



**BSU  
Literary Tea**

**Back in Time  
My Landlady**

**Meet our Columnists  
Álvaro Cuenca**

**Reader Contributions  
Frank Evans  
His Time in Uruguay**



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## THIS MONTH'S COVER



This month's cover features beloved character Alice from Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass". Our art & design contributor Juan Pablo Rodríguez designed the superb illustration of Alice holding her flamingo croquet-mallet. Even though

our Winter Croquet Tournament was postponed due to the inclement July weather, croquet is still the theme of the month since BSU member María Lamb is currently wielding her mallet with great results at the 14th World Championships in Southwick near Brighton.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Remember you can pay your 2022 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through [MercadoPago](#).

We have also implemented **recurring payments** so you no longer have to remember to pay your fees. You do not need to have a MercadoPago user, by clicking [HERE](#) you can choose to enter your details as "Invitado", you are 3 clicks away of never having to remember to pay again! This recurring payment is very easy to cancel if you wish to do so in the future.

You may also pay by transfer or a direct deposit to the account of British Society in Uruguay at **Banque Heritage** (account number 62582-03). Please email your transfer/ deposit slip to our Treasurer.

If you forgot to pay any previous annual fees please email our Treasurer at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy) to learn about ways to pay past dues.

If you wish to become a member first fill in [this form](#).

**Once this is done, your membership will be updated.**



**MercadoPago**  
Annual Fee 2022 - \$700

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Payments - \$650



## Dear Reader,

**I**nteraction, a buzz word within the social media world, actually means action that happens between or among two or more agents. And interactive is what this newsletter strives to be: a place where you are informed and entertained, and that engages you enough you in turn want to participate with your own news and anecdotes, pictures and recommendations, tidbits and trivia.

Last month I asked you to get involved, and you delivered. How you delivered! Thank you to everyone who got in touch with us to comment on the newsletter and offer us advice and encouragement. And a special thank-you to all who went a step further and sent us article suggestions or even your own pieces of writing.

In fact, we were so enthused with your response that we have decided to add a whole new section for Reader Contributions to our newsletter. This month we share with you a wonderful article written by Frances Evans MBE, a fellow reader from Argentina, who sent us a beautiful piece on her father and his involvement with the Uruguayan railway bridges during the 1930s, and a short write up on Maria Lamb's outstanding croquet performance at the 14th World Championships in Southwick near Brighton.

So, if you have interesting pieces you would like to share with fellow readers, send them along and we will publish those that fulfill our basic publication requirements. Of course, if your pen itches to express itself monthly and you want to become a regular contributor, then write to us with your proposed topic and, after approval, we will send you the formal requirements for regular contributors.

And as usual, I look forward to hearing your thoughts at [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy)

-Victoria Stanham, Newsletter Editor

# Birthdays

in August

1. Christopher Rex Prevett Storey
1. Madeleine Frances Pool Velasco
3. Vivian Lee Wilson Escondeur
4. Santiago Ramón Theoduloz Duarte
5. Jane Mary Silverwood Close
6. Silvana Lourdes Pérez Bonavita
6. David Ebennizer Rennie Noble
7. Aureliano Aguirre Baccino
7. Patricia Emily Prevett Gomensoro
7. Clara María Hobbins Llovet
8. Philip Roger Lennan Tripodi
9. Mariana Billotto Arhancet
12. María Luz Vera Serafino
12. Nathalie Rippe Closset
13. Clara Maria Rymer Gutiérrez
13. Kenneth Gilmore Coates Spry
14. Juan-Carlos Chambers
15. Timothy Gerard Pearson
15. Mariana Abó Zumarán
16. María Soledad Reyes Ribas
17. Lucía Mendioroz Cobham
17. Dorothy Margaret Adkins Ketcher
17. Malena Mendioroz Cobham
18. Andrew Edward Beare Hirst
20. Laura Bertini Serena
20. Elvira Blanco



20. Kim Marie Davies Reyes
21. Richard Arthur Davies Santoro
21. Theodor James Funch-Thomsen Elliot
21. Andrew Martin Grierson Velloso
22. Fiona Karen Wilton
22. Richard Hobbins Vilar del Valle
24. Gloria María Trelles Mibelli
24. Philippe Jacques Sauval Moor
24. Margaret Irene Waterston Henderson
24. Facundo Asbjørn Espinosa Holtermann
24. Monica Patricia Prevett Vignoles
25. Martín Villar Drever
26. Emily Silvia Symonds Cooper
28. Adriana Romero Pérez
28. Alejandra Guerra Mac Gillivray
28. Richard William Ferrand Tustain
29. Roberto Juan Mountford Hawes
31. Raquel Herrera Irisarri

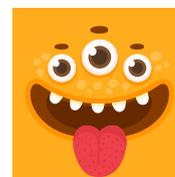
# New Members

Solveig Astrid Schandy Sicco



For news from across the pond visit [www.abcc.org.ar](http://www.abcc.org.ar)

I correct autocorrect more than autocorrect corrects me.



# 2022



List your events in our calendar:

We invite all sister societies to send us dates of your upcoming events to [editor@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy) .

## AUGUST

**WEDNESDAY 3:** ING. SILVIA EMALDI. PRESIDENTE DE UTE. 12:15 hs, at Parva Domus, Bvar Artigas 136.  
[www.cub.uy](http://www.cub.uy)

**TUESDAY 9:** BSU LECTURE SUPPER WITH RICHARD COWLEY: "A Few Battles,A Mutiny,A Hero and His Mistress. The Life and Demise of HMS Agamemnon." 19:00 hs, at The British Hospital Auditorium, Policlínico Central, Morales 2578, piso 3.

**TUESDAY 16:** BRITISH HOSPITAL GUILD - TEA - 14:30hs at the British Hospital Polyclinic, 3rd floor.  
[sdaymedina@gmail.com](mailto:sdaymedina@gmail.com) or [lmbrady6538hotmail.com](mailto:lmbrady6538hotmail.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**SATURDAY 10:** ANGLO CONFERENCE - Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel  
<https://www.anglo.edu.uy/anglo-conference-2022/>

## NOVEMBER

**SATURDAY 26:** The St. Andrew's Society SENIOR CALEDONIAN BALL.



If you would like to post a classified or commercial ad in our pages, please contact our treasurer for a quote at [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy)



# LECTURE SUPPER

with Richard Cowley

Limited capacity

## A Few Battles, A Mutiny, A Hero and His Mistress.

*The Life and Demise of HMS Agamemnon.*

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August**  
**19:00 hs**

at The British Hospital Auditorium  
Policlinico Central Morales 2578, piso 3

Reserve your place through Mercado Pago

Members

**\$ 650**



Non members

**\$ 750**



or R.S.V.P [treasurer@britsoc.org.uy](mailto:treasurer@britsoc.org.uy)  
and pay on site.



THE BRITISH SOCIETY  
IN URUGUAY  
FOUNDED 1918

### MENU

**Main Dish**

Chicken Vol au  
Vent

**Side Dishes**

Colorful coleslaw  
Green salad

**Dessert:**

Apple Crumble  
with Cream



## Literary Tea with Lindsey Cordery

Courtesy of

TEA  
PLEASE

BY FREDAUY

**O**n Wednesday 20th July, at Britannia Hall, Lindsey Cordery delighted us with a Literary Tea titled “Jane Austen’s Emma Woodhouse & Anne Elliot”.

Lindsey gave an outstanding lecture to a full house of literature lovers who hung on her every word while enjoying delicious tea (courtesy of Tea Please by Fer Reda) and scrumptious tea-time delicacies (a veritable feast of cucumber sandwiches, scones, carrot cake, lemon cake, Red Velvet cake and Chocolate cake prepared by Marcela Dutra, Sally Ann Cooper, Madeleine Pool and Susan McConnell).

Fernanda Reda of Tea Please sent us three delicious tea flavours to enjoy: Josephine, Earl Grey with Rose, and Dubai, the latter a blend of new tea leaves she discovered while representing Uruguay with her teas at the 2020 Expo Dubai.



Lindsey Cordery



Ana Elena, Teodelina, Silvina Mañé



Sonia Ayling, Poppy Prett

# LITERARY TEA



*Andrea Davies, Joaquín Salhón*



*Blanca de Paula, Lilian Varela*



*Elisa Whitty, Marcela Dutra de Bridal*



*Solange Espina*



*Juan Danza*



*Doreen Rial*





*Delegation at Coronation Cup*

## Strengthening Links Through Sport

Uruguay was invited for the first time to play against England in the Coronation Cup, one of the oldest polo tournaments in the world, held at Guards Polo Club, in Windsor. As Ambassador Faye O'Connor put it on her Twitter account, England won, but Uruguay showed what they were made of!

A Uruguayan government delegation, including Tourism Minister Tabaré Viera, Sports Director Sebastián Bauzá and officials from Uruguay XXI, INAC and INAVI took the opportunity to promote Uruguay as a tourist destination, showcase the country's excellent beef, wines and other exports, and learn about British expertise in sports infrastructure.



*Ambassador and Sebastian Bauzá*



## OVINE GENETICS VISIT TO UK

Four sheep farmers and representatives from Texel and Hampshire Down Breeders Associations interested in genetically improving their flocks' production by importing genetics from the UK took part in an Ovine Sheep Mission last week.

Together with delegates from Chile, Colombia, Argentina, and Paraguay they visited production farms and took part in technical sessions on breed development and genetic programs. The visit was organised by the Department of International Trade together with the National Sheep Association. You can read more about this here.

## NOTICE



The Bank of England will withdraw legal tender status of £20 and £50 paper banknotes after 30 September, 2022. They are being replaced with the new polymer £20 notes featuring JMW Turner, and polymer £50 notes featuring Alan Turing. After this date, only polymer banknotes will be legal tender. You can find more details here.

# ANGLO CONFERENCE

## BOOK THE DATE

**SEPTEMBER 10**

RADISSON  
MONTEVIDEO

## A ONE DAY EXPERIENCE

5 PLENARY SESSIONS TO  
HELP US REFLECT ON AND  
RETHINK OUR PRACTICE



**ANGLO**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:

[www.anglo.edu.uy](http://www.anglo.edu.uy)  
[anglo.congress@anglo.edu.uy](mailto:anglo.congress@anglo.edu.uy)



ANGLO

# NEW ONLINE COURSES

FULL RANGE OF LEVELS AVAILABLE

START: AUGUST 2022



[www.anglo.edu.uy](http://www.anglo.edu.uy)

# OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNERS FROM THE ANGLO SCHOOL

We are delighted to share that, once again, two learners from our school, Guillermina Folle and Leticia Lareo, have been recognised as Outstanding Cambridge Learners for their IGCSE examinations taken in November 2021. These awards are presented to those secondary school learners who gain the highest mark in Uruguay in each IGCSE subject. In this case, Guillermina achieved the top mark in IGCSE Business Studies and Leticia did so in IGCSE Literature in English.



The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Ceremony was held at the Dazzler Hotel on Monday June 13, where our students were presented with their awards to recognize their impressive achievement. The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award recognises our students' exceptional performance, talent and hard work during their preparation courses, which took place in the last two years and which presented many challenges to both learners and teachers as, due to COVID, a lot of the teaching and learning took place virtually. Reaching such amazing results in these circumstances makes this achievement even more exceptional. We hope that this recognition of academic success will encourage Guillermina and Leticia in their future education and careers.

These results would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and commitment of all the teachers they have had during the many years they spent at our school. We specially want to congratulate Kristin Stefansson, our English Literature teacher and Mauricio Speranza, our Business Studies teacher, who not only teach and support our learners, but also inspire them to reach their full potential. We also want to recognize our students' families effort and continuous support, which are essential to obtain such great results. We are convinced that the joint work of students, school and families is key to ensure that we provide all our students with skills that will support them through life.

At The Anglo School we share the view that every time a learner performs well in their Cambridge examinations, world of opportunities opens up for them. We hope that all our learners will be encouraged in their future education and careers by this recognition of their academic success.

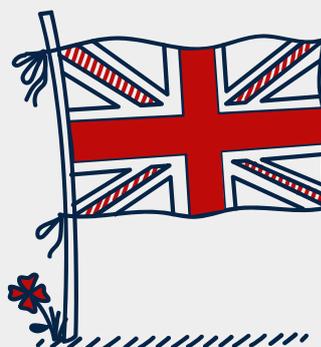




## Maintenance Program Underway

An ambitious maintenance program is well underway and has had work in the Cemetery at full throttle these past months. Kinder weather will bring its completion, but if you haven't visited the Cemetery for a while, you will be in for a nice surprise. New paths, a few new walls and a lot of paint has been involved in the planning for a full refreshed look this coming spring. We've also found it necessary to reinforce the security of our perimeter, which has been recently completed.

Planning for a superb spring for the Cemetery also comes from beyond our walls. We'd like to thank this year's fabulous team of collaborators who relentlessly took over the pruning of our treasured roses, both in our garden and in Sailors Corner. A special thanks to Valentina Sánchez Varela, Mariano Piñeyría, Ana Bove, Susana Correa, Enrique De Lucci, Marta Canadell, Carmen Gomensoro, Jacqueline McClew and, team leader Carolyn Prevett, who for the past three years have taken on this task. This year also included pruning classes for our personnel, which were tremendously appreciated. With photos of last year's bloom at hand, our expectations for this year are very high!



Dear readers,  
This month we are happy to announce that our new web site is now bilingual. Clicking on the UK flag converts the site to English, allowing for many an easier reading. Enjoy!

[cementeribritanico.com.uy](http://cementeribritanico.com.uy)





# Lunch Invitation

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 12:15 PM



UTE President

**Eng. Silvia Emaldi**

*Towards the second energy transformation*

Parva Domus, Punta Carretas

Bvar Artigas 136, Esq. Parva Domus

Those in need of a special menu (celiac, diabetic, vegetarian, etc.) please notify the Club Secretary in advance to attend to your requirement.

More Information



[www.cub.com.uy](http://www.cub.com.uy)



## For Everything There Is a Time

**“F**or everything there is a time.” - Book of Ecclesiastes. Does this seem like a reasonable proposition to you? By reasonable, I mean to ask if it fits with the way that you experience life.

In my experience, time flies by and I am often late or running out of time. Frequently I am not finding time, or feel unable to make time, or take time. I want to plan my day, organize my week, and plan the calendar. I feel a need to fit more things, activities, appointments into the available time. I can hardly believe it is August already. Where does the time go?

Do I manage my time or does time manage me? Perhaps tracking the time is just a scientific construct, but indisputably I have only the present moment as certain. I cannot go back, and I cannot skip ahead. Children feel like they will never be old enough to do the things they hope to do. Young people often feel they have an entire life ahead to enjoy. Older people comment on how quickly the years passed.

My past affects my present possibilities. The future calls me to plan ahead. My present can be easily swallowed up by anxiety about the future which is actually rooted in my past. (Different forms of anxiety exist. Some require medical interventions and management. Chronic anxiety is a variety which affects most people in multiple ways and is generally rooted in false thinking.)

Chronic anxiety can be noticed, named, and tamed, writes Steve Cuss in “Managing Leadership Anxiety”. If not, anxiety will limit our capacity to be present in the moment and emotionally available and connected to ourselves, our environment and even the people we love.

If I want to experience connection on any level (social, intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual) than some understanding of time is essential. My past is past, but it still impacts my present. How and why are key

questions to consider. I may never even reach the future, yet most of what I do today is building for tomorrow. How and why are key questions to consider.

When time flies, maybe I am having the proverbial fun, but maybe I need to slow down to make sure I am connected (centred, grounded, available emotionally) to myself, my environment and especially the people around me.

Take advantage of August to slow down and connect. At Christ Church we will be focused on helping each other grow through small group opportunities and Sunday services where we will be teaching about creating and improving our connections through the different stages of life. You are welcome to join us. Find out more in our updated website [www.christchurchmvd.org](http://www.christchurchmvd.org)

These are dark and difficult days, so I’ll close this with the wise words of Philippians 4:8. “Finally, my friends, focus on and think about whatever is true, respectable, just, pure, lovable, worthy of admiration, excellent or praiseworthy... apply it in your life and the God of peace will be with you”.

John

Christ Church  
MONTEVIDEO

# Community Bible Study

CBSI: Philippians  
august 7 to september 19



HOSPITAL GUILD  
**TEA**

TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> - 14:30hs  
at the British Hospital  
Polyclinic, 3rd floor.

R.S.V.P  
sdaymedina@gmail.com  
or lbrady6538hotmail.com

**GARAGE  
SALE**



**WE'RE MOVING AND DOWNSIZING  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

Small appliances, porcelain, crockery, crystal, glass, ornaments, records, DVD's, CD's, videos, magazines, books, crafts, material, kids' stuff, even some furniture... Come and see!

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27 from 10 am to 3 pm**

Rain or Shine

GUIPUZCOA 469 between Montero and Nuñez

Punta Carretas

Contact: Susan Day at 099.280.140



## Roald Dahl's Matilda by Form 3, 4 and 5

This year, The British Schools' Form 3, 4 and 5 students performed "Matilda", the inspiring story created by Roald Dahl centred on a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers, who lives with cruel parents who find her to be a nuisance. Upon entering her first term at school, she captures the attention of Miss Honey, a kind teacher, and the two form a wonderful friendship.

Unfortunately, the school is ruled by a tempestuous and mean headmistress named Miss Trunchbull, who hates children and delivers cruel and unjust punishments to all her students. Matilda is determined to change her story. The overall plot contains a powerful message that hopes to inspire students and audience alike: be bold and stand for what you believe.

Our students were able to show not only their great talent on-stage through acting, singing and dancing, but they also learned how to become an ensemble by working as a team. They truly gave an example on how to work together collaboratively by showing respect between each other, generosity, cooperation and school spirit.

The learning process of "Matilda" was a journey in which students had the opportunity to go through an enjoyable and enthusiastic experience, and learned to be aware of their responsibilities towards a common goal.

They were able to achieve this by working in a comfortable and creative environment which encouraged students to develop their talents to the best of their abilities, and were a great example for the entire British Schools community.





# PORTUGUESE COURSES AT DICKENS INSTITUTE



In 2013 a very unexpected thing happened at Dickens. A Portuguese teacher came to visit us with what at that time seemed like an impossible proposal: offering Portuguese courses at Dickens!

Time has taught us to listen and to value ideas before saying no. Her objective was teaching Portuguese “the Dickens way”. This was interesting as we did not know what she meant. Apparently she was very impressed with the happy rapport there was among the teachers and students, the flow of ideas among the staff and the happiness that reigned from the moment you entered Dickens until you left.

In the end the first Portuguese classes started at Dickens, with Luciana constantly visiting English classes, attending meetings of our teachers and adapting all she learned to her classes. Did it work? 100%. Nowadays the Portuguese courses are a success! Several teachers are teaching all levels and even two International Exams: FURG from the Federal University of Rio Grande and the CELEBRAS, from the Ministry of Education of Brasil.

Several Companies and Government Enterprises are taking our Portuguese courses and hopefully, next year to celebrate 10 years of Portuguese courses at Dickens, the Portuguese Team will be starting a Teaching Portuguese Course!

Are we happy at Dickens with our baby brother? Very. Congratulations Luciana and her Team! Great entrepreneurs!



# PORTUGUESE

## Conversation Workshop



August &  
September 2022



Coordinator Luciana Gaffrée | [portugues@dickens.edu.uy](mailto:portugues@dickens.edu.uy) | 27107555 | Wp 098118098

# AUGUST

NEW START OF ENGLISH COURSES  
FACE-TO-FACE & ONLINE  
FROM BEGINNERS TO  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS



# DICKENS



Cambridge Assessment  
English

Authorised Exam Centre

21 de setiembre 2744 | [info@dickens.edu.uy](mailto:info@dickens.edu.uy) | 27107555 | Wp 098118098

## EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE Two initiatives and many opinions

**T**his month I'll take a break from COVID-19 – and my readers deserve the same relief. In September, once Parliament has finished with the Rendición de Cuentas, two separate initiatives that decriminalise and regulate euthanasia and assisted suicide, will be presented. One of them is authored by Ope Pasquet, a Representative of the Colorado Party (now presiding the Chamber of Representatives); the other by Representatives of the Frente Amplio. It's expected that by then, both projects will have been fused into one. The differences between the two texts, in my opinion, although not strictly minor, are not unsurmountable.

Euthanasia, etymologically means 'good death' and probably isn't the most conflicting part: 80 percent of doctors who are members of the Sindicato Médico del Uruguay are apparently ok with the idea, although the question also included assisted suicide. The wording of the Frente Amplio initiative probably won't make many of us cringe, as it proposes to "regulate and guarantee the right of people to have a dignified way of dying". Who would oppose that? Doctors, over the ages and especially during the past decades, have done their best to relieve, with ever more potent medications and technology, suffering, in many cases knowing their actions will substitute a prolonged period of pain and anguish with a shorter and more peaceful and quiet transition. The advent of Palliative Medicine, and teams dedicated to this field, has meant that specific and effective guidelines, policies, treatments and direct care can be applied on a daily basis, especially at home, keeping those suffering within their environment, and unburdening and supporting their loved ones.

Assisted suicide is a more delicate issue. Hippocrates, 400 years before the Common Era, states in his Oath: "Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course." The law which created

the Colegio Médico del Uruguay (CMU), the regulatory body of the medical profession, contains an article that both prohibits and criminalises assisted suicide. The passing of the proposed laws rests on the elimination of this specific article. Not unexpectedly most major religions condemn assisted suicide (and euthanasia) and require that any laws passed on these issues allow for 'objection of conscience' – meaning that physicians and other health care professionals have no obligation to perform any acts which conflict with their deeply held values and beliefs.

The specifics on how assisted suicide can proceed are similar in both texts. Unfortunately, the procedure feels like tangled red tape all along the way. Documentation of the request by a demonstrably able (i.e. aware) patient has to be confirmed within 10-14 days, the participation of another unrelated physician must also be recorded in the patient's history (either in paper, or in electronic or audio-visual format). The patient must be of adult age and must be suffering an illness which is "terminal, irreversible and incurable" or who is experiencing "unbearable suffering". The proponents of assisted suicide state that this does not deny the value of Palliative Medicine, although the rift between those in favour and against hinges here. Heated debates in Parliament and the press are to be expected, maybe not so much on euthanasia, but especially on assisted suicide. This is not a new subject in Western thought: several European and South American countries, and North American states and provinces, have already blazed a trail on these fraught issues, though not without problems.

On a personal note, I will try to be open-minded, follow the debates closely and endeavour not to be partisan either way. Once the issue is formally settled, I will comment on the outcome in this Medical Column.



## My Landlady

**M**y landlady in San Miguel swept her patio every morning whether it needed it or not. The tiles were not always strewn with debris that blew over the walls during the night, but she swept the patio anyway. She said: “If you clean something every day it never gets dirty.” Her words, as simple as they are profound, have stayed with me for some forty-five years. Their underlying ethic has served me as a sort of north star, although I’m afraid I have never been as disciplined as Lupe was.

Lupe and her husband, José, owned a piece of land in San Miguel Allende, a small town in central Mexico. Their lot was on Calle Atascadero, a few blocks up the hill from the market, up where the breeze blew in fresh from the mountains. They built their home on the ground floor and, as money permitted, added three more floors above them. I lived on the first floor. A young chanteuse lived on the second floor with her very young daughter. And a painter lived in the rooftop apartment, with a view of the rolling countryside all the way to the horizon. Sunsets viewed from the top floor were spectacular.

José had a job in New York and spent several months there every winter. He had a U.S. work permit and could travel back and forth any time he wanted. He worked at a delicatessen in New York City for an employer who recognized him as an honest, hardworking man. The owner welcomed José back year after year and would have kept him on the payroll full-time if he’d wanted to stay.

But José had a long-term plan. He worked all day at the sandwich counter and in the evening, he watched TV and went to bed early. When he returned to Mexico, he brought a wad of money which he spent on bricks and cement. Then, during the summer, he and his two brothers built a home for

him and Lupe and, bit by bit, added three apartments that he rented to Americans and others, like me, who came to San Miguel to attend the Instituto Allende art college. They were not luxury flats. They were built simply with no frills. But they were bright and airy, with whitewashed walls, some furniture, and all the necessary appliances. Mine had a fireplace that kept the whole space warm on cold winter nights. There were large windows in the living room and a glass door that led onto the balcony, where I had my first cup of coffee in the morning. From there I watched Lupe sweep her patio with her daughter Teresa at her side.

Teresa lived with Lupe and José in an arrangement that suited them all. She was a single mother with a tiny baby girl and had her own room at the far end of the patio. She helped her mother with the housework and kitchen work, although Lupe did most of the cooking herself, and kept her company while José was in New York. When they swept the patio in the morning, they wore long, loose-fitting nightgowns and walked barefoot on the rust-coloured tiles. They both had thick, shiny black hair that fell down their backs to the waist. Later they would braid their hair and wear it coiled around their heads during the day. While the baby snoozed in a cradle on a chair, the two women swept their way around her in a graceful pattern that I could see choreographed from my vantage point on the balcony. They were in no hurry. This was not some odious chore to be dispatched as quickly as possible. Not at all. It was their way of engaging with the day, an essential ritual that gradually yielded to the other activities that would keep them busy until nightfall. One day I asked Lupe why she swept her patio every day whether it needed it or not. That’s when she spoke the words I have never forgotten: “If you clean something every day it never gets dirty.”

*Prionotus teaguei the walking fish*

## Dr. Teague and the walking fish

Following the environmental line of dissemination marked by the British Embassy in Montevideo and the British Society in Uruguay, Oceanids NGO wishes to continue emphasizing the pioneering British naturalists in Uruguay.

In February's 2022 newsletter, we commemorated the 146th anniversary of the first oceanographic expedition in history, with the arrival of the HMS Challenger to the ports of Montevideo and Maldonado. We also mentioned Mr. Charles Robert Darwin, who had anchored earlier in Maldonado's bay discovering a mesohaline fish called *Corydoras Paleatus*, which is now known as crucial in marine plant reproduction, just as bees do in pollination.

In this opportunity we would like to remark the work of Mr. Gerard Warren Teague, born in Denver, England, on March 3rd. 1885. We learned about the relevance of this English naturalist in Uruguay thanks to the indications of Architect Eduardo Montemuño, who has completed a study about Teague's Pantheon where he rests in the British Cemetery of Montevideo.

Like its predecessors, Teague participated in the identification of new native species in Uruguay, including birds, reptiles, mollusks and fishes.

One of the most relevant discoveries he made, consists on saltwater fish specie, named "*Prionotus teaguei*", but commonly identified in local fishing communities as "*sea robins*" or "*testolines*" or "*amarillos*".

This fish has large pectoral fins whose rays can move like limbs which they use for locomotion moving along sandy and rocky sea beds, transporting the reproductive components of various species of marine algae over long distances making them very important for marine conservation.

### Is Teague's fish a "bee of the sea"?

Most people are not conscious about the importance of biological reefs in Uruguay's marine areas, similar to those found in the equatorial belt. Although they have different morphological and biological characteristics, our reefs are equally fundamental for the health of the oceanic territory, the production of oxygen and the elimination of carbon gases derived from environmental pollution.

The main characteristic component of our reefs is the formation of mussel beds that grow like small underwater hills where the greatest biotic diversity is found.

The formation of these beds depends on the previously growing field of autochthonous species of algae called red algae or "*rhodophytes*".

In fact, these species are the only algae that manage to adhere to the few rocks present on our seabed, generating multiple filaments which the young mussels use to attach themselves. Once the mussel has passed its larval stage it can move from the thin branches of the rhodophyte to a different location that will better support its adult stage. A mussel gland will secrete extremely tough filaments that will leave it firmly anchored until it dies. New algae and young mussels will attach to its inanimate shells, closing the cycle of growing reef.

However, rhodophytes require fish and marine arthropods for reproduction. In fact the reproductive "*tertaspores*" needs to be carried by inadvertent animals to enable the dissemination of new germination sites.

Nowadays we know that the "walking" fish identified in the distant past by Gerard W. Teague, plays a fundamental role in the conservation of native reefs. Oceanids NGO wants to remember and remark this new anecdote of English naturalists in Uruguay, and contribute with this to spread the conscious about the preservation of this marine species.

*Mr. Gerard Warren Teague**Rhodophyta algae on a ship wreck diving session in Maldonado bay 1*



## English for All in the UK

On Sunday 3rd July, two female students from the first generation to complete the four years of “English for All” travelled to the UK. The girls, who joined a group of 18 students from Montevideo College and from the travel agency “Travellers Without Borders”, went to Oxford for two weeks to study English and learn about British Culture. They had classes every day at St. Giles School, stayed at the Oxford Brookes University campus, and had integration activities with other students from all over the world.

The girls also went on several field trips. They went twice to London, where they fell in love with Big Ben and the London Eye, visited Bath, Cambridge and Blenheim Palace (a World Heritage site and the only non-royal and non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace) and went to see the musical The Lion King.

It was a truly wonderful experience!





## News from Sarandí del Yí, Durazno

In [October 2021 Contact's Edition](#) we published an article on Instituto Anglo's involvement with Instituto Paiva. The project, which had started as a group of people getting together to talk about their passions (education, the countryside, and British Culture), and which also involved the British Embassy and the Sociedad de Criadores de Shorthorn, soon started shaping a dream: to provide Instituto Paiva students with English lessons.

The dream came true and a group of 10 boys started attending lessons in May 2021. Lessons, which were at first online, are now face-to-face and the boys were able to finally meet their teacher, visit the facilities (including the theatre), learn about the history of the Institution, and share a snack.

### Paiva Institute

*In the heart of our country, in the land of Durazno, a few kilometers from the city of Sarandí del Yí, on Route 6, there is a place that seems to have been chosen by Don Bosco himself to serve young people from the countryside. This is the Instituto Benigno Paiva Irisarri, better known as: "the Paiva".*

*The Institute, already in its 54th year of service, is the only Salesian rural residence and is run today by a Mercedarian, Fr. Juan Gastón Dubourdieu Britos sdb.*

*Uruguay Salesian Bulletin.*

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CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

**Marino polaco desaparecido**Inician investigación  
judicial • En Bs. As.Diario EL BIEN PUBLICO  
1o. DE AGOSTO DE 1960**Stocksund. My First Encounter with Corruption**

**M**any years ago, when I was a teenager, I was confronted with local and foreign corruption at many levels in a way that made me wake up to what kind of a world we were living in.

I had a slightly younger friend who lived close to me in the same street. We were both very keen on astronomy (I had several telescopes), on good European cinema as well as on several other cultural subjects. Attila was his name. His mother was Hungarian and his father Polish, a seaman, in fact, an officer with certain responsibilities, and travelled the world in merchant ships. Attila had three much younger brothers. I briefly saw his father once, standing in their doorway, and he had the appearance of a tall, very dignified and polite man.

Then the bomb, that nobody expected, fell. A Swedish ship bearing the name of Stocksund passed through Montevideo but without this man who worked there. After a few days his body floated near a beach farther east and one of his wrists showed lacerations, as if it had been tied with wire, he had obviously been thrown overboard, perhaps in the hope by his murderers, that he would drown and that his body would drift far into the ocean. Besides, a large amount of money of his three months at sea were also missing. For a number of reasons, local newspaper reports indicated suspected foul play.

The event made big headlines in Uruguay but the investigation did not bring about any culprits and the ship left without anybody being arrested. Among the personal effects of my friend's father there was a calendar with the following inscription in English: "I never betrayed the West". The ship was most probably carrying goods that this man objected to (weapons for Cuba or similar) and if he threatened them with exposure, he was probably disposed of by those involved in the deal.

The ship was never properly searched, nobody was arrested and after several months, this murder seemed to become another unsolved case. Even then I had a deep sense of justice and I wrote an article for a popular local cultural and political weekly magazine with an international distribution ("Marcha") denouncing the lack of action to solve the case. The article was promptly accepted.

As soon as I let my friend's mother know of my plan, she immediately objected and invoking small errors of detail, like her husband's place of birth, and went to the magazine to stop the printing of my article. I was gobsmacked, didn't she want to find out who had killed her husband? As an explanation or justification she said that she feared for my life since a judge involved in the case had received death threats and that the matter was in the hands of Scotland Yard (!?) and should be left in their supposedly capable hands.

Later on I found out that she had been given a small pension by the shipping company, too small to properly bring up four children, but barely enough, and afterwards she never troubled herself to seek local employment, making ends meet for years just with that money. Of course, the murderers were never identified, nobody else in the local press discussed the issue and I remained with the frustration of seeing a chain of local and foreign corruption leaving my friend and his brothers without a father.

Somehow I have never forgotten this, I wondered why the wife desperately tried to prevent my writing on the subject (afraid perhaps to lose the small pension?), the lack of any effort by my friend, as he grew up, to take any steps and the untimely death of a good man who tried to oppose shady dealings, losing his life in the attempt. A rude early awakening to the sad realities of a world in which a human life is almost worthless.



LISTA DE PASAJEROS									
Puerto de origen: BUENOS AIRES					Puerto de destino: MONTEVIDEO				
Fecha de salida: 08 de Agosto 1946					Fecha de llegada: 10 de Agosto 1946				
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## The Great Boat Party

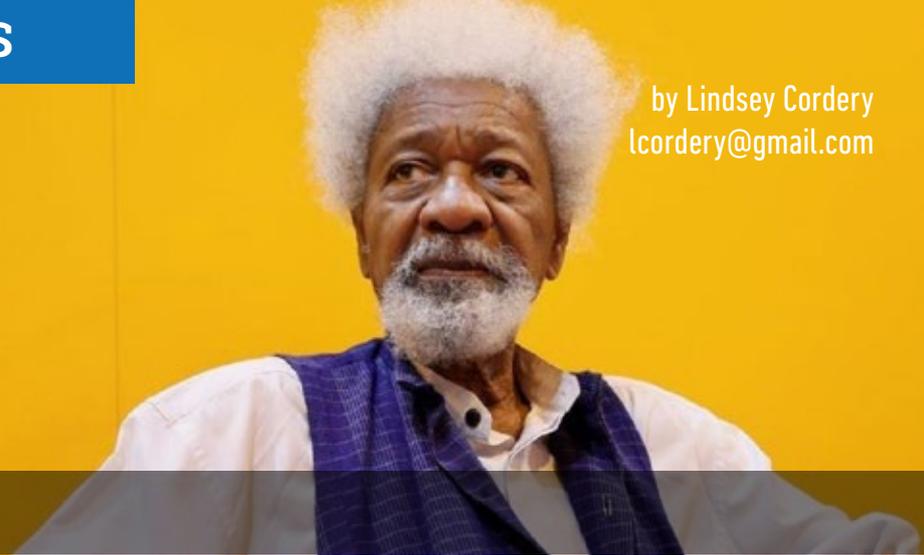
The ocean going ship was the technological invention that made possible the age of discovery and was responsible for the consequent age of empires. Without the ship, be it driven by wind or coal, there would have been no colonies and no white man's burden to haunt Colonial Offices during the later age of decolonisation. The ship was more than a travel system. It was an institution, essential part of a triad with the company and the captain. Experienced colonialists chose the ship skilfully. A trip of up to two months needed careful planning, and even the selection of the cabin was studied. *Indian Old hands* were said to have invented the word **POSH**, standing for "Port out-bound, starboard home". It implied that to avoid the scorching sun and heat of the Oriental route the passenger ought to follow that dictum. The most glamorous of the imperial navigation lines was the Pacific & Oriental, which the Viceroy of India used for his holidays in England; and also used by the *Fishing Fleet*. Young girls who had failed in their only task in adulthood, getting married, would leave for the colonies with some rented surrogate uncle to get a second opportunity with better odds.

The River Plate was a second rate destination. Transportation not glamour was the companies' priority. As such, no first rate ship came this way and the trip was usually something forgettable, in which one socialised with the same accommodation passengers, and with the traditional invitation to the captain's table for supper reserved only for the chosen *Old hands*.

The *RMS Tamaroa* was one of the ships that made the South American run. Built in 1921 as the *SS Sophocles* at Harland & Wolf of Belfast, the same shipyard that built the *Titanic*, for the Aberdeen Line with accommodation for 120 First Class passengers and 420 at steerage. In 1926 it was bought by the Shaw, Savile & Albion Line and renamed *Tamaroa*, for services between England and New Zealand. During the Second World War it was requisitioned by the government and used as a troopship. In such capacity we will see the *RMS Tamaroa* arriving to Montevideo in 1946.

On a cold and foggy winter morning in August, several dozen people gather on the docks of Montevideo. They have been waiting all night for the *RMS Tamaroa* that was due at noon the day before. But the fog has prevented the arrival of the big ship, and the relatives of the more than twenty returning volunteers have endured the whole evening waiting for their loved ones. Finally and unceremoniously a tug will bring them to the port as the *RMS Tamaroa* cannot keep waiting for the proper weather conditions as it is due in Buenos Aires this same day. The passengers are all returning volunteers to HMS Armed Forces that have gone to Europe between 1939 and 1944. They have something else in common. No one wants to be aboard the *RMS Tamaroa* on this returning trip as everyone expected to stay and have a new life in England. But the Mother country has only gratitude to show and no jobs nor money to provide for them. Rationing will go on in England until the early 1950's and our volunteers that dreamed of a life there after the war see how they are all dispatched as soon as a means of transport can be provided, back to civil life in the colonies.

The *RMS Tamaroa* will leave London in July 1946 towards the River Plate via Santos in Brazil. With full capacity, the women and married couples are accommodated in the First class cabins, while the men go to steerage. At least that is the idea of Captain Walter Dawson and his crew. Reality dictates that the whole trip is a great party, where no boundaries are respected and liquor appears to be all of the passengers' baggage. The crew quickly accept that the only way to get some order is to arrive as soon as possible to the three destinations. If the arrival to Montevideo is an anti-climax, the Buenos Aires one is a real mess. The *RMS Tamaroa* hits a sand bar as it approaches the port and the Argentinian volunteers are also unloaded by several tugs. And to appropriately end this voyage of the damned, Captain Dawson will die of a heart attack on arrival in Argentina.



## Wole Soyinka (1934)

**W**ole Soyinka -playwright, novelist, poet, and essayist- is a giant among his contemporaries. He was born into a distinguished Yoruba family in Abeokuta, southwest Nigeria, in 1934. In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in recognition of the way he “fashions the drama of existence”.

However, his status in Nigerian letters was secured long before then, as was recognition in Britain for his work as a playwright. For a generation of young Nigerian writers, his work has been transformative. His production is impressive; his latest work is a novel, published last year -he was 86 when he wrote it- about present-day Nigeria, titled *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth*. Needless to say, the title is ironic. Soyinka’s first novel in nearly half a century, its satire and the commentary on Nigerian politics and society are trademark Soyinka.

Soyinka has always been a committed human rights activist. Jailed in 1967 for speaking out against Nigeria’s civil war over the attempted secession of Biafra from Nigeria, Soyinka was also incarcerated for taking over the radio station of the disbanded Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation in Ibadan to announce his rejection of the 1965 Western Nigerian election results. He joined other activists and democrats to form the National Democratic Coalition to fight for the restoration of democracy in Nigeria. After years spent living abroad, several of these years in exile, he’s now gone back to live near the town of his birth.

His works reveal him as a humanist, a courageous man, and a lover of justice. His symbolism, flashbacks and ingenious plotting contribute to a rich dramatic structure. His best works exhibit humour and fine poetic style as well as a gift for irony and satire. For me, the best place to start reading Soyinka’s work is his 1981 childhood memoir *Aké: the years of childhood*. He dedicated the book to his father, S.A. Soyinka (whom the young Wole called “Essay”) and to his mother, known to him as “Wild Christian” for reasons to be found in the book. Both were distinguished members of the community, his father being the school headmaster, and his mother, who became a leader for women’s rights. The memoir portrays both the traditional village life of his paternal grandparents, and his intellectual, anti-colonial maternal family in pre-independence Nigeria.

In a later memoir, *Ibadan: The Penkelemes Years: a memoir 1945–1965* (1989) Soyinka chronicles his university days at Ibadan University in Nigeria, his political activism, and his life as a student at the University of Leeds in Britain. Like so many other young Africans arriving in Britain to study for careers following their British colonial education, Soyinka’s first experiences there were perhaps not quite as expected. The poem “Telephone Conversation” recalls one such experience, and is pure Soyinka:

The price seemed reasonable, location  
Indifferent. The landlady swore she lived  
Off premises. Nothing remained  
But self-confession. “Madam”, I warned,  
“I hate a wasted journey - I am African.”  
Silence. Silenced transmission of pressurized good  
breeding. Voice, when it came,  
Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled  
Cigarette-holder pipped. Caught I was, foully.  
“HOW DARK?” ...I had not misheard....”ARE YOU LIGHT OR  
VERY DARK?” Button B. Button A. Stench  
Of rancid breath of public hide-and-speak.  
Red booth. Red pillar-box. Red double-tiered  
Omnibus squelching tar.  
It was real! Shamed  
By ill-mannered silence, surrender  
Pushed dumbfoundment to beg simplification.  
Considerate she was, varying the emphasis-  
“ARE YOU DARK? OR VERY LIGHT” Revelation came  
“You mean- like plain or milk chocolate?”  
Her accent was clinical, crushing in its light  
Impersonality. Rapidly, wavelength adjusted  
I chose. “West African sepia”\_ and as afterthought.  
“Down in my passport.” Silence for spectroscopic  
Flight of fancy, till truthfulness changed her accent  
Hard on the mouthpiece “WHAT’S THAT?” conceding  
“DON’T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.” “Like brunette.”  
“THAT’S DARK, ISN’T IT?”  
“Not altogether.  
Facially, I am brunette, but madam you should see the rest  
of me. Palm of my hand, soles of my feet.  
Are a peroxide blonde. Friction, caused-  
Foolishly madam- by sitting down, has turned  
My bottom raven black- One moment madam! - sensing  
Her receiver rearing on the thunderclap  
About my ears- “Madam,” I pleaded, “wouldn’t you rather  
See for yourself?”

Picture: <https://theconversation.com/wole-soyinkas-life-of-writing-holds-nigeria-up-for-scrutiny-184909>

by Phillip Berzins  
sbpberzins@hotmail.com



## Pork shoulder braised in milk

Since I was a child one of my favourite dishes has always been a braised piece of meat slowly cooked in a red wine sauce. Upon my arrival in Uruguay I was pleasantly surprised to find that a popular dish of the Uruguayans was a piece of meat braised in a milk sauce. Surprised not because of the cooking method employed, but because of the use of milk as the liquid in which to cook the meat, which was not in my repertoire of recipes based on my classical French kitchen training.

As a cooking method braising is normally reserved for large, tougher cuts of meat high in muscle tissue and fat. The meat should be partially submerged in liquid, covered, and cooked at a low temperature for a long period of time. During this long cooking period, the tissue softens and becomes gelatinous, giving the meat a juicy, tender flavour.

The best meats for braising generally come from the muscles used for stabilisation and locomotion, such as the legs and shoulders of any type of meat from beef and pork to lamb and game.

The liquid used for this cooking method can be water, wine, beer, stock or even milk, which is the ingredient I intend to use in today's recipe. Braising meat in milk is common in Northern and Central Italy, but also Uruguay and Argentina utilise this cooking method in the local dish called *matambre a la leche*, for which a cut of meat is used from the muscle that separates the ribs of the cow from the skin. Known as *rose meat*, *elephants ear* or *fly shaker* (due to the muscle which twitches creating a vibration which scares off the flies), *Matambre* is a combination of two words, *matar* meaning to kill and *hambre* meaning hunger, which literally translated means hunger killer.

Today's recipe is a take on *matambre a la leche* utilising pork and a different cut of meat.

### Ingredients (4 portions)

- 4 x 250 g steaks cut from pork shoulder
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 25 g butter
- 1 bunch spring onions. The white base sliced diagonally and the top green part sliced in circles
- 100 gr sweet red pepper, finely diced
- ½ a small red chili pepper finely chopped (optional)
- 3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teasp smoked paprika
- 500 ml full-fat milk
- 1 teasp lemon zest
- Juice of half a lemon
- 6 sage leaves (fresh or dried)
- 2 sprigs of thyme
- 1 bay leaf

### Method

Season the pork steaks with salt and pepper. Heat a frying pan, add the butter and seal both sides of the pork until nicely browned. Remove from the pan and add more butter if necessary and lightly fry the white part of the spring onion and red pepper before adding the chili and garlic and frying for a few seconds more. Add the smoked paprika and stir in over the heat for 5-10 seconds before adding the milk, lemon juice and zest. Bring to the boil.

Place the steaks in an oven-proof dish and pour over the boiling milk mixture. Add the sage, thyme and bay leaf, cover with grease-proof paper or tin foil and place in a hot oven at 190°C for 15 minutes.

Turn down the oven to 160 and continue cooking for a further 60 minutes, turning the steaks over occasionally and adding more milk if the sauce is drying out. The milk slowly caramelises during cooking and at the end of the cooking time it will look as though the sauce is split and broken, but do not worry, as you can liquidise it. To check if the meat is cooked sufficiently, pierce the steak with the point of a sharp knife and if it enters easily, your steak should be tender.

Remove the steaks from the sauce, discard the thyme and bay leaf, leaving the sage leaves and liquidise until the sauce is smooth and homogeneous. To make the sauce more decadent, add a good knob of cold butter while liquidising and keep mixing until it is fully incorporated into the sauce. Return the steaks to the sauce and reheat without boiling to prevent it from separating again. Serve with the green part of the spring onions sprinkled over the top, and mashed potatoes.

You could try the same recipe with a piece of beef flank steak (*vacío* in Spanish) using exactly the same ingredients and techniques as for today's recipe. The cooking time will have to be increased to between 2 and 2,5 hours.

The photograph included is actually of a piece of beef flank steak cooked in this way and served with leeks and sliced potatoes which were added to the sauce 45 minutes before the meat was fully cooked.

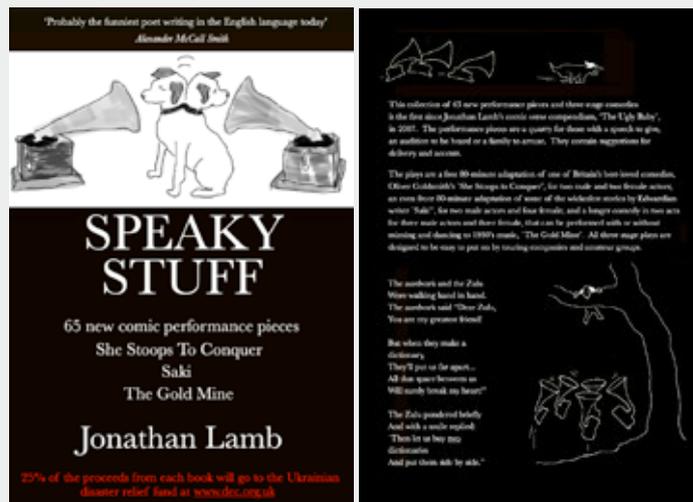
Whichever recipe you choose to make, enjoy it with a glass of dry white wine or a light red wine.

## Facebook Whatsapp Instagram and Snapchat

by Jonathan Lamb  
vozinglesa@gmail.com

Facebook WhatsApp Instagram and Snapchat  
Aren't they wonderful, isn't life a ball  
Facebook WhatsApp Instagram and Snapchat  
Twitter and witter and titter with them all

Facebook WhatsApp Instagram and Snapchat  
Don't miss your messages, answer when they call  
But never check your e-mails, e-mails are boring  
And what's that thing with a slit in the wall?



From Jonathan Lamb's new book of performance material, *Speaky Stuff*, published in June 2022 with a quarter of the cover price (\$1000 or a twenty-pound note) going to the Ukrainian disaster relief fund at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk). To order copies, write to [vozinglesa@gmail.com](mailto:vozinglesa@gmail.com).



**The Green Residence**  
Community, privacy and well-being



As a family enterprise, our mission has been to create a community for the elderly within the residence, sharing meals like a big family, joining in various activities (Taichi, card games, singing, etc), enjoying celebrations and leisure time together as well as accommodating time and spaces for private living and family visits.

We provide nurturing care for each and every person individually taking into account different needs and abilities.

There is experienced personnel working at all times of the day and night supervised by our doctor in charge.

**Contact:**  
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Certified by  



## REEL OF THE MONTH



### Why Scottish women and Icelanders are closely linked

It's easy to think that the Viking world was dominated by bearded, macho men, but that assumption is wrong. Both ancient 'Norse Sagas' and archaeological discoveries suggest that women actually played equally powerful roles within Viking society and politics. Historian Dr Janina Ramirez tells the incredible story of 'Aud the Deepminded' - one of the first people to settle in Iceland in the 9th Century. Aud was a warrior, a leader, a freer of slaves... and a woman.

**BBC**  
**REEL**



## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



### The Norwegian library with unreadable books

Some of the world's most celebrated authors have written manuscripts that won't be published for a century – why? Visit the Future Library in Oslo to find out.

**CLICK HERE TO  
READ THE ARTICLE**



**BBC**



## The Real Lewis Carroll and Alice

**A**sk who wrote the novel 'Alice In Wonderland' and most people will reply Lewis Carroll. However Lewis Carroll was a pen-name; the author's real name was Charles Dodgson and Alice was the daughter of a friend.

Charles Dodgson was a mathematician, writer and photographer. He came from an academic family, many of whom were members of the clergy, but Charles never seemed to be interested in a career as a priest. He took a post as a university lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford where he met Alice's father who became a good friend.

Alice was the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. The family met Charles while he was taking pictures of the cathedral and a strong friendship developed. Charles had a bad stutter that seemed to get worse around adults but almost completely went away around children, one of the reasons he loved spending so much time with them. Alice and her sisters spent a great deal of time with Charles; they had picnics and went to the museum and other activities.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the book, 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', here is a little review. It is about a girl called Alice, who finds herself in a different world after falling down a rabbit hole. This world has strange creatures and people, many of whom speak nonsense. In fact, the book is considered one of the best examples of literary nonsense. The story plays with logic and riddles, which makes it popular with both children and adults. You will read about characters such as The Mad Hatter and join his tea party, and meet the Queen of Hearts.

Legend has it that one afternoon Alice, her sisters and Charles were on a boat ride when Alice, who usually got bored, wanted to hear a funny story. The story that Charles made up that afternoon was so good that Alice begged him to write it down. He gave her the handwritten manuscript called 'Alice's Adventures Under Ground' in

1864. Later, his friend George MacDonald read it and with his encouragement Charles took it to a publisher who liked it immediately. After a few changes to the title, they finally came up with 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and it was first published in 1865 under Charles' pen-name, Lewis Carroll.

Charles denied that any of his publications were based on a real child, but there are hints hidden within the books. For example, there is the poem, 'A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky', at the end of the book 'Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There', where if you take the first letter of each line of the poem, it spells out Alice's full name: Alice Pleasance Liddell.

Charles was famous for literary nonsense and included logical and mathematical riddles in his work. 'The Hunting of the Snark', published in 1876, is regarded as the longest and best sustained nonsense poem in the English language. Another nonsense verse is 'The Jabberwocky' from 'Through the Looking-Glass'.

As Alice got older she began to spend less time with Charles. A note in his journal says that when he met her again when she was older, he was delighted to see her but felt that she had changed, and not for the better. She married and had three sons, two of whom perished in the First World War. After her husband's death in 1926, she sold her handwritten copy of Alice's Adventures Under Ground at auction. It sold for £15,400, the highest selling price for a book at that time in England.

Charles remained unmarried and died at the age of 66. When Alice heard of Charles' death she sent flowers. She passed away in 1934.

Source: <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Real-Lewis-Carroll-and-Alice/>

# Frank Evans

## His Time In Uruguay

By Frances Evans MBE



*Joan and Frank*

**B**eing great admirers of Uruguay, my husband and I have sometimes had the pleasure of reading your very interesting BSU Contact. It has now occurred to me that your readers may be interested in reading about my parents' happy time in that lovely country just before the Second World War, in the 30s.

Frank William Jacob Evans, a British civil engineer born in London, was sent to Argentina on contract by the Quasi Arc Welding Company, to supervise all arc welding on the then British railway bridges. He was posted in several parts of Argentina such as Tucuman, Buenos Aires, and finally Rosario. It was at a party in the railway club in Perez (outskirts of Rosario) that he met and fell in love with Henrietta (known by all as Joan) Angel, the daughter of British immigrant Henry Edwin Angel who was at that time working for the railways in Rosario. It was love at first sight and in 1937 they were married at St.Bartholomew's Anglican Church which still stands on Paraguay and Urquiza streets in Rosario.

Almost immediately after their marriage and even before their honeymoon Frank was told his knowledge of arc welding was required for supervising the bridges in Uruguay. Thus the couple crossed the River Plate and settled in the country about which they knew very little. In the beginning they lived "in digs" (as Joan used to say) in Montevideo. However, they were soon sent to different spots in the country wherever Frank was needed. They lived in a railway hut which became their beloved little home. Frank made different bits of furniture and painted the wooden lining of the walls, while Joan concentrated on sewing curtains, table cloths etc. They were immensely happy even though they had to keep moving around the country.

After a couple of years Frank bought a second hand Morris car which they enjoyed fully. Unfortunately they were travelling in that car when they hit a huge pot hole and Joan, who was pregnant, lost the baby. They were both broken hearted. Being great animal lovers, Frank rushed out and brought home a little fox terrier puppy to try and make up for their loss. It was named Chips and he brought happiness to their lives. They were young, they had Chippy and their immense love helped them overcome the sad loss.

Life in Uruguay was wonderful. Frank was very busy supervising the welding on all the railway bridges. They grew to love everything about the country and made plans to settle there and perhaps build a house – in those days they loved La Paloma – and Frank, a keen sailor drew up the plans of the sailing boat he was going to build for himself. All was perfect. And then the war broke out.

Frank desperately felt the need to volunteer and registered his decision at the British Consulate. He got in touch with his former boss at the Quasi Arc Company in Buenos Aires and after many meetings and correspondence back and forth, the company agreed to terminate his contract in South America, allowing him to return to England where he was needed for the war effort. Joan (who was born in Exeter, Devon) would go with him and seek employment at a government office in London.

At the beginning of January 1941, having left Chippy and some of their belongings at the home of Joan's parents in Rosario, they boarded the Blue Star Line ship "Afric Star" on their way to help England in her hour of need.



*Chips in kennel made by Frank*

At the time, the Germans were very active in the North Atlantic, sinking most of the Blue Star Line ships on their way to Britain. The “Afric Star” was one of those ships. She was sunk by the German raider “Kormoran” and all crew and the three passengers (Joan, Frank and Sheilagh Jagoe) were taken prisoners. Hell broke loose from then on. After the “Kormoran” they were transferred to the tanker “Nordmark”, having sunk other British ships on the way, and eventually transferred yet again to the “Portland”, by then carrying over 365 prisoners.

It was on the “Portland” that a small group of British sailors attempted a mutiny, considering there were far more prisoners than German guards. Frank – who was given just a few minutes with Joan – mentioned to her that he was worried these prisoners would indeed mutiny because he felt they didn’t stand a chance. Granted, there were many more prisoners on board than German guards, but the nazi guards were fully armed.

Frank’s worries proved to be right. Three British sailors attempted to start a fire on board in order to draw attention of other British ships in the area (near Bordeaux, France). The nazis discovered the plot, handcuffed the mutineers, shoved them down into the hold where all the male prisoners were being held (including Frank) and one of the guards, holding a machine gun, opened fire. Two men were killed – one of them was Frank Evans. The date was 14 March 1941. Both he and Joan were 27 years old. They had been married four years.

My book “Quiet Endurance” (in Spanish called “Giros del Destino”) tells the whole story of how Joan then went through ten prisons starting in France, then Germany, without any knowledge that she was pregnant. She suffered the most appalling conditions. Never a bathroom or a change of clothes until Red Cross parcels started to arrive in the tenth prison where I was born – Liebenau in

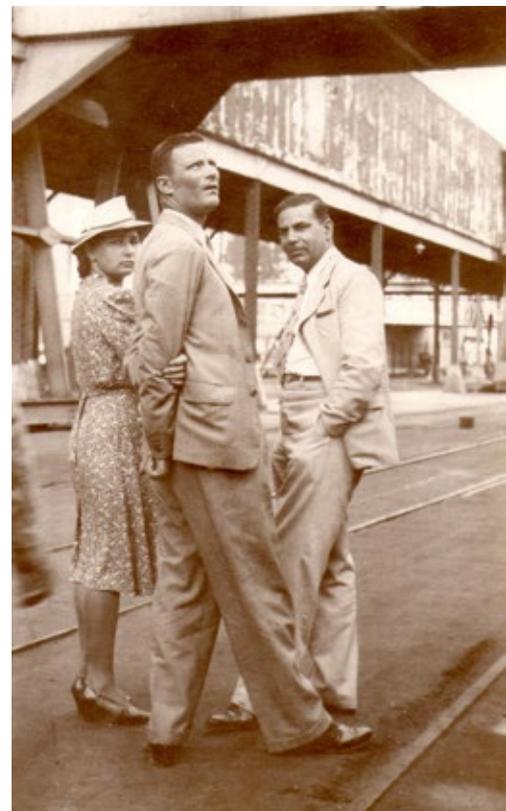
Tettngang, Ravensburg, Germany on 5 December 1941. I was said to be the first British baby born in a nazi prison camp, the Red Cross then active in Liebenau took photos of me and used them as publicity for their assistance. Because of my mother’s malnutrition and plight, I was over ten months on the way. My mother almost died giving birth to me. We spent the next whole year in the camp, until we were released on an exchange of prisoners in December 1942. The exchange took place in the Bosphorus, Turkey.

Joan talked to me about Frank, the great love of her life, all through my own life until she died here in La Cumbre in 2005 aged 92. She never remarried. In February 1943 we arrived in Buenos Aires and travelled to Rosario. I was brought up at my grandparents’house in Rosario. I remember crying myself to sleep as a child, waiting for my father to come home. It was not to be.

When next your readers see a railway bridge they may remember that a young man called Frank Evans had an important role in its building.

Ref: “Quiet Endurance” (“Giros del Destino”) - editors Tinta Libre ([www.tintalibre.com.ar](http://www.tintalibre.com.ar))

Frances Evans ([francesbeng@gmail.com](mailto:francesbeng@gmail.com), WhatsApp +54 3548 15406981)



*Joan and Frank with Frank’s boss just before boarding the “Afric Star”, at the port in Buenos Aires.*

*Frank’s words as he looked at the ship: “I wonder if she’ll make it”.*



## Britsoc player lights up World Championships



Currently playing in her first ever World Championships - indeed, her first serious tournament of any kind - is Maria Lamb from Punta del Este, who has set the world of Golf Croquet alight by securing a national place at the 14th World Championships in Southwick near Brighton, and taking down some top players.

Maria, 28, has been wielding a mallet in private games for about 5 years, and once scored the winning hoop for Canterbury in a match against Basingstoke, but otherwise is a complete unknown in the world of 'GC', as those in the know call it. (Golf Croquet is a less complicated but equally demanding version of the old game, rewarding accurate shooting rather than intricate break-building. Games are to 7, with the first side to run a hoop winning a point. Croquet-playing readers will be familiar with it from British Society tournaments in the Buceo and at the British Schools.) 48 of the world's best are currently fighting for top honours at the Sussex County ground, on eleven lawns the size of two tennis courts side by side, with cast iron hoops allowing only 0.8mm (the thickness of a credit card) for the half-kilo ball to pass. The best in the world are Egyptians, and all are trying to wrest the top slot from South African Reg Bamford.

Given a discretionary place by the World Croquet Federation in order to help promote the sport in South America, in a trail blazed three years ago by auctioneer Fernando Bonilla from Canelones, Maria has no world ranking and was expected to win a maximum of 2 points out of each 7. In her first match, however, she won a game 7-2 against ex-England champion Richard Bilton, who looked bewildered

as Maria's ball slammed through hoops from any distance; in the second she beat Egyptian Mostafa Eissa 7-5, 0-7, 7-2. On the day that England's Lionesses took revenge on Germany, Maria lost narrowly to world over-50's champion Hanan Khalad and doubles champion Jenny Clarke from New Zealand, despite taking Clarke to 4-all in the first game and leading 2-1 in the second. Today she plays a Brit and another Egyptian, and then has a day off before her last match on Wednesday morning against... Reg Bamford.

Go Uruguay!



# Meet our columnists

## Alvaro Cuenca



**Column:** Era Britons

**Topic:** Britons in Uruguay in the XIX & XX centuries period.

*How long have you been a writer for Contact?*

My first column appeared in January 2021. The editor had asked for contributors for a year and I thought it was a great idea to have a regular page for my articles.

*What inspires your monthly column?*

Writing about the topic is motivation enough, although I must admit some months I find it tiring, or cannot find a topic I feel will add some special insight. The column tries to portray some original and/or lesser known aspects of our British community of yesterday. I always try to narrate the light side of some serious matter, and through irony and sarcasm make the article enjoyable and entertaining. I do most of my research from books, films, the net and especially from personal interviews.

*Which is your favourite article to date?*

My favourite pieces are Dust to Dust (October 2021 issue) and Bread of Heaven and Earthly Booze (December 2021 issue).

*Tell us a little about yourself.*

I was born in Montevideo in 1954 and attended the British Schools between 1960-1971. I have a Bachelor of Science degree (major: Computer Sciences) from UDELAR, a Bachelor of Arts degree (major: English Literature) from the University of London, and an MBA (Educational management) from the University of Leicester.

I read since I can remember knowing how to read. I read



about history since I was 10 and I've been writing since I realised I had something to say.

My guiding values are personal growth, family and community service.

*Do you have a favourite quote?*

That is an easy one for someone who writes about migrants and migrations:

“Los mexicanos descienden de los aztecas; los peruanos descienden de los incas; los uruguayos descienden de los barcos.”

[“The Mexicans descend from the Aztecs; the Peruvians descend from the Incas; Uruguayans descend from the ships.”]

*What projects are you currently involved in?*

I'm researching soviet migration to Uruguay between the wars (1920-1945) and starting a Baltic & Scandinavian migration project.

*Where can we see more of you and your work?*

I have plenty of books, some of them published in Uruguay, available in bookstores or through the distributors Gussi Libros; some others through Amazon for Kindle platform or paperback print. Some of my titles include:

- Británicos Anonimos: Anglouruguayos en el siglo XIX
- Deber y aventura: voluntarios anglouruguayos en la Segunda Guerra Mundial
- RISING TO THE OCASION: The Britons in Uruguay and the Great War, 1914
- PLAYING THE GAME: Britons in Uruguay and the Great War, 1915
- LETTERS FROM BLEEDING LANDS: The Britons in Uruguay and the Great War, 1916
- The Purple Land's blood: The Britons in Uruguay and the Great War, 1917
- WARRIOR'S SUNSET IN MONTEVIDEO: The Britons in Uruguay and the Great War, 1918
- Creciendo juntos: La gira de Old Boys por Sudáfrica 1980
- Camaradería y solidaridad: Asociación de Voluntarios, Legión Británica Filial Uruguay y Los Aliados
- Victorian Montevideo
- On the eve of Doomsday: The life and times of “The Montevideo Independent”

[acuenca66@gmail.com](mailto:acuenca66@gmail.com)

## Why is a Ship called *She*?



Based on this prose posted in the wardrooms of most U.S. naval ships and printed on many a tacky tea-towel (take it as mildly cheeky or inexcusably offensive), this is the explanation most people will offer up.

*“A ship is called a she because there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about; she has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint to keep her good-looking; it is not the initial expense that breaks you, it is the upkeep; she can be all decked out; it takes an experienced man to handle her correctly; and without a man at the helm, she is absolutely uncontrollable. She shows her topsides, hides her bottom and, when coming into port, always heads for the buoys.”*

But seriously: why are ships referred to with the feminine pronoun? To find out check out this [article](#).

Image: *Victory and Agamemnon* by [Timothy Franklin Ross Thompson](#) (British, born 1951).

