



BritClub News

December, 2013 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 13, Issue 12

Coming Events

The December SBC Board Meeting will be held at the home of Sue and Roy Ford Wednesday December 4th, 2013 @ 6:30pm. Members welcome but please call ahead, see Page 3, as space is limited.

The next issue will have details of the 2014 President's Party.

Have you looked at our website recently?

www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

On the surface it looks the same, but it has been updated: the latest planned events and newsletters have been added. Please check it out and give your Board some feedback.



Christmas Party—Saturday December 14th at the Heritage Oaks Country Club, Cost \$40 Members - \$50 Non-Members.

For the menu and more details see Page 4. Please fill in the slip on Page 5 with your names, guests and menu choices.

Friends of the Sarasota Ballet have extended an invitation to have a tour behind the scenes with the company. A date was planned for January 23rd, and a suggestion of following the tour for lunch at Treviso at the Ringling complex.



Please check the next issue of BritNews for full details on how to reserve a place on the tour.



Happy Christmas
to all our members.

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'.

Recent photo additions have been the kayak trip and Guy Fawkes party.



President's Letter

This is my last President's Letter and, given the fact that I can normally go on forever, I'm quite surprised that I've taken so long to tuck this one away, finishing it on the last day of Brian's deadline.



When I started the year, I wasn't especially sure what I wanted to say but, as the year went by, I think I found sufficient things to share with you all and, judging by some of the positive comments I've received, most of you seem to have taken the trouble to give me a hearing. That said, I've probably worn out my welcome, so a changing of the guard is probably due.

Reflecting back on the year, I think that the board has done it's best to offer the membership fun and diverting events, yet some people still find just enough time to criticize, but not quite enough time to volunteer for the board. While I understand prioritization, I've never thought it to be a priority to have a go at a group of people who are spending their own spare time trying to give me a good time, while never stepping up to the plate myself. Perhaps I'm a little old-fashioned that way.

Despite that one little irksome chip I had to get off my shoulder, I've really enjoyed my year and have reaffirmed my belief that the Brits still have the greatest sense of humor, indeed, the greatest sense of silliness, to be found anywhere in the world.

Several incidents spring to mind; the most recent being Mark Malkasian at the Guy Fawkes Night bonfire. With the conflagration rising ever higher, fueled by the Guy, in the form of an amply filled pair of Paul Wilkinson's trousers and shirt, Mark positioned himself in front of the forest about thirty yards downwind of the fire. He appeared to be hopping about like a latter day Gordon Banks, ready to leap like a salmon and retrieve errant sparks as they headed towards the forest. Quite how he hoped to achieve this miracle was never quite clear; he just felt that he should be there in that quintessentially stoic British way. It was hilarious to watch him.

The other incident that has stuck with me since March was the extraordinary sight of Brits poring over their horse selections as if one mistake would bring about the downfall of society as we know it. I handed out the sheets for people to complete with their 12 selections, only to get it back from the fourth row as we pulled into the racecourse two hours later. Extraordinary.

Lastly, my heartfelt thanks to all my board for their help, encouragement and support through the year. Members should be aware that every person on the board has worked selflessly for that single, central purpose of enhancing the lives of their fellow Brits in the Club. I don't know if we've moved the Club forward at all, as it is not for me to judge, but I do know that we've had a few laughs along the way. For a social club, that is pretty much all we need to do.

Cheers,

Steve Adams



SANDRA'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

December Recipe:

With all the stress of preparing the Christmas Dinner, I found this recipe helps to really simplify a side dish, and can be made up ahead, (and frozen if needed) This is my version of a recipe from the UK's Good Housekeeping magazine. I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season with lots of cheer!



Root Veg Mash

4 large parsnips, peeled and roughly chopped
1 large celeriac, peeled and roughly chopped
4 medium potatoes
1 Tbsp butter
1 Tbsp oil
1-2 Tbsp Horseradish

Place all vegetables in large saucepan and cover with salted water. Bring to a boil, and cook until tender about 10-15 minutes. Drain. Mash the vegetables in the pan, and beat in the butter, oil and horseradish.

Season to taste

6 servings

(Recipe from Sandra Cherry, Union Jack Food Columnist. I welcome any recipe requests and comments, and can be reached at Yourcuppateal@yahoo.com)



Précis of Sarasota British Club Board Minutes

November 14th 2013:

Bank Balance \$ 8,816.26 (Includes Christmas Party reservations)
Club Insurance increased to \$301.00 annually / Currently 165 members (72 families and 21 singles) / Articles and ideas for the newsletter need to be submitted to Brian Thompson by the 20th of the month. Some members are not getting the newsletter, Post Office delay.

Website now updated and is a work in progress, there have been some problems with PayPal not going through / October 13th Cocktail party at the Polo Grill, attended by about 50, was a successful evening / Kayak outing October 26th, enjoyed by all/ Guy Fawkes night on November 2nd at Oscar Scherer Park, October 25th was enjoyed despite the rain/ There was some concern about a company who was to fine the Club for 'unauthorized use' of a picture for a recipe on the web site, Steve had communicated with the company and they rescinded the complaint/ AGM to be November 16th, Proposed nominee candidates for the 2014 Board listed in newsletter/ Friends of the Sarasota Ballet extended an invitation to have a tour behind the scenes, this is planned for January 23rd. /Christmas party plans for December 14th, coming along well, will ask members in the newsletter if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize. Reservations are coming in / Brian has sent out information regarding the Sarasota Cricket Club's Six-a-side international tournament on November 28th-Dec 1. / Board discussed choices for a charity for the Club's annual donation, and it was agreed to donate \$1,500 to 'The Family Partnership Center' which would assist children and families in need in Sarasota and Manatee County/ Next Club Luncheon planned for November 22nd at Mediterraneo Restaurant in Sarasota/ Next Board meeting scheduled for December 4th, at the home of Sue and Roy Ford, Incoming 2014 board members will be invited/ Thanks expressed to hosts Steve and Diane Adams for their hospitality for the Board meeting.

Sandra F Cherry, Secretary



BADGES.

The Club has purchased these attractive badges for the members. They are free! Please ask about them at the next function that you attend.



2013 Board of Directors

President:	Steve Adams	580-6458	sha@adamsiac.com
Vice President:	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Linda Polsin	378-7821	mrsbrit52@aol.com
Secretary:	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Paul Wilkinson	410-990-4698	pwilkinson18@comcast.net
Newsletter/Website:	B. Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Director at Large1:	Jane Hersee-Lee	706-1172	janeherseelee3@verizon.net
Director at Large2:	Mark Malkasian	918-8360	mark@armeng.com
Director at Large3:	Glen Stillwell	201-6324	sstil10289@aol.com

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.



Newsletter non-delivery—it happens!

Even your Editor can fall foul of the postal system of delivery and my copy of BritNews twice failed to arrive. If your copy has not arrived by the end of the first week of each month, please email me for the PDF version (in colour) lakewood2@gmail.com



Thoughts for today

Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
Middle of the road,
And back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once,
But temptation bangs on the front door forever

Some minds are like concrete
Thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Sarasota British Club Christmas Party
Heritage Oak Country Club



400 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota, FL
December 14th, 2013 - 6.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
Cost: \$40.00 Members - \$50.00 Non Members

Menu Choice

Jubilee Salad

Poached Pear and Gorgonzola Salad with Candied Pecans
Baby Mixed Greens and Port Wine & Pear Vinaigrette

Choose One of the Two Following Entrees

Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef with
Baked Potato and Fresh Vegetable Medley

Or

Char Grilled Atlantic Salmon
Mascarpone Potatoes Cake, Fennel & Cherry Tomatoes

Dessert

Classic Bread Pudding with Sauce Anglaise or Vanilla Ice Cream

Coffee.
Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter

Reservation Form

All payments to be sent to 'Sarasota British Club', PO Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276
Please return slip with payments

Deadline for bookings is 11th December (all payments to be received by this date)



FULL NAME	MEMBER OR GUEST	CHOICE OF ENTRÉE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Names of those you would like to sit with _____

Following the AGM, below are the elected members of the 2014 SBC Board.

- President: Gary Lee**
- Vice-President: Sandra Cherry**
- Treasurer: Mark Malkasian**
- Secretary: Diana Bradfield**
- Membership Director: Paul Wilkinson**
- Newsletter Editor & Website: Brian Thompson**
- Immediate Past President: Steve Adams**
- Director-at-Large: Jane Jacobs**
- Director-at-Large: Jane Hersee-Lee**
- Director-at-Large: Glenn Stilwell**

Just a thought

A little girl and her father were crossing a bridge. The father was kind of scared so he asked his little daughter: "Sweetheart, please hold my hand so that you don't fall into the river." The little girl said: "No, Dad. You hold my hand." "What's the difference?" Asked the puzzled father. "There's a big difference," replied the little girl. "If I hold your hand and something happens to me, chances are that I may let your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go."

In any relationship, the essence of trust is not in its bind, but in its bond. So hold the hand of the person whom you love rather than expecting them to hold yours..."

Unknown



Transportation to Club Events

The Board has recently designated Mark Malkasian as our Transportation Coordinator to assist those in need of rides to Club events. Mark is hoping to create a small pool of member volunteers willing to provide wheels to members. This is a call for volunteers to step forward to help. This also is a call to contact him if you are in need of transport to a particular event. He can be reached by email mark@armeng.com or phone (941-918-8360). Beware! He has a list of all the Club members and their zip codes so he's hoping you won't mind, when necessary, if he calls you to ask if you can assist a nearby member in getting to an event you are planning to attend. Thank you.



UK Movies and Television shows on DVD

There are many UK TV shows that have found their way onto DVD, but not all are available in Region 1 (NTSC) format. The best option would be to buy a multi-region DVD player. They are available for about \$40 (see Amazon.com and others), and \$150 or more if you wanted a Blu-Ray player.

You can play Region 2 DVDs on a computer BUT you will probably have a warning message asking you to decide which region you are going to watch in future. Another option to this latter dilemma, for both PCs and Macs is to download VLC Media Player—a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player. See <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/index.html>.

Run this with your chosen DVD and your computer should not ask you to make that choice between Region 1 or Region 2.

If you search on for UK shows on DVD, remember to also search on Amazon.co.uk or Ebay.co.uk. I have found that some Ebay sellers who would not mail to the USA, so you will need to have a friend/family's UK address to handle these.

Brian Thompson

Welcome new members

We welcome the following new members; Peadar (Peter) Mara is a part-time resident of Venice, spending six months here, and six in his native Ireland. Peter is a retired airline employee, and enjoys running and racquetball.

Colette Penn lives in Sarasota and is a retired educator. She is widely traveled, having lived in Nigeria and Dubai and continues to travel the world in search of 'all things beautiful'. She dreams of becoming the world's greatest classical pianist!

Guy Fawkes Night celebration

Approximately 30 members braved the elements on a showery November day to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night at the Oscar Scherer state park in Osprey. The club rented a pavilion, with fire pit for the obligatory bonfire. The weather cooperated, and reminded us all of childhood bonfire nights when it seemed to always rain! This time, however, the rain was confined to a brief shower, and the pavilion provided shelter.

Paul and Diana Wilkinson organized traditional hot dogs, baked potatoes, and soft drinks. They also provided a Guy, which was duly sacrificed on the fire. All agreed that it was a very satisfactory event



On Your Computer

How to create a PDF file. What is it and why would you want one?

They were invented by Adobe Systems and perfected over 20 years. When you share a PDF file, virtually anyone can **read** it using the free Adobe Reader® software. For Adobe Reader—Click on this button on the newsletter page of our website. If your software does not offer an option to **create** a PDF file you can use a free product such as CutePDF (cutepdf.com/) or PDF Creator (sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/) or PDF995 (pdf995.com/)



Once you have downloaded and installed the software all you need to do is treat it like an extra printer. Select the PDF printer instead of your normal one to be prompted for the file name.

For example: Recently I was asked to supply my bank details in PDF format so I could be wired some money. Creating a PDF file from my Word file meant that although it could be copied, it made it difficult to be altered. Sending a file of any type is fraught with problems if the recipient doesn't have the same type of computer (Apple v PC) or software program. PDF files are pretty universal. Monthly I email this newsletter for proofreading and to the printer as a PDF file, created from within Microsoft Publisher. Any questions, please email me at lakewood2@gmail.com

Brian Thompson

Up A Lazy River (continued from November's issue)

The final night ...and a trip to the Grand Ole Opry was organized in the usual slapdash way we had come to expect of our cruise directors, but against the odds we got there and back..as to the show and the G/O/O itself everyone should go once..it's best described as Two and a Half Hours of Tuneful misery...Lost loves (shame)..two-timing men (Rotters).. Strumpets casting their wicked spells over God- fearing fellows wearing 10 gallon Stetsons (I have nothing against strumpets so we will let that one go).

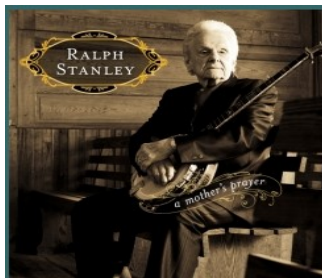
The Acts..First on Leroy Van Dyke who had a hit in 1961 with 'Wait on the Corner.' If she is still there Leroy's love is by now well into her seventies and probably more concerned with her varicose veins and fallen arches than Leroy's entreaties.

Next off Mel Tillis..A chap I have never heard of but he has a reasonable voice..in fact a good voice for an 81 year old ..which he is. What he isn't is the oldest cast member, that honour goes to Doctor Ralph Stanley, a chap of small stature, dressed in an undertaker's frock coat



Mel Tillis

and sporting a grey bouffant wig which Dolly Parton would have put in the bin. Ralph, according to Wikipedia is 86, and it must be said I thought he looked older. (In 1984 he was a recipient of the "National Heritage Award" given by President Ronald Reagan. *Editor.*) Doctor Ralph had a hit with a song called 'Oh Death' (from the soundtrack of the movie 'O Brother Where Art Thou'.)



Ralph Stanley

which one can say he has done a good job avoiding or a soon to be a self fulfilling wish..whatever. He surrounds himself with a group of young chaps who sing the songs. Ralph himself occasionally joins in but for the most part looks a bemused onlooker who is ready for cocoa and bed.

Interspersed between acts we had two female soloists who both sang the same song, which was strange as was their renditions of 'Amazing Grace'. I think if Billy Graham had been there he may have wondered if he had picked the right side.

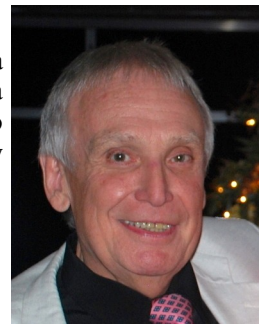
Then onto a chap called Craig Morgan. Craig is a fair singer and on a smaller stage would be OK, but the G/O/O is not small..and it has very large screens to show the singers off, when singing Craig's jaw swings to the right and the left side of his mouth closes ..then after a minute the Jaw goes left and the right side closes..this is not an easy feat but is fascinating to watch, unfortunately fascination soon gives way to the giggles, some audience members appeared to be trying to push hankies into their mouths to stifle said giggles, with little success I may add.

All this being said ..It was a good entertainment, the bands were excellent, the guitar playing superb, and it was an enjoyable night

and er..I may have exaggerated a little. That was about the end of the trip. We had a couple of days in Nashville. There is a vibrancy in the city, it feels like a place to go to, a place where things happen. Hopefully we shall return there.

That's it, hope you enjoyed the tour.

Norman Shelley.
avalondistance@yahoo.co.uk



"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily."

Zig Ziglar

Kayaking Report

Being a first time kayaker I was definitely out of my comfort zone; until I got into the kayak and was taught how to paddle! Having never done it before I did not really know what to expect, what I didn't expect was the feeling of pure joy at being on the water, watching fish jump, eagles fly and my fellow kayakers having a wonderful time. What took me so long to try this? I could rave about the experience for hours but all I can really say is that, it was a beautiful experience and one I hope to do many times over. Thank you Mark for arranging it all.

Penny Mulak



Photos by Penny Mulak— for more see our FB page.

Pantomimes- A great British tradition at Christmas time

Christmas is coming and when in Britain, you can't beat going out to see a good pantomime.

Pantomime is British. No one else has it, and it is a wonderful (if a little eccentric!) British institution.

In America this very British art form has never caught on and not many Americans even know what a pantomime is, although in 1868 a production of "Humpty Dumpty" ran for over 1,200 performances at the Olympic Theatre, New York, making it the most successful Pantomime in American history.

The origins of British Pantomime or "Panto" as it is known, date back to the middle ages, taking on board the traditions of the Italian "Commedia dell' Arte and British Music hall to produce an intrinsic art form that constantly adapted to survive up to the present day.

Pantomimes always take place around the Christmas period but the storylines and scripts make no reference to Christmas, instead they are nearly always based on traditional children's stories such as Peter Pan, Aladdin, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty etc.

Pantomimes are performed not only in the best theatres in the land but also in village halls throughout Britain. Whether a lavish professional performance or a local amateur dramatic production, all pantomimes are well

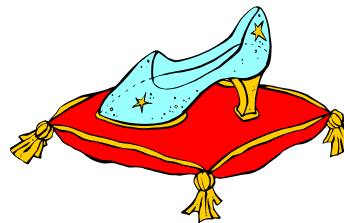
attended by mainly families.

Pantomimes incorporate song, dance, singing and buffoonery. Slapstick is another important part of a British pantomime - the throwing of custard pies, the ugly sisters (who are always played by men) falling over, lots of silly costumes including of course, sexual innuendoes and not forgetting the pantomime horse which is played by two people in a horses costume.

Audience participation is a very important part of a pantomime. The audience are encouraged to boo the villain whenever he enters the stage, argue with the Dame (who is always a man) and warn the Principal Boy (who is always a girl) when the villain is behind them by shouting out "He's behind you!"

Pantomimes are a huge hit with children as they love to interact and get involved with the show which is a great introduction for them to learn to love conventional theater.

Tracy Corporan.



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