



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY
FOUNDED 1918

CONTACT

DECEMBER 2021

British Embassy

COP 26

St Andrew's Society

Caledonian Ball

British Cemetery

Past & Present

www.britsoc.org.uy



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IN URUGUAY
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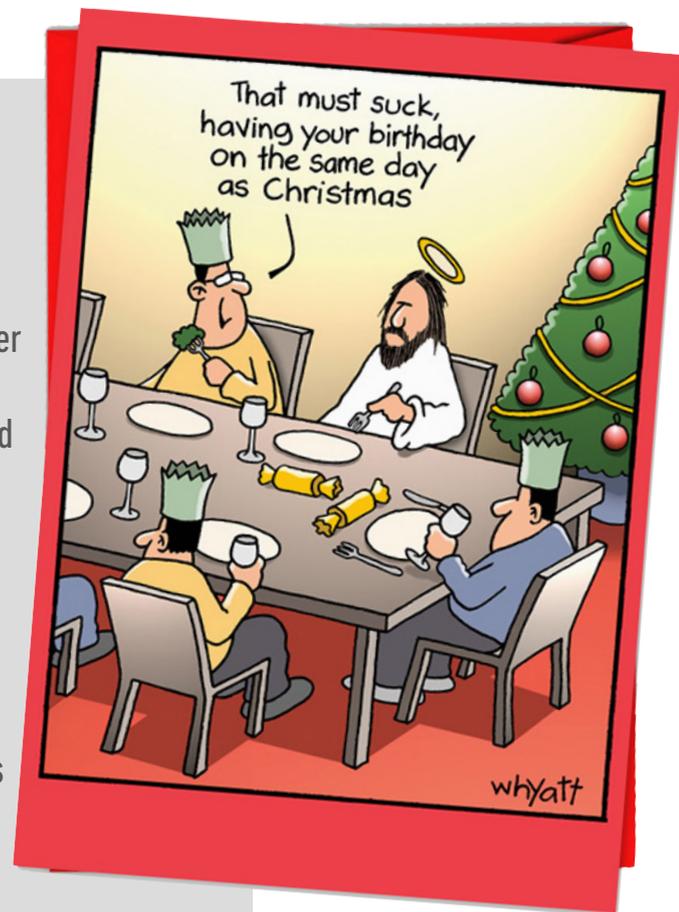
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Montevideo, Uruguay

Birthdays

in December

- 01 ~ Norman A. Fox
- 01 ~ María T. Esteche
- 03 ~ Mark Rosevear
- 04 ~ Edna Owen
- 04 ~ Cristina A. Edbrooke
- 05 ~ Stephanie A. Biscomb
- 06 ~ Matias M. Campbell
- 07 ~ Guillermo L. Symonds
- 07 ~ Emily Teuten
- 08 ~ Mónica M. Bastarrica
- 10 ~ Alice L. Vignoles
- 10 ~ Roy L. Cooper
- 10 ~ Valerie M. Dee
- 10 ~ Sofía Scherschener
- 15 ~ Marta Vilar del Valle
- 15 ~ María M. De Torres
- 15 ~ Alexander J. Shaw
- 15 ~ Alan J. Gordon-Firing
- 17 ~ Jessica M. MacIntyre
- 18 ~ Daniel J. Stewart
- 18 ~ María N. Coates
- 20 ~ Celina A. Burmester
- 20 ~ Megan M. Davies
- 21 ~ Elizabeth S. Hyland
- 21 ~ Enrique Morrone
- 21 ~ Inés Beare
- 21 ~ Marina S. Jiménez
- 22 ~ María J. Llovet
- 22 ~ Ricardo D. Medina
- 23 ~ Edison De León
- 23 ~ Winston E. Willans
- 24 ~ María N. Delbono
- 27 ~ Daniela J. Golby
- 28 ~ Carlos G. Verdún
- 30 ~ Isabel P. Prevett
- 30 ~ Mary E. Wells
- 30 ~ Caroline L. Wells
- 30 ~ Nicholas Drever
- 31 ~ Adriana M. Ponzoni



New Members

Elsa 'Elsie' Gabriela Marsicano Altieri
Gustavo 'Chueco' Ernesto González Alonso



The Dome is a building on George Street in the New Town of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom. It currently functions as a bar, restaurant and nightclub, although it was first built as the headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Scotland in 1847.

The building was designed by David Rhind in a Graeco-Roman style. It stands on the site of the Physicians' Hall, the offices of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, which was constructed in the 18th century to designs by James Craig, the planner of the New Town.

The Dome is a category A listed building. The current operating business is Caledonian Heritable, a hotel, bars and restaurant group. However, the walls, windows, floors, and dome of the original building remain present today.

Merry Christmas to all,

Geoffrey W Deakin
Editor



MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can get up to date with your membership fees 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.



Violence Against Women Online

Coinciding with International Day to End Violence against Women, the Embassy launched a campaign on 25 November together with UN Women Uruguay, to raise consciousness about violence towards women online. The impactful [video](#) features Ambassador Faye O'Connor and various renowned women from different areas of the

Uruguayan society sharing one abusive comment they got on their social media, due to their gender. Although this is not an exclusive women problem, 73% of women have experience violence online according to a UN report.

GBUA Annual Gala



Just arrived from COP, Minister Peña was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Graduates from British Universities Association (GBUA) held at the British Residence on 15 November. The Minister told his first-hand experience participating at this global conference and claimed COP26

was a great opportunity to demonstrate that Uruguay is part of the solution, but there is still a long way to walk to keep the 1.5 pledge alive. A group of GBUA members focused on sustainability and environment will lead a conference next March to assess lessons learnt from COP.



#TogetherForOurPlanet

COP26

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow 1-13 November. After two weeks of intense negotiations COP26 concluded with nearly 200 countries agreeing the **Glasgow Climate Pact** to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and major commitments were endorsed. Uruguay showed real regional leadership on mitigation and adaptation. Minister of Environment Adrián Peña and Minister of Economy and Finance Azucena Arbeleche together with technical delegations showcased Uruguay's work on innovative financing tools aligned with environmental commitments, its national adaptations plans on agro, coasts and cities, and proudly endorsed multiple declarations. Montevideo Mayor, Carolina Cosse also attended COP26 and pledged that Montevideo would become CO2 neutral by 2040.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo

Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo



OCEANIDS, a Uruguayan cultural and communicational NGO, is focused on the protection of Maritime Heritage in both biological and cultural features.

Our main goal consists on the concern of our common maritime identity and bio diversity, and how to preserve it with sustainability and dissemination actions. We contemplate blue economy initiatives, scientific research, and cultural diffusion of maritime past traditions.

OCEANIDS partnerships institutions in UK are led by the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Beaulieu Enterprises Limited and the Buckler's Hard Maritime Museum, Nautical Archaeology Society, Centre for Maritime Archaeology - University of Southampton and the Faculty of Science & Technology - University of Bournemouth among others.



Wednesday
15th December

GALA DINNER

The Southern Star Award
will be presented to
Instituto Pasteur



Parva Domus
20:30 Hrs

R.S.V.P.
secretaria@cub.com.uy or at 2900 5241
Until 10th December

Renediction

He comes to make His blessings flow

Advent 2021



You are welcome to visit Christ Church in person or online throughout Advent every Sunday at 11am and Christmas Eve at 6:30pm.

Join us on the 17th of December from 7pm until late for a fun, informal time of table games and stone oven pizzas with live local musicians.

A Reflection from the Pastor: Advent candles are beautifully symbolic. They tell the story of the Incarnation representing in turn, the prophets, the holy family, the shepherds, and the Magi. The 5th candle, lit on Christmas, represents Jesus, the Light of the World.

Advent is a season which invites us to prepare for Christmas. Christmas without Advent is a sudden celebration which is over before one begins to enjoy it. Christmas without Advent is a religious interruption in our work, or an opportunity for vacation or a stressful time of dealing with family, or a sad time of missing loved ones.

Christmas without Advent becomes cultural, commercial, and chaotic.

Light a candle and accept the invitation of Advent to live with confidence in uncertainty and to allow wonder to guide you towards an unknown future much like the Magi followed the star. Advent admits mystery and invites us to enjoy the journey without trying to control the outcomes.

The Magi mentioned in Matthew's Gospel followed a lifelong quest. They believed that God had revealed something in the stars to the prophet Balaam centuries ago. The texts were uncovered in Babylon where Daniel, the Hebrew Magi, moved with unmatched mysterious power and insight. For centuries, intrigued generations of Magi studied the stars and scrolls.

Wondering, watching, and waiting: Could there be more? Could there be a Creator God who reveals himself and reaches beyond our parochial cultural biases to meet anyone anywhere? Will he reveal himself to us at this time?
I wonder and I watch, and I wait!

Warmest regards,
John, Pastor of Christ Church



Arocena 1907

Esq. Lieja, Carrasco

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Last Tuesday 9th November we welcomed the British Ambassador Faye O'Connor at The Anglo School Carrasco. She gave our Form 3 and 4 Secondary school students a very interesting talk on Climate Change and how our daily habits and behaviours can negatively or positively affect the issue.

This talk provided our kids with a variety of insights on the topic, which very well complemented the investigation work they carry out in IGCSE Global Perspectives, reinforcing the idea that even individual actions can have a positive impact on stopping the environmental damage that causes Climate Change. Besides, the interactive nature of the talk boosted our kids curiosity and facilitated the exchange of questions and answers between Faye and our kids, which enriched their views on the issue.

We deeply appreciate and thank the ambassador's disposition to share her expertise on the topic in such an enjoyable way.

be
the
change
by THE ANGLO SCHOOL



SUMMER COURSES

FEBRUARY 2022

ENROL NOW!



The ANGLO Summer Courses Programme for adults provides an opportunity to improve your level of English over an intensive (4.5 hours per week) 4-week training. Divided in 4 levels, our summer programme enables you to improve your skills whilst enjoying the academic study environment typical of all ANGLO courses.

Some of the courses strengths and takeaways:

Expert teaching: the students benefit from being taught by experienced English teachers

Develop your confidence: enhance your English language skills in small class sizes

Flexible learning approach: enables us to support your individual study goals and adapt to your interests and specific needs

Academic approach: our lessons are interactive and promote learning through topical themes that result from an initial exhaustive in-depth needs analysis process

Emphasis on Communication: our summer courses pivot around the development of the two main skills essential for effective communication (listening and speaking) by means of strengthening your grammar foundations and expanding and activating your passive lexical system.

Focus on Pronunciation: raising awareness at all levels about the intricacies of the English phonological system is also a key component of our Summer Courses program.

Extensive feedback: we understand feedback as the essential component to every learning process. Our experienced teachers identify areas in need of improvement and, through detailed specific and personalized feedback, ease the transition from where each student currently is as far as his command of the language goes and where they aspire to be.

Hands-on practice: individual, in pairs and collective oral practice is part and parcel of our classroom dynamics.

Face-to-Face or Synchronic On-line: students can opt between these two formats, the traditional classroom face-to-face dynamics and the remote synchronic on-line class.

For more than 15 year the ANGLO Summer Courses Programme has made a difference for hundreds of students, enhancing their confidence and bettering their command of the English language. We hope you join us this next February 2022, we would be honoured to accompany you in the pursuit of both your academic and personal goals.
it of both your academic and personal goals.



ANGLO CHRISTMAS QUIZ



ANGLO

For some unknown reason 2019 was a year of many anniversaries (significant dates 25, 50, 100 years etc.) in British history and culture. As such I based my talk to students that year at the Anglo Institute around these themes. Although we are now clearly 2 years on, it recently occurred to me the themes might make the subject of a "light-hearted" Christmas Quiz. The answers are at the bottom of the page. Merry Christmas.

Derek Tyler, Regular Anglo Presenter and Writer

1. 2019 marked the bicentenary of the birth of which famous British monarch?
2. More recently 2019 was the 50th anniversary of the last live performance (an impromptu concert on a London roof-top) by which British band?
3. Going back into history, the year was the 300th anniversary of the publication of a book which is often regarded as the first true English novel. The story was about a ship-wrecked sailor - what was the name the book and who was the author?
4. Moving to recent times, 2019 was the 25th anniversary of when Britain ceased to be an "island". What happened?
5. 2019 was 50th years since the end of the so called "swinging 60's" in Britain - a time of cultural change. The decade gave rise to the development of two "minis". One was the well-known mini car - what was the other?
6. Back into history, the year marked the 200th anniversary of death of the British person who invented /significantly improved the steam engine making the industrial revolution possible. What

was his name and what else did he invent?

7. 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of what significant event in British aviation history?
8. The year was also the 75th anniversary of the invention at Bletchley Park north of London in 1944 of what device which now forms part of our everyday lives?
9. 100 years before 2019 Edward Johnstone, born in San Jose de Mayo in Uruguay, created what well-known London sign?
10. And finally, 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the first transmission of what is often regarded as the most iconic BBC comedy show of all times. It starred John Cleese and its best-known sketch was the "Ministry of Funny Walks". What was the show called?

Answers: 1. Queen Victoria 2. The Beatles 3. Robinson Crusoe written by Daniel Defoe 4. The opening of the channel tunnel between Britain and France 5. The mini skirt popularized by the British fashion designer Mary Quant 6. James Watt, who is also credited with developing the first-ever document copying machine and the "watt" concept of power 7. The first flight by Concorde, the British / French project to create a supersonic aircraft. 8. Colossus, the world's first "electronic digital programmable" device, the fundamentals of which remain the basis of modern PCs / cell phones. 9. The iconic London underground sign - the red circle and the blue line with the station name which has remained largely unchanged. 10. Monty Python's Flying Circus.



Derek was born in Britain and subsequently worked in many countries around the world, including those in South America. For more than 5 years, he has been a regular presenter at the Anglo Institute giving talks to students and the general public on British related subjects.



With great success, on Saturday 27th, our Society's traditional Caledonian Ball took place. This year we were celebrating (because we couldn't do it last year due to well-known reasons) our 125th Anniversary and St. Andrew's Day.

The event, held at Fantasy Garden Carrasco, started with the typical Grand March to the sound of the music played by the City of Montevideo Pipe Band and Latitude 33 Pipe Band, which were followed by HMA Faye O'Connor O.B.E. (Honorary President of our Society), members of the SASOU Committee, guests, the Montevideo Scottish Country Dancers and members of Scottish Dance Uruguay.

After the welcome speech by the St. Andrew's Society's President and words by the HM Ambassador, former presidents of the Society and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and various shows by the pipers and dancers, who brought the house down with their flawless performances.

Another of the highlights of the night were the many prizes for the raffles donated by our generous sponsors like Cadbury, La Pataia, Hotel Solis, Sinfonia and Bodega Fraveto, among others.

And thus, with dancing, great music, lots of fun and excellent food but, above all, with good friends, was spent this special night which ended, as it is traditional, with everyone singing to the tune of Auld Lang Syne and vowing to repeat such a pleasant experience next year.

We also want to give a special "thank you" to the British Embassy and British Hospital for their wholehearted support.

**Save the date for our next event:
Burns Eve next January!!**





BRITISH CEMETERY

Past & Present Join the Community

Last Saturday, we entertained our Past & Present event in our premises, with a wonderfully wide attendance, on a soft and sunny day and with very interesting and well portrayed performances which made for a most enjoyable occasion. We would like to thank all our guests, for making it such a special day.

Many thanks to our actors, who took on their roles in such a both interesting and entertaining fashion, that provoked questions on their portrayed lives rather fit for the character themselves!

Our revived people and their respective actors for this event were:

- Thomas Tomkinson, performed by Santiago Infanzozzi
- Samuel F Lafone, by Federico Heller
- Fay Crocker, by Florencia Ferrari
- Elena Hughes de Moor – Davie, by Veronica Houwer
- Margaret Jamieson, by Kim Mac Lennan
- Francis Gorham Jackson, by Juan Zumaran.

Again, thanks and a special thanks to Marcela Bridal for her wonderful cucumber sandwiches.

Here go a few selected photos of the event:



BRITISH CEMETERY



BRITISH CEMETERY





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 2022

The 2022 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



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**The Trinity DipTESOL: Diploma
in Teaching English to Speakers
of Other Languages**

The Trinity Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (DipTESOL) is a Level 7 qualification, on Ofqual's Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

<https://www.trinitycollege.com/qualifications/teaching-english/diptesol>

This internationally recognized qualification provides experienced teachers with the knowledge and skills required to advance in their careers and hold positions in management and teacher education.

At Dickens, we are delighted to announce the launch of our next 2022-2023 Trinity College DIP TESOL Course.

Lessons will be delivered face-to-face and via Zoom and experienced tutors will guide participants to reflect critically over their own practice and to undertake independent research. Above all, as in all teacher education courses delivered at Dickens, they will feel valued members of the Dickens teaching community.

It is the third time a Diploma course will be held in Uruguay at Dickens:

- First Diploma course: 1999
- Second Diploma course: 2013-2014

Both the above with Excellent Results

Contact sofia@dickens.edu.uy for entry requirements and further information.



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dickens

Face-to-face &
 online courses
MARCH 2022

May the holiday season bring
happiness and joy to all
The British Society Community.

The Dickens Team





by Dr Jorge C Stanham OBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

Twenty Posts Later

For twenty months, starting April 2020 through November 2021, my posts were single-themed, single-tracked, and single-minded, zeroed on the one subject that hit humans, biologically, socially and existentially: the COVID-19 pandemic. During this month, I've pored through these entries, which look like a real-time journal of the course of the pandemic as seen from this country. This won't be a post-pandemic post: the pandemic hasn't ended and even if it downgrades into what euphemistically many are calling an endemic state, we'll live with this virus, its variants, and the strategies we've learned that will keep it under control: distancing, ventilation, masking, vaccines and hopefully, effective medication to treat those who, in spite of, or having not heeded the mentioned precautions, fall ill.

The COVID-19 pandemic wasn't the only major issue, although it may have overshadowed the other major problems affecting humanity: massive human migrations, war, political extremism and most of all, global warming and its effects on habitats, poor nations, and liveability on this planet, which may become the deadliest threat during the nearly eight remaining decades of this century. The pandemic has given humanity a chance to realise that there is no way out of this deep well but doing it together. The COP26 Climate Summit was a small example of the need to think globally, acting locally, a tiny step to dodge Greta Thunberg's "Stop the bla bla bla" accusation directed at world leaders.

More than four million people have died with or due to COVID-19 and this count only considers those diagnosed as such by health ministries; many uncounted more have been estimated to be victims of the virus. In spite of losses in life, health (long-COVID, for example), workplace (layoffs, furloughs, unemployment, business closures), the recent

supply-chain delays plus wrecked national economies, we've seen examples of resiliency and adaptation, which is a natural human response to adversity. In health care, many interactions have become virtual, and telemedicine is now a given. The same has happened with remote work, an option which has now legal status and protection in many countries. Education has been hit hardest and the possibility of remote on-line interactions is not evenly distributed across socioeconomic groups. Besides, younger children suffer from the loss of physical interaction with peers and teachers.

As I write this article, Uruguay is gradually opening up, expecting the best although fearing that the present bonanza may be threatened by the realities which are happening in Europe, where wave after wave is hitting nations badly, with a return to lockdowns and overwhelming of hospitals. We hope that our significantly high level of vaccination will protect us, but it won't be enough, if we leave behind masking, distancing, and ventilation, especially in closed spaces.



My next post will be in January 2022. I wish my readers and the British Society a merry Xmas holiday season and the best for the New Year.

A Bumpy Ride

We took off from Lima on time, just as the sun was dipping low over the Pacific. The plane climbed steadily to reach its cruising altitude, giving me a magnificent sunset view of the Andes mountains, the backbone of South America. Then daylight was swept away into the west and stars appeared, twinkling in the darkening sky. I love flying at night.

I was just finishing a cocktail when dinner was served. I slid over to the aisle seat to make it easier and was presented with a tenderloin drizzled with a mushroom sauce accompanied by a dollop of mashed potato and some English peas. I asked for a half-bottle of Cabernet, then picked up my knife and fork and addressed the tray of food in my lap. The steak was delicious, and the veggies were still warm. I took a sip of wine and leaned back in my seat. The captain's voice floated through the cabin. He announced some turbulence ahead, nothing unexpected when flying over the Andes, and would everyone please fasten their seat belts. Our destination, Bogotá, was perched at nearly nine thousand feet, and we were flying over mountainous terrain that frequently generated dangerous conditions.

A massive clap of thunder suddenly exploded above us, and sheet lightning lit up the angry sky. The plane abruptly, violently, lurched to the left and dropped several hundred feet. The engines strained and screamed, the lights went out, and the pitch-dark cabin was filled with flying objects, shrieking, and chaos. I would have been thrown out of my seat if I hadn't been strapped in. My tray, however, had no such restraint and my dinner levitated and spilled everywhere, mostly on my shirt and in my lap. The wine bottle spun into the aisle, bounced off the seat on the other side, and fell to the floor, rolling towards the bulkhead. The plane bucked and lurched again, buffeted by the wind, battered this way and that like a mosquito in a gale, shuddering from nose to tail.

The lights flickered back on just as the plane plunged again. One of the air hostesses was lifted off her feet, then slammed onto the floor in the aisle. I unfastened my seat belt and crouched beside her, gripping the armrest as tightly as I could. Overhead bins burst open and showered us with bags and books in the flickering half-light. She was dazed, and her eyelids were fluttering. My heart was pounding, my mouth was dry. I saw in her eyes the same terror I was feeling, certain that my time had come. The plane shivered and groaned, the fuselage creaked, the engines whined, people were wailing and praying. The young woman tried to sit up. The coffee pot she'd been carrying had glanced off her forehead as she fell and cut her just above the eyebrow. I grabbed a napkin—the dinner service accoutrements were everywhere—and dabbed it on the wound. The white fabric turned red immediately. I folded it and she took it from me and held it to her head. I helped her into the middle seat on my row, with me on the aisle. We strapped ourselves in as the plane shuddered and shook for a little longer, then mercifully emerged from the storm and started gaining altitude. When the captain assured us that all was well, we laughed and wept with relief.

The air hostess was soon back on her feet, trying to clear the debris. I and a few other passengers helped a little, and once we got the aisle clear the crew served free drinks for the rest of the flight.

There was spontaneous applause from all passengers when we touched down in Bogotá. The captain came through the cabin, shaking everyone's hand, complimenting us on our fortitude, and praising the crew. My uncle met me at the gate, took one look at me and said, "I see you had a bumpy ride. Come on. What you need is a good stiff Martini."



Christmas is coming... With Charles Dickens and Dylan Thomas

The Christmas tradition of the yule-log burning in the hearth during the twelve days of Christmas—from Christmas eve to the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany changed gradually during the reign of Queen Victoria. When she married Albert, he introduced her subjects to the German tradition of decorating a Christmas tree. Singing Christmas carols began to thrive again, and the first Christmas cards appeared in the 1840s. But it was the Christmas stories of Dickens, particularly his 1843 masterpiece *A Christmas Carol* that created the idea and spirit of Christmas as a joyful celebration.

A Christmas Carol opens on a bleak, cold Christmas Eve in London, seven years after the death of Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner, Jacob Marley. Scrooge, an ageing miser, dislikes Christmas and refuses a dinner invitation from his nephew Fred. He only grudgingly allows his overworked, underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, Christmas Day off with pay to conform to the social custom.

That night Scrooge is visited at home by Marley's ghost, entwined by heavy chains and money boxes forged during a lifetime of greed and selfishness. Marley tells Scrooge that he has a single chance to avoid the same fate: he will be visited by three spirits and must listen or be cursed to carry much heavier chains of his own. The three spirits are the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. Christmas Past takes him back to his lonely childhood, his sister Fan, and his first employer who was kind to him. Christmas Present takes Scrooge to Christmas celebrations in a miner's cottage, and later Scrooge and the ghost also see Bob Cratchit's family feast, and his youngest son, Tiny Tim, a happy little boy who is seriously ill. The spirit informs Scrooge that Tiny Tim will die unless the course of events changes. The third spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, shows Scrooge a Christmas Day in the future. The silent ghost reveals scenes involving the death of a disliked old man. Then, the ghost shows him Bob Cratchit and his family mourning the death of Tiny Tim. Finally, the ghost shows Scrooge a neglected grave, with a

tombstone bearing his name. Sobbing, Scrooge pledges to change his ways.

Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning a changed man. He anonymously sends a large goose to the Cratchit home for Christmas dinner and spends the afternoon with Fred's family. The following day he gives Cratchit an increase in pay, and begins to become a father figure to Tiny Tim. From then on Scrooge treats everyone with kindness, generosity, and compassion.

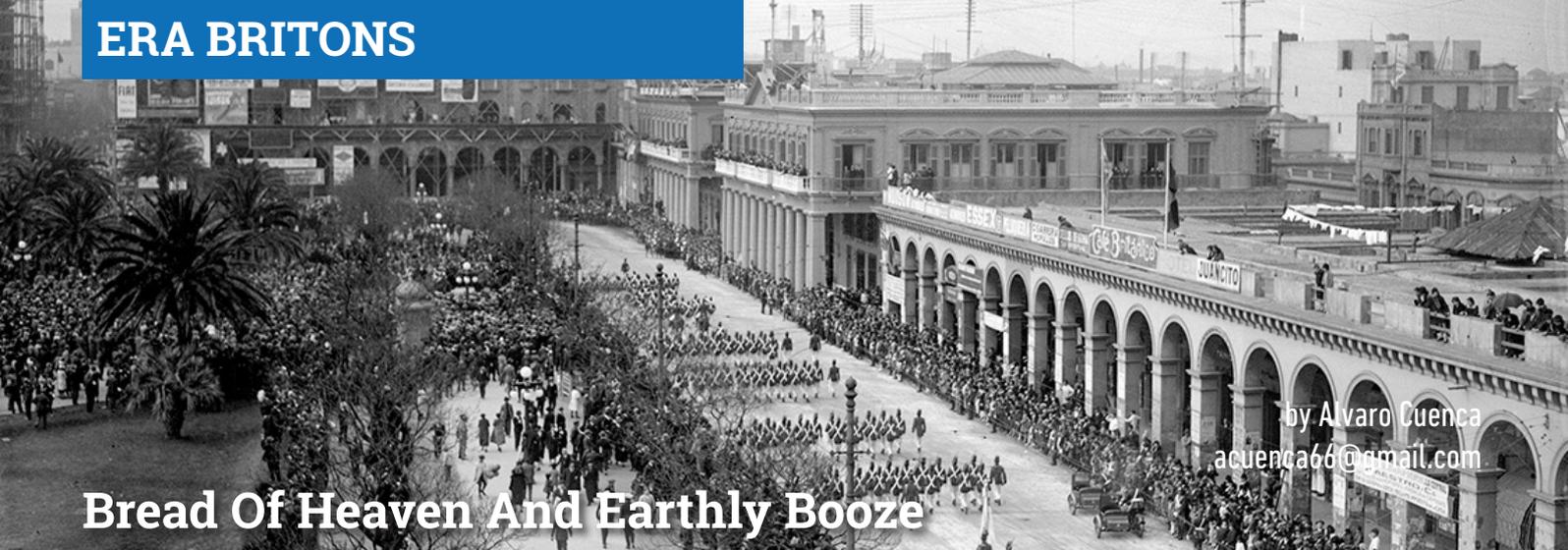
Dickens considered *A Christmas Carol* as a way to, "help open the hearts of the prosperous and powerful towards the poor and powerless".

Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea, Wales, in 1914. A brilliant, sometimes difficult modern poet, he's been described as a pantheist, a surrealist bard. His wonderful, moving poem on the death of his father, "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night", and the fantastic play for voices "Under Milkwood", like all his works, have that sonorous quality he brought out so well when he read them over the radio. His *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, magically captures the fun and memories of a little boy:

"One Christmas was so like another, in those years around the sea-town corner now and out of all sound except the distant speaking of voices... All Christmases roll down toward the two-tongued sea like a cold and headlong moon bundling down the sky that was our street... I plunge my hands into the snow and bring out whatever I can find": Out of the snow of memory come Mrs Prothero and the firemen ("It was always snowing at Christmas. I was in her garden with her son Jim. Patient, cold, and callous, we waited to snowball the cats, when "Fire!" cried Mrs Prothero and beat the dinner gong.) And also: three postmen... the Useful Presents and the Useless Presents... Uncles... Jim, Jack and Dan... Ghosts... and, finally, after a long day, "I said some words to the close and holy darkness, and then I slept".

Dylan Thomas reading this story is on YouTube.

It's a real Christmas treat.



Bread Of Heaven And Earthly Booze

Britons came to Uruguay from all regions of the British Isles, many Welsh among them. The Evans of Conchillas or their namesake Evans who made a fortune with lighters in Montevideo port, and on whose land the first premises of the British Schools were established; or Welsh companies as Mann, George Depot, which supplied port services and the wordily acclaimed Welsh coal to merchant and passenger ships stopping at Montevideo. But the most famous “Welsh” visitor to Montevideo, ironically was not Welshman but was English. The Prince of Wales, future Edward VIII, later the forgettable Duke of Windsor.

Edward’s trip to Uruguay in 1925 was not the first Royal visit for the British community in Uruguay. His father, future George V, came to the River Plate and Montevideo in 1871 on an unofficial visit. As anecdote, the wall separating the adjacent Stock Exchange building and the Hotel Oriental in Montevideo [now that same area is occupied by the Banco República’s main building] was demolished for the community reception, to present a hall befitting a future King, although he was not Prince of Wales yet. None of those present at this great event was alive in 1925, so expectations were high when first news of the Royal visit reached Montevideo.

The whole community is involved, as is the Uruguayan Government and society as it will be an official Royal visit to the country. The prince will be received by the President at Government House in Independence Square after a parade along 18 de Julio, and the community’s principal event will be a ball at the Shaw Palace in Zabala Square. The prince will stay overnight at the Crocker Palace, adjacent to Shaw’s so that he will be able to pass from one building to the other without going to the outside, and without being seen. The visit is a great success but for the weather, with hard rain falling throughout the whole day. For the Prince of Wales, the long formal day will end with an informal and scandalous visit to the Montevideo cabarets in company of some local bachelors.

The 1931 South American tour will be an unofficial visit, theoretically as experience for the future king and probably to extricate him from an undesired company in Europe. He will come chaperoned by his brother the Duke of York [George, the future King George VI on Edward’s abdication] who won’t come to Montevideo as he’ll go directly from Buenos Aires to Fray Bentos for a tour of the ex-Liebig’s industries and some golf. The prince will receive for an hour the community chosen at the Parque Hotel, a very short tour of some British community venues and then have a very intimate dinner at the British Residence; before being taken by some of his old criollo friends to places unknown, until late in the morning.

Luckily, we have the testimony of a lady who was present in both visits of the Prince of Wales, first being a girl of seven just admitted to the Girl Scouts and being part of the Honour Guard at the unveiling of the first stone at the new British Schools building under the pouring rain; and then as a teenager, eager to see the future king and his famous red hair.

“We waited for hours under the rain until a huge delegation of men came. I had no idea who the prince was, and they all were in a hurry, with umbrellas and mackintoshes. I set my eyes on one who had a helmet with peacock feathers. It had to be him! That night my father told me the one I had seen was the Montevideo Fire Brigade Chief, the Prince was a short man not different from any of the others. On the 1931 visit I decided that whatever happened, I was going to see his famous red lock, so went to several places where he was supposed to pass, but he travelled in a closed car so could not get even a glimpse of him. Living in Uruguay and having him twice and not seeing him was quite a disillusion. They told us that his behaviour in Montevideo was quite appalling “



Language Problems

by Juan José Castillos
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Different usage can lead to big misunderstandings in all languages. I remember that I was once at the boarding gate of an American airport and the following announcement was heard in the loudspeakers: 'The doors will open momentarily'. I couldn't refrain from exclaiming, 'Will they be briefly open and then close immediately?'. The dirty looks I got from my mostly American fellow passengers spoke loudly of their displeasure at my remarks.

But that is the least of the problems people face in many countries due to language. In Canada years ago the French speaking people living there could communicate in both English and French while the English speaking Canadians mostly refused to do so. Things got to the point that for a number of reasons the province of Quebec contemplated leaving Canada and going their way among the nations of the world.



In order to defuse the danger, a still standing policy of bilingualism was introduced by the Canadian government at the time in which all official documents had to be bilingual. It was also decided that French would be taught in all Canadian schools, an enlightened policy that would

add a skill to the students that could be very useful in their future life.

I was horrified however when I read in some of the mainly Western Canadian newspapers big headlines reading: 'Don't ram French down our kids' throats', as if learning French was some kind of disease that had to be prevented. But that worked sort of both ways since I observed that in Paris, France if you spoke English, people tended to ignore you, while even if you struggled with French, natives would be sympathetic.

Years ago French people fondly remembered the Canadians who helped liberate their country from the nazis and you only had to say you were a Canadian to be warmly received everywhere. When my daughter was still a baby, my first wife, her mother and myself were visiting Paris and entered the cathedral of Notre Dame. Then my then mother-in-law had the idea to have my daughter baptized there. I tried to convince her that it was out of the question, it was something probably done for special people, not on the spot for the run-of-the-mill tourist.

She was quite insistent to the point that I got in touch with the priest in charge of things and explained to him in French her most unreasonable request. The moment the priest found out we were Canadians, his face lit up and said of course, it could be done at once for a modest fee.

And there we were, all five of us, holding long candles and the priest performing the rite, with other tourists taking pictures of us, perhaps thinking we were some sort of special people, baptizing a child of some standing.

A very embarrassing situation that fortunately lasted a short while, so that the mother-in-law could boast about the event to her friends back home.



by Phillip Berzins
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Christmas Trifle

The British people love their deserts even in this era of heightened calorie and cholesterol consciousness.

One of their favourites, especially around Christmas time, is trifle, which consists of layers of sponge cake soaked in sherry or brandy, and covered with jam, custard, red fruits (fruit of the forest) and whipped cream and flaked almonds, all presented in layers in a shallow glass container.

Ingredients

Serves 6

For the custard:

- 425 ml double cream
- 4 egg yolks
- 25 g sugar
- 1 level dessertspoon cornflour
- 1 tsp (teaspoon) vanilla extract

For the filling:

- 200 g sponge cake
- 100 ml dry sherry or cognac
- 100 g raspberry or strawberry jam
- 600 g red fruits (strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries)

For the topping:

- 250 ml double cream
- 50 g icing sugar
- 75 g toasted, flaked almonds

The word trifle comes from the old French word *truffle*, which means something whimsical or of little consequence. The first known recipe for trifle appears in Thomas Dawson's 1588 book of English cookery.

One of the reasons for trifle being a popular Christmas desert is the fact that it can be made a day in advance and keep covered with cling film in the fridge allowing the sponge and fruit to soften and the flavours to mingle together.

Method

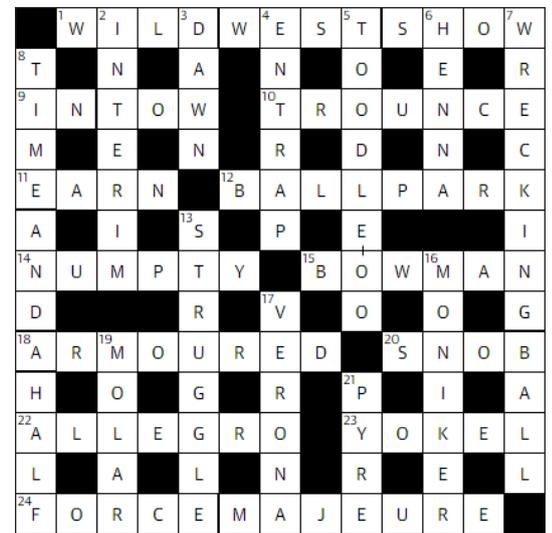
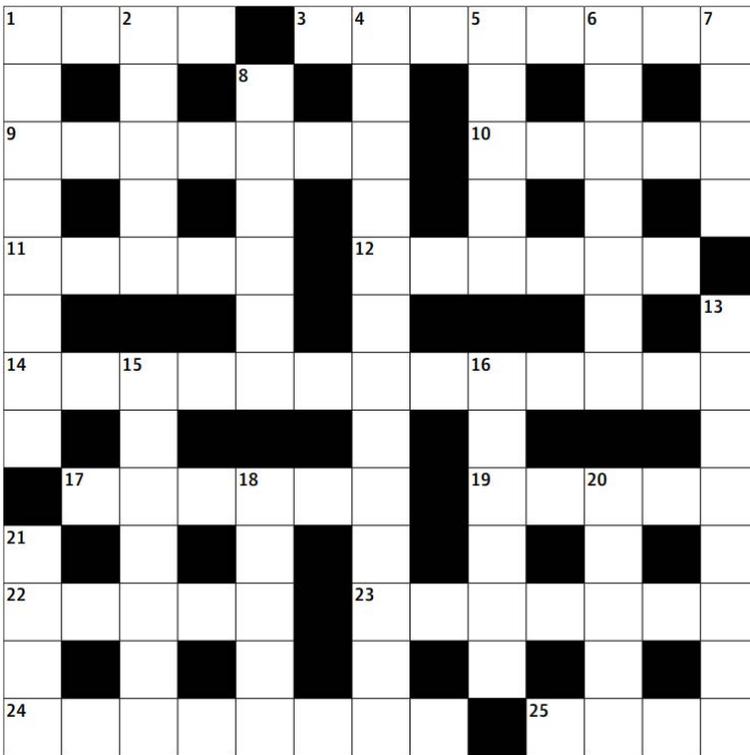
1. To make the custard pour the cream into a saucepan and heat until just below simmering point. Whisk together the egg yolks, sugar, cornflour and vanilla extract in a medium-sized bowl and slowly add the heated cream while beating continuously.
2. Return mixture to the saucepan and heat gently while continuously stirring until the custard is thick and smooth. Pour into a bowl, cover with cling film and allow to cool.
3. Slice the sponge into 1 cm slices, brush with sherry and spread with a layer of jam. Cut in 1 cm cubes. Whip the double cream with the icing sugar until it forms stiff peaks.
4. To present the finished desert, serve in a large glass dish or in individual glasses serve in layers: first the sponge, then the red fruits (cut them in small pieces if necessary), next the custard and finally the whipped cream. Decorate with the flaked almonds and, if you desire, red fruits. Feel free to make one layer of each ingredient or repeat the four layers twice or even three times.

SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME

from The Guardian
www.theguardian.com

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

November solution:



Across

- 1 Luxuriate (4)
- 3 Inherent in the nature of something (8)
- 9 Ham it up (7)
- 10 Twelfth Night's cross-dressing heroine (5)
- 11 Body of written work of the highest quality (5)
- 12 Page edge (6)
- 14 Steps leading to a bad conclusion! (8,5)
- 17 Fabric stiffener (6)
- 19 Pointed projection (5)
- 22 Workwear item (5)
- 23 Cupboard space (7)
- 24 Outside light (4,4)
- 25 European Organisation for Nuclear Research (4)

Down

- 1 Reading room furniture? (8)
- 2 Loosely-coiled amount of yarn (5)
- 4 Marked change — shipmate's room (anag) (13)
- 5 Large organ of the abdomen (5)
- 6 Spanish pork sausage (7)
- 7 Thirteen rugby league players (4)
- 8 Doze (6)
- 13 Colour of the Owl and the PussyCat's boat (3-5)
- 15 Temporary (7)
- 16 Tube for transferring liquid from one container to another (6)
- 18 Incur (debts) (3,2)
- 20 Over 18 (2,3)
- 21 It's signed, sealed and delivered (4)

LAMB CHOPS

by Jonathan Lamb
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Wee Donald

My name's Wee Donald.
I've a dog.
The dog is bigger than me.

We go for walks:
I tag along,
He checks out every tree.

Now here's a tip
For those with dogs,

At least as tall as mine:
When out for walkies, do not get
Into the firing line.

The weather may turn wet, or worse,
You may get rained upon...

And then, my friend,
You'd be like me

Wee Don



Advent Calendar

An Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. Since the date of the First Sunday of Advent varies, falling between November 27 and December 3 inclusive, many Advent calendars, especially those that are reusable, often begin on December 1, although those that are produced for a specific year often include the last few days of November that are part of the liturgical season. The Advent calendar was first used by German Lutherans in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Traditional Advent calendars feature the manger scene, Saint Nicholas, and winter weather, while others range in theme, from sports to technology. They come in a multitude of forms, from a simple paper calendar with flaps covering each of the days to fabric pockets on a background scene to painted wooden boxes with cubby holes for small items.

Many Advent calendars take the form of a large rectangular card with “windows”, one for each day of December leading up to and including Christmas Eve (December 24) or Christmas Day (December 25). Consecutive doors are opened every day leading up to Christmas, beginning on the start of the Advent season for that year, or simply on December 1. Often the doors are distributed across the calendar in no particular order. The calendar windows open to reveal an image, a poem, a portion of a story (such as the story of the Nativity of Jesus), or a small gift, such as a toy or a chocolate item. Often, each window has a Bible verse and Christian prayer printed on it, which Christians incorporate as part of their daily Advent devotions. Advent calendars may also have puzzles and games printed on their reverse side.

There are many variations of Advent calendar, including social media Advent calendars, and string up reusable Advent calendars. Many towns have created living advent calendars. Some Advent calendars even eschew traditional Christmas motifs and themes, focusing only on Jesus as the central character of the Christmas story.



REEL OF THE MONTH



Is a vegan diet healthier than eating meat and dairy?

Identical twins Hugo and Ross Turner are super athletes that are always trying to find ways to improve their performance.

With the help of scientists at King's College London, they went on a 12-week fitness program with a twist:

Hugo turned vegan, and Ross continued to eat meat.

Which diet is the best?



FILMS TO WATCH IN DECEMBER

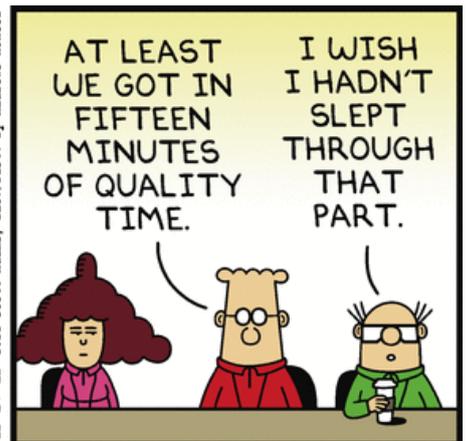


Stephen Spielberg takes on legendary musical West Side Story, Spider-Man is contending with the multiverse and Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand are in a spooky Shakespeare adaptation.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE LIST OF FILMS](#)

DILBERT

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





Regent Street

