



Brit Club News

December, 2015 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Vol. 15, Issue 12

Coming Events

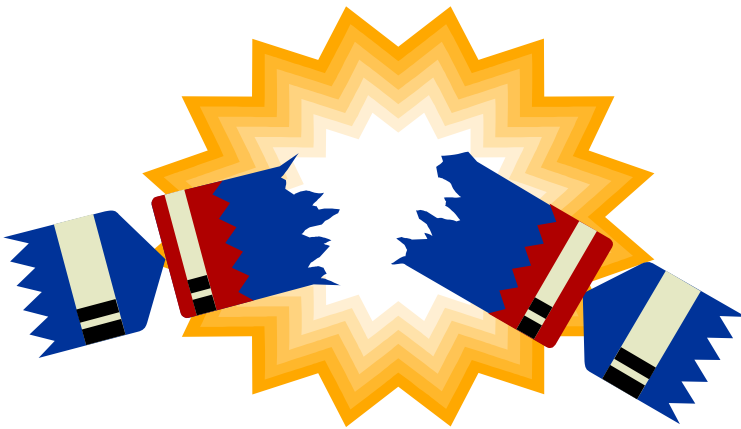
The SBC Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th December at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

Lunch reservations are essential: contact Ronnie Crain at: rcrain61@verizon.net or call 941-922-4801.

Christmas Party on December 12th.

At a date to be arranged soon- .

There will be a 2016 President's Party to welcome Paul Wilkinson to the position.



CHRISTMAS PARTY REQUEST

Please can you donate a prize, or can you ask a local business for a prize/vouchers for our raffle?



The proceeds will support the Club's annual donation to local non-profit(s).

Contact Jane Jacobs at 847-370-2811 or jane60010@yahoo.com

Thank You

See November's newsletter at <http://tinyurl.com/gef3olu> for tickets/venue/menu. Note Dec. 3rd deadline for payment.

Club members are invited to attend the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society's Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced with a hard G, gimanfa ganee), which is a Welsh hymn-sing, at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 23. at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, at the corner of Honore and Palmer Ranch Pkwy., south of Clark Road in Sarasota. Come to the MacIntyre Rooms, 2nd floor in The Glenridge main building. There is no charge for participating in the hymn sing. The Gymanfa precedes their Annual Meeting luncheon. Lunch costs \$15.



"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."
— Ronald Reagan



Don't forget that the Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture.

Check out the numerous photos from recent events. Why not 'friend' us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club and its members. Why not add your event photos to the 'wall'.



President's Letter

As I write this a few days before Thanksgiving Day, I want to give my special thanks to the current Board members for their support and hard work on behalf of Club social events and other projects this year. Thanks also to non-Board members who graciously pitch in to make our social events successful. As I come to the end of my third tenure as President, I am reminded anew of the enormous energy and spirit of pitching in and getting things done within our membership. We've had a busy and productive year and enjoyed impressive turnouts for our social events. My best wishes to Paul Wilkinson, the incoming Club President and all other newly-elected Board members for 2016. As immediate Past President next year, I look forward to working with that able-bodied and energetic group. Do be reminded that Club members are strongly encouraged to give their ideas for Club socials/events to the Board.

So on to the Club's annual Christmas Party On Saturday 12 December at Heritage Oaks Country Club. This promises to be an evening of dining, dancing, raffle prizes and general merriment. I hope to see you there.

Happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

Gary Lee



Google's doodle for Thanksgiving .2015

JOKES

The owner of a Scottish company tells his employees: "You worked very well during the year. The company profits increased dramatically. As a reward, I'll give you a cheque for 20 pounds."

"And if you work with the same zeal next year, I'll sign them....."



A young English girl trying to impress her American date says. "My genealogy starts from a person who met the Queen. She touched his shoulder and made him a knight."

"Well", says the American, "my genealogy starts with a person who faced an Indian chief. The chief touched his head with a tomahawk and made him an angel."

Submitted by Gary Lee.



Precis of Board Meeting Thursday November 12th.

Current membership is 192. In the last month we added one family but lost one due to relocation. The Board discussed what type of article is appropriate for our newsletter and the Editor (Brian Thompson) is given the option to accept or reject any article submitted for publication. Members will be asked if they wish to continue receiving the newsletter vial email and US Mail as many members prefer to receive it via email and save the club the considerable mailing costs each month (\$180). 65 members and guests attended the 15th Anniversary Party.

Wine tasting at Casa Italia had 30 members. Olive Garden lunch 35.

45 attended the Guy Fawkes Party. Discussed the Christmas party planning and thee AGM arrangements. Board discussed charities for our 2014 donation and will decide the charities and donation amount next month. Need member(s) to arrange monthly luncheons in 2016.

Next meeting on Dec.10th

Submitted by Jane Jacobs



A Good Result!

Last month in the President's Letter, Gary wrote about the chaos at the UK's Dart Crossing. I had a similar problem in March and I received a fine of £70 via the car hire company. I wrote a US cheque for the equivalent of the original crossing charge (£2.50) with an irate letter and a copy to 10 Downing Street. I had a reply from No.10 to say my letter was being forwarded to the Department of Transport. Since then I've received a DOT 'Warning Letter' allowing me to pay the original charge of £2.50 online. On the downside, if my original cheque is cashed I'll end up paying more than £2.50, but overall—a Good Result!

Brian Thompson

AGM photos - with thanks to Sally Scott



Guy Fawkes Party photos—thanks to Doug Schuler.



British Eccentrics—Michael Bentine

Member of The Goon Show, Bentine was born in Watford, Hertfordshire in 1922, to a Peruvian father, Adam Bentin, and a British mother, Florence Dawkins, and grew up in Folkestone, Kent. He was educated at Eton College. He overcame a stammer and subsequently developed an interest in amateur theatricals, along with the Tomlinson family, including the young David Tomlinson. He spoke fluent Spanish and French.

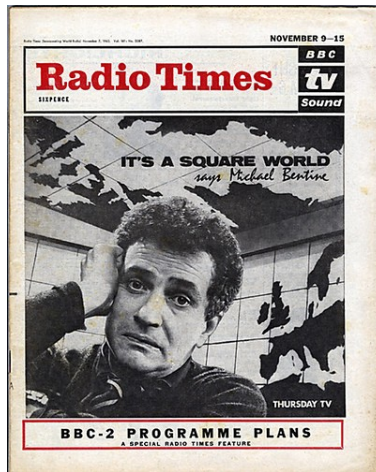
In World War II, he volunteered for all services when the war broke out (the RAF was his first choice owing to the influence of his father's experience), but was initially rejected because of his father's nationality.

He started his acting career in 1940, in a touring company in Cardiff playing a juvenile lead in *Sweet Lavender*. He went on to join Robert Atkin's Shakespearean company in Regent's Park, London, until he was called up for service in the RAF. He was appearing in a Shakespearean play in doublet and hose in the open-air theatre in London's Hyde Park when two RAF MPs marched on stage and arrested him for desertion. Unknown to him, an RAF conscription notice had been following him for a month as his company toured.

Once in the RAF he went through flying training. He was the penultimate man going through a medical line receiving inoculations for typhoid with the other flight candidates in his class (they were going to Canada to receive new aircraft) when the vaccine ran out. They refilled the bottle to inoculate him and the other man as well. By mistake they loaded a pure culture of typhoid. The other man died immediately, and Bentine was in a coma for six weeks. When he regained consciousness his eyesight was ruined, leaving him myopic for the rest of his life. Since he was no longer physically qualified for flying, he was transferred to RAF Intelligence and seconded to MI9, a unit that was dedicated to supporting resistance movements and helping prisoners escape.

After the war he decided to become a comedian and worked in the Windmill Theatre where he met Harry Secombe. He specialised in off-the-wall humour, often involving cartoons and other types of animation.

His acts included giving lectures in an invented language called Slobodian, "Imaginative Young Man with a Walking Stick" and "The Chairback", with a broken chairback



having a number of uses from comb to machine gun and taking on a demonic life of its own.

Peter Sellers told him this was the inspiration for the prosthetic arm routine in *Dr Strangelove*.

He co-founded The Goon Show radio show with Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe, but appeared in only the first 38 shows on the BBC Light Programme from 1951 to 1953. One of this first series (and very few of the following three in which he did not appear) has survived, the rest of the original disc recordings having apparently been destroyed or discarded as no longer usable, so there is almost no record of his work as a radio "Goon".

USA Connection

In 1951 Bentine was invited to the United States to appear on The Ed Sullivan Show. On his return he parted amicably from his partners and continued touring in variety, remaining close to Secombe and Sellers for the rest of his life. In 1972, Secombe and Sellers told Michael Parkinson that Bentine was "always calling everyone a genius" and, since he was the only one of the four with a "proper education", they always believed him.

His first appearances on television were as presenter on a 13-part children's series featuring remote controlled puppets,



The Bumbles, which he also devised, designed and wrote. These were three small creatures from outer space who slept on 'Professor Bentine's' ceiling and who had come to Earth to learn the ways of Earthling children.

From 1960 to 1964, he had a television series, *It's a Square World*, which won a BAFTA award in 1962 and Grand Prix de la Presse at Montreux in 1963. A prominent feature of the series was the imaginary flea circus where plays were enacted on tiny sets using nothing but special effects to show the movement of things too small to see and sounds with Bentine's commentary. The plays were not serious. One, titled 'The Beast of the Black Bog Tarn', was set in a (miniature) haunted house. From 1974 to 1980 he wrote, designed, narrated and presented the children's television programme 'Michael Bentine's Potty Time' and made one-off comedy specials.

Until his death from prostate cancer in 1996, he and his wife spent their winters at a second home in Palm Springs, California, USA.

Source: Wikipedia.

This was sent by a Jewish friend.

Brian Thompson

HEBRONICS

The New York City Public Schools have officially declared Jewish English, now dubbed Hebronics, as a second language. Backers of the move say the city schools are the first in the nation to recognize Hebronics as a valid language and a significant attribute of American culture.

According to Howard Ashland, linguistics professor at Brooklyn College and renowned Hebronics scholar, the sentence structure of Hebronics derives from middle and eastern European language patterns, as well as Yiddish. Professor Shulman explains,

'In Hebronics, the response to any question is usually another question with a complaint that is either implied or stated.

Thus 'How are you?' may be answered, 'How should I be, with my bad feet?'

Shulman says that Hebronics is a superb linguistic vehicle for expressing sarcasm or scepticism. An example is the repetition of a word with 'sh' or 'shm' at the beginning: 'Mountains, shmountains. Stay away!! You want a nosebleed?'

Another Hebronics pattern is moving the subject of a sentence to the end, with its pronoun at the beginning: 'It's beautiful, that dress.'

Shulman says one also sees the Hebronics verb moved to the end of the sentence. Thus the response to a remark such as 'He's slow as a turtle,' could be: 'Turtle, shmurtle! Like a fly in Vaseline he walks.'

Shulman provided the following examples from his best-selling textbook, 'Switched-On Hebronics:'

Question: 'What time is it?'

English answer: 'Sorry, I don't know.'

Hebronic response: 'What am I, a clock?'

Remark: 'I hope things turn out okay.'

English answer: 'Thanks.'

Hebronic response: 'I should be so lucky!'

Remark: 'Hurry up. Dinner's ready.'

English answer: 'Be right there.'

Hebronic response: 'Alright already, I'm coming.

What's with the 'hurry' business? Is there a fire?'

Remark: 'I like the tie you gave me; I wear it all the time.'

English answer: 'Glad you like it.'

Hebronic response: 'So what's the matter; you don't like the other ties I gave you?'

Remark: 'Sarah and I are engaged.'

English answer: 'Congratulations!'

Hebronic response: 'She could stand to lose a few pounds.'

Question: 'Would you like to go horseback riding with us?'

English answer: 'Just say when.'

Hebronic response: 'Riding, shmiding! Do I look like a cowboy?'

To the guest of honor at a birthday party:

English answer: 'Happy birthday'

Hebronic response: 'A year smarter you should become.'

Remark: 'It's a beautiful day.'

English answer: 'Sure is.'

Hebronic response: 'So the sun is out; what else is new?'

Answering a phone call from a son:

English answer: 'It's been a while since you called.'

Hebronic response: 'You didn't wonder if already I'm dead?'



Pessimism is a luxury that a Jew can never allow himself.

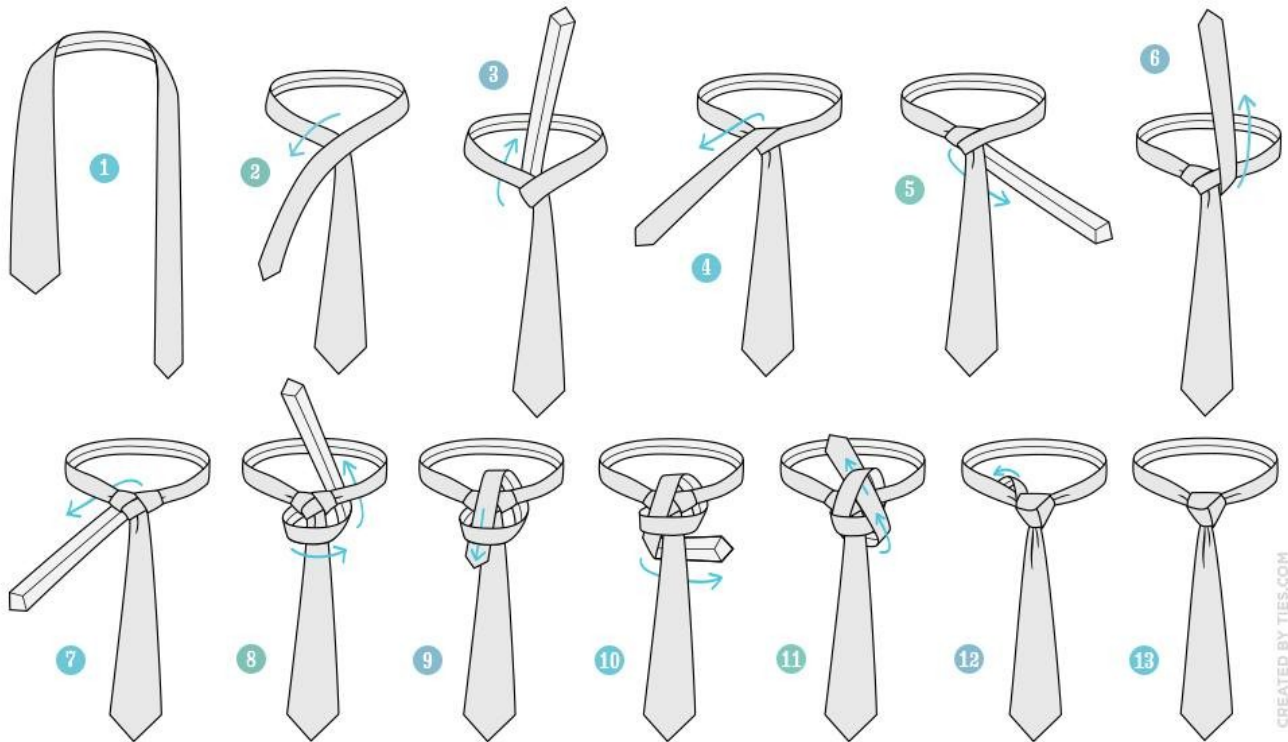
-- Golda Meir





You might have time to practice tying this knot ready for the Christmas Party. This one is new to me, or perhaps I just haven't noticed. Does anyone know its name?

Editor



CREATED BY TIES.COM

JOKES

Sign in a Chinese Pet Store: "Buy one dog, get one flea..."

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.



Quotes

"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point."
— C. S. Lewis

"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough."
— Og Mandino

"Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you."
— Thomas Jefferson

Sarasota British Club name badges

Please obtain Club badges directly from:
Sarasota Trophy 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota FL
34231. 921-4339.

\$8 + tax for badge with magnet = \$8.56
\$6 + tax for badge with pin (without magnet) = \$6.42.
Badges can be collected in person
(M - F 8.30 - 5 or Sat 9 - 12) or shipped to home for \$3.75.



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From	To	Rate
 GBP	 USD	1.5092
 EUR	 USD	1.0605

Exchange Rates from Moneycorp on Nov.26th.

2015 Board of Directors

President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
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