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BritClub News



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

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Vice PresidentTerry Sweeney918-0550tsweeneyau@aol.com
TreasurerShona Burtner925-0462skburtner@hotmail.com
SecretarySandra Cherry921-3162yourcupatea1@yahoo.com
Membership Sec'y .Kathy Curtin.....379-9861kathrmcurt@msn.com
Programs Director..Amy Croshaw751-6194acrowshaw@verizon.net
P.R. Dir./Website...James Croshaw...928-2769jcroshaw@standoutsolutions.com
Newsletter Editor ...Rose Gillet.....366-9984rosegillet@yahoo.com



BritClub News

December, 2007

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

Vol. 7, Issue 12

Coming Events

Board Meeting Dec. 3 – 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sandra Cherry, 2930 Williamsburg St., Sarasota. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, BUT PLEASE PHONE AHEAD AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

Christmas Party Dec. 15 – The Event of the Year! Come join us for our Annual Christmas Party at Misty Creek Country Club, Bee Ridge Extension. Music by old favourites "Black Tie D.J.'s"; good food (see choices on enclosed reservation form), a Charleston Contest, door prizes, 50-50 Raffle and a couple of silly games. Cost \$40 for members. \$45 non-members. We only have about 20 reservations left, so get yours in today. Please complete the enclosed form, remembering to include your choice of meal and mail it, together with your check, to Sarasota British Club, P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276. Your reservation and payment must be received no later than December 5th, 2007. As Misty Creek is a gated community, you will be asked by the gate man for your name and those of your passengers. Also tell him you are attending the British Club Christmas Party.



The Ins and Outs of Immigration January 12 – Sarasota immigration attorney, Tony Olson, will speak at the Red Lobster Restaurant on Tamiami Trail, south of Stickney Point Road at 12 noon. He will give a short history of current immigration, discuss types and kinds of immigration and visas and how to qualify. He will discuss some common pitfalls, misconceptions and other problems, and will go over the approximate costs and a typical timeframe. The only cost to you for this luncheon is your own meal. Seating is limited to 50, so call Terry Sweeney at 918-0550 with your reservation.

BBC January 15 – Tony Olson will also be the speaker at the January BBC meeting, specifically to handle questions and answers arising from Saturday's session. This meeting is limited to general questions; should you have specific, individual questions, you will need to schedule a personal appointment with Tony. This BBC meeting will be at a new venue and attendance is strictly limited to 24 people. We will meet (thank you, Andy Reeves) at the BankUnited office at 6511 S. Tamiami Trail, in the Sarasota Pavillion Shopping Center, next door to Hooter's Restaurant. There is a charge of \$10 to cover wine and cheese, and you should email James Croshaw at jcroshaw@standoutsolutions.com if you plan to attend.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From Our President

I'm writing this to you just before Thanksgiving Day. As my term of office as your President draws to a close at the end of the year, I realize how much of what I have to be thankful for derives from my association with this group.

First, I am thankful for the opportunity to have served with the current Board. Terry, Sandra, Shona, Kath, Amy, James, Val, Mike and Rose have given tirelessly of themselves this year to the betterment of the Brit Club. Space does not allow me to list their individual contributions, nor those of the many members at large who have helped them. I must express my gratitude, though, to them for allowing the club to try some new things this year which have helped with the growth of our group, especially the increased newsletter distribution, and our participation in the annual Scottish Games, which we will do again next year (be sure to drop by our tent). They deserve not only my thanks, but all of yours, as well.

Next, the membership has grown this year. Thank you to all who stood by the club in the early part of the year, and to the dozens of new members who have joined during the year.

Finally, a special "thank you" to my wife, Rose, who not only has served as newsletter editor for the past six years, but also has held me on a steady course and reminded me that we are, first and foremost, a social group.

As I turn the club over to Terry Sweeney, I do so with the confidence that the coming year will be even better than this one has been. We've added a bit of "new blood" to the Board this year, and I know Terry will accomplish some wonderful things next year. In the meantime, I hope to see all of you (and Father Christmas!) at Misty Creek on December 15th.

Thank you,
Nairn' B. Gillet

November 12th Board Meeting Précis:

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,808.32 (*reflects deposits made for upcoming Christmas party*). Membership report shows 149 individual members with 85 households. BBC meeting will be on November 20th at 4 Gees, no December meeting. AGM and Guy Fawkes meeting went very well with about 70 attendees. Slate of officers for 2008 approved. Christmas party plans are well in hand, tickets will soon be mailed out, so far over 93 have booked, only have space for 120. January plans for another new members tea, a performance at the Sarasota Ballet, and a session with Tony Olson, Immigration attorney, on current immigration issues, which will be on Jan 12th, for general members (50 limitation) and the 15th for the BBC (24 limitation). Remainder of the year suggestions were discussed. The Board agreed to sponsor a family from Mothers Helping Mothers for Christmas and will ask members if they would like to donate items. Gift certificates or cash. Next board meeting will be December 3rd at Sandra Cherry's house, members welcome but please call ahead as space is limited.

2008 Board of Directors

President: Terry Sweeney
Vice President: James Sheehy
Secretary: Sandra Cherry
Treasurer: Shona Burtner
Membership: Kathy Curtin
Past President: Nairn' Gillet

Program: Amy Croshaw
Web site/PR: James Croshaw
Newsletter: Rose Gillet
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Business Network: Valerie Woodger

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, Champions Pub, Tastefully British, Four & Twenty Pasty Shop, the British Open Pub, The Irish Rovers, The Coach & Horses Pub, The Open, Shakespeare's, McAllister's, Scots Corner and Beckham's Osprey Grill. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.

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, call at 366-9984 or email me at rosegillet@yahoo.com. Closing date for the newsletter is the 15th of each month.

Rose Gillet, Newsletter Editor

Mark Your Calendar

Join us on March 1st, 2008 to see the world premiere of an exciting new musical, "Best Seller" written and composed by one of Sarasota British Club's newest members, Don Crabb. Tickets to this event are \$22 and will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine, coffee and iced tea served an hour before the show begins and also at intermission. **Please note that we will not be taking RSVPs for this event until January 1st.** For a full write up, please see www.SarasotaBritishClub.com under "Events", then "Upcoming Events", or keep an eye out for January's newsletter.

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)

Potato Cakes

More than likely, this recipe is of Irish origin. I have to tell how I got this recipe originally. I had a request for it in my Union Jack column, so I called my Irish friend in California, who's Lancashire bred mother-in-law, who I knew in Wisconsin, and who then moved to Canada, had it! So this recipe traveled from Manchester to Wisconsin to California to Florida!! Wish I could have the miles for it to travel.

Potato Cakes

4 rashers of bacon	1 Tbsp. butter
About 4 medium potatoes, cooked	Dash of milk
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley	Salt and pepper to taste

Beat up potatoes, parsley, butter and milk. Fry up the bacon until crisp and then crumble into the potatoes. Cool, so you can handle, and form into six equal cakes. Fry in the bacon fat, browning both sides. Serves 6.

Recipe by Sandra Cherry, Your Cup of Tea Inc. Comments, queries and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to Yourcupoftea1@yahoo.com or www.Yourcuppatea.info.

Membership News

EMAIL ADDRESSES: PLEASE email me at kathrmcurt@msn.com or call me at 941-379-9861 if you have changed your email in the last 6 months.

Our numbers keep growing, this month we welcome Bernard and Shirley Stella, Derek and Maureen Morris, and Ray and Mandy Reed.

Derek Morris hails originally from Bristol and Maureen from Aldershot, but they have lived for many years in Maidenhead, Berkshire. They have for several years spent from October to May each year in Sarasota in their downtown home.

Derek is a retired Solicitor spending the last years of his career as Company Secretary and Solicitor at Southern Electric; Maureen was a Human Resources Manager with Unilever.

They have two sons and a grandson in California and four other children plus eight more grand children in the UK (yes, ok, it is a second marriage). Maureen's 96 year old father lives in his own house north of Tampa.

They are members of the Sarasota Yacht Club, and in the UK, Winter Hill Golf Club in Cookham and Phyllis Court Club in Henley on Thames .

Maureen plays golf and bowls and is an avid sudoku solver, while Derek plays tennis and golf. Both enjoy wining, dining, traveling, opera, ballet, and cinema.

Welcome to Ray and Mandy Reed who moved to Sarasota at the beginning of November from Little Rock, Arkansas. Ray is originally from Belton Texas, and Mandy is from Wisbech Cambs. They have two children in college in Arkansas, a son Josh, 21, and a daughter Janae, 19. Ray is an engineer at Teleflex Marine and Mandy is a Realtor. They are both already enjoying life here in Sarasota and look forward to meeting everyone at the Christmas Party.

Sarasota Ballet – January 27th

The Sarasota Ballet has invited us to attend their performance on **Sunday, 27th January at 8:00 p.m.** at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts/Asolo Main Stage. December 15th is your last chance to book your seat for this performance.

The programme will be a British one comprising Scottish Dances set to the music of Malcolm Arnold; Las Hermanas (Sir Kenneth MacMillan) and Facade set to the music of William Walton. The new director of the Ballet is a Yorkshireman Iain Andrew Webb. The venue is the FSU Center for the Performing Arts/Asolo Main Stage. The Ballet has granted us a 20% discount, so our tickets will be priced at \$42 and \$26.

Please let Terry Sweeney (918-0550) know **before December 15th** if you plan to attend and mail your check to Sarasota British Club at P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276.



Sarasota British Club – Santa's Helper

The Sarasota British Club has elected to sponsor a family this year through **MOTHERS HELPING MOTHERS***.

Family is Mom...Raina, and sons Roberto...6 and Anthony...8

Raina: Pampering items, such as bath gels, moisturizers, razors and shave gel, cosmetic bag, bath salts, bubble bath. Robe and slippers (Size 8 medium shoe) . Gift certificate for Wal-Mart for clothes. Crock-pot . Gift certificate for dinner out.

Anthony 8: DVD's - (Spiderman, Ratatouille). Tent, sleeping bag and flashlight. Socks, sport and dress. Underwear. Spiderman pajamas. Tonka truck. Football.

Roberto: DVD's--(Jungle book 40th anniversary, Evan Almighty). Legos. Socks, sport and dress. Leap Pad learning toys for his age. Trucks, Matchbox cars, Doodle Pro game. Underwear. Football.

Both boys could use twin sheets and/or comforters, maybe with Spiderman or cars on them?

These are just suggestions, and they do not expect everything. Gift certificates are always good, too. This family is in need, and anything we can collect will help them have a good holiday season. This is just one of the families in the area that are in need of help this Christmas season.

Items can be brought to the Christmas party on December 15th. If any specific items are donated, please coordinate with Sandra (Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com, or 921-3162) or Amy (acrosshaw@verizon.net or 751-6194). If anyone wishes to donate and will not be at the party, call Sandra and we will make arrangements to collect.

Alternatively if you are unable to shop, but would still like to contribute, cash is acceptable, and we will purchase items. THANK YOU!!!

** (Mothers Helping Mothers is a non profit group helping mothers and families in the Sarasota area)*

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For advertising, our rates are reasonable and such 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. There is a 20% discount if you purchase your advertisements annually. All ads must be paid for in advance. Please send your camera-ready advertisements (jpg file preferred) by the 15th of the month to the newsletter editor, Rose Gillet, at 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235 or email them to her at rosegillet@yahoo.com.

It is Still the Law in England...

- ◆ It is illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament.
- ◆ It could be regarded an act of treason to place a postage stamp bearing the British king or queen's image upside-down.
- ◆ Eating mince pies on Christmas Day is banned.
- ◆ In the UK, a pregnant woman can legally relieve herself anywhere she wants.
- ◆ The head of any dead whale found on the British coast automatically becomes the property of the King, and the tail becomes the property of the Queen.
- ◆ It is illegal not to tell the tax man anything you do not want him to know, but legal not to tell him information you do not mind him knowing.
- ◆ It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armor.

And if you think the laws in England are silly...

- ◆ It is illegal in Ohio to get a fish drunk.
- ◆ In South Carolina, you may not keep your horse in your bathtub.
- ◆ In Arkansas, you are not allowed to keep alligators in your bathtub.
- ◆ You may not take a picture of a rabbit from January to April without an official permit in Wyoming.
- ◆ In Utah, it is illegal not to drink milk.
- ◆ In New York, a person may not walk around on Sundays with an ice cream cone in his/her pocket.
- ◆ In Alabama, boogers may not be flicked into the wind.
- ◆ In order for a pickle to officially be considered a pickle in Connecticut, it must bounce.
- ◆ Roadkill may be taken home for supper in West Virginia.
- ◆ The entire Encyclopedia Britannica is banned in Texas because it contains a formula for making beer at home.
- ◆ And finally, in Florida, it is illegal to have sex with a porcupine – also quite painful, I would think.