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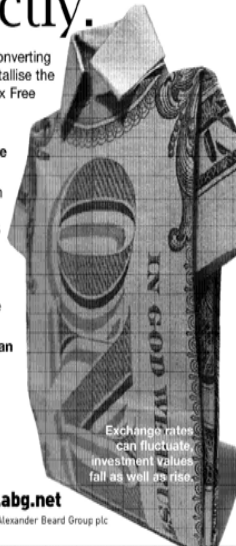
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## BritClub News



Sarasota British Club  
P. O. Box 21063  
Sarasota, FL 34276

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# BritClub News

August, 2009

Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Vol. 9, Issue 8

## Coming Events

**Board Meeting August 6** – 6:30 p.m. at the home of Shona Burtner, 4604 Country Manor Dr., Sarasota, at 6:30 p.m. MEMBERS WELCOME, BUT PHONE AHEAD AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

**Coffee Morning August 11** – 10:30 a.m. at the home of Sue Ford, 6706 Oak Hammock Dr., Bradenton. Contact Sue at [sueford47@yahoo.com](mailto:sueford47@yahoo.com) or 941-751-3811.



**Cocktail Party August 15** – Come to the home of Doreen and Peter Wilson in Osprey for a cocktail party on Saturday, August 15 from 5-7 p.m. Members should bring an appetizer to share and BYOB (except no red wine please). The club will provide punch and sodas. Space will be limited for this popular event and reservations will be taken by Doreen Wilson (941) 966-9330 or at [pedrowil@comcast.net](mailto:pedrowil@comcast.net) after July 20. **Directions to the Wilsons:** From I-75: Take exit 200 - SR 681. Approx. 3 miles, road splits - take right lane to Osprey. Turn right onto Rt.41 North. Drive past Rosebuds Restaurant on right and Oscar Scherer State Park. At next light, bear right onto Old Venice Road. Take 1st right into The Woodlands at Rivendell. Take 4th street on right, Rainbow Point Way, go to end and left onto Shadow Bay Way. Turn right onto Mallard Marsh Drive. We are 11<sup>th</sup> house on the right (1104 Mallard Marsh Drive).



**McCurdy's Comedy Theatre September 26** – Join us as we watch Uncle Dow Thomas at the 7:30 p.m. Saturday show (non-smoking). The multi-talented Dow Thomas' unique writings and routines have delighted audiences everywhere. He is a songwriter and musician whose sense of humour has taken his act to a multitude of venues throughout the United States. Tickets are \$5 each for members (*and guests – special, this time only: no surcharge for guests!*), and there is a two-drink minimum per person in the showroom. Tickets MUST be ordered and paid for in advance. Send your check to the club's post office box (address on back of newsletter). Seating is LIMITED, and your check and reservations must be received by September 15<sup>th</sup>.



Our website is [www.SarasotaBritishClub.com](http://www.SarasotaBritishClub.com)

## From Our President

Can you believe we are already into the second half of the year? It is amazing how fast this year is flying by. As I grow older, I am sure the hours in the day are getting shorter. I remember as a child school days taking forever to come to an end. Twenty four hours seemed more like 36 and now, 24 hours seem less than 18. A sign of age!

We had another fun filled evening at Miguel's, with 43 members joining us. Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable evening. The 50/50 was won by Bob Burtner and Manning Edmonds, congratulations to you both. It's the girls turn to win next. Thanks go to Nairn' Gillet for taking the reservations for this event, to Shona Burtner and Kath Curtin for all their help on the night and to James Croshaw who produced the new name tags for club members.

My coffee morning always is a highlight of my month and I was so pleased to hear from a member that she felt the same. If you haven't had the chance to join us yet, please come to the next one on August 11<sup>th</sup>

Although you may think October is a long way off, I want to ask you to think about our Annual General Meeting and volunteering your time for the 2010 Board of Directors. We have many new members who we would love to see take an active part in the operation of the club. Please consider this over the next month or so and if you would like to put your name forward please let me know. There are many positions on the Board and we work together organizing the functions and making sure the club moves forward in a positive and fun way. As a Board member you will be asked to attend the monthly Board meetings and as many of the functions as you are able to throughout the year. We are a great club with fabulous members, we need to keep it active and interesting, and this will be achieved by new blood being injected onto the board each year.

There is still time to book the 7-day Brit Club Cruise. The cruise includes food, cabin and entertainment, less than \$75 a day! The Carnival Legend is a 4-1/2 star cruise ship leaving Tampa at 4:00 p.m. 18<sup>th</sup> October. Itinerary includes Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Belize, Honduras, Tampa. Price is \$429 inside cabin, oceanview \$549. This is a fabulous cruise – come join us! There is still room available. If you would like to know more, email or call [sueford47@yahoo.com](mailto:sueford47@yahoo.com) or 941-751-3811.

I apologize for not being at the Word of Mouth restaurant on the 16<sup>th</sup>, but I enjoyed a few very well deserved days away in Charleston S.C. Enjoy the month ahead, hope to see you soon.

Keep smiling,  
Sue Ford

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## Do You Own Your Own Business?

For advertising, our rates are reasonable and an ad not only supports the club by its revenue, but may bring you more business. Many of our members make a point of trying to support British businesses, especially ones where the owner is a member of the club. Please consider advertising your business in our newsletter. Newsletter advertising rates (for club members only) are as follows: ¼ page \$15, ½ page \$25, full page \$40 per month. There is a 20% discount if you purchase your advertisements annually. Sale ads for unwanted items is \$10 for up to 3 lines of copy. **All ads must be paid for in advance.** Please send your camera-ready advertisements (jpg file preferred) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the newsletter editor, Rose Gillet, at 3219 24<sup>th</sup> Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235 or email them to her at [rosegillet@yahoo.com](mailto:rosegillet@yahoo.com).

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## Rose's Corner

If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter such as member articles, jokes, items of interest, please mail articles to me at Rose Gillet, 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235, fax at 366-9248, email me at [rosegillet@yahoo.com](mailto:rosegillet@yahoo.com) or call 366-9984. Closing date for items is the 15th of each month.

Rose Gillet, Newsletter Editor

## July Board Meeting Précis:

The board meeting was held on Thursday, July 9, 2009. The Treasurer's report was distributed to the board by Shona Burtner. There is a balance of \$5,177.10. Ken Jukes reported that we have 98 family units and 190 members. James Croshaw has made name tags for those attending Miguel's and will make one for each member. The website is up to date as of the July newsletter and Amy Croshaw has started a Facebook page for the club where anyone can post photos, with 38 friends so far. She will publicize our events. The full website report was distributed to the board and is attached to the minutes. Old Business: There were 40 people at Miguel's which was a successful event. New Business: There are 50 signed up for Word of Mouth on July 18 where there is to be a buffet with dessert and entertainment to follow. There are 16 signed up for the high tea on July 26 and Sandra will do a tea quiz. The cocktail party will be at the home of Doreen and Peter Wilson on August 15. Guests are to bring an appetizer to share and the club will provide punch and sodas. Future suggestions: McCurdy's Comedy Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre Cabaret, Ringling Circus Museum, a tour of the Van Wezel backstage, a scavenger hunt or bowling or golf. The AGM will be on October 10 – details to follow. November 21 is to be a boot sale, probably in the Holy Trinity Anglican Church parking lot from 8:30-11:30 a.m. We hope to have a hot dog stand for refreshments. December will be the Christmas party. The next board meeting will be at the home of Shona Burtner at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2009.

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## Sunshine Corner

If a member has any news they would like to share, a special occasion, anniversary, illness or recovering etc., please contact Sandra Cherry at [Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com](mailto:Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com), or 374-9760. We are pleased to hear of Jim Smith's progress, do keep Jim and Tina in your thoughts.

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## Would You Like to Join the Club?

The primary purpose of the club is to serve the needs of its membership in the spirit of friendship and mutual support, which includes planning, developing and overseeing a social setting for the membership, in addition to assisting British newcomers in settling into the community and to provide networking and support to the British owned businesses in the community. To join, please fill in the information below and send it with your check to: Sarasota British Club, P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Single \$25  Family \$35 (includes all children under age 18)

## Country Chicken Casserole

I am a great fan of casseroles, easy to fix and able to make ahead of time. During these summer months I am experimenting with using my crock pot for the baking instead of putting the oven on. So far it is working out well – give it a try!

2 ½ lb chicken cut up in chunks	8 medium mushrooms, quartered
1 cup flour	6 slices bacon fried until crisp
Salt and pepper	2 cups chicken stock
1 Tbsp oil	1 Tbsp cornstarch
2 Tbsp butter	2 Tbsp cold water
12 small white onions	Chopped parsley
12 small peeled white potatoes (I like the Dutch Gold ones, unpeeled)	

Season flour with salt and pepper, and dredge the chicken pieces in it. Heat the butter and oil in large skillet, and sauté chicken until evenly golden brown. Transfer to ovenproof casserole dish. Add onions and potatoes to skillet and cook until lightly browned, stirring gently to prevent sticking, and add to casserole. Place mushrooms in frying pan and cook for five minutes. Add to casserole with crumbled fried bacon and chicken broth. Cover and bake in 350 degree oven for one hour. Dissolve cornstarch in cold water and stir into casserole to thicken. Sprinkle with parsley. (If using the crock-pot, place the vegetables in the crock-pot first, then the chicken then rest of ingredients. Cook on low for 4-6 hours, thickening with the cornstarch mix just before serving)

(Recipe from Sandra Cherry, Union Jack Food Columnist. Queries, comments and recipes are welcome, and I can be reached at [Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com](mailto:Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com).)

## Membership News

**EMAIL ADDRESSES: PLEASE email Ken Jukes at [kena.jukes@yahoo.com](mailto:kena.jukes@yahoo.com) or call him at 941-927-6499 if you have changed your email in the last 6 months.**

Welcome to our newest members, Norman and Mary Shelley from Sarasota. Two other new member couples, below, sent in the following information, so we'll all know a little more about them.



Brian and Jane Thompson moved permanently to Lakewood Ranch on 15th May 2009. They lived in Essex and have 2 sons who will remain in the UK as they have other commitments. Brian worked as a metallurgist for Ford Motor Company and took early retirement in April 09 - he is hoping to remain retired as he is enjoying his freedom like a child with a new toy. Jane was employed as a senior educational sales representative for Oxford University Press and is looking for similar employment here - any contacts/ideas will be very gratefully received. Brian's main hobby is sailing, so they have both joined the Sarasota Sailing Squadron and hope to make new friends in addition to sailing. Brian also likes to volunteer and was a regular helper for a local children's hospice and a charity that helps "the old folks" to be able to use computers - he wants to continue being a volunteer over here. If he can help anyone with a PC, please ask. Jane is a duplicate bridge player and has joined the "In-Between" bridge club in Sarasota. It provides tuition and is proving invaluable to Jane with learning the American way to play. Jane has also been a volunteer for various charities and wishes to continue this once an employment schedule has been decided. They both enjoy cycling - for fun, not racing & like to spend time swimming as well as meeting up with old and new friends. Both enjoy trying new meals/restaurants and a particular passion for them is for Indian food - which seems to be sadly lacking in Florida! If other members are curry fans please make contact as they would be pleased to get together for a meal. They are keeping a very open mind about their new venture and are willing to try anything at least once! Although they have only been here a short while they have a very positive attitude & are enjoying their new life to the full.



Gary Lee and his wife, June Hersee-Lee moved to Sarasota in January of this year (having settled on a new home in December) and have been busy unpacking amongst other things. It is amazing how much one accumulates after 30 years in the same house. They were living in Arlington, VA, and had both arrived in Washington about mid 1965 but didn't actually meet until very early in the 1970s. June is from the English Lakes, and specifically Keswick, although her mother's side of the family originated in Carlisle. Gary is from Roanoke, VA and has always loved English grammar! They have been very involved with The British Players, a theatre group formed at the British Embassy in Washington, DC; late in 1964 and that still continues to offer British fare (from Old Time Music Halls, to farces, straight plays, Pantomime, and even musicals). June joined the Players in 1965 when she arrived in Washington to work at the Embassy, and Gary joined later after she introduced him to the group – she had discovered he could really sing! Gary served as President for the last few years and June worked on publicity for the shows. After June left the Embassy she got involved in management development working with a consulting company that provided training programs in many developing countries (going back in once instance to Tanzania where she had been born and spent about the first 8-9 years of her life!). She has worked for several different organizations since then. Gary is an economist and most recently worked for the Federal Reserve. Gary has been retired about 5 years and June has been retired about 4. They were delighted to learn of the British Club and look forward to meeting everyone. "Your club seems very active – what a shame you cannot have a real bonfire here in Sarasota. We had many at a farm several miles outside Washington that arranged for a huge open fireplace where we had about 25 seated around a very hot fire and could even "burn the Guy" – an ungainly straw figure about 5 feet tall! We went to the site in a "hay" wagon – or at least a wagon pulled by a tractor!"

## Florida Gardening by Nicholas Davis



Last month we covered the basics of lawn maintenance. Every month I'm going to give you a guide as to what you should be doing. This month I'm going to cover shrubs. Prune hedges when you have a few inches or so of growth, shearing them back to about an inch or two of the previous cuts. This allows the hedge to grow each time it's trimmed. Everything should be getting plenty of water from the rain this time of year, but if it's very dry, some watering may be needed. Rain has to fall at least a quarter of an inch to begin wetting the soil. When you water, give it at least

3/4 of an inch.

You can apply some fertilizer if some of the leaves are yellowing. Don't forget to use pesticides when destructive insects are getting out of control. Leaf spots are yellow to brown spots caused by fungal activity on leaves. The fungus attacks older leaves and they start to drop. Apply a fungicide where new and healthy leaves are infected, following the instructions on the label.

This is also a good time to add some plantings to your landscape such as Hibiscus which has large flowers and shrubs like Crotons which have exotic leaf colors and give a really tropical look. The heat will not be a problem for these plants. Just remember, for your sake, wear a hat and use plenty of sunscreen, or better still, try to work in the cooler hours of the day.

Start by preparing the soil, tilling as deep as possible. Work in lots of organic matter. Set the plants in the ground at the same depth they were growing in the pots. Build a 4 inch high berm of soil around the edge of the root ball to fill with water. Add some mulch and keep soil moist.

Well that's all for this month, any questions don't hesitate to email me [lawnjockey@live.com](mailto:lawnjockey@live.com). Happy gardening!!



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## CLASSIFIEDS

We have a three bedroom house in Palmer Ranch. My husband is working in North Carolina and is home once a month. I am looking for a mature, fun, professional lady to share our home. Perhaps you or someone you know needs somewhere to stay for a month or a few months. We are flexible. For more information please call June Fluegel at 941-966-5233.

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## Election Time is Approaching

Your Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> (venue to be advised). Club members will vote to elect your President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Director, Membership Secretary and Public Relations Director.

During the year several members have come forward with ideas for events, as well as how we can make our club more welcoming. As we have mentioned in the past, the pay is zero in purely monetary terms, but priceless in terms of the good feeling you'll get helping your club continue to grow by providing fun and exciting events.

Please phone Nominating Chairman, Terry Sweeney at 941-918-0550 or e-mail him at [tsweeneyau@aol.com](mailto:tsweeneyau@aol.com) to throw your hat in the ring or simply have questions answered.

## Thank You

The Club would like to thank the following merchants for their cooperation in spreading the good word about our Club by allowing the *Brit Club News* to be distributed in their shoppes: Word of Mouth (3), Champions Pub, Tastefully British, 4 & 20 Pasty Shop, the British Open Pub, The Irish Rovers, The Coach & Horses Pub, The Open, McAllister's, Scot's Corner, Cafe Continental-Patisserie and Beckham's Osprey Grill. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.