broaden this to a larger number further on in the year. The first event of the series will be hosted at the **British Residence** in early April by **Ambassador Faye O'Connor**. I hope you enjoy these new events as much as you have our others.

Though not organised by our Society, may I also draw your attention to **St. Andrew's Society's** annual picnic, scheduled for mid-month, a family-friendly event well worth your while.

Next month will bring our **Annual General Meeting**. Remember that this is your best opportunity to make your voice heard, and put forward any suggestions you may have which could help us improve the Society for you, our members. I hope you will join us, since it is our plan to have it at Britannia House, the Society's new headquarters on British Cemetery premises. Sadly, my time in office will come to an end then, but I will re-join the ranks of members who enjoy Society events rather than organise them.

I look forward to seeing you before the AGM at one or another of the events we are setting up for you.

**Richard Empson MBE**  
President



**LITERARY TEA**  
AT THE BRITISH RESIDENCE  
**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

Teas provided by:



HAPPY  
*Birthday*  
TO YOU



## Birthdays in March

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 03 · Thomas R. Gordon-Firing | 22 · Gonzalo E. Collazo  |
| 04 · Dorothy Christy         | 22 · Eduardo J. Loedel   |
| 04 · Giorgina Sexton         | 22 · Carolyn A. Prevett  |
| 08 · Helen Turner            | 23 · Trevor Durnford     |
| 10 · Victoria Bridal         | 24 · Michael J. Brown    |
| 10 · Ian R. Forrester        | 25 · Elisabeth M. Gruber |
| 12 · José J. Obes            | 26 · Ronald L. Decker    |
| 13 · Harry Pugh              | 26 · Ian Dickin          |
| 14 · Angela Dickinson        | 26 · Pamela I. Prescott  |
| 15 · Jackie Archer           | 27 · Bryan P. Davies     |
| 15 · Susan Day De Medina     | 28 · Duncan Bell         |
| 15 · Susan A. McConnell      | 28 · Martha I. Escondeur |
| 17 · Mónica P. Harvey        | 28 · Peter J. Gault      |
| 18 · Claudia E. Pereyra      | 28 · Kim E. MacLennan    |
| 19 · Javier González         | 29 · Luis E. Albin       |
| 19 · Sarah E. Cowley         | 29 · Anthony J. Shaw     |
| 19 · William E. Ehlers       | 30 · José M. Barrabino   |
| 22 · Sylvia M. Carrara       | 30 · Phyllis M. Cobham   |



What type  
of music is  
scary for  
birthday  
balloons?

Pop music.

## THIS MONTH'S COVER



Old, cobbled lane in historic preserved village of Culross in Fife Scotland. The streets of Culross have appeared many times in the hit US TV series *Outlander*. History lives on at picturesque Culross, with a wealth of historic buildings lining cobbled lanes. The remarkable thing about Culross is just how little has changed over the past 3 centuries; it is like stepping back in time. Chief among the historic buildings is Culross Palace, now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. 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 SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY  
FOUNDED 1918

**20<sup>th</sup> of March!**

**2021  
Scavenger Hunt**

**Prepare your team and get  
ready to take part in our  
annual Scavenger Hunt!**

**game on!**

**Book Your Place Here**



## Elaine's Cake

It was Elaine Dee's 97th birthday on January 30! This important occasion was celebrated accordingly with a delicious cake baked at the Home, as well as very tasty sandwiches and scones. Unfortunately, due to the Covid restrictions, no family or friends were able to attend.





## Harvest time!

Valerie has been looking after the cherry tomatoes that are in a big container on the balcony and was rewarded with a good crop!

## Games Times!

Among other activities and games, puzzles and knitting are pastimes that entertain our residents.



...and Joan is wondering where to start. Maybe, she should try beginning with the corners...





## Nearly 80

Further on in the month was Kenn's 79th birthday, on the 23rd. He asked for hamburgers for lunch, which were made on our electric grill and at teatime another wonderful home-made cake was baked and decorated!



# LITERARY TEA

AT THE BRITISH RESIDENCE

## THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Lindsey Cordery  
will speak about  
**Lewis Carroll's  
Alice Books**

Teas provided by:



Very limited seats available!  
[events@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:events@britsoc.org.uk)



# CONCURSO:

# #LÍDERPORUNDÍA



## Leader for a Day

To celebrate International Women's Day the Embassy launched a competition to give young women the opportunity to shadow female leaders from different walks of life. They will learn about their jobs, be inspired, and develop a network of contacts. 8 young women will spend 8 March with their assigned leader which include: Ambassador Faye O'Connor, Vice President Beatriz Argimón, Sellin co-founder and entrepreneur Mariana Chilibroste, Mayor Carolina Cosse, UTE President and engineer Silvia Emaldi, UdelaR and Institut Pasteur scientist Pilar Moreno, TV and radio presenter and journalist Blanca Rodríguez, and AstraZeneca Logistics Manager Alejandra Silveira. We will share photos and experiences of the day on our social media channels.

Stay tuned!



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

## Travelling to the UK?

For up-to-date information about travelling to the UK or staying in Uruguay during the pandemic please sign up for the [Uruguay Foreign Travel Advice](#).



### URUGUAY

For more travel advice visit  
[www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/uruguay](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/uruguay)



## Want to know the Ambassador better?

We invite you to [read this interesting profile](#) published by Montevideo Portal, to learn about Ambassador O'Connor's childhood and teenage years, her career, her previous postings abroad and her life so far in Uruguay.



Embajada Británica  
Montevideo

Follow us online: [www.gov.uk/fcdo](http://www.gov.uk/fcdo)

LENT 2021

## The Preparation



Stewardship is a word we use at Christ Church to talk about administration. For me, one aspect of good stewardship implies property maintenance at three levels: **repair, prevent, prepare.**

**Repair = keep essential items working at a functional level.**

**Prevent = moving beyond repair to anticipate ways to improve sustainability.**

**Prepare = maximize current available resources for future benefit for others.**

Good stewardship enhances hospitality, empowers volunteers, and provides hope for an organizational future. But stewardship applies to more than property. We also steward our homes and our communities as we are able.

CC has a clear mission statement. **“Encouraging and equipping others to experience God’s presence in their life”** is a holistic mission. We work to increase our stewardship capacity from a faith-based vision that honors and reflects our faith in God.

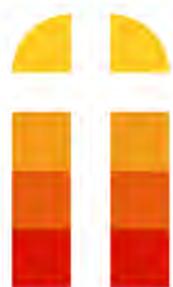
In March of 2020, the crisis of COVID-19 confronted us individually and institutionally. The challenge required us to adapt, communicate, readapt and recommunicate. An individual brings to a crisis the person he or she already is. Change is particularly difficult when emotions are high, relationships are strained, and the fearful forecast is uncertain. Vulnerabilities are exposed, priorities shift and resources are quickly reallocated if they are available.

All of us have changed dramatically in this year. Perhaps in the future we will look back and understand more clearly some of the drama and the ensuing implications. But all of us have the opportunity today to stabilize and steward not only our property, but also our homes and our lives. Stewarding “stuff” is important, but stewarding ourselves is what really adds value to life.

As far as Christ Church, I am grateful, as we reach one year of a mostly closed building, to report an open community that is growing in our capacity to be stewards and to serve the world around us.

What do you think? I am interested to know.

**Pastor John Hamilton**



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



## ONLINE CONFERENCE INVITATION

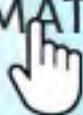
WEDNESDAY  
**3<sup>RD</sup> OF MARCH**  
13:00 HOURS

ENG  
**PABLO J. BENIA**

EX-DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTO  
URUGUAYO DE NORMAS TÉCNICAS

**UNIT ACTIVITIES  
AND  
PUBLIC POLITICS**

MORE INFORMATION



**WWW.CUB.UY**



## 8-WEEK ONLINE COURSES FOR TEACHERS & ADVANCED LEARNERS

### New as from 2021

8-week online courses for teachers and / or advanced level students on a wide variety of topics.

- Weekly synchronous tutor-led sessions via Zoom
- Optional final assessed task

### The English Language around the World

English is the world language, there's no doubt about that. But what English are we talking about? British, American, South African? And even when we choose one English, which region? With the expanse of English since the 19th century, mass communication since World War 2 and the boom of the internet and social networking sites this century, it would be inaccurate to talk about English, but "Englishes".

In this short course we'll look into some of those varieties, their main traits and value in this world of multiple voices. We'll make use of a wide array of video-based materials and articles to start our journey of exploration into this fascinating linguistic realm.



### Anglo Book Club

This course is for bookworms, film-lovers, truth-seekers, lonely people, English teachers, people who love to hear the sound of their own voice....The silent type are also welcome!

The reading of novels, short stories and plays, along with the viewing of films, will be done by course participants in their own time. In class we'll be probing into the works from as many angles as possible, the cultural, the ethical, the aesthetic, the personal. It is not a language-centred course, but the language shall be dealt with.

**Course tutor:** Daniel Mella was born in 1976. Two-time winner of the Bartolomé Hidalgo Prize, he is the author of five novels and a collection of short stories and is widely considered one of the key figures in modern Uruguayan literature. He is also a qualified English teacher.



### Contemporary British Culture

In this course we will explore cultural aspects of the British Isles, dealing with areas such as institutions, history, present-day society, cultural identities, sport, entertainment, food and much more.

It is a course for anyone willing to have an insight into the way of life of the British people then and now. Participants explore the complex relationship between the English language and its culture while also benefitting from further practice of the four language skills.



### Language level

B2 or higher

**Course fee:** Two instalments of \$3.000 each

## STARTING IN APRIL

For further information you can write to [cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy) or call 2902 3773 ext. 1129



ANGLO

# INGLÉS CON TODO



EN TODOS LOS BARRIOS.  
EN TODO EL PAÍS.  
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INSCRIPCIONES ABIERTAS - [www.anglo.edu.uy](http://www.anglo.edu.uy)

## DID BORIS BORIS JOHNSON HAVE HIS CAKE AND EAT IT?

Although over-shadowed by the Corona Pandemic, Britain finally signed a post-BREXIT trade deal with the European Union in late December 2020 shortly before the transition period was due expire. Promoting the deal, the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson claimed the deal was so favorable that “Britain had managed to have its cake and eat it”. Is that the reality? Space does not enable us to look at the complex deal in detail, but I will do my best to summarize some of the key parts of the deal.

To start, the deal provides that most “goods” traded between Britain and the EU block will not face new tariffs or quotas. However, in future British exporters will face a variety of regulatory and other requirements, probably increasing costs. Britain will be able to diverge from EU standards in areas such as environmental, social and work regulations, but in so doing would open itself up to the possibility of tariffs or restrictions on its exports to the EU block.

In the case of “services”, which includes the important banking and insurance sectors, the deal provides little clarity on whether UK based companies will be able to continue to do business across the EU block. Talks are continuing.

In respect of the 40 or so free trade arrangements already negotiated by the EC, of which Britain was automatically a part, the British government has reached agreement to extend most of these and continue trading in the same way. Britain also has the possibility of negotiating new separate trade deals in the future.

Fishing rights were a significant area of disagreement in the negotiations. Here most analysts agree the UK government needed to make significant concessions in its demands for a large short-term reduction in the right of EU countries to continue to fish in British territorial waters. Further negotiations will take place in the coming years.

In terms of immigration and the free movement of people from EU countries, a significant factor in the “leave” vote in 2016, the UK government achieved its desire to replace this with a new more selective “points based” immigration system. On the other hand, many Britons living in EU countries will now, if they do not already have it, need to apply for permanent residency status in their respective countries with the related income and tax requirements.



And finally to Northern Ireland, the troubled British province, where EU negotiators had long insisted that there should be no “hard border” border with the EU member Republic of Ireland in the south. Theresa May, the previous Conservative Prime Minister, was unable to find a solution to this issue. However, following a general election, Boris Johnson, with his large UK parliamentary majority, was able to push through a controversial measure whereby Northern Ireland will remain “de facto” in a customs with the Republic, but which in turn will require certain checks on goods from mainland Britain entering the province.

So did Boris Johnson and Britain have its cake and eat it? I will let you decide - BREXIT is a subject which generates many opinions! Hopefully, if circumstances later in the year permit, the Anglo and the British Society will organize an event “presencial” on the subject - similar to the talk and discussion I presented in 2016 following the original BREXIT vote.

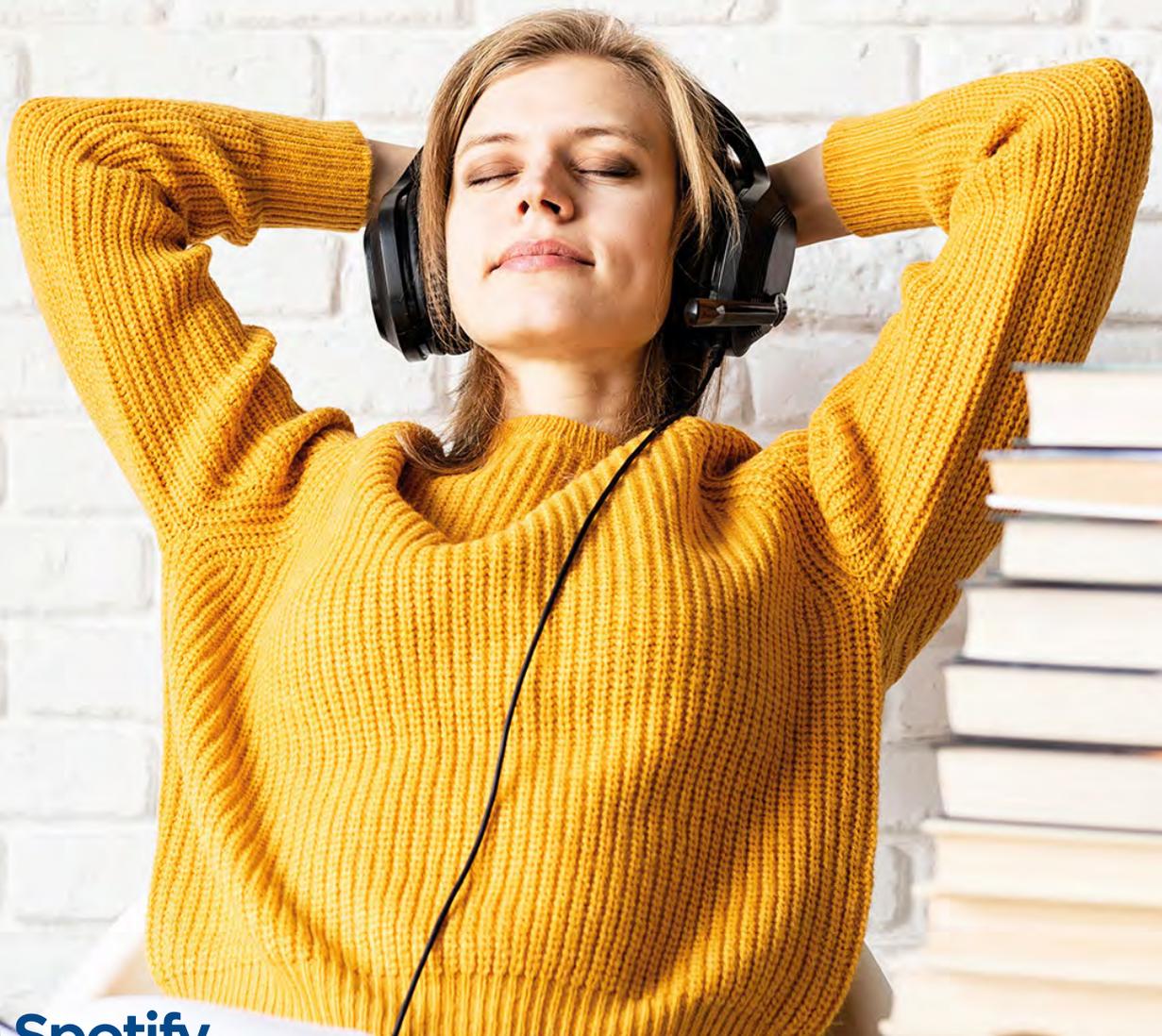
#### **Derek Tyler: Regular Anglo Presenter and Contributor**

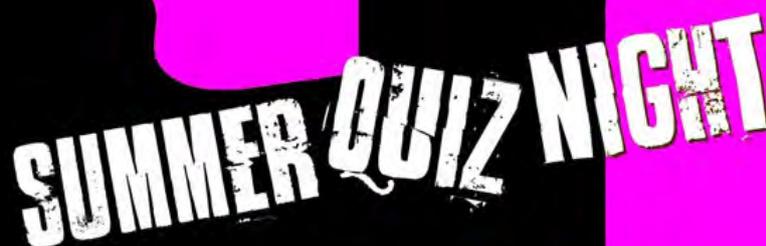
*“Derek was born in Britain but subsequently worked in many countries around the world (including those in South America) in the areas of finance and project management. These days, he normally spends most of the year in Uruguay and the remainder in Switzerland. For more than 5 years Derek has been a regular presenter at the Anglo Institute giving talks to students and the general public” on British related subjects”.*



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## SUMMER QUIZ NIGHT

SUNDAY 14 TH MARCH 18 HS

ONLINE, VIA "ZOOM"

Hello everyone!

Let's start our 2021 activities with the (online) SUMMER QUIZ! This time brought to you by the last Quiz winners: the magnificent A-team known as The Lions.

The rules of this Quiz and how to play it are identical to the last one, and similar to what we are all already used to: teams of 4-5 people compete amongst each other in different categories, in a thrilling race against the clock.

This Quiz is going to be virtual: participants will connect to a Zoom meeting (we will send the link closer to the Quiz's date) and the Organisers will put each team into a different "room". This way, each team will have a private conversation to discuss the answers.

Each paper will come as a link, which will take you to a Smartsheet form, where you'll find the questions and can fill in the answers.

As the previous one, the requirements to participate are the following:

1. Form a team of 4-5
2. Have a strong internet connection.

It is also advised that the team creates a WhatsApp group with the participants, so that they can communicate through there in case their connection to our Zoom meeting fails.

Get your team of up to 5 organised and read the booking and payment instructions carefully.

1. You book your spot using [this link](#).
2. We confirm the request via email and include a payment link through Mercado Pago. Remember that the Colectivo is no longer a valid option.
3. You pay within 72 hours of receipt of our email.
4. We validate your reservation.
5. You connect to the Zoom link on Sunday, March 14th at 17:30 hs (so that we can start at 18:00 hs) and have fun with us!

**Pricing:**

**Members: \$150**

**Non-Members: \$250**

Save the date, stay safe and take care!

Kind regards,

**The Committee**

For the CertTESOL trainers and trainees the news that Education was closing its doors due to the pandemic was devastating news. Classes had just begun, trainers had just met their trainees and then the bombshell fell! The Dickens Authorities, Coordinators and Teacher Trainers took a quick decision: the CertTESOL would run online. As soon as the Trainees were ready to start their teaching practices these took place via Zoom in the Dickens groups which were having lessons online.

In August, when face-to-face classes were resumed, the trainees delivered classes both face-to-face and online. Therefore at the end of the CERT TESOL scholastic year, due to the impossibility of Trinity College London Moderators travelling abroad, the Dickens Trainees were given the possibility of being moderated by Zoom, an offer they accepted with alacrity.

Thus the Dickens first CertTESOL Moderation by Zoom took place on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020! The 20 Trainees passed with flying colours! The moderator congratulated trainers and newly graduated teachers on their good results, performance and sound theoretical knowledge. She rounded up by assuring all concerned that all 20 were well prepared for the current teaching needs.



Dickens first Teacher Training Course's Moderation by Zoom was a great success. Congratulations to one and all!



## The Trinity CertTESOL: Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages



The Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL) is a Level 5\* initial teaching qualification designed to equip new and developing practitioners with the basic knowledge and skills they need for teaching English language.

\* Level 5 on Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications (RQF)

### Improve career prospects

The CertTESOL is suitable for aspiring teachers from any background who are attracted to the English language teaching profession. Choosing a career in TESOL offers teachers opportunities to work at home and internationally and to experience life in different cultures.



Since 1993 hundreds of teachers have received CertTESOL Teaching Qualifications and we are very proud to have them working at the Dickens, a large number of Bilingual Schools and a few State Schools.

### CertTESOL 2021

The 2021 course will be a blended course. Some lessons will be taught online and some others face-to-face.

**We would like our trainees to be prepared to teach in all circumstances and therefore, they will deliver online and face-to-face teaching practices in real groups and feedback will help them reflect upon the different modalities**

Trainees will be able to graduate and get their international qualification again this year, with either a face-to-face or an online moderation, depending on the sanitary situation at the end of the year.



Trinity's teaching qualifications are among the most widely recognised and respected in their field

21 de setiembre 2744  
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@dickensuruguay



## Is this the calm before the storm?

Every evening at 18:55 I set my DirecTV channel at 109 to follow the latest news, anchored by Daniel Castro on Telenoche 4. After beating around the crime, politics, cultural, international, interplanetary (Mars missions) bushes, the magic aha! moment with the most recent numbers issued by the SINAE (Sistema Nacional de Emergencias) on the pandemic splash the screen. For the last month or so, after that worse-case-scenario peak during mid-January where we hit 1200 new cases on a single day, to be repeated by a similar figure a few days later, the curve seems to have levelled off at around 500 cases daily, give or take, while some optimistic gurus say we've passed the peak of the first wave and are now on our way down. Not so fast! My best guess is we've plateaued, still at an uncomfortably rather high level and certainly not out of the woods, yet.

The summer of the northern hemisphere was also marked by a decrease in cases and many countries were clearly beyond and below the peak of the first wave by the coming of autumn – only to be hit by a terrible second wave, secondary to over-relaxation of distancing, masking and to so-called pandemic fatigue. Lockdowns were reimposed, with social unrest, protests, and riots in most major European cities.

As 2020 ended, vaccines appeared on the scene, with all countries bidding and grabbing for them and stockpiling whatever they could get their hands on. Only a handful of them have been logistically nimble enough to gather momentum and rapidly and massively get the shots into the arms of their essential and vulnerable populations at an adequate rate. The best examples have been Israel, the UAE and the UK, plus Chile in Latin America. The EU got tangled in its bureaucratic nightmares and is lagging behind, compounded by the not unexpected fact that the manufacturers cannot keep pace with demand. In those countries that did their homework well, vaccines

demonstrated to be very effective, at least dramatically decreasing the number of severe cases and virtually eliminating deaths due to COVID-19.

In spite of this worldwide maelstrom, the present, somewhat unexpected north-south/summer-winter pattern is confusing. Countries who've experienced second and even third waves, are noticing that the number of new cases has clearly dropped since the coming of 2021, even in the middle of their frigid winters. Although suboptimal detection and reporting may cause less reliable data, the hard numbers of admissions to hospital and deaths, also appear to be on the decrease. The USA and India are examples of this and the reasons that explain what's happening in either country may not necessarily be the same. Natural herd immunity may be more prevalent in countries like India. Mask mandates and a more science-guided approach by the new USA administration and maybe the effect of yet even low levels of vaccination can be believable reasons. However, physicians, virologists and epidemiologists are warning that we still may be victims of the worst: the virus variants. Although the number of new cases is diminishing, the proportion of those new cases that are due to the new UK, South Africa and Brazil variants is on the increase – and we still don't know how good the present vaccines are going to be to prevent infections (and maybe reinfections) caused by them. And the slow-down in the rate of vaccinations due to supply and logistics issues isn't helping at all.

For the time-being, the only seemingly effective policy is to vaccinate as many persons as possible in the shortest time. And 'many' means everyone and everywhere. The WHO has been clear: nobody's safe until everyone's safe. Those excluded, for whatever reasons, from prompt vaccination, will be a reservoir for new variants and new surges, analogous to creating many new Wuhans spread across the globe.

## John Keats (1795-1821)

On February 23rd, the 200th anniversary of his death, Keats is remembered and celebrated as one of the most important poets of the English language. Although his poetry wasn't widely recognised as such in his lifetime, many of his friends and fellow poets were aware of his ground-breaking, Romantic verses, published in the last years of his short life, and posthumously. With Byron and Shelley (who was to write a moving elegy, *Adonais*, when he heard of Keats's death), he is one of the so-called second generation of Romantic poets (Coleridge and Wordsworth among the first).

Before he turned to poetry, Keats trained at Guy's hospital, London, where he not only witnessed first-hand the horrors of surgery in a pre-anaesthetic age but also tended to patients on what was called the lunatic ward. Keats nursed his brother Tom, who died of tuberculosis, as had his mother, so he must have known that his love for Fanny Brawne, to whom he wrote many letters which have survived, was doomed. They were engaged secretly in 1819, but in October 1820 he set sail for Italy in the hope that a warmer climate would save his lungs. In letters to his friends, Keats described being "in a sort of desperation", adding, "we cannot be created for this sort of suffering".

He died of tuberculosis in Rome, aged 25. "I shall soon be laid in the quiet grave – thank God for the quiet grave," he told his friend Joseph Severn. "I can feel the cold earth upon me – the daisies growing over me – O for this quiet – it will be my first." One of his most quoted lines, from *Ode to a Nightingale*, is revealing of his suffering: "and, for many a time/ I have been half in love with easeful death". But his poetic sensitivity could also celebrate nature, and harvest, in one of his most famous odes, "To Autumn", which sets out Keats's maturity as a poet, expressing both fulfilment and decay, beauty and melancholy, the ideal and the actual, achievement and loss. Its famous opening line is "*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!*"

He wrote some of the most well-known poems in English, such as *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* (O what can ail thee Knight at arms, alone and palely loitering); or: "*Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art*". And who has described coldness better than Keats in *The Eve of St. Agnes*, for many, his masterpiece: "*St. Agnes' Eve—Ah, bitter chill it was! / The owl, for all his feathers, was a-cold; / The hare limp'd trembling through the frozen grass, / And silent was the flock in woolly fold*".

But surely the most poignant is this sonnet in which he expresses his intuition that his time will be too short to love, and to write down all his poetry:

When I have fears that I may cease to be  
 Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain,  
 Before high-pilèd books, in charactery,  
 Hold like rich garners the full ripened grain;  
 When I behold, upon the night's starred face,  
 Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,  
 And think that I may never live to trace  
 Their shadows with the magic hand of chance;  
 And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,  
 That I shall never look upon thee more,  
 Never have relish in the faery power  
 Of unreflecting love—then on the shore  
 Of the wide world I stand alone, and think  
 Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.

*Bright Star* is a bio-pic based on the last three years of Keats's life and his relationship with Fanny Brawne, starring Ben Whishaw and Abbie Cornish, directed by Jane Campion.



## The Carnival

“Tall and tan and young and lovely, the girl from Ipanema goes walking, and when she passes, each one she passes goes aaah!” These are the opening lyrics of “The Girl from Ipanema,” the most famous bossa nova number of all time. It was wildly popular when I was a teenager in Uruguay in the early 1960s. I listened to Astrud Gilberto breathe those words into a microphone, felt the goosebumps ripple up the back of my neck, and knew that I had to go to Brazil for the *carnaval*.

It was a three-day bus ride from Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro, and my friend Keith and I were somewhat the worse for wear by the time we arrived. Pale and drawn and tired and dirty, we could hear the drummers in the *favelas*, the shantytowns up in the hills. The air was moist and fragrant; the drumming was lazy and seductive and seemed to enter my bloodstream and my mind. It was the morning of the first day of the carnival.

We stayed with a friend of a friend who had a flat not far from the famous Copacabana beach. It wasn't long before we stood with our feet in the warm sand, gazing around the bay and up at the iconic *Cristo* statue with his arms outspread in welcome. It was still only mid-morning, much too early for the jet set crowd that stayed up late partying and didn't emerge from their beachfront hotels until past noon. These international sun worshipers came to lie on the sand in the tiniest bathing suits I had ever seen—some wearing nothing at all. My fellow-adolescent and I strolled along the water's edge, not-so-surreptitiously ogling everyone we passed, searching for our girl from Ipanema, a nearby beach.

That classic song was composed by Antonio Carlos Jobim, with original Portuguese lyrics by Vinícius de Moraes and English words by Norman Gimbel. In 1963 Stan Getz, the American jazz virtuoso, wove his haunting, lyrical saxophone into the gentle rhythms of Joao Gilberto on guitar and Jobim on piano while Joao's wife Astrud exhaled the vocals.

As night fell over the city, we joined the throngs moving through the streets. There were extravagantly decorated floats and tens of thousands of people shuffling, swaying, and dancing in a sort of massive impromptu conga line. We inched our way forward, immersed in the hypnotic sound of the samba schools playing their irresistible percussion for hour after hour after hour. The mood was intoxicating, and everyone was cruising at some level of euphoria. Street vendors sold squirt bottles with a mixture of ether and perfume that revellers sprayed onto handkerchiefs, inhaling the fumes deeply for a quick jolt of energy. When I tried some, it made me so happy I rolled out of the back of the open Jeep I was riding in at the time. But it was impossible to fall far in that shoulder-to-shoulder crowd, which was like a city-wide mosh pit, and I was safely caught in friendly arms. In the spirit of the carnival, I bonded instantly with my rescuers, and remained with my new brothers and sisters for the rest of the night.

In the magical hour before dawn, we all went back to the beach, stripped naked and ran into the ocean. Taking a deep breath, we sank beneath the surface, squatting on the sandy bottom, not moving a muscle. When the water around us had settled and was inky black again we lunged skyward, creating an explosion of phosphorescent drops that scattered like fireworks as we waved our arms and crashed back down into the sparkling surf. When we walked out of the water, a dozen bodies gleaming wet in the moonlight with Rio silhouetted against the sky, another set of Astrud's lyrics was running through my mind: “Quiet nights of quiet stars, quiet chords from my guitar, floating on the silence that surrounds us...” We lay drying on the sand as the sun came up; it was the second day of the carnival, and the distant drumming drifted over us on the morning breeze

## The Southern Hemisphere African English

**A**frica displays a wide range of forms of English but one of its earliest significant presences was in Southern Africa. But how did English make its way all the way to the very south of Africa? Simple, almost the same way it arrived everywhere else: holding explorers' and businessmen's hands.

English (in its Elizabethan form) was probably first heard in Africa in the mid-1500s when a regular trade in spices, ivory, and slaves began as British ships sailed along the Guinea coast. In the 18th century, the British arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, and the English language landed with them. In 1795 the British military seized the Cape of Good Hope settlement from the Dutch to keep the Cape out of the hands of revolutionary France (a Dutch ally in those times).

During the 19th century, English was the language of power, imposed in 1822 as the official language of the Cape Colony, replacing Dutch. The resentment this produced would later have implications on the Boers Wars. In the 20th century Afrikaner nationalists displaced English in government, administration, the police, and the armed forces, and promoting Afrikaans (a South African language that grew out of a variety of Dutch spoken in the 1500s) became central. However, English still remained essential when it came to business and higher education. What is more, it was the language of choice of the African National Congress and other liberation movements, as it facilitated communication within and outside South Africa. In fact, former President Mandela's speeches were almost invariably in English. With the advent of his government in 1994 the balance between English and Afrikaans changed. The use of African languages increased in the media while English was the politically 'neutral' language for public use.

Today, although any of the 11 official languages may be used in Parliament (Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Ven a, Tsonga, Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Xhosa and Zulu), English is predominant. Furthermore, tertiary education is in English (except for some Afrikaans-language campuses), and English is perceived both as the language

of communication and aspiration. In spite of the fact that English is seen by many as an oppressive juggernaut and that the government espouses multilingualism in its constitution, SAE remains dominant for reasons of practicality and cost-efficiency. What is more, many South Africans see it as a crucial instrument and want their children to be educated in English, even if it is not their mother tongue.

Language contact has also played a role in the unfolding of SAE, since English borrowed words from many autochthonous languages, Dutch, and subsequently Afrikaans. In fact, as a result of apartheid, the SAE variety is not uniform. Afrikaans is the major source of influence in its vocabulary (the word "apartheid" is borrowed from Afrikaans), syntax (for example, the use of "and them" as an associative plural marker), and phonetics (e.g., voiceless velar fricatives in proper names). In spite of these peculiarities, SAE-speakers are often confused with Australian or New Zealand English speakers. This is due to the fact that the three varieties pronounce some vowels further forward in the mouth than other English speakers. If we compare it with British English, 'penny' sounds like 'pinny', and 'bed' like 'bid'; and, unlike in British English, SAE glottal stops are not common, hence 'butter' becomes 'bu'er' (this comparison does not imply that British English is better than other English varieties, we are only using it to illustrate the differences).

Nowadays, according to the latest census, English is the first language of 9.6% of South Africans – a third of them not white-, preceded by Afrikaans which is the first language of 13.5%. The remaining three quarters of South Africa's population speak one of the Bantu family languages as their first language. However, most South African parents recognise that mastering English becomes fundamental when it comes to children's advancement. Consequently, the future of English within South Africa is much a question of whether an appropriate learning context can be constructed which enables English to be a language of access and empowerment.



## The Two Lives of "The Southern Star"

The British invasions of the River Plate basin (1806-1807) ended in military defeat but were a total commercial and strategic success for the attackers. The short occupation of Montevideo [February-July 1807] by the British forces left on the local "criollo" elites the clear perception of what was to be won by changing the rigid Spanish imperial economic system for the more open and freer British one. The occupation left another curiosity for the inhabitants of Montevideo and the surrounding areas that is now part of the Uruguayan heritage, its first periodic publication, *The Southern Star*.

Printed by the military government of the city, in English and Spanish, it was thought as a way of communication with the locals and mostly as a proselytist medium that would promote British trade, goods and way of life. At the time, Montevideo was seen by the British as the perfect entrepot where the raw materials of the basin would be shipped to the British Isles in exchange for the manufactures, produce of the industrial revolution. The publication lasted for six issues and ended when the British forces left the city and the region in mid-1807, though the newly arrived British merchants, traders, adventurers, farmers, explorers, and entrepreneurs that came in the wake of the army mostly stayed being the solid base of the British Informal Empire in Uruguay of the late XIX Century. A few excerpts of the first *Southern Star*.

"To the nobleness and generosity of an English soldier we need not appeal. The fame that is won by valour can never be stained by oppression... to gain the hearts of the conquered is a noble endeavour and the highest boast of a generous mind... The English Government earnestly desire your felicity and feel interested in the welfare of every citizen. They come not to conquer but protect. They wish to emancipate you from the slavery of prejudice and restore you the liberty to which you have a right."

Great Britain is at war and in peril in Europe in the early 1940's. All the citizens of the British Isles and the Empire must rally as an indivisible unit to Winston Churchill's

speeches, but in Montevideo the British are also at war with one another. The leaders of the community must keep the anti-establishment forces at bay while fighting the common foe, Nazi Germany. The political and spiritual leaders of the community, and the "old hands", the managers of the British public service companies and big merchants, amongst whom Hugh Grindley, general manager of the Central Railway company stands out, being also the head of the formidable British Patriotic Fund, cannot check the small forces led by the intransigent George Mayer. The problem is that Mayer is the editor and proprietor of the only English-speaking publication in Uruguay, *The Sun*. The leadership is held captive by this circumstance and Grindley finds the perfect answer to banish Mayer definitively from the British community without consequences, founding a daily newspaper to rival the *Sun* and indirectly depriving Mayer of the essential advertisers and subscribers for his daily. Thus, *The Southern Star* begins its second life in September 1943. Some excerpts from the second *Southern Star*.

"A cardinal point in the creed of the *Southern Star* will be solidarity between Great Britain and the United States, according to the articles of the Atlantic Charter...a cornerstone in the policy of this newspaper will be a practical interest in Uruguay and in things Uruguayan... finally it shall be our constant endeavour to bring the British community into still closer touch with Uruguayan affairs."

The second *Southern Star* will also have a short life. Once the war is won, there is no urgent need of an establishment spokesman, and the driving force behind the newspaper has now other worries. The British companies are leaving the country and the Central Railway is no exception. Grindley will leave Uruguay in 1946 while the railways will be nationalised in 1947. Consequently, in February 1946 the last issue of *The Southern Star* is published; the last of its second epoch, though we cannot be sure that it will be the last one with that name.



## Roasted Pepper in Olive Oil

Sweet red peppers, also known as bell peppers and capsicums, are in all their splendour at this time of the year. Technically a fruit, but sold as a vegetable, it is high in fibre and vitamin C. It is native to Central and South America.

### Ingredients

- 1 kg red peppers
- 75 ml olive oil
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme or oregano
- 50 ml red wine vinegar
- 1 red onion, finely sliced
- 8 garlic cloves, finely sliced
- 1 tb sp sugar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

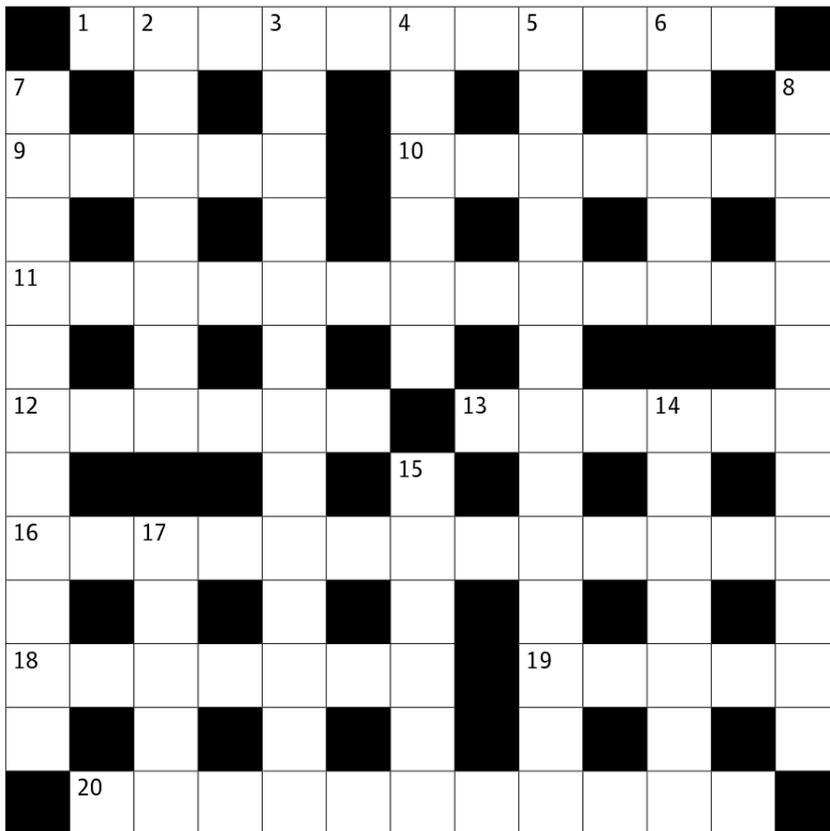
**For any queries or questions,  
please contact me via e-mail at  
[sbpberzins@hotmail.com](mailto:sbpberzins@hotmail.com).**

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to its hottest setting. Cut the red peppers in half and remove the seeds. Paint a baking tray with cooking oil and add the peppers skin side down and roast for 20-30 minutes turning occasionally until as much of the skin as possible is charred and blackened.
2. Remove from the oven and place the peppers inside a nylon bag to cool down. Remove the charred skin and cut the peppers in slices.
3. Place in a pan with the remaining ingredients and cook covered over a low heat for 30-45 minutes until the vegetables are soft and the juices begin to thicken. During the last five minutes of the cooking time, you may also add pitted black olives and capers if desired.
4. Taste for seasoning. You are looking for the perfect balance between sweet and sour.
5. The flavour will improve after a 24-hour period. The peppers will keep well in the fridge for up to a month.
6. Serve warm or cold as part of an antipasto platter, in sandwiches, on a crusty bread like a crostini or bruschetta together with goat's cheese, ricotta or cream cheese. It also goes well on pizza, added to a salad or with roast beef, chicken or lamb. It will also combine wonderfully with any type of fish.

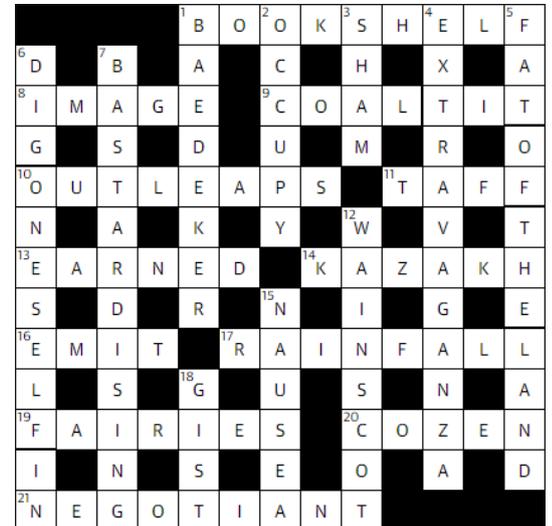
# SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME

from The Guardian  
www.theguardian.com



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

February solution:



## Across

- 1 Imaginary author of nursery rhymes; pantomime character (6,5)
- 9 Exterior; it scores 25 on a dartboard (5)
- 10 Diacritical mark placed below the letter 'c' to soften its pronunciation (7)
- 11 Comes to nothing; is totally wasted (4,2,2,5)
- 12 Friendly: linked (6)
- 13 Himalayan kingdom, capital Thimphu (6)
- 16 Upside down; totally fallen (4,4,5)
- 18 Hosni -----, Egyptian president 1981-2011 (7)
- 19 Deposit: cabin (5)
- 20 Parent whose children have grown up and left home (5,6)

## Down

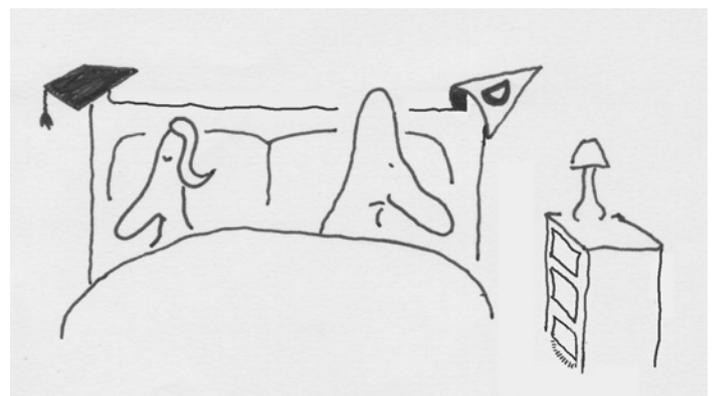
- 2 Loam tea? (anag) (7)
- 3 Agatha Christie's Belgian detective (7,6)
- 4 Jump back; shrink (6)
- 5 Extremely ancient (3,2,3,5)
- 6 Volley; fusillade (5)
- 7 Alec -----, UK prime minister 1963-64 (7-4)
- 8 The Lord's Prayer (5,6)
- 14 Lever on a machine operated by the foot (7)
- 15 Sleeveless collarless leather jacket (6)
- 17 LP record: stamp/photo collection book (5)

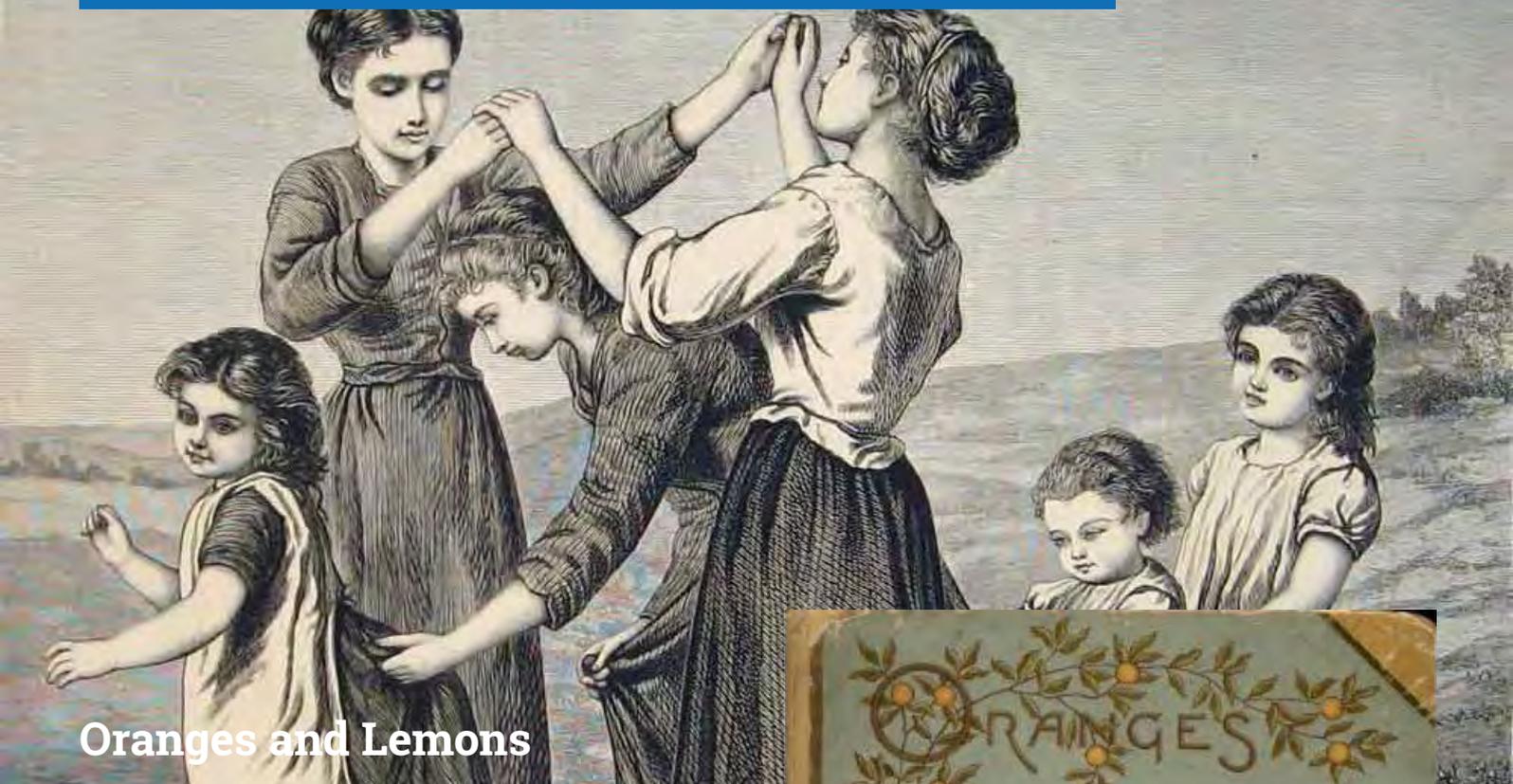
# LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

## The Secret of The Universe

Wives know everything, it makes you curse.  
I said to my wife last night,  
'Where is the secret of the universe?'  
She said, 'It's in the third drawer down, on the right'.





## Oranges and Lemons

In the days when the River Thames at London was wider than it is now, barges carrying oranges and lemons landed just below the churchyard of St. Clements Dane.

On the last day of March, local primary school children gather at the church to attend a service. They recite the famous nursery rhyme and, on occasions, play the tune on hand bells. At the end of the service the children are presented with an orange and a lemon from a table outside the church .

The nursery rhyme

Oranges and lemons

Say the bells of St Clement's

You owe me five farthings

Say the bells of St Martin's

When will you pay me?

Say the bells of Old Bailey

When I grow rich

Say the bells of Shoreditch

When will that be?

Say the bells of Stepney

I'm sure I don't know

Says the great bell at Bow

Here comes a candle to light you to bed

Here comes a chopper to chop off your head

Chop chop chop chop the last man's head!



Many adults remember this rhyme from playing a playground games:

Two children would form an arch and become the choppers. They secretly decide who would be orange and who would be lemon. A line of other children singing the song would pass under the arch and the child passing when the song goes chop, chop, chop would be caught between the falling arch (arms). The caught child then chooses either orange or lemon and lines behind the child he/she chose. When all children lined behind the choppers they have a tug war.



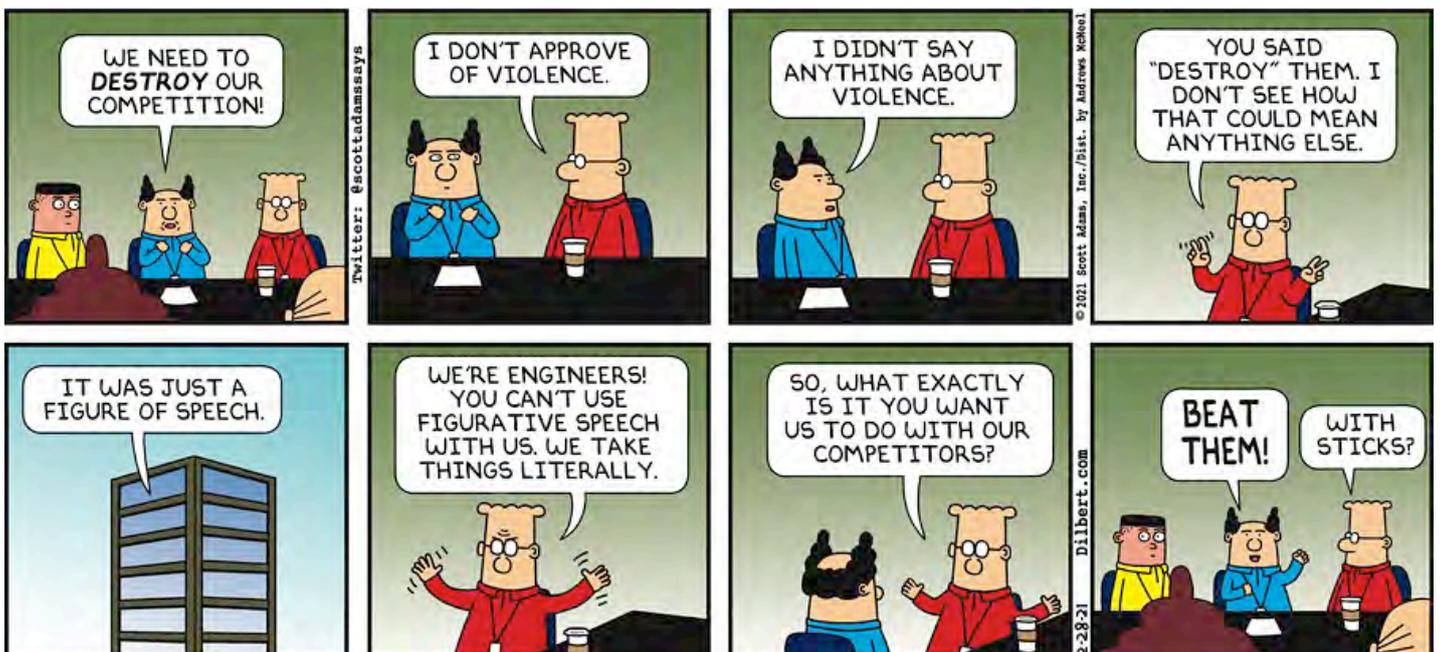
## The country rejecting throwaway culture

The combination of enthusiastic amateurs, repair cafes and new laws could help tackle the world's growing mountains of broken electronics.



## DILBERT

by Scott Adams  
<https://dilbert.com/>



Lucille was born in Liverpool, UK, in 1920, moved to Buenos Aires with her parents and sister where she went to school, and then attended university in Brazil before coming to live in Montevideo where she met and married Jimmy Best.

I first met Lucille in 1963 when I came to Uruguay to teach at The British Schools. She was my colleague in the Science department of the senior school. She had started teaching a few years earlier after the death of Jimmy and had to bring up three children alone and take care of her mother, Hilda Robinson.

She taught General Science up to GCE 'O' Level and, when the school started teaching the IB Diploma programme, taught Scientific Studies. She was also Senior Mistress. She was a strict but fair teacher and a caring person, much appreciated by many of her pupils.

Very intelligent and knowledgeable, fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, she was well read and always interesting to be with.

For several years she was President of the British Women's Guild and was also an active member of the Montevideo Players, both acting and directing.

She celebrated her 100th birthday on the 24th of December with many of her family who came specially for the occasion and was very pleased to receive a card from the Queen.

She was a good friend and I shall miss her.

Dick Ferrand

*A former pupil: "She was a cherished touchstone of the reality of my short time in Uruguay".*



**Lucille Best**