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# **BSU CONTACT NEWSLETTER**

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# PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Greetings, dear members!

As the days grow longer and flowers bloom all around, October has arrived. Much like blossoms emerging after the chill of winter, our community is abuzz with vibrant activities.

September was an incredibly successful month. We were honoured to host the Falkland Islands delegation, and Steph Middleton captivated us with a marvellous lecture about the Falklands. I believe everyone who attended the lecture supper left with a desire to visit — whether for the first time or again! During the same evening, Yliana Rodriguez offered us a fascinating insight into the dialect spoken on the islands.



It was truly interesting to learn how River Plate Spanish has influenced it. A heartfelt thanks to The British Hospital for providing the venue.

Congratulations to The British Hospital Society on their flawless AGM, and to the Montevideo Players Society for yet another wonderful production.

Our other lecture supper this month was equally successful. Jeanine Beare inspired us with her talk on Embracing Native Wildflowers. It was incredibly eye-opening, and I believe it changed many perspectives on native wildflowers. I've already started planting some Psamofila seeds in my garden! Many thanks to Christ Church for kindly hosting us.

As you can see, our cooks were exceptionally busy this past month. If you didn't attend the lecture suppers, you missed out on some truly delicious meals. A huge thank you to our cooks – you're amazing!

Our Spring Croquet Tournament was a resounding success. The turnout was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see the entire community come together. Members of all ages shared in the fun, demonstrating great sportsmanship. Congratulations to Richard Empson & Chino Farolini (with Beche Gardiol) for winning first prize and taking home the cup. Special mention to the father-and-son duo, Victor and Danny Pereira, who earned second place.

Looking ahead, our Big Lunch is just around the corner, taking place on Sunday, 13th October at The British Schools' Pavilion. I hope to see everyone there for a fantastic time, with lunch and games. Please refer to the flyer for more details.

We're also organising the Mr Parquet Cup Squash Tournament in collaboration with the Old Boys Club. For those interested in entering, please contact the organisers. The tournament will run from 7th to 23rd October.

Lastly, I'd like to highlight the Concurso de Mesas de Té in Conchillas, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. If anyone wishes to enter the competition, please contact the organisers soon.

Take care, everyone, and here's hoping we have plenty of clever anagram solvers this month! Kind regards

Ximena Williamson

# **Clue for October's Anagram**



# THIS MONTH'S COVER

# Halloween in the UK

This month's front cover captures the eerie yet festive spirit of Halloween in the UK, showcasing how homes are transformed into spooky spectacles.

The scene is filled with glowing jack-o'-lanterns, ghostly figures hanging from windows, and elaborate front yard displays featuring skeletons and cobwebs. Front doors are often adorned with autumn wreaths made of pumpkins, leaves, and twigs, adding a seasonal touch to the spooky decor.

The balance of fright and festivity perfectly captures the growing enthusiasm for Halloween, with neighbourhoods embracing both traditional and modern twists on haunted house themes.

Do you enjoy decorating for Halloween?



# **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Remember you can pay your 2024 membership fees easily from the comfort of your own home using your credit or debit card through <a href="MercadoPago">MercadoPago</a>.

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 <u>HERE</u> 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 The 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 to learn about ways to pay past dues.

If you wish to become a member first fill in this form.

Your membership will be updated once this is done.



# **MEMBER NEWS**

# Birthdays in October

- 01 Richard "Rick" Empson Tourn Pilar Arocena Pons
- 02 Alexander "Alex" Beare Jorge
- 03 Marcela Dutra Mohr-Bell
- 06 Milagros "Mili" Correa Mirapalhete B.
- 07 Jorge "Chony" Marizcurrena Vejo Jorge "Shorsh" Stanham Méndez
- 09 Silvina "Cookie" Moor- Davie Rodriguez
- 10 Morgan Fairless Brown
- 13 Charlotte "Char" Northwood
- 15 Juan Zumarán Graña
- 16 Gordon Yorston Hall
- 17 Antonia Bridal Dutra
- 18 Juan "J. J." Castillos Duarte
- 19 Ignacio Sosa Talento
- 20 Bradley "Brad" Johnson Coates Peter Wells Ensink
- 22 Maureen Pierce de Pereira Perusso
- 24 Susana "Suky" Medina Day

Dear Members.

If your birthday does not appear in this section, it is because we do not have it registered in our Member database.

Should you wish for your birthday to be private, not published on our Website or here in our Newsletter, you can chose this option in your Member's Profile.

Please use the **Member Login** to register or update your birthday or any other pertinent information.

If you have any problems logging in or updating your information, please get in touch with me via WhatsApp at 099 422 999 or at editor@britsoc.org.uv.

Thank you! Geoffrey W Deakin Editor



- 25 Maria Izabel "Bel" Velazquez Domingues
- 27 Emma Prevett Gomensoro
- 28 Isabel Beare Caraballo
- 29 Facundo "Facu" Salvo Davies



# **New Members**

Nicholas Santiago Dussan Shaw Sandra Kathleen Shaw Ibañez Victoria "Toia" Maria Orr Bordaberry



The views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of The British Society in Uruguay or any individual associated with the creation or distribution of this newsletter. The editorial team assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the content of this newsletter.

# **October**

# 2 Wednesday

Graduates of British Universities Association
Lecture
Parva Domus

# 4 Friday, 5 Saturday & 6 Sunday

Montevideo Players Society **Rehearsal for Murder** Neil Fairless Centre

# **5 Saturday**

British Cemetery Montevideo Heritage Day Av. Gral. Rivera 3868

# 9 Wednesday

British Uruguayan Club **Lecture Lunch** Parva Domus

# 13 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay

Big Lunch

British Schools Pavilion

# 19 Saturday

St Andrew's Society of Uruguay

Caledonian Ball

Hotel Miramar

# 26 Saturday

Christ Church Montevideo
Child Safety Seminar
Christ Church, Lieja 6437

# 30 Wednesday

British Cemetery Montevideo **AGM** Av. Gral. Rivera 3868

# **November**

# 3 Sunday

British Society in Uruguay
Feria de las Colectividades
Parque Batlle

# 9 Saturday

British Society in Uruguay

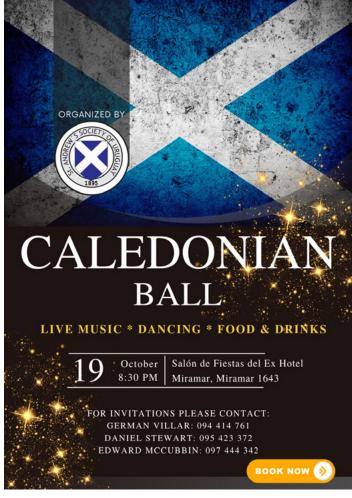
National Tea Table Competition

Community Organization Conchillas

# 9 Saturday

British Cemetery Montevideo
Past & Present, Love in Times of War
Av. Gral. Rivera 3868







# **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear Members,

Please note that being subscribed to our mailing list does not grant you membership status. To verify your membership status, **click here.** 

The Society's Board is currently updating the Members' database and filtering out those with incorrect or incomplete information. To ensure that dues and event payments go smoothly, we need your information to be complete.

One crucial piece of data is your birthdate. Without this, you might miss out on special benefits the Society will offer in the coming days.

Unfortunately, if your information is inadequate, the Board might be required to remove you from the Member database.

We would like to extend our gratitude to those who have already updated their personal information, and we thank in advance those who will complete their information soon.

You may verify and bring up to date your information here: **Member Login** 

Best regards,

**Executive Committee** 



# **MEMBER LOGIN**



# **OCTOBER ANAGRAM RIDDLE**

Remember, please send your answer to <a href="mailto:editor@britsoc.org.uy">editor@britsoc.org.uy</a>
Answers sent via WhatsApp tend to be lost in time...
or somewhere...

By quiet lochs, a steed you'll find, But trust in me, and fate's unkind. The water's depths my secret keep, Once on my back, you're theirs to reap

LEEK PI



September's Anagram Solution: **ANNE OF CLEVES** 

September's Anagrammatists: Valerie Dee Marcela Dutra Richard Empson



JOIN US! EVERYONE'S INVITED!

# **BIG LUNCH**

Bring food and drinks to share, your own cutlery and cups

# **Fun and Games:**

- Bunting competition
- Three-legged race
- Spoon and egg race
- Many prizes and surprises!

\$200 Ages 11 and under have free pass





















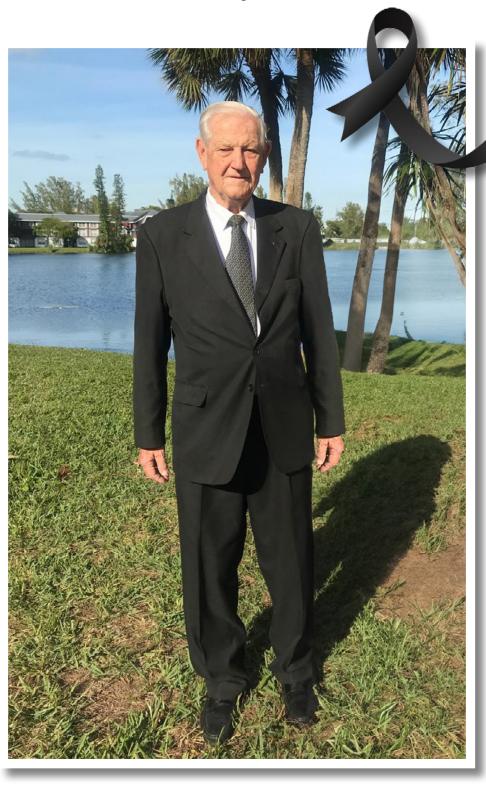






It is with sadness that we say farewell to Martin Macadam.

Although he was with us at the Sir Winston Churchill Home for a short period, he will be fondly remembered.



















Over 54,000 people visited the British Pavilion at Expo Prado 6-15 September. Not only they were able to buy and taste products, learn about courses and exchange programmes, but also have fun engaging in our themed music activities such as karaoke with British hits and posing as The Beatles

in our own "Abbey Road". Just a few days into his arrival, our new Ambassador enjoyed experiencing Expo Prado, which included awarding British Breeds and opening our Pavilion, together with Foreign Minister Omar Paganini.



# **Busy days for Falklands delegation**

14 people who mostly work on agriculture and tourism in the Falkland Islands visited Uruguay to participate at the Falklands stand at Expo Prado and explore commercial opportunities. They toured wool farms around the country, visited research institutions, had various meetings and participated at networking events, including a British Society lecture supper!

During Expo Prado, a jury selected Valentina Brum, a Biological Sciences student at UdelaR as the winner of this year's regional student competition at a pitching event. She will be travelling to the islands next January together with students from Argentina, Chile and Paraguay.





# People travelling to the UK without a visa will soon need an

**ELECTRONIC** 

**TRAVEL** 

**AUTHORISATION** 



# Information for travellers to the UK

Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) are being introduced worldwide for visitors to the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays, or who do not already have a UK immigration status prior to travelling.

Eligible non-Europeans can apply in advance from 27 November 2024 and will need an ETA to travel from 8 January 2025.

Eligible Europeans can apply from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel from 2 April 2025.

An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

Click **HERE** for more information regarding applications.



Follow us online: www.gov.uk/fcdo



The British Residence will be open on Heritage Day, next Saturday 5th October, from 10:00 to 16:00

Come and visit us!







**November 9th** 

# Past and Present Join the Community

Love in Times of War

We invite you to celebrate another Join the Community gathering with heartfelt stories about love that endured through the challenges of war. These stories, shared by the descendants of the Hyland-Adkins, Jones-Craddock, Breeze-Jones, Lake-Eade, Ellis-Eade, and Fairless-Hill families, come from those laid to rest in our cemetery. Through their experiences, we are reminded that even in the darkest times, love remains a powerful force, leaving a legacy that lasts forever.

October 5th, from 15:00 to 17:30

# Día del Patrimonio

Join us at the Cemetery for "Día del Patrimonio," as we honour "The Legacy of Immigrants." The event features a guided tour on the contributions of immigrants led by Prof. Carolina Lazo Fariello and Arch. Eduardo Montemuiño, a talk in the chapel by Prof. Héctor Horacio Henry and Mag. Juan Carlos Luzuriaga on the origins of football, and a closing performance by Scottish bagpiper Patricia Izuibejeres. Sign language interpreters will be available.



# ANGLO INSTITUTE

# Global Perspectives fair at The Anglo School: fostering collaboration and critical thinking to develop problem-solving skills



he Global Perspectives fair, organized with great enthusiasm by both teachers and students, was the perfect example of the power of collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Students from Form 1 to Form 5 showcased their work, demonstrating how they came together in teams to tackle real-world issues through the Cambridge Primary Global Perspectives programme.

Cambridge Primary Global Perspectives develops transferable skills that support learners in their studies and in their everyday life. Learners develop skills through age-appropriate and engaging activities that are based on a broad range of topics. They explore personal, local and global perspectives to make sense of, and feel connected to, the world around them. Learners start to express their own opinions and develop an understanding that there is always more than one point of view. It encourages students to explore a range of global topics and develop the skills to navigate and solve challenges.

ME CINCIPE DISC.

September on both control of moundains and september of m

The fair provided a platform for students to present their projects, offering families and the wider school community insight into the deep learning and engagement that takes place in the classroom. Through this initiative, students developed important skills such as collaboration, research, reflection, analysis, evaluation and communication.

Each level worked with a topic from which each group was tasked with identifying an issue related to one of the key topics within the Global Perspectives framework, including Fun with fruits, Helping animals, Be water wise, Making peace and How much water do we use?

Throughout the weeks leading up to the fair, students conducted research, analyzed different viewpoints, and worked collaboratively to propose solutions. The projects showcased were not only informative but also inspiring, reflecting the students' curiosity and passion for making a positive impact on the world.



# Highlights from the fair:

### Form 1: Fun with fruits

The youngest participants in Form 1 focused on understanding where fruits come from, how fruits can be processed and how fruits taste. They created colourful displays of different fruits and explained the results of their research to their families, showing an enthusiasm and creativity we all feel proud of.

### Form 2: Helping animals

Form 2 students chose the topic Helping Animals, exploring ways to protect and care for animals. Their exhibit featured posters and presentations of animal features and habitats, as well as tips on how to care for pets responsibly and ways to help wildlife conservation efforts, demonstrating their empathy and dedication to animal welfare.

## Form 3: Be water wise

The Form 3 students took on the challenge of water

# Global Perspectives fair at The Anglo School: fostering collaboration and critical thinking to develop problem-solving skills



conservation with their project Be Water Wise. They researched how water is used in daily life and explored strategies to reduce water wastage at home and school. They used data analysis to track how much water is used in daily activities like showering, cooking, and cleaning. Their display included simple tips for families to save water, such as turning off taps when brushing teeth and taking short showers.

## Form 4: Making peace

Form 4's project, Making Peace, focused on conflict resolution and the importance of promoting peace in our communities. They investigated different approaches to resolving conflicts, both in the classroom and globally. Their presentations featured role-playing activities, where students demonstrated peaceful solutions to common disagreements, and they emphasized the value of empathy, kindness, and communication in building harmonious relationships.

### Form 5: How much water do we use?

The oldest group, Form 5, tackled the topic How Much Water Do We Use? by conducting research into how much water is used to produce different everyday products and the footprint it leaves on the environment. Their findings were presented through graphs and charts, showing how small changes in behaviour could lead to significant water savings. They encouraged families to reflect on their habits and think about ways to reduce their footprint.

Another important highlight of the fair was the involvement of families. Parents were invited to explore each exhibit and engage in discussions with the students about their work. The students, eager to share their knowledge and ideas, confidently explained the research they conducted and the challenges they faced. This interaction not only helped the students build their communication skills but also fostered a stronger connection between the school and families, emphasizing the importance of education as a collective effort.

The Global Perspectives fair was more than just a display of projects; it was a celebration of the skills our students are developing to become thoughtful, informed global citizens. It was inspiring to witness the creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities of each group, as they worked together to address important global issues.

As we continue to build on the success of this year's fair, we look forward to seeing how our students will grow and apply these essential skills in the future. Together, they are learning that their ideas and actions, no matter how small, can make a real difference in the world.

The future is bright, and these young minds are leading the way.





# Anglo's successful participation at Expo Prado 2024!



e are delighted to announce another successful participation by the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute in the 2024 edition of Expo Prado. The British Pavilion once again attracted thousands of visitors throughout the event, held from September 6th to 15th. The Expo Prado offered an excellent opportunity to engage with people of all ages from across the country, allowing us to showcase and promote our diverse range of services and products.

A special thanks goes to the British Embassy for the opportunity to participate once again, and to the dedicated Anglo team responsible for managing our stand!









# **British Cars 5th Meeting**



s part of the celebrations for the 90th anniversary of the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute, we had the pleasure of enjoying an exciting gathering of British cars on Sunday, 8th September.

The event was not only an exhibition of automotive elegance but also a wonderful opportunity for car enthusiasts to connect and share their passion. The journey began at Anglo Casa Central, where participants gathered with enthusiasm.

From there, the participants embarked on a spectacular route that led them to Villa Serrana. Along the way, the stunning landscapes of Uruguay provided a breathtaking backdrop, perfectly complementing the classic British cars that graced the event. Each car, with its unique history and charm, added to the overall atmosphere of nostalgia and appreciation for craftsmanship.



We are truly grateful to everyone who participated and made this occasion so special. Your enthusiasm and support made the event unforgettable.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next adventure, where we can continue to celebrate our shared love for cars and British culture!







# Celebrate "El Día del Patrimonio" with Us!



his year, as part of the National Heritage Day celebrations, the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute is excited to open its doors to the public on Saturday, October 5th. Join us from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM as we celebrate not only our contribution in the rich history of our country but also a significant milestone in our own journey; our 90th anniversary.

Explore our iconic building with its historic 1965 facade, visit our two theatres, and immerse yourself in an exhibition that highlights our foundational history and the evolution of English Language teaching in Uruguay. As the largest private educational network in the country, we have played a pivotal role in shaping generations of students, and we are excited to share our story with you.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to discover the legacy of the Anglo and its contribution to education in Uruguay. We look forward to welcoming you!









Instituto Cultural Anglo Uruguayo Manuel Flores Mora 1511 (ex San José) Saturday, October 5th, 2024 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM







# We inaugurated new Birthing Rooms, marking another milestone in our journey

We are excited to share this wonderful news with our members and the community. More than 20 years ago, under the leadership of Dr. Juan Carlos Scasso, we set a precedent in childbirth care. Today, we are proud to continue that legacy by leading the way in a new era of birthing. We have carefully designed this project considering every detail. The result is a perfect combination of safety, modernity, comfort and style.



- Spacious rooms with garden views equipped with Pilates balls and labour drapes.
- Showers with seating and hydrotherapy.
- Mini-nursing stations in each room to streamline care
- Safety features for emergency caesarean transfers.
- Intimate and cosy waiting areas.

# In addition to all this, the Maternity team has introduced several new features:

- Availability of a dedicated nurse throughout the pregnancy, working alongside the primary obstetrician.
- A comprehensive update to the Childbirth and Birth Course.
- A comprehensive guide for pregnancy and childbirth.

We take great pride in reaching this new milestone at the hospital, especially because of our exceptional and caring team. Their expertise and empathy ensure that all members receive outstanding care at every stage.













Lears ago, three of my friends spontaneously took a boat over some fast water for a thrill. All were strong swimmers and skilled sportsmen but had a terrible accident while going down some strong turbulent water. Only two escaped, utterly exhausted by the downward pull of the currents. For Kevin, the swirling waters proved stronger. He died by drowning and rescuers had to return another day to recover his body.

I lived at a distance, and I kept grief at a distance as well. The intensity and horror of those moments as Kevin was lost, greatly impacted my family and our community. My heart hurt. But I never asked anyone how they felt, and no one asked me either.

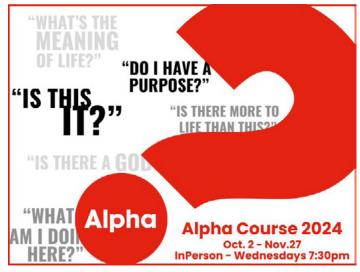
Decades have passed and the grief and trauma of that evening lies buried in the labyrinths of conscious and unconscious memories. Sadly, we never talk about what happened. We only mourn in private, carry our loss in silence, ignore it or disconnect from it.

Recently, I invited a qualified visitor to facilitate a conversation about grief at Christ Church. We had a remarkably open and encouraging hour of reflecting on different aspects, faces, and phases of grief and loss.

We see that grief is powerful. Grief changes us in mysterious ways. Grief revisits us just when we think it is gone. Grief never really leaves us when we have suffered a significant loss. Yet, we found encouragement in listening, in silence and in our shared presence. We realized that grief can be a gift revealing unexplored emotions deep in our souls that can discover our capacity to be present and engaged with the suffering of another. Until we face our own grief, then we cannot fully connect emotionally with the people that we love.

Grief and loss feel unwelcome and uninvited, but they bring an invitation to engage our difficult emotions, unleash the power of empathy, and start to live and love as people fully alive.

John Hamilton







www.christchurchmvd.org



# **LUNCH INVITATION**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of October at 12:15 PM



Journalist, Economic Analyst Writer, University Professor

2024 Elections: Who will be elected President?

# 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





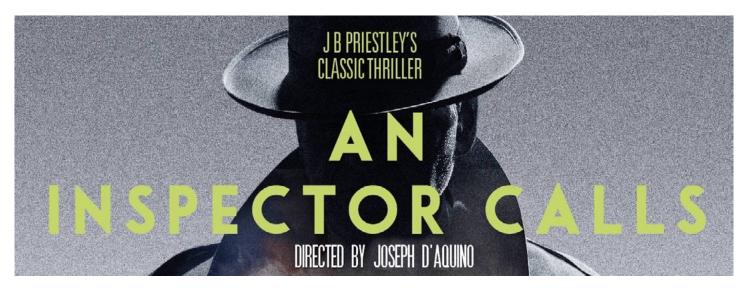
Rehearsal for Murder is a mystery play that revolves around playwright Alex Dennison. A year after the tragic death of his fiancée, Monica, who was the leading lady in his last play, Alex gathers the original cast and crew in a Broadway theater under the pretense of reading a new script. However, as the rehearsal progresses, it becomes clear that Alex has a hidden agenda: to uncover the truth behind Monica's death.

The play blends suspense, drama, and clever twists, keeping the audience engaged as the mystery unfolds.

## Show dates - October

Fri, 04 / 10 / 24 Sat, 05 / 10 / 24 Sun, 06 / 10 / 24

To book please click on this link.



J.B. Priestley's **An Inspector Calls** was first performed in Russia, in 1945. Coming out of WWII, this was a huge risk for Priestley as his writings were already perceived as leftist by London's standards.

Set in 1912, the story unfolds in the Birling family home as they celebrate the engagement of their daughter, Sheila. The seemingly joyful occasion takes a dark turn when Inspector Goole arrives to investigate the suicide of a young working-class woman named Eva Smith. As the Inspector questions each family member, deep-rooted secrets and moral shortcomings are revealed, challenging the characters' perceptions of responsibility and societal and familial duty. An Inspector Calls has had numerous adaptations, including stage revivals and television productions.

Its enduring popularity is a testament to its thoughtprovoking exploration of morality and societal responsibility. Reflecting on these topics in a year of global elections takes on even more importance when so many countries seem to be leaning into near 50/50 splits of extremism. Let's do our best to learn from history rather than repeat the sins of the past.

### Show dates - October

Fri, 25/10/24 Sat, 26/10/24

Show dates - November

Fri, 01/11/24 Sat, 02/11/24 Sun, 03/11/24 Fri, 08/11/24 Sat, 09/11/24 Sun, 10/11/24 Sat, 16/11/24 Sun, 17/11/24

To book please click on this link.

Neil Fairless Centre, Acevedo Díaz 2324, Montevideo

All shows 8.30 PM except Sundays (7 PM). Doors open 30 minutes before the start of the performance. Please factor in time for parking. There is NO admittance after the show starts.



# Platinum Authorised Exam Centre Event



Platinum
Authorised Exam Centre

Last September Dickens was present at the annual Cambridge Platinum Authorized Centre Event in Buenos Aires where we had the opportunity to find out the latest news from Cambridge in the region and the world and share best practices with other platinum centres from the region.

The opening of the event was held in the British Ambassador's Residency in Buenos Aires where we enjoyed a Welcome cocktail and celebrated Cambridge University press' 490th anniversary with the Ambassador and Cambridge authorities. The cocktail was followed by two full days of very enlightening workshops delivered by the Head of Operations, the Commercial Director and the Regional Director in which they shared very interesting insights of the region and the world.



The icing on the cake was a celebration of achievements in which 3 awards were presented in different categories:

- Commercial Outstanding Achievement Awards
- Operational Outstanding Commitment to Operational excellence
- Going above and beyond award: most innovative initiative

# **DICKENS INSTITUTE**



We were thrilled to receive the award in operational excellence in which we were recognized for candidate satisfaction rates and efficiency in our administration of exams.

We are extremely proud of all the Dickens team, they make a great effort to ensure every detail is covered when it comes to administering exams and ensure learners have the greatest experience when sitting for their exams.

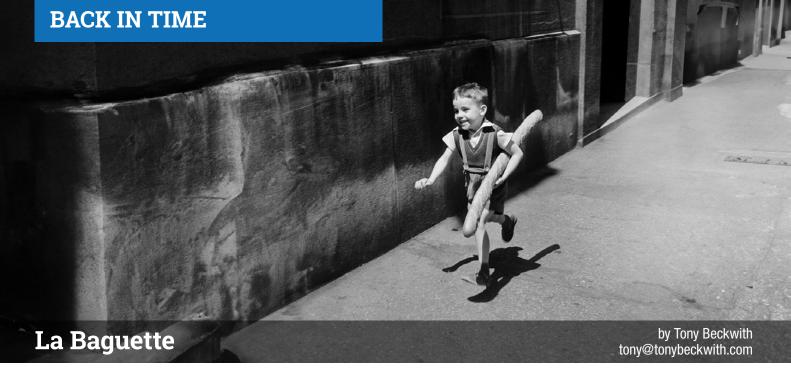
A Centre from Mexico get the award for the highest commercial growth, and a Centre from Brasil for their for the most innovative initiative.

We are very grateful to Cambridge for organizing such a memorable and enjoyable event for all attendees.



Manuel Rodríguez, Dickens General Manager, Sofía Scherschener, Dickens Director, and Florencia Raña, Director, Southern Cone and Andes Cambridge University Press & Assessment





few years ago, Lillian and I were in Paris for a week. We stayed at a small hotel in the Marais district and spent our days exploring the city on foot. Late one morning we were strolling through the Tuileries Gardens when we came across a vendor selling hot dogs. But these were unlike any we had ever had before. They were served in a fresh baguette that was warmed by sliding it onto a heated metal spike. The vendor squirted mustard or a sauce of his own making into the cavity created by the spike, then inserted a warm sausage. *Voila!* A French hot dog, a most delicious street snack.

The baguette is an iconic symbol of France, known all over the world as a token of the Gallic way of life. Many countries have long had their own version of this most distinctive type of bread. When I was a child in Montevideo, we always had a loaf of "French bread" in the house. My brother and I would wait until my mother was out of the kitchen, then we would break off both ends of the loaf while it was still warm. After scooping out the soft interior crumb we packed the "elbows" with cold butter from the fridge. Then we pressed the crumb over the opening to seal in the butter and ran off to hide in the garden and consume our forbidden treat. By the time we reached our hiding place, the butter would have melted slightly. Every bite of warm crunchy bread packed with cool butter was a blissful experience I have never forgotten. Worth every moment of the scolding that inevitably followed. The history of the baguette dates back to the early nineteenth century and offers insights into French culture and cuisine. Before then, French bread was usually baked as a round loaf made with sourdough. But the shape made it awkward to store and transport, so bakers experimented and came up with the long, thin loaf we know today. They came to understand that a longer, thinner loaf created a greater crust-to-crumb ratio, which yielded a tastier, more satisfying product. These innovations contributed to the nationwide popularity of the baguette in the 1930s, and it came to epitomize the French Resistance during the Second

World War. Hampered by food shortages and rationing, bakers were sometimes forced to use inferior ingredients, but they kept making baguettes that—like fish & chips for the British—were a symbol of French cultural identity that provided comfort during the Nazi occupation.

In the late 1960s I was driving across France, on my way from Madrid to London. The back seats in my trusty Renault 4 folded down to make a comfortable space where I planned to sleep when the time came. At the end of the first day, already deep in the French countryside, I pulled off the road into a field and parked. There was no one around and there were no buildings in sight. At my last stop a few miles back I had picked up a jambon beurre, a baguette stuffed with ham and butter, and a bottle of red wine. As the sun went down, I enjoyed my simple dinner while sitting on the ground with my back against a tree. I then slept soundly until I was awakened by an odd movement: my car was swaying gently back and forth. The windows were steamed up, so I wiped them and peered out. It was barely light, and I could just see about a dozen cows grazing in the field around me. One of them was standing right beside me, and as she moved her head from side to side her body leaned against my car, causing the swaying motion that had

roused me from my slumber. I started the engine and slipped away. Not far down the road I came to a village with an open café. I ordered a large cup of café au lait and noticed that a batch of freshly baked baguettes had just been delivered. I bought one and broke off little chunks. As I dipped each crusty piece in my coffee, I was filled with a profound sense of appreciation for la baguette, the daily bread that France has given us for so long.

The may call it an aftermath — but COVID isn't over. The virus is still everywhere, mutating constantly, fortunately to less aggressive but very transmissible variants, as shown in sewage analysis of large population centres everywhere. Since mid-2022, slightly after two years of lockdowns, economic downturn, overwhelming of healthcare facilities, conspiratory theories and fake truths, with the help of vaccines, we've decided to leave pandemic mode behind and to get back to our old routines, to find that some things have changed forever, for good of for bad.

# 1. The Surge in Digital Health and Telemedicine

One of the most immediate and lasting changes has been the rapid adoption of digital health technologies. Telemedicine, previously a niche service, became mainstream almost overnight as healthcare providers sought to maintain continuity of care without in-person interactions. In developed and less-developed countries, Uruguay included, patients were swiftly transitioned to virtual consultations, enabling them to access medical advice and treatment remotely.

This transition was facilitated by regulatory changes that temporarily relaxed restrictions on telehealth services, enabling video consultations, digital prescriptions, and remote monitoring devices. Many patients have embraced the convenience of telemedicine, particularly for routine check-ups and the management of chronic conditions. No way back here, to the old one-on-one, face-to-face visits, as the only way of getting and providing care.

# 2. Increased Emphasis on Public Health Awareness

Public health campaigns promoting mask-wearing, hand hygiene, and vaccination became ubiquitous, underscoring the need for collective efforts to curb disease transmission. Governments have increased investments in early surveillance systems to detect emerging infectious diseases, aiming to prevent future pandemics. The lessons learned during the pandemic have reinforced the importance of strengthening public health infrastructure, ensuring that future crises can be better managed. Seasonal and bird influenza, mpox (previously monkeypox), dengue and other viral illnesses are lurking in many places and may throw us back to pandemic mode anytime.

### 3. Mental health

The pandemic emphasised the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and social health. Mental health services, often underfunded or overlooked, gained greater prominence as the mental toll of lockdowns, isolation, and economic uncertainty became evident. The effect of the pandemic on urban violence, firearm use and insecurity, have brought mental health to the foreground.

## 4. Renewed Focus on Healthcare Workforce Resilience

The strain placed on healthcare workers during the pandemic exposed longstanding issues such as workforce shortages, burnout, and underfunding. Across the developed world, healthcare professionals found themselves overwhelmed by the volume of patients, often working in high-risk environments with insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE).

In response, many countries have introduced measures aimed at improving working conditions, sometimes increasing pay, and enhancing mental health support for healthcare staff. Retention of clinical staff has been a major issue: many healthcare professionals are leaving their jobs, either quitting or retiring earlier.

# **5. Supply Chain Resilience and Localised Production**

The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, particularly in healthcare. During the early months of COVID-19, many countries struggled to secure essential medical supplies such as PPE, ventilators, and testing kits. The reliance on international suppliers, particularly from regions such as China and India, left many nations scrambling to meet demand during the crisis.

In the aftermath, developed nations have focused on building more resilient supply chains. Governments and healthcare systems have sought to localise the production of critical medical supplies, reducing dependence on foreign manufacturing.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, simultaneously with the relaxing of the pandemic phase, showed the vulnerability not only of supply chains, but the risks of depending on other, sometimes rogue, nations for energy.

## Continues on the next page...

# **MEDICAL COLUMN**

6. Innovation in Vaccines, fake news and conspiratory theories

The rapid development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines were extraordinary, demonstrating the potential of global scientific collaboration. The success of these vaccines has renewed interest in mRNA technology, which now holds promise for treating and preventing other diseases, including cancer and HIV.

(continued...)

Conspiratory theories, fuelled to a significant extent by China's still secretive official version on how the virus originated, have gained the lead. The pandemic was an excellent example of how science triumphed in making the impossible: to develop a new vaccine in around nine months. However, scientific truth was the main victim of the pandemic. Pandemic deniers are ever more rampant, many supporting the politics of autocratic, populistic leaders, who oppose liberal democracy, or cast it in doubt.

# **LAMB CHOPS**

# Said The Penguin

4.

I said, 'It's cold today!'
The penguin said, 'This is nothing,
Where I come from, it's so cold,
The words come out of your mouth frozen
And you have to heat them
To see what you've said.
This is cold? Bejesus,
In my part of the world, it's so cold
That the flame on the candle freezes.'
He spun a good yarn, that penguin.

by Jonathan Lamb vozinglesa@gmail.com



Signed and dedicated gift copies of Jonathan's two books, 'The Ugly Baby' and 'Speaky Stuff', can be ordered by mailing <a href="mailto:vozinglesa@gmail.com">vozinglesa@gmail.com</a>. Actors from Fawlty Towers, Downton Abbey and the Harry Potter films can be heard performing extracts at <a href="mailto:www.jclamb.com">www.jclamb.com</a>.

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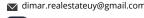


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ast year Paul Lynch (born 1977) won the prestigious Booker Prize (worth £50,000, as well as international publicity leading to significant sales boost) for his starkly dystopian story set in a very near future, a future time which in many parts of the world is the present time.

In *The Guardian*, reviewers wrote that "This is a novel written to jolt the reader awake to truths we mostly cannot bear to admit. The Irish offspring of *The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Orwell), as well as Cormac Mc Carthy's 2006 *The Road*, Lynch's novel is as nightmarish a story as you'll come across: powerful, claustrophobic and horribly real. From its opening pages it exerts a grim kind of grip; even when approached cautiously and read in short bursts it somehow lingers, its world leaking out from its pages like black ink into clear water".

And "The novel is set in Dublin, a shadow version of the present day: an unspecified crisis has led to the government passing an act giving the Garda Síochána and the judiciary emergency powers, and the formation of an outfit called the Garda National Services Bureau – basically, the secret police. One evening, Eilish Stack, a microbiologist, opens the door to two GNSB men looking for her husband, Larry, a senior official in the Teachers' Union of Ireland. Within days, he has vanished: swallowed whole, along with dozens and then hundreds of other ordinary, blameless civilians, into the implacable silence of the state".

Written as unbroken prose with no paragraph or dialogue separations, the claustrophobia of the situation builds. At first it acts as a barrier, as though one must fight one's way into a book that is resisting being read (devices of this sort, in which the reader struggles to make sense of the horror of the situation, are used, for example (among others), in Toni Morrison's difficult, terrible *Beloved*). Thus, together with Eilish Stack, the reader tries to make sense of a nightmarish social collapse as her husband is detained by secret police, and she desperately tries to do whatever it takes to keep her family together. Although *Prophet Song* can be read as exploring the rise of political extremism and the plight of refugees, Lynch stated that he was "distinctly not a political novelist" and that it's really about "grief".

Esi Edugyan, chair of this year's judges (author of the marvellous *Washington Black*, 2018) said: "*Prophet Song* 

forces us out of our complacency as we follow the terrifying plight of a woman seeking to protect her family in an Ireland descending into totalitarianism. With great vividness, *Prophet Song* captures the social and political anxieties of our current moment."

In the final part, Lynch writes: "the end of the world is always a local event, it comes to your country and visits your town and knocks on the door of your house and becomes to others but some distant warning, a brief report on the news, an echo of events that have passed into folklore." In *Prophet Song*, the world in Ireland ends slowly and then all at once; however, throughout the novel, Lynch focusses on Eilish's desperate attempts to hold her family together rather than what happens to the country; nevertheless, as readers, like Edugyan, we can't help but extrapolate its political implications to recent and ongoing world conflicts.

To summarise the plot then: Eilish Stack is an ordinary Irish woman, a biologist; her husband Larry, schoolteacher and member of the teachers' union; their children are Mark (16) Molly (14), Bailey (12) and baby Ben. The new Irish government passes an Emergency Powers Act which grants government and security forces full power over the law, thus suspending the constitution and empowering secret police groups to arrest and detain people with no official charges. They are "disappeared". Larry is arrested and Eilish never sees him again. Schoolboys are detained. Mark runs away to join the rebel army, although Eilish had arranged for him to be smuggled into Northern Ireland. Eilish is fired from her job, her house and car vandalised as violence escalates and open war comes to Dublin. Bailey is injured by a bomb and is taking to one of the hospitals still standing, for surgery. When Eilish finally manages to find him, he is dead, having been tortured. Finally, she decides to find a way to the border with her remaining children. At one point she cuts off Molly's hair to protect her against lecherous men who take advantage of refugees' vulnerability. Like refugees elsewhere, they come to the sea where small boats will attempt the dangerous crossing, and Eilish's hope for the future of her children is renewed.

Tough reading, yes, but surely this is a novel for our troubled times.



It's a common perception that older people tend to see old times as better than the contemporary mores and behaviours that many of them fail to fully understand and seem to be in many ways a harmful and unadvisable step back. It happens and is unfortunately far too common, but does that mean that everything contemporary is proof of progress and should be welcomed without reservations?

I don't think so. Looking at children nowadays and observing the behaviour and lifestyle of most of them everywhere makes me feel very concerned. I think that the key to be normal, healthy adults is to a great extent to have had a long and happy childhood.

Values that have been largely lost nowadays are innocence, natural (not institutional) physical activity, respect for their adult relatives, lack of inclination to try dangerous stimulant substances, an idealism that is replaced by a cynical materialism and love of status and material well-being, strong dependence on technological advances beyond their normal use for practical purposes, without which they would feel totally lost and deprived.

Like so many others I've had ups and downs in my life, some of a very serious nature, but fortunately I never felt the need to consult a psychologist, every problem was solved using my own personal resources of analysis and remedy. My late wife confessed that it was the same for her. We were both brought up the old way and have enjoyed normal lives.

Why? Perhaps the fact of having had a long and happy childhood is the key to this. I can remember quite well my lifestyle as a child and teenager. I used to play sports outdoors with my friends in our street almost every day and the adoption of some lifelong habits were due to this regular activity.

There was an innocence that one can hardly see nowadays, for instance, in grade 6 at school once one of the girls asked

me if I wanted to be her boyfriend, with a clear romantic meaning. I was very surprised and replied that we were just children, not something we should be dealing with.

I was very fond of playing with toy soldiers, thanks to my father's generosity I had quite a little army, soldiers, infantry and cavalry, tanks, cannons, jeeps, trucks, planes, the works. They paraded along our corridors at home and I spent hours pretending they carried out attacks and defensive actions. I stopped playing with them only at age 14.

My father had bought me an old collection, The Book of Knowledge, and I spent many hours reading those large volumes and being imbued with a world of values and noble acts that inspired my own beliefs in a world that should be ruled by high ideals and proper rational behaviour.

There was plenty of time to confront the not so noble reality of the world later on, when I had to enter it and adapt and also try to improve it, as much as possible. It wasn't that I was an exception, most of my friends my age had had similar experiences and shared similar principles and as far as I could see, went on to live healthy and well-adjusted lives.

I feel that early exposure to the media, lack of a proper family life largely due to the demands of growing consumerism that leads parents to be absent from the home most of the time, very early loss of innocence, the temptation to find consolation and excitement through chemical means, has drastically changed children's existence and cut very short a period of their lives that should be in agreement with what a child's slow growing up period should be, full of play, learning and developing one's noblest inclinations.

So, I feel perhaps justified at my current perplexity at the lifestyles and characteristics of the lives of most children nowadays and the often not very commendable results that jeopardize many aspects of their future adult life.



ost of us live our lives on relatively simple terms, without concerning ourselves too much with the workings of the world and where we come from, except the occasional curiosity as to the reasons behind current events and nature in its immense diversity and how we come into the picture.

This curiosity is usually satisfied with books and popular media coverage without people too busy with their own lives, attempting to go any deeper into those subjects. But some of us for a number of reasons feel the need to know more, an insatiable curiosity that leads us to actually devote our whole lives to the pursuit of knowledge, as best we can on a wide variety of topics, but if we want to significantly add to current knowledge, we must centre on a specific field of inquiry. Those who follow this path in their lives are entering a minefield, since our minds can often play tricks and lead us to wrong conclusions due to faulty reasoning or imperfect data collection and observations.

Already from the time of the classical sceptics to contemporary thinkers like Wittgenstein, doubts were raised as to the possibility of acquiring accurate knowledge. Doubts that were and are and will always be, to a point, valid criticism because of the tendency of our brain to misinterpret reality and draw wrong conclusions. However, from a practical point of view, the history of science reveals that beyond the too common and frequent errors, the peer criticism that is basic to the pursuit of knowledge has weeded out in time such mistakes and allowed a progressive better understanding of so many subjects related to nature, our history, how our mind works.

If true knowledge were unattainable, as those sceptics suggested, then the progress in our understanding of nature that has led to so many positive results for mankind in so many ways, would have been impossible. But the noble pursuit that can fill our lives with the satisfaction of, after long years of hard work, having contributed with even a

grain of sand to the vast beach of human knowledge, has its drawbacks.

Most humans find motivation for living in a certain worldview that presents an optimistic outlook on life as something precious, fairly common in the universe and incredibly complex in its manifestations, humans as the highest level of such development and in full control of events on this earth, an advanced form of life that in spite of the frequent atrocities committed by some of its individuals, tends to reasonable, rational and commendable behaviours.

The problem arises when thinking along different lines as to the universe and contemplating past and contemporary events in a more critical and accurate perspective, without deluding ourselves into distorted optimistic perceptions, we come up with dark, foreboding landscapes that radically challenge and change those nice views of nature and ourselves into more realistic conclusions. How do we cope with such new knowledge, if we can verify that it corresponds to the reality of the world outside and inside ourselves?

Some people just can't, and this has led to unfortunate fatal decisions, others accept what they consider to be a fairly unprejudiced, unbiased, conception of reality and get on with their lives without illusions, but with a perhaps more sober worldview that being stark and challenging, doesn't stop the insatiable curiosity that led them along the path of the pursuit of knowledge in the first place.

Another important topic is, if most people's perceptions are wrong and they are choosing to believe a distorted, idealized, imaginary but encouraging concept of how things are, is this necessary for mankind's survival as a motivator or will this one day be replaced by what some of us consider a true perception? Only time will tell, and the writer hopes he is wrong in being sceptic as to an eventual triumph of reason, especially after today's so much widespread irrational behaviour, but many years of studying, observation and reflection unfortunately convince him otherwise.



### A Victorian Marvel

The Crystal Palace, an iconic structure constructed of cast iron and plate glass, was a hallmark of Victorian engineering. Erected in Hyde Park, London, this architectural wonder was designed to host the Great Exhibition of 1851, an event that showcased the remarkable advancements of the Industrial Revolution. Running from May 1 to October 15, the exhibition attracted over 14,000 exhibitors from around the world, presenting innovations in technology, art, and science.

Spanning an impressive 92,000 square meters, the Crystal Palace was a symbol of progress and modernity. Its design, drawing on the principles of transparency and light, reflected the era's spirit of innovation. Queen Victoria herself inaugurated the palace, marking a significant moment in history where the worlds of art, science, and industry converged.

However, the glory of the Crystal Palace was not to last. Tragically, it was destroyed by fire in 1936, leaving behind only memories of its grandeur. Yet, its legacy endures, inspiring generations with its story of ingenuity and ambition.

# **Fray Bentos - From Local Town to Global Brand**

In stark contrast to the bustling metropolis of London lies the charming riverside town of Fray Bentos in Uruguay. While many may associate the name with iconic canned meat products, particularly corned beef and ready-made pies, Fray Bentos is a town steeped in industrial history and cultural richness.

Founded in 1859, Fray Bentos emerged as a vital hub for meat processing. The Liebig Company, established by a German engineer in collaboration with Justus von Liebig, became a dominant player in the industry. By 1863, the factory was producing extract of meat, catering to a burgeoning global market. In its prime, the factory was often referred to as a "cathedral of the industrial age," symbolizing the progress and productivity of the time.

The town's industrial roots are deeply intertwined with its cultural identity. In 1902, the Liebig Company gifted Fray Bentos a replica of the Crystal Palace's bandstand, which now stands proudly in Plaza Constitución. This bandstand has become an emblem of the town, reflecting the historical and cultural ties that connect Fray Bentos to its British

counterpart. Locals affectionately call it "el quiosco de la reina," honoring Queen Victoria's connection to the original structure.

The narrative of the Crystal Palace and Fray Bentos, though rooted in different geographies, resonates with themes of innovation, cultural identity, and industrial prowess. The Crystal Palace represents the pinnacle of Victorian engineering, illustrating the era's fascination with technology and progress. Meanwhile, Fray Bentos showcases the impact of industrialization on a small town, that transformed it into a global brand.

Today, the bandstand in Fray Bentos remains the last existing replica of its kind, serving as a profound reminder of the historical connections between the U.K. and Uruguay. The streets of Fray Bentos, lined with historical curiosities, echo stories of industrial achievement and cultural significance.

This odd relationship between the Crystal Palace and Fray Bentos highlights the interconnectedness of global history. As industrialization spread across continents, it not only transformed economies but also shaped cultural identities. The legacy of the Crystal Palace continues to inspire architects and engineers, while Fray Bentos stands as a symbol of how local industries can gain international recognition.

Moreover, this narrative raises questions about the future of industrial towns in a rapidly changing world. As technology evolves and globalization reshapes markets, the stories of places like Fray Bentos remind us of the importance of heritage and the need to preserve cultural identities amidst modernization.

The Crystal Palace and Fray Bentos, despite their geographical distance, share a profound narrative of innovation and connection. Both locations illustrate how history, culture, and industry intertwine to create lasting legacies. As we reflect on their stories, we are reminded of the importance of preserving history for future generations.

In an era increasingly driven by technological advancements, these tales stand as enduring symbols of what can be achieved when creativity and industry come together. Their legacies continue to inspire us, encouraging a deeper appreciation for the past and a thoughtful consideration of the future.



alloween, or Hallowe'en as it's sometimes called, is now celebrated all over the world on the night of October 31st. It's a time when kids put on spooky costumes—witches, skeletons, vampires—and head out, going door to door demanding sweets. "Trick or treat!" they shout, and most people, not wanting to risk a prank, hand over piles of chocolates and sweets to keep the little monsters happy. But while it's all fun now, the origins of Halloween go back thousands of years, when things were a bit more serious and, frankly, a lot scarier.

The tradition of Halloween comes from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced "Sow-in"). Around 2,000 years ago, the Celts lived in what we now call Britain, Ireland, and parts of northern France. They were mostly farmers, and their entire year was based around the seasons. Samhain marked the end of summer and the harvest, and the start of the dark, cold winter—a time they associated with death. The Celts believed that on the night of October 31st, the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead blurred, and the spirits of the dead could return to earth. This wasn't the fun, playful ghostly vibe we think of today—it was genuinely terrifying.

To protect themselves, the Celts would light massive bonfires in every village, which were meant to scare off evil spirits and keep the dead at bay. Leading these celebrations were the Druids, Celtic priests who ensured that the hearth fires in each home were relit from the sacred bonfire. This was believed to offer protection and warmth during the coming winter months, which were often harsh and unforgiving.

Then, in AD 43, the Romans invaded Celtic lands, and over the next four centuries of their rule, they merged some of their own traditions with the Celtic ones. One of these Roman traditions may explain the Halloween game of "bobbing for apples." The Romans celebrated Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, whose symbol was—you guessed it—the apple. So, the next time you're dunking your head in water to grab an apple with your teeth, you can thank the Romans for that charming bit of Halloween fun.

After the Romans packed up and left in the early 5th century,

another wave of invaders arrived. The Saxons raided Britain's coasts, followed by Germanic tribes like the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, who settled in the land. The native Celts were gradually pushed to the edges of Britain—places like Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall.

At the same time, Christianity started spreading across Britain. Early Christian missionaries arrived, bringing with them their teachings and new holidays, including "All Hallows' Day" or "All Saints' Day," a day to honour those who had died for their faith. Originally celebrated on May 13th, Pope Gregory III moved the feast to November 1st in the 8th century. It's thought he did this to replace or merge it with the Celtic Samhain festival, giving the older tradition a church-approved twist.

As a result, the night before All Hallows' Day, which was Samhain, became known as "All Hallows' Eve," and later, "Hallowe'en", and finally, "Halloween". The spooky vibes remained, as many still believed it was a night when the spirit world could cross over into the world of the living, and strange, magical things could happen.

In Britain, Halloween has long been celebrated with games and fun. Children would bob for apples, tell ghost stories, and carve scary faces into hollowed-out vegetables like turnips and swedes. These lanterns, lit with candles, were placed on windowsills to scare away evil spirits. However, the modern twist of using pumpkins, along with the whole "trick or treat" tradition, actually came from America. Thanks to our friends across the pond, pumpkins have replaced turnips, and the "trick or treat" tradition has taken off in a big way. So, when you're handing out sweets to a tiny vampire or witch, you've got America to thank for that! Though Halloween today is mostly about fun costumes,

sweets, and maybe the occasional harmless prank, its roots go deep. What started as an ancient festival marking the transition from life to death has transformed into a celebration filled with magic, spookiness, and plenty of sweets. But who knows? Maybe on Halloween night, the spirit world is still a little closer than we think... better keep a pumpkin on your windowsill, just in case!

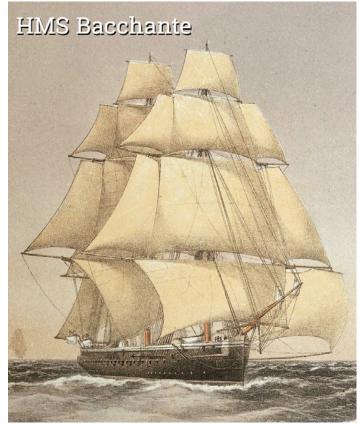


## **HMS BOMBAY**

The HMS Bombay was an 84-gun ship of the line launched in 1828. In 1864 it was fitted with screw propulsion. It would be sent immediately after the refit to the South American station as flagship of Rear-Admiral Charles Elliot. On December of 1864 a team of the officers of the ship lost to the Buenos Aires Cricket Club on the inauguration of their playing field in Palermo, but on their return trip to Brazil, on a firing practice between Flores Island and Buceo it caught fire and foundered with the loss of 92 crew members and one officer. This in itself is hardly remarkable, just another Royal Navy ship lost to human error. But amongst the crewmembers saved was one William Henry Burnett, who would stay in Uruguay and make a career as British consul in Punta del Este and commence the dynasty of the Burnett's of Maldonado, responsible for real estate and forestry entrepreneurship in Maldonado. The Torre del Vigía, still standing, his most visible legacy.

## **HMS BACCHANTE**

A wooden ship covered with iron plates (ironclad) and hybrid as it was screw propelled but also had sailing apparel. Built in Portsmouth dockyard and launched in 1876. HMS Bacchante was not famous for its participation in naval campaigns nor because of its revolutionary design and propulsion system, but because it was chosen by non-other than Queen Victoria to be the ship that would take her two oldest grandsons on the Royal Tour of 1879-1881. Not that before she subjected the ship to the worst storms of the English channel to see if it could cope with them and would survived the ocean's fury, so Albert and George, not passengers but midshipmen training on their naval profession, would be safe.



Albert the second in the line to the British Throne would never be king, but his brother George, was destined to be George V. Both brothers would alight at Montevideo near Christmas of 1880, chaperoned by John Neale Dalton, specially appointed by their grandma Victoria. They stayed in Montevideo for a day to the delight of the British colony of Uruguay, while the HMS Bacchante waited in Montevideo Bay.



### **HMS GLASGOW**

The destroyer HMS Glasgow was completed in 1910 and quickly destined to the South American Squadron of Admiral Craddock. In that capacity it frequently touched Montevideo, its officers and crew were regularly entertained by the Britons of Montevideo. The captain of the ship, John Luce was very popular amongst the Britons and criollos and fulfilled in excellent manner his job of showing the flag and attract the Uruguayan sympathies for everything British, not important in times of peace but essential in times of conflict, not far in the horizon.

The HMS Glasgow was the sole survivor of the disastrous Battle of Coronel but had his revenge being part of the fleet of Admiral Sturdee that destroyed Von Spees ships in the Battle of the Falkland Islands. One of Luce's officers, Lt. Lloyd Hirst was seriously injured at the first battle and had to be hospitalised in Montevideo. He would marry shortly after the war a nurse he met at our British Hospital, Margaret Christie, starting a long and dashing naval dynasty with amazing successes on the Second World War.

## **HMS REPULSE**

The 15-inch gun battle cruiser HMS Repulse was launched in January 1916 and was not commissioned on time to participate in the battle of Jutland. The only action it saw was the battle of Heligoland. The ship had many refits and before the Second World War when it was sent with the HMS Prince of Wales to the Far East as a deterrent to confront the Japanese menace. They were sunk by Japanese bomber and torpedo planes only three days after the start of the hostilities in the Pacific Front. The HMS Repulse only once crossed the Atlantic Ocean towards South America. In 1926 it was designed as the ship that would host Edward, the Prince of Wales (future Edward VIII) on his trip to Argentina and Uruguay. Too big for the River Plate main ports the HMS Repulse remained off shore while the royal passenger alighted in Montevideo and Buenos Aires from a destroyer.





ohn Evan (originally Evans), Jeffrey Hammond and lan Anderson attended grammar school together in Blackpool — though Anderson was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, and grew up in Edinburgh before moving to England. All music buffs, in 1965 they decided to form a band together, with Evan on drums, Hammond on bass and Anderson on guitar. First named The Blades and then The John Evan Band, they initially had little impact. Two years and multiple line-up changes later, they decided to move to Luton to try better luck there.

At first, their luck remained unchanged, and more changes of band name and line-up ensued, in an attempt to keep playing the London club circuit. Both Evan and Hammond left the band at different times, only to rejoin it later. Band names were supplied by their booking agent's staff, one of whom (a history enthusiast) once gave them the name Jethro Tull, after the 18th century English agriculturist who helped to bring about the British agricultural revolution and perfect the horse-drawn seed drill. To everyone's surprise, this was the name that stuck because they were using it when the manager of London's Marquee Club saw them play and liked their show enough to give them a weekly residency. At that time, the band was composed of lan Anderson (now on vocals), Mick Abrahams (guitar), Glenn Cornick (bass) and Clive Bunker (drums). With that line-up, the band recorded its first album, This Was (1968), a mix of progressive blues and jazz, which against all odds reached N°10 in the UK charts. Conflicts between Abrahams and Anderson over the band's musical direction led Abrahams to leave shortly after the album was finished, Martin Barre taking his place.

The album included "Serenade to a Cuckoo", a tune by American jazz musician Roland Kirk, which inspired Anderson to start playing the flute. Anderson possessed a large overcoat, which his father had given him when he left the family home with the warning "You'd better take this; it's going to be a cold winter". Together with the flute, this overcoat became part of Anderson's early stage image, and as he progressively took on the role of band frontman, they became the image of Jethro Tull.

The band's next album, *Stand Up* (1969), quickly reached N°1 in the UK charts, the only Jethro Tull album to do so. Having established himself as leader and songwriter, Anderson wrote all the material included. Evan re-joined the band in early 1970, now on keyboards, giving Jethro Tull a new dimension. The band's third album, *Benefit* (1970), followed soon after, with a US tour that established them as a premier live act. Cornick left the band at the end of the tour, and Anderson invited Hammond to rejoin in his place.

This line-up recorded *Aqualung* (1971), an album that featured Anderson's views on organised religion. It was the first Jethro Tull album to reach the top ten in the US (peaking at N°7) and sold over one million copies, earning it a gold disc. Many consider it the band's best album ever. Bunker quit the shortly after, tired of the heavy touring, and was replaced by Barrie Barlow (whom Anderson renamed 'Barriemore'!), who had played with them in The John Evan Band, and this line-up first recorded the five-track EP *Life Is a Long Song* (1971).

Several critics had described *Aqualung* as a concept album, which annoyed Anderson enormously since he had not intended it to be. In response, he decided to come up with the mother of all concept albums. Influenced by the style of Monty Python, he wrote a suite that combined complex musical ideas with offbeat humour, and made fun of the band, its audience and its critics. The ironically titled *Thick as a Brick* (1972), consisted of a single continuous piece of music running for 43 minutes, a very uncommon format for rock albums. Amazingly, it reached N°1 on the US Billboard chart.

(continued on the next page...)

# **Musical Box**

Jethro Tull's next release was *Living in the Past* (1972), a double-album compilation of remixed singles, B-sides and outtakes, plus live recordings from shows at New York's Carnegie Hall. The album was a success and allowed new fans to catch up with the band's early singles, particularly in the US. Next came *A Passion Play* (1973), another single-track concept album, with allegorical lyrics focusing on the afterlife and featuring the eccentric interlude "The Story of the Hare Who Lost His Spectacles" narrated by Hammond. It also reached N°1 on the US Billboard chart, but – despite selling well – received poor reviews from critics, which put the band off repeating the format.

Jethro Tull's seventh album was *War Child* (1974), which regained the band critical acclaim. Next came *Minstrel in the Gallery* (1975), another success. In early 1975, Jethro Tull sold out five nights at the 20,000-seat Los Angeles Forum, prompting Melody Maker to run the headline "Jethro: now the world's biggest band?" Hammond left the band after the tour, and was replaced by John Glascock. The band next released *Too Old to Rock 'n' Roll, Too Young to Die!* (1976), another concept album, about the life of an ageing rocker, which Anderson has always vehemently denied was about himself! This album marked the end of the band's progressive rock era.

In the late 1970s, Anderson moved to a farm in the countryside, and his newly bucolic lifestyle was reflected in his folk rock song writing and in the titles Jethro Tull's next



(continued...)

albums: Songs from the Wood (1977), Heavy Horses (1978), and Stormwatch (1979), all of which contain singles which are among the band's best ever. During the making of the last album, Glascock suffered major health problems related to an open-heart surgery and died soon after from ensuing complications. Dave Pegg replaced him.

In early 1980, Anderson announced that he wanted to record a solo album. This, combined with the Glascock tragedy, prompted Evan and Barlow to leave the band, leaving Anderson as the sole founding member. They were replaced by Eddie Jobson and Mark Craney respectively. The new line-up recorded the band's thirteenth album, A (1980), a sharp detour into electronic rock. Both Jobson and Craney left the band soon after, being replaced by Peter-John Vettese and Gerry Conway. With them, the band regained a folksier sound, though still with synthesisers, and recorded The Broadsword and the Beast (1982). The ensuing tour was well attended, shows featuring one of Jethro Tull's last theatrical indulgences, the stage being built to resemble a Viking longship and the band performing in medieval costume. Next came Under Wraps (1984), after which the band took a three-year hiatus, due to Anderson having developed vocal cord problems, during which Vettese and Conway, being replaced by Maartin Allcock and Doane Perry. Jethro Tull returned in a more hard rock format with Crest of a Knave (1987) - an album whose style has been compared to that of Dire Straits, for which Anderson himself took care of the keyboards – and the less successful Rock Island (1989).

In the 1990s, the band released the more acoustic-sounding albums *Catfish Rising* (1991), *Roots to Branches* (1995) and *J-Tull Dot Com* (1999), which made less use of keyboards and reflected the mixed musical influences of over two decades of performing around the world. Allcock left in 1991, replaced by Andrew Giddings, and Pegg left in 1995, replaced by Jonathan Noyce.

After the change of millennium, the band released The Jethro

*Tull Christmas Album* (2003), a collection of traditional and purpose-written Christmas songs, which sold well, but then went silent for the rest of the decade. In 2011, Barre announced that Jethro Tull was disbanding.



In 2017, Anderson reformed the band with Florian Opahle (guitars), David Goodier (bass), John O'Hara (keyboards) and Scott Hammond (drums) for a tour to commemorate Jethro Tull's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Joe Parrish replaced Opahle in 2019, and was in turn replaced by Jack Clark in 2021. Since then, Jethro Tull has released two new albums, *The Zealot Gene* (2022) and *RökFlöte* (2023).

Having created a style of their own, moving from one rock style to another throughout their long career, Jethro Tull influenced thousands of musicians worldwide and left a lasting legacy. They have sold over 60 million albums and rank among Britain's most recognised bands of all time.

# **BACK TO THE FUTURE**



fter learning to speak and write Danish perfectly, things started to accelerate around me. Suddenly I realized that the world had opened the doors for me. I said to myself: This is it, hurrah, I'm in the right box. At the time the two largest firms in Denmark were A/S A.P.Moller (shipping company) , and A/S The East Asiatic Company (shipping and commercial company). I had the privilege of working for the latter, as trainee, in the wool branch as commented earlier. Thereby I acquired complete knowledge of all kinds of wools coming from Australia, New Zealand, South America, and other countries.

During my training, I was appointed to clear through customs the wools arriving in bales into Denmark to different harbours. This implied calculation of the import tax, completing the corresponding documents, presenting them to the harbour and custom authorities, paying the import duties after being rechecked, and so on. Any miscalculation could lead to very unfortunate situations, also monetary of course. On purpose, I always arrived at midday at the different harbours in Copenhagen. Sometimes I had arguments with the personnel, but it always worked to mutual satisfaction. I also had a bag with some bottles of beer for lunch, which I sheared with them. They were always happy to see me, and I enjoyed talking to them just about anything. Occasionally I saw Mr. Anker Jorgensen, at the time leader of the "Warehouse and, Packing House Working Union", who later became Prime Minister of Denmark, voted by the Social Democratic Party. Next time I saw him was in Uruguay more or less 25 years later. He came with his wife invited by FA in Uruguay. We were glad to see each other again. I helped him as translator. His wife asked me to take care of him during his stay which I did. By the way, unofficially, just before he left, he told me he could not understand why he has been invited, because it had nothing to do with the way his "Social

Democratic Party" ruled Denmark. Well, I said, really, I have no clue, that's up to you to figure out, can't help you in this matter, as I am a free thinker.

Inside the building where I worked the second floor was occupied by the Uruguayan Consulate - Mr. Darwin Bracco -. with whom I established a friendship which lasted until he was called back to Uruguay as his "Partido Colorado" had lost the re-elections. Unfortunately, I lent him some money, which I tried to recover many years later when I was back in Uruguay. I took this matter up with Mr. Ulrich Larsen who was the Danish Consul in Uruguay at the moment. Some days later he told me there was no chance of recovering the money. I don't know why, and didn't ask. Simply dropped the matter. A couple of months later, he called me and said Darwin Bracco had died. A very sad story.

During my time in the firm, I was always the last one to leave the office together with the responsible for the outcoming correspondence, Procurator Mr. Finn Williamsen.

He was the eldest person in the firm. In spite of the difference in age he became one of my best friends in Denmark. He checked all letters, which I also looked into, and then I closed the envelopes and took them to the Post Office before closing, and from there to my evening School.

By the way, at 08.00 o'clock every morning, the 3 directors, sales clerks, including me as a trainee, were summed to the "President's office" for the opening of incoming mails, which we all had to read and eventually comment. In other words, a fantastic team work. No margin for errors allowed. It took nearly half an hour to go through the correspondence, and sometimes more. Suddenly one morning I was told to take care of the sales to Spain, which I did. After 3 years' time I received my master degree from the Commercial School for Business in Copenhagen, and was enrolled in the Danish Army, as a Royal Guard for a period of 16 months.



he Tudor style is a type of British architecture whose origins can be traced back to 1485 and even today you can find it in many places in the world, including of course Britain since it represented the tentative introduction of Renaissance architecture to England and Wales.

What is really odd is the fact that it managed to travel away very far and that in Uruguay this style can be found in different buildings. That is why we chose to refer to it here.

A subtype of Tudor architecture is the well-known Elizabethan architecture which, in part, was explained on our last article, being the main feature that wealthy courtiers competed to build prodigy houses that proclaimed their status.

The dissolution of the monasteries redistributed large amount of land to the wealthy resulting in a secular building boom as well as the use of stone.

Brick was something of an exotic and expensive rarity at the beginning of the period but during it became very widely used in many parts of England even for modest buildings gradually restricting traditional methods.

Tudor homes in general are characterized by their steeply pitched gable roofs, embellished doorways and decorative half-timbering.

A typical Tudor structure would present an E or H-shaped floor plan, brick and stone masonry, displays of glass in

large windows several feet long, depressed arches in clerical and aristocratic design, round-headed arches over doors and alcoves, large brick chimneys, enormous stone fireplaces with very large hearths meant to accommodate large scale entertaining sometimes with the family heraldry, arms or coat of arms, long galleries, tapestries serving a triple purpose of keeping out chill, decorating the interior and displaying wealth, geometric landscaping in the back of the homes, large gardens and enclosed courtyards.

## Some examples in Britain:

- Hampton Court (Richmond)
- Christchurch Mansion (1550, Ipswich, Suffolk) built by Edmund Withipoll part of the Ipswich Museum of Art.
- The mansion houses a collection of local antiques and paintings.

### Some examples in Uruguay:

- Scientific Christ Church (Guayabo street)
- House of the former Erwy school (Ponce Street)
- Duart House (demolished)
- San Rafael Hotel (demolished)
- Several family houses in different neighbourhoods













acaroni and cheese, known as Mac and Cheese in the USA, is a popular comfort food in the United Kingdom and has been since medieval times.

It is quite possible that the origin of macaroni cheese was in Italy where the first known written recipe appeared in a XIII century cookbook named Liber de Coquina. Over the following century the recipe traveled to France and onto England, where the recipe appears in the country's oldest cookery book Forme of Curry, written in 1390 by the master cooks of Richard II.

The Americans have Thomas Jefferson to thank for the incorporation of Mac and Cheese into their food culture. During his time in Paris in the late 1780's when Jefferson was the American plenipotentiary minister to France he was introduced to pasta by his slave/chef James Hemings. On his return to America Jefferson pushed a pro macaroni agenda on official Washington, hence the dish becoming popular, originally with the aristocrats and the elite.

However, during the industrial revolution factory production of pasta and cheese made the dish more affordable and its popularity increased both in the States and in the UK.

In 1937 during the Great Depression, the Kraft food company began producing boxed macaroni and cheese which was sufficient for a family of four, for just 19 cents. In one year, they sold over eight million boxes!

In the UK the sauce is invariably made with Cheddar cheese, but for this version I am using Gruyère and Parmesan cheese. Macaroni is a pasta in the shape of a small tube, straight or curved.

The curved, elbow-shaped pasta is perfect for cradling the sauce.

# Recipe for 5-6 portions INGREDIENTS

- 500 g macaroni (Adria make "codo" shapes)
- 80 g butter
- 80 g flour
- 1 It full-fat milk
- 75 ml double cream (optional)
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard or similar
- ½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 250 g grated Gruyère cheese
- 100 g grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### **METHOD**

Boil the macaroni in salted water until just cooked. Meanwhile, to make the cheese sauce, melt the butter in a saucepan. Stir in the flour and cook for two to three minutes while stirring with a wooden spoon. Incorporate about 200 ml of the milk and continue stirring over the heat until the sauce becomes smooth, without any lumps. Repeat the process with another 200 ml of milk. Once the sauce is smooth add the remaining milk and continue to stir and whisk if necessary until it begins to simmer. At this stage the sauce should be completely homogeneous.

Add the cream if using. Season with the mustard and nutmeg, turn down the heat and let the sauce simmer gently while occasionally stirring, to cook out the raw flour taste. Add the grated Gruyère cheese and mix in well. Add salt and pepper.

In a large bowl mix together the cooked pasta with the sauce. Pour the mixture into a baking dish, sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese and bake in a hot oven for 25 to j30 minutes until golden brown or bubbling.

Enjoy with a glass of Chardonnay or Pinot Noir wine.

Harry Martin Macadam 07 April, 1929 - 12 September, 2024

It was as Preceptor (for too many years to enumerate) that Martin found his niche within Masonry. Here he would dedicate many hours passing on his years of experience and wisdom to the younger Masons, helping them to perfect their ceremonies, whilst ensuring that the hidden meanings of our rituals were brought to the fore, such that we could apply those lessons learnt to our daily lives. It is said that Masonry aims to "make good men better", through its basic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Clearly Martin was a good man, "Buena madera", but like all of us he was not perfect. He used all of the tools that Freemasonry offered, in conjunction with the British School motto "Perfice", and with the support of a most wonderful family, to continuously smoothen that rough stone, bringing it each day, one step closer to perfection.

For many years Martin acted as the point of contact between English Masonry and the Grand Lodge of Uruguay. Having a deep understanding of Masonry and tactfulness being his second nature, Martin was the perfect link. During those years we all benefited from many enjoyable, and harmonious interchanges between the two jurisdictions.

In 2017 The Grand Lodge of England celebrated its 300th anniversary. Martin was in his element, he was our "frontman" our spokesman, the tangible face of English Masonry in Uruguay. He delivered speeches in the "Casa del Gobierno", in front of distinguished guests, gave a guided "Masonic Tour" here in the British Cemetery, and read out "HIS version of the history of English Masonry, particularly in Uruguay, to the Grand Lodge of Uruguay.

We were so, so proud to call him our friend and Brother.

The death of their son, Harry Philip Macadam in 2008 at only 49 years old was particularly difficult for Martin and Marta, as well as the rest of the family.

Martin came frequently to visit the grave; it was heartbreaking to see him suffering that untimely loss.

Although we all saw him in different places, from different viewpoints, there is only one Harry Martin.

His family are proud to have been connected with the British Schools ever since its foundation in 1908. Martin continued in this tradition as a pupil, as an Old Boy, and as a Member of the Board of Governors.

Some of us knew him through stories that he himself shared of his youth, travelling to Argentina to play rugby with Bertie Jack. All good clean fun.

Or playing basketball in Club Atenas.

Or having a game of billiards in the English Club.

His working life had many ups and downs. But when the going got tough, he would dust himself off, reinvent himself and start again.



I first came across Martin some 30 years ago when I was a teacher, and he was Chairman of the Board at the British Schools. I rather timidly asked for very few days leave, during term time, to attend my parents Golden Wedding celebrations in Scotland. The humanity of his response rather took me aback at the time, as he suggested that I take a few weeks leave, to benefit from some quality time with my family.

During the following years, as I got to know him better, I realised that his response to me was indicative of his good, old fashioned, down to earth family values. He always showed you the one and only Harry Martin Macadam that existed.

We all have our personal anecdotes involving Martin, and surely we are all grateful to have had the privilege of walking by his side, looking up to him, "el flaco", in admiration, knowing that for him, we were his equals.

Yesterday a good friend shared a photo of Martin and the boys at the Charua Stadium watching los Teros play rugby. That image of a crowded stadium reminded me of a song, which starts

"I am a sincere man from where the palm tree grows, I am a sincere man from where the palm tree grows.

The chorus should be rewritten as: "One Harry Martin, there's only one Harry Martin, One Harry

Martin, there's only one Harry Martin".

I hope that each time you hear this song in the future, you will think of a stadium full of supporters singing for our dear Harry Martin Macadam.

You will be sorely missed, our friend and brother.

You will be fondly remembered. David Rennie





# **SPEEDY CROSSWORD TIME**

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from The Guardian www.theguardian.com

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

# September solution:

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# Across

- 1 Cake decoration (6)
- 4 Hotchpotch (6)
- 9 Use it to clear 1? (7)
- 10 Slowly-delivered speech (5)
- 11 Hurrah! (5)
- 12 Poky room (7)
- 13 Demonstrating inadequate awareness of the facts (3-8)
- 18 Coastal defence (3,4)
- 20 Repeated process (5)
- 22 Reserve seats? (5)
- 23 Distinguished (7)
- 24 Equestrian activity (6)
- 25 Lacking a purpose (6)

# Down

### Down

- 1 Orange-fleshed tropical fruit (6)
- 2 Characteristic of a koala or pelican (5)
- 3 Gin, vermouth and Campari (7)
- 5 Sound recording (5)
- 6 Prickly plant (7)
- 7 Star system (6)
- 8 Lancers left (anag) disappointed (11)
- 14 Opposite of 13 (7)
- 15 Proof of purchase (7)
- 16 Line on a weather map (6)
- 17 Light (6)
- 19 Drained of colour (5)
- 21 Articles of faith (5



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