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BritClub News



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

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BritClub News

February, 2008

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

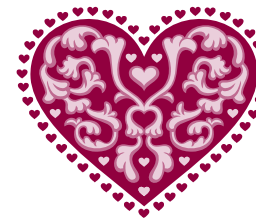
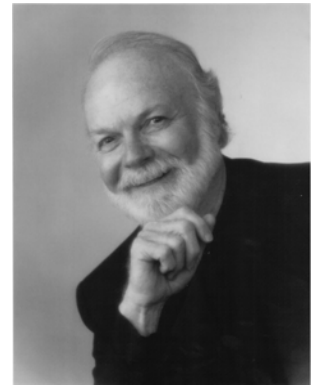
Vol. 8, Issue 2

Coming Events

Board Meeting Feb. 7 – 6:30 p.m. at the home of Terry Sweeney, 588 Meadow Sweet Circle., Osprey. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, BUT PLEASE PHONE AHEAD AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

Valentine's Potluck Dinner February 15 – Join us at 7:00 pm at the South Bay Yacht Club for a special Valentine's Dinner event. In addition to a delectable meal, we will be treated to a hilarious performance by the award-winning, internationally known comedic magician, Dan Tong.

Dan started his career as a magician in the 50's in Rhode Island, performing and touring for two years with the Fu Ling Show. Afterwards, Dan was stationed in Japan where he started performing at bases and clubs which launched a tour around Asia. Upon returning to the US in the 60's, Dan started his popular "Lecture Run," training his mastered craft to budding magicians. In the 70's he enjoyed the success of becoming one of the country's top restaurant magicians. Dan also had a stint as being a clown in the 70's, one of which was for MacDonald's Corporation, as Mr. Ronald MacDonald himself! (Which is also where he met his wife!) Before coming to Florida in the 80's, Dan and his wife, Pauline, also had a successful act together touring the Caribbean on cruise ships, and in the US and Canada. During this busy time, they established a highly regarded magic manufacturing business. Needless to say, we are in for a fabulous night of fun, we're just glad that we were able to book him!



The cost of this event will be \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. The club will provide the meat, plates, cutlery, glasses, etc. We ask that you bring one dish of your choice to share. This event is also BYOB.

Space is limited, so please book early. Upon booking, please send your check in to the PO Box address, listed on the front of the newsletter. To RSVP, please phone Amy Croshaw at 928-2580 or e-mail at acroshaw@verizon.net.

SouthbayYacht Club is at 1400, Southbay Drive, in Osprey. From U.S.41 (Tamiami Trail), turn west (towards the water) on Southbay Drive (just south of Blackburn Point Rd - look out for a Shell gas station) and north of Oscar Scherer State Park and follow it round until you see the Clubhouse.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

Mark Your Calendar

“Best Seller” March 1 – Join us at the Manatee Players to see the world premiere of an exciting new musical, “Best Seller” written and composed by one of our newest members, Don Crabb. “BEST SELLER” was selected as a winner from 491 entries in a world wide contest for new musicals under the patronage of Andrew Lloyd Webber. To quote the Manatee Players, “It is a sparkling comedy with joyous music and an affectionate celebration of New York City.”

Manatee Players has organized a special matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 1st for Sarasota British Club members. 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.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Fay Murphy (President of the Bradenton AAUW, who is arranging this special performance) at 758-5140. You will be able to choose seating preference (and to check availability) with Fay. Upon reserving your tickets, please promptly send payment directly to Fay at the following address: Fay Murphy, 5932 Java Plum Lane, Bradenton, FL 34203. Tickets are selling fast, so please contact Fay soon if interested in attending.



Pub Crawl March 15 – Due to popular demand, one of our most popular events is returning. That’s right, the trolley is booked, the flags are out, and we’re going on a pub crawl once again! We will be meeting at 5:30PM in the parking lot of The Open (formerly The British Open) on Central Sarasota Pkwy for a prompt 6:00pm departure. The crawl will last around 2 hours, after which we will return to the Open, where those wishing to stay may have dinner.

The cost of this event is \$16 for members, \$20 for non-members: **price does not include dinner or libations**. Due to the popularity of this event, please book ASAP if you wish to attend. This event is guaranteed to be a sellout.

To RSVP, please contact Amy Croshaw at 928-2580 or e-mail at acroshaw@verizon.net. Please also let her know if you will be staying for dinner at The Open, so she can secure a place.

St. George's Day/Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Gala April 19 – Saturday 19 April will find us gathering at the Coach and Horses Pub at Lockwood Ridge and University Parkway to honour both our Patron Saint and her Majesty the Queen with a gala dinner and pub quiz night from 6-10pm. You will be able to order anything off the menu you desire and pub master Alan just might make both of his fabled Sunday roasts (beef and pork) available to us. There will be a quiz, a raffle and other fun and games. You pay only for what you eat and drink. Reservations ARE absolutely required and seating is limited. Please ring Amy Croshaw at 928-2580 or Terry Sweeney at 918.0550 if you plan on attending.

Membership News

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

Welcome this month to **Bill Torrence, Jeff & Ethel Doughty and Ian and Sophia Manwaring**

Ian Manwaring sent the following about his family. As we are only part time Floridians (around 12 weeks a year) I’m not sure whether we justify a potted history in the newsletter, but in any case, here goes. For most of the year we live in South Staffordshire in the UK. We have been visiting the Gulf Coast for many years, formerly at our Port Richey vacation home in Pasco, but after speaking to Sarasota resident Andrew Bartlett, we decided to buy further south and chose Bradenton for our new Florida home. We love the area and lifestyle and, of course, the weather. It is great to mix time between Florida and the UK, but we would love to make Florida a permanent base in the future when the time is right.

Sophia and I have been married for 8 years and have a son Ryan, aged 6. Sophia previously worked for Lloyds TSB Private Bank alongside me and is now the proud PTA chairperson at Ryan’s school, but keen also to learn about the PTA culture in Florida. She also enjoys cooking and interior design.

I’ve been a UK investment and pensions advisor for 16 years and am currently Alexander Beard Group’s US Marketing Manager promoting their wealth services to CPA’s and UK expatriates in Florida. Our son Ryan loves the lifestyle and currently has golf lessons in the UK, so he adores the Florida novelty of aqua driving ranges!

We will look out for events that coincide with our trips, though I do hope to at least make the BBC meeting in March. I actually met Tony Olson in December on business, and I’m sure that his presentation and knowledge will be very useful for members. A nice guy.

Jeff & Ethel Doughty met on board ship en-route to Canada, Ethel on holiday from Belfast, Jeff from Leeds as an immigrant. They married in Toronto, have one daughter, a psychologist living in Vancouver, married to a doctor, have 2 grandsons, one of whom is following his father’s footsteps.

Ethel & Jeff are retired and live six months in Niagara on the Lake in Ontario and six months on beautiful Anna Maria Island. Jeff’s career in aviation started with B.O.A.C in New York, then a number of years with KLM in Toronto, and on to ownership of a charter airline operating two DC-8 aircraft to many international destinations. Jeff’s hobby was boating on Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes.

After their daughter’s marriage Ethel opened a travel company in Toronto specializing in the movement of orchestras, choirs and many International Artists round the world. One of her major accounts was the Toronto International Film Festival, (the second largest film festival in the world). One of Ethel’s favourite pastimes was as a member of the Toronto University Women’s Club she was founder and president of the Dragon Flyers Investment Club.

Our interests are opera, continuing education and traveling, mainly by ship.

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 _____

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

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, 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.

Rose's Corner

I'm really looking forward to the Valentine's Pot Luck Dinner and the performance by Dan Tong. It sounds like it will be a lot of fun – I always love a good magician!

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

From Our President

Dear Friends:

While our January events were of limited appeal to much of our membership, we hope that by responding to requests for help regarding immigration to the U.S we demonstrated our commitment to providing information as well as fun. We are indebted to attorney Tony Olson for giving us so much of his time and expertise.

The program for the next few months runs the gamut from magic and comedy in February; a Pub Crawl followed by dinner in March; The Queen's Birthday and St. George's Day Dinner in April. For May, we are planning a cruise on Sarasota Bay.

Also, keep in mind the Scottish Highland Games in Venice in March where we will be manning a tent and promoting our Club.

Now a plea for help. We wish to hold some of our events in new and different venues. If you live in a gated or golf/yacht club community that has a clubhouse and you are willing to sponsor a BritClub event at your clubhouse, please send me an e-mail at tsweeneyau@aol.com. This doesn't mean you have to do any hard work (unless you insist), just that you are willing to act as a liaison between us and your community organization.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Your club continues to grow and we've topped the one hundred and fifty mark – so continue to spread the word!!

I welcome your comments at any time.

Warm regards,
Terry Sweeney

January 7th Board Meeting Précis:

Treasurer's balance \$3,320.32. Four Christmas party dinners reimbursed due to illnesses. Cheque received from Fine English China sales in November. Currently 149 paid up members (85 households). Domain names to be renewed for web site. Still looking for venues for BBC meetings. Christmas party deemed a great success again, looking for new venue for 2008 party. Gifts and money for sponsored family from Mothers helping mothers were delivered by Amy & Sandra. January to have Tony Olson, immigration Lawyer talk on the 12th and the 15th. Also several club member plan to attend the Scottish dancing ballet on the 27th. February 15th Valentine's Pot luck dinner with magician, Dan Tong. March 15th Pub crawl planned. March will also include a tent at the Highland Games on the 29th, and Queen's birthday/St Georges day evening planned at the Coach and Horses in April. Anne Dickson will assist Amy with programs. Board discussed future events for the year. Nairn' may plan a fund raising golf event. Next meeting to be Thursday, February 7th, 6:30 pm at President Terry Sweeney's home. All members are welcome to attend, but please call ahead.

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Champ

There must be thousands of recipes in Ireland for potatoes, but although most are very simple, they are still delicious and Champ very popular. You can vary this as much as you want, and can add things like parsley, leek, or fried onions. I like the old nursery rhyme that goes with this: "There was an old woman who lived in a lamp, She had no room to beetle her champ, She's up with her beetle and broke her lamp, And then she had room to beetle her champ!" (Beetle is a beater.)

CHAMP

½ lb unpeeled potatoes
¾ cup milk
Salt and pepper

¼ lb scallions or chive
4 Tbsp butter

Scrub the potatoes, place in pan, cover with water and boil until cooked. Chop the scallion/chives. Place in a small saucepan, cover with cold milk and bring slowly to a boil. Simmer 4-5 minutes, remove from heat and set aside to infuse. Peel and mash the potatoes, and while hot beat in the milk and scallions/chives. Beat in half of the butter and add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with remaining butter placed on top of the potatoes to melt in. This can be made ahead of time and reheated in the oven or microwave. Serves 4

Recipe from Sandra Cherry, Your Cup of Tea, Inc. and Union Jack Food columnist. She can be reached at yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com.

Limericks

A rare old bird is the Pelican,
His bill holds more than his belican;
He can take in his beak,
Enough food for a week,
I'm darned if I know how the helican!

Rosalina, a pretty young Lass,
Had a truly magnificent ass
Not rounded and pink,
As you possibly think,
It was grey, had long ears and ate grass.

There was a young lady of Venice,
Who used hard-boiled eggs to play tennis.
When they said "It seems wrong"
She remarked, "Go along!
You don't know how prolific my hen is!"

Do You Own Your Own Business?

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.

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