
Brit Club News

February, 2006

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

Vol. 6, Issue 2



Coming Events

February 7

Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at Tastefully British, 2236 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota.

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

February 24

Wine Tasting – Due to popular request, we are having a wine tasting event at Word of Mouth restaurant, 6604 Gateway Avenue, Sarasota on Friday evening from 7:30 to 10 pm. Gateway Avenue runs north off Gulf Gate, opposite Tastefully British. The restaurant is normally only open for breakfast and lunch, but the English owner and new member of our club has offered us the use of the premises for this event.

We shall be tasting six wines, both red and white, and enjoying pates, cheeses, crackers, French bread, croissants, fruit, etc. All wines may be purchased by the bottle or case. We have requested wines in the \$9 to \$12 price range. Individuals purchasing a case will be given a discount.

The cost of the event is \$10 per person for members, and \$13 for

non-members, to be paid at the door. We must have a minimum of 20 attendees for this event to take place. Please RVSP, as soon as possible, to Glenys Oldham at 966-1240.

February 28

Eleven's Chin Wag – This is a chance to sit and chat (or wag the chins) with other Brit Club members, as we used to do. We will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:30 to 12 noon at Tastefully British Tea Room, 2236 Gulf Gate Drive. Hostess Debbie Gypp will provide a beverage (at no charge) and optional scone and cream (for a nominal charge). At this first meeting, we will discuss what we'd like to plan for future Chin Wags. The March 28th meeting will feature a presentation on tea, its history, customs and health benefits, by Sandra Cherry of Your Cup of Tea. This Eleven's group used to meet monthly, with speakers, so if you have a topic that might be of interest, let us know. Please RSVP Debbie at 927-2612.

March 3

Russian National Ballet – Direct from Moscow, the Russian National Ballet Company of 50 will be performing Sleeping Beauty at the Van Wezel. Considered the finest achievement in Classical Ballet, it is a grandiose and refined blending of traditional mime, expressive pas d'action and spectacular divertissements in a lavish theatrical setting.

The curtain goes up at 8 pm and tickets are \$45 and \$55 each. If you would like to attend this event please contact Glenys Oldham at 966-1240.

Groups of 20 or more receive a 10% discount.

March 7

Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at Tastefully British, 2236 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota.

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

March 19

Barbeque – Let's all head out to Siesta Key Beach for a barbeque! Bring your own hamburgers, buns & beverages and a dish to pass. The barbeques will be hot and the music even hotter for those who want to boogie. We will start at 5 pm and finish at 9 pm or whenever. You can find us at the "shelter". If you are facing the beach from the parking lot, the structure by the volleyball nets is the "gazebo", not the shelter. The shelter is about 300 yards further down to the left.

Caledonian Club Event

That wonderful Scottish group, The Caledonian Club, is having their 20th Anniversary Bash on March 18 at "The Oaks." It should be a spectacular evening of excellent food, great dancing (to The Natural Vibes -- they played last year and were fantastic) and a very elegant location. Chairing the event is the lovely Pauline Mitchell, (a lady of very good taste who likes to have a lot of fun!).

If any of you would like to attend, please call Shona Burtner at let me know and we can arrange to have some tables set aside. The cost is \$52 per person.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From Our President

The new board had a long, but very productive first meeting in January. We set our goals for 2006, started the ball rolling on some improvements to the running of the club, and set a preliminary social schedule for the year. See the front page for the schedule.

We are currently working on a budget for 2006 and hope to finalize this at the February 7th meeting. We began 2005 with 145 members and ended the year with only 124 members (both figures excluding children). Because we lost 21 members, our expected income for 2006 may be less than last year, unless we can attract a lot of new members. This means that we have less money to spend on events and may have to hold more events where members bring a dish to pass, rather than the club providing food. The board did discuss increasing membership dues, but we did not feel that would be welcomed by the membership at the present time.

The party at my home was a big success, with 44 individuals attending. It was good to see some long-time members return as well as some of our newest members. People showed up with lots of good food, the beer and wine flowed, and everyone had a good time. Now we all need to lose a little weight after all those great desserts people brought along.

Our next event will be a wine tasting evening at Word of Mouth restaurant. This promises to be a good evening. We have been promised a "good spread", as well as some good wines to taste. I hope to see many of you there.

Glenys Oldham, President

Board's Goals for 2006

At the January 3rd board meeting the new board set themselves the following goals for 2006. Work has already begun on some of these goals, and the board plans to achieve them all during the year.

- ✓ Attract more members
- ✓ Better communication with members
- ✓ Improve Business Network membership/attendance
- ✓ Better organize records, etc.
- ✓ Improve Newsletter
- ✓ Publish Club brochure
- ✓ Increase Advertising in newsletter
- ✓ Redo Outdated Bylaws

Brit Club Board of Directors

President.....	Glenys Oldham	966-1240	travelgal90@comcast.net
1st Vice President	Nairn Gillet	366-9984	ngillet@yahoo.com
2nd Vice President	Mick Gypps.....	315-0932	tastebritish@aol.com
Treasurer	Shona Burtner	925-0462	shonaburtner@hotmail.com
Secretary	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com
Membership Secretary	Kathy Curtin.....	379-9861	kathrmcurt@msn.com
Directors.....	Terry Sweeney	918-0550	tsweeneyau@aol.com
	Amy Croshaw	751-6194	acrowshaw@verizon.net
	Ann Doran.....	486-0922	padccd@aol.com
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Website Administrator	James Croshaw.....	751-6194	acrowshaw@verizon.net
Public Relations	Nairn Gillet	366-9984	ngillet@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Rose Gillet	366-9984	rosegillet@yahoo.com

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

I always so love the wonderful names of our British foods, and this one is no exception. Cock-a-Leekie soup just rolls off the tongue, especially with a lovely Scottish brogue. All it really means, though, is a chicken soup with leeks, but how much more interesting it sounds as Cock-a-leekie, or sometimes know as Cockie-Leekie. It is a very traditional Scottish soup, often served at Burns night celebrations, and the original recipe also used beef as well as chicken

In the olden days the chickens weren't all processed like today's poultry, and I'm sure since the chickens were valued for their eggs, they were only consumed after they had stopped laying, so obviously could be rather tough. I usually cook with skinless chicken breasts to be careful with the fat and calories, but a whole chicken is really best to use for this recipe. Also I am not a big fan of prunes, but they really do add a distinct flavour to this recipe. A crock pot is ideal for cooking if you have the time. Be sure to wash the leeks carefully so there is no sand left; they may need several rinsings. Rice is used in about half the recipes I've sampled, and I prefer to have it in, so I included it. I hope you enjoy my version of this classic soup.

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

1 whole chicken (2-3 lb.)
6-8 cups water
2 medium onions, peeled and roughly chopped
8 medium leeks, trimmed, rinsed, cut in slices
1 bay leaf
1 tsp thyme
2 chicken bouillon cubes
Salt and pepper
½ lb pitted prunes, halved
¾ cup white rice
3 Tbsp fresh parsley

Wash the chicken and season inside and out. Place in a large saucepan, and cover with the water. Add onions, leeks, bay leaf, thyme, crumbled bouillon cubes, salt, pepper and prunes. Cover and simmer gently about 1½ hours, turning the chicken over halfway through cooking. Remove any froth occasionally. Lift out the chicken and, when cooled, remove skin and bones, and shred the meat coarsely. Remove the bay leaf. Return shredded chicken to the broth. Add the rice and parsley, and slowly simmer until the rice is cooked. (If adding cooked beef, add the last 10 minutes of cooking). Serves 6-8.

Recipe from Sandra Cherry of "Your Cup of Tea" – Yourcuppteal@yahoo.com and www.yourcupoftea.info

January Board Meeting Notes

Ann Doran was voted in as one of the directors. The board discussed goals including attracting new members, better organising records, reprinting and distributing brochures and redoing the Bylaws. Meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, at Tastefully British, next one February 7th; We officially plan to change the name to the "British Club of Sarasota". Newsletter items must be in to the editor by 15th of the month. We need to encourage putting advertisements into newsletter, resume new members spotlight, and move the board listing inside. We plan to keep the web site updated and remove the membership list, but to include it biannually in the newsletter. Tentative activities are: February – Wine Tasting, March – BBQ Picnic, April – Brunch, May – Scavenger Hunt, June – Bowling, July, August and September – open, October – AGM with event, November – open, December – Christmas Party.

Do You Own Your Own Business?

For advertising, our rates are reasonable and such an ad not 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 are as follows:

Business Card size.....\$10.00
Quarter Page.....\$15.00
Half Page.....\$25.00
Full Page.....\$40.00

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 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.

Future Events

April 23

Sunday Brunch – Back by popular request is Sunday Brunch at the Hilton Hotel on Long Boat Key. Brunch is served on the deck over-looking the beach and swimming pool. Umbrellas are present for shade, or we can sit inside. We plan to make a reservation so that we can all sit together. Please call Amy Croshaw at 751-6194 to make your reservation.

May 7

Boot Sale – Clean out your closets and garages, pack up the Xmas gifts you didn't like, sort through all your books & videos, and head to Tastefully British in Gulf Gate for the Brit Club Car Boot Sale. It will be held from 10 am to 2 pm. Sunday breakfast is served at Tastefully British from 9:30 am for those who want to indulge themselves first (remember to make a reservation by calling 927-2612). Tastefully British will remain open to tempt you with their delicious scones or a good cup of English tea during and after the car boot sale.

We are joining forces again this year with the Car Club of Sarasota. The male members can come and view the beautiful vintage cars while their wives scour the car boot goods for sale. Please contact Sandra Cherry at 927-2612 if you wish to sell from your car.

Also in May

Scavenger Hunt – The date and details have yet to be finalized, so watch this newsletter for further information.

Rose's Corner

I want to wish you all a peaceful and happy New Year. May 2006 be the Brit Club's best year ever!!

We are anticipating a wonderful new year with our new Brit Club board. Welcome returning members and those of you who are standing for board positions for the first time – welcome aboard!!

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.



Brit Club News



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P. O. Box 21063
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS ON THE BRIT CLUB FLYER?

If you wish to advertise your business, why not do so on the back of the British Club flyer? The cost is \$50 per ad for the entire year – all brochures printed in 2006. We plan to have the flyers available in lots of British businesses around town. That's a pretty good deal and lots of exposure for your business. If you are interested, please forward your ad (you can use a business card if you wish) to Rose Gillet, 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235, and your check for \$50 to the British Society of Sarasota, P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Among the top choices of members from our 2006 Proposed Activities Survey were the Potluck Supper at a Member's Home and a Progressive Dinner Evening. In order to have either of these activities, we need volunteers to open their home and host these events.

Anyone willing to host the Potluck Supper needs to stipulate the number of individuals they could accommodate.

We would need three individuals to host the Progressive Dinner Evening, assuming three courses would be involved. If we had enough members interested we may need to increase that number to 6 or 9 individuals. Again, anyone volunteering would need to stipulate the number of people they can accommodate. Everyone attending would be expected to contribute to the cooking.

Please call Glenys Oldham at 966-1240 or e-mail at travelgal90@comcast.net if you are willing to volunteer as a host.

MONTHLY HOROSCOPES

As many club members will know. I took a year off due to family and personal reasons. Now, with the coming of 2006, I am back and ready to share with you my "Astrology" knowledge. I hope you enjoy my column.

2006 has what we call a "Lunar Standstill" in it. Next time you look up at the Moon, you may think it seems a little higher in the sky than usual. You may have noticed last summer the moon was exceptionally low. Some nights it looked as though it only just made the tops of the trees, and this summer the moon will look as if it is sitting on the horizon. This extreme seasonal contrast only happens once in every eighteen and a half years. It is said to be a magical, powerful cycle. So, look for the unexpected in the universe and also in people's behavior.

There are going to be two Solar Eclipses, the first on 29th March and the second on 22nd September, and two Lunar eclipses, the first on 14th March and the second on 7th September. If your birthday falls on any of these dates, be ready for a year with some unforeseen twists and turns.

My first Horoscope this year will be the sign "Aquarius" 21st January – 19th February. There is a lot now that you do not even have to contemplate. If your heart is leading your head, all will be well. Remember, you don't have to be an electronics expert to operate a computer or a car mechanic to drive a car. Don't waste time, energy or emotion making mountains out of mole hills. Just get on with living and enjoy what you have, not what you might have lost. Responsibilities connected with relationships may limit personal travel experiences this year, but traveling for work or business will prove productive. There are some important decision-making situations to deal with in 2006. Just remember to follow your heart and that inner voice; it won't let you down.

"Pisces" 20th February – 20th March This is a going to be a very good year for you. Don't worry if you haven't seen any signs of this yet. There are some very positive, powerful planetary influences out there coming your way. Once the planetary alignments click in, you will have no doubts about your future or what it is you want out of life. Meanwhile, get yourself ready for a move in home or position. Your life is going to change in a big way, so don't hold back when opportunity comes knocking at your door. Promise yourself you're going to worry less and enjoy yourself more in 2006, and stick to it. You can be a real pain at times to live with – just try to **lighten up**.

Next month we will see how you "Aries" are doing. May the Angels stay at your side and watch over you

Sue MoonStar

New Member Spotlight

Larry & Glyn Nortonen enjoyed the Christmas Party so much they decided to join the club in January. Larry, an aircraft mechanic from Virginia Beach, met Glyn at RAF Mildenhall when he was stationed in England. After retiring from the military in 1994 after twenty years of service, Larry and Glyn moved to Saudi Arabia for four years where they made a friend from Bradenton, of all places. After their friend moved back to Bradenton and was working at the airport, he persuaded Larry to apply for a job there too, and in 2000 they became Sarasota residents. Larry loves do-it-yourself projects, football, golf, gliding, motorcycles and traveling. He is now launching a new career for himself as a paralegal. Glyn hails from Norwich and is a dedicated certified nursing assistant who works with Alzheimer's patients. Glyn also loves traveling, gardening, biking and watercolor painting. Both are dog lovers and have two at home.

George Langa & Arlene Simonities were guests of a board member at the Christmas Party and enjoyed it so much they also decided to join in January. They moved to Florida from Ohio where George was a dentist and Arlene had her own beauty shop. George likes gardening and flying. He owns his own plane, which is still back in Ohio. Arlene likes to attend auctions, travel and line dance. They reside in Sorrento East in Nokomis, along with their rather large, but very friendly cat.

Richard & Mary Cook also joined in January after picking up one of our newsletters. Richard is originally from Watford, but his job took him to Montreal for five years, Japan for three years, and South Africa for eight years. He finally transferred to Princeton, New Jersey in 1983 where his realtor set him up on a blind date with his now wife, Mary, who hails from Connecticut. During a vacation in Russia, Richard proposed to Mary while traveling from Moscow to St. Petersburg on the Red Arrow Express and enjoying caviar and champagne. How could any woman resist such a romantic proposal? Upon retiring in 2001 the couple moved to Sarasota. Mary still works part time as an executive assistant to a financial management consultant. Richard enjoys golf, cooking, traveling, and writing books. He has self-published a couple of books and is currently working on a humorous one about golf. Mary enjoys music and reading.

Jeremy & Priscilla Adams became new members in January. Jeremy is originally from Birmingham, although being the son of a British publican, he lived all over Britain. He lived in various countries while working for Club Med, which is where he met his wife Priscilla, also working at Club Med. They both ended their careers with Club Med in Las Vegas, where they lived for four years. An offer from the Ritz Carlton brought them to Sarasota. Since then Jeremy decided to try his hand at owning his own restaurant, and has offered his premises to us for our wine tasting event in February and for future events. When not working, Jeremy enjoys golf. Priscilla is a stay-at-home mother, but enjoys shopping and does some substitute teaching when she gets the chance. They live in Osprey with their four year old daughter, Jemma.

Welcome all of you! Members, please make a point of introducing yourself to our new members at our forthcoming events and personally welcoming them to the club.

Check out our Website!

During 2005 the British Club website was finally launched. I say "finally" because putting together a website such as this is not done in a few hours or even a few days. Rather, it takes months of hard work, all done by our own **James Croshaw**.

The board originally hoped that all newsletters would be transmitted electronically to members via the website, thereby saving the cost of publishing and mailing. It proved to be an unpopular decision among most of our members, so we reverted to the regular method of using the U.S. Mail. While this was disappointing for James, it in no way reflected upon his website. James did a fabulous job of putting it together. It's a vital tool that was very much needed by the club.

We received almost one thousand hits on the website in the first four months alone. Since then we have received several new members via the website, and it is available for anyone thinking of moving to Sarasota to review. It can only continue to help bring in new members and spread the word of the existence of the club.

Thank you, James, for a fantastic job that will bring the club into the electronic age and benefit us forthwith.