

## Coming Events

**T**he February SBC Board Meeting will be held at the home of Jean and Mark Malkasian, Thursday February 13th, 2014 @ 6:30pm. Members welcome but please call ahead, see Page 3, as space is limited.

**M**onthly Lunch Club; February 21st @ 12.30pm -- at the Ristorante San Marco, 305 W Venice Ave, Venice. There is off street parking as well as a car park nearly opposite the restaurant. Roy and I decided to sample the culinary delights of this petite Italian restaurant. Its attraction was the ambiance of white linen cloths on the tables, coupled with shining silverware, the clear sound of authentic Italian voices of the wait staff; and, not least, the pleasing art on the wall depicting scenes of Venice, Italy. There is ample sidewalk dining here as well; so if you enjoy people watching, Ristorante San Marco is perfect for you. After our very nice, relaxed and reasonably-priced lunch, we strolled down the avenue, checking out the inviting array of shops and other restaurants--most of which proved to be more interesting than the normal run of the mill variety. If you are planning to join us, please email or phone me (sueford@janbury.com or 941-751-3811.) Buon appetito!



**S**t. David's Day Celebration - Saturday, March 1st. An invitation from the Welsh Society. See Page 7 for details.



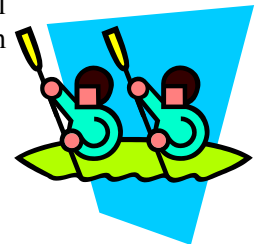
**E**nglish Flower Festival and Tea. An invitation to visit the Church of The Nativity's Festival on North Lockwood Ridge Road. Traditional English Tea will be served on Friday and Saturday at 10.30am to 4.00pm. From Friday 21st February to Sunday 23rd See Page 6 for more details of times and the address.



**V**isit to Solomon's Castle on March 14th. Details to follow in good time by email.

**O**rioles v Braves Spring game on March 21st. Details to follow in good time by email.

**K**ayaking on the Intercoastal Waterway at Nokomis on Wednesday, **March 26**, See Page 5 for more details.



**I**rish Pub Night on Friday 28th February at 6.00pm. Pub 32 Irish Gastropub, 8383 S. Tamiami Trail, (Hwy 41) Sarasota, FL 34238. Join us at 6,00, there will be live music from 7.00. Their menu includes, Fish & Chips, Grilled Salmon, Beef and Guinness Stew, Chicken pot pie, salads, to name a few. Please call Glenn Stilwell 941-201-6324 to make your reservations ASAP, as space is limited.

Have you looked at our website recently?

[www.SarasotaBritishClub.com](http://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.

**D**on'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 some of the Christmas Party and our charity donation.



## Letter from SBC President Gary Lee

I have just recently seen a number of you at the President's Reception at Lake Shore Village Clubhouse on the afternoon of January 26. It was a very pleasant social occasion and it was gratifying to greet a large assembly of members old and new. A few days earlier some 25 members gathered for an excellent backstage tour of the Sarasota Ballet at The FSU Center of the Performing Arts at the Ringling complex. The tour was both informative and rewarding to learn more about the rapidly-expanding prominence of this ballet company. The guides were excellent and charming. The outing was capped off with a group lunch at the Ringling's Treviso restaurant. This whole morning was an event that everyone agreed should be repeated by the Club.



I am pleased to report in this issue a list of interesting and varied socials that have been lined up or planned so far for the Club. These events are in addition to those already announced under "Coming Events" on page 1. For March 14, Terry Sweeney is organizing a visit to Solomon's Castle and gardens in Ona, FL. The Castle is the home and studio of internationally-known sculptor Howard Solomon. Also on the books for March—the 21<sup>st</sup>, is an Orioles Spring Training baseball game: the Orioles vs. the Braves, organized by Paul Wilkinson. For April 27th, Sue Ford has again arranged a day at the races--Tampa Downs—including entry fee, brunch and a motor coach there and back. These events will all be featured in the March newsletter.

Other ideas - a potluck Bingo/Games Night in May, possibly with a White Elephant section; a picnic at Lido Beach in May or early June a Cocktail Party in July—location to be decided; and/or an outing on Sarasota Bay aboard LeBarge at the Sarasota Marina. Activities post-July will be announced later; although NOTE that Heritage Oaks Country Club has been reserved for our annual Christmas Party/Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 20th—the only Saturday available before Christmas as December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> were already taken. Finally, for you British history mavens: There was a very interesting item in a recent edition of *The Daily Telegraph* on the discovery of a pelvic bone found in Winchester that may plausibly have belonged to King Alfred the Great or his son King Edward the Elder or the brother of King Edward, Aethelward. King Alfred the Great died in 899 and is best known as the medieval King who protected southern England from the Vikings. He was also responsible for a number of social and economic reforms.



## SANDRA'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Potato Leek Soup



This is a favourite recipe from my dear Irish friend, and is always popular. I felt as at time of writing it was wee bit chilly, this is an ideal recipe for the cooler weather ( but also delicious all year!)

4 Leeks  
2 medium potatoes  
4 Tbsp butter  
2 Tbsp flour  
4 cups chicken stock  
4 sprigs of parsley  
1 Bay leaf  
1/4 tsp nutmeg  
Salt and pepper  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup half and half

Slice the white parts of the leeks and wash well in salted cold water. Peel and slice the potatoes finely. Melt the butter and add the potatoes and drained leeks, cook gently for 5 minutes stirring to prevent sticking and browning. Sprinkle in the flour. When thoroughly mixed add the stock gradually, herbs and seasoning. Bring to a boil, stirring, then lower heat and simmer gently for 30 minutes until vegetables are tender. Blend the soup in a blender ( may want to cool it first) re-heat and adjust the seasoning. Heat milk and half and half in a separate pan to just below boiling point before adding it to the pureed soup. Sprinkle with parsley when serving. Freezes well  
Yield 4-6 servings

(Recipe from Sandra F Cherry, Union Jack food columnist, and can be reached at [Youcuppateal@yahoo.com](mailto:Youcuppateal@yahoo.com). I welcome requests, comments and recipes)



### Did you know?

The Club has a "Sunshine Club" which will send a greeting to a member when we hear of a special happy, sad or momentous event in their lives. Please let us know of such events, contact Sandra Cherry, her details are below.

each month, please email me for the PDF version (in colour) lakewood2@gmail.com

### January 2014 -Board Meeting Precis

January 9th Meeting held at home of Gary & Jane Lee / Treasurers report show balance of \$5,032.55; Received thank you letter from Family Partnership Center, who was our charity for 2013, total of \$1,627.00, which was matched by another donor/ Mark Malkasian assumed duties of Treasurer, discussed invoices need to be approved by Board member for expenditure of events etc. Current President and Treasurer have keys for the Post Office Box; Florida Non-profit corporation report for the Club is due by May, for \$61.00./ Current membership count stand at 178. Still some problems with applications through the Web Site not coming through/ Brian reminded everyone that the deadline for newsletter items due by the 20th of the month, need ideas for content, will ask general membership, suggested having a member profile featured with names being randomly picked, also to have a classified ad section/ Christmas Party was very successful, and financial report showed a 'profit' of \$664.31, so no money was taken from the Club funds, Board agreed to return to Heritage Oaks again, was well done again with food, service, and happy hour bar prices, Mostly Glass Onion Band was very popular, although was felt to be too noisy at beginning, Board suggested seeing if MCSquared group would be available for this year's party/ Sarasota Ballet Backstage tour for January fully booked/ Presidents reception will be January 26th at LakeShore Village Club House./ Group Luncheon will be February 21st at Saltwater Cafe/ Suggestions for 2014 events include: February; Pub Night, March Solomon's Castle outing; and a Kayak outing March 26th, April: Tampa Bay Downs, May: Bingo/Games Night /June: Picnic on Lido Beach/ July: Cocktail Party, and or outing on LeBarge / December 13th Christmas Party/ Other suggestions included Swim with the Manatees, Orioles Spring Training, Theatre trips to the Cabaret, Mote Marine Aquarium/ Informational fliers for the Brit Club have been made up and will be distributed by the Board at local Brit oriented businesses. Next Board meeting scheduled for February 13th, at the home of Mark and Jean Malkasian

( Submitted by Sandra F Cherry Vice-President)

### ANGLO-AMERICAN PINS.

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

### 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

### 2014 Board of Directors

President:	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Vice-President	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcuppateal@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Mark Malkasian	918-8360	mark@armeng.com
Secretary:	SEE PAGE 6		
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:	Jane Jacobs	847-370-2811	jane60010@yahoo.com
Director at Large3:	Glenn Stilwell	201-6324	sstil10289@aol.com
Past President:	Steve Adams	580-8458	sha@adamsiac.com

## Christmas Party Photos.

In case you missed the link in the January BritNews, you can see all of them at <http://tinyurl.com/lwqmyynn>. A few have been put on the Sarasota British Club's Facebook page. If you know of a party guest who is not a member of the Club, then let them know of this link. If you select a photo there is an option to download, at full resolution, onto your own computer.

## Welcome New Members

We welcome new members Jill and Julian Bigden, who are part-timers to Sarasota, spending much of their time in Annapolis, MD. They were both born in Chelmsford, Essex, and they came to the US in 1976. Since then they have lived in CT, PA, and lately in Maryland, where they keep their cruising sailboat. Modestly, Julian claims that he has 'no special talents', which should help him feel at home at Club events!



## JOKES

A visiting fan turned up at a soccer match last week and was told that seats were £16, £20 and £35, and programmes £2. 'OK,' he said cheerfully, 'I'll sit on a programme!'

'How did you enjoy your holiday in Israel?'  
'Great!'  
'Did you visit the Wailing Wall?'  
'Yes - but I couldn't get near it for Manchester City supporters!' (this is so very 'last year' - Ed)



Maureen had had enough of Tim's obsession. "Football, football, football!" she moaned, "that's all you ever talk about. It's your whole life. You never take me out. You never buy me presents. You're either at a match or watching one on the box. I bet you can't even remember when our wedding anniversary is."  
"Yes, I can," her husband retorted, "it's the same date that Real Madrid beat Manchester United in the Cup-Winners' Cup."

The angry captain snarled at the referee. 'What would I happen if I called you a blind idiot who couldn't make a correct decision to save his life?'  
'It would be a red card for you.'  
'And if I didn't say it but only thought it?'  
That's different. If you only thought it but didn't say it, I couldn't do a thing.'  
'Well, we'll leave it like that, then, shall we?' smiled the captain.

We brought them into this world and they make fun of us. I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Richard, the 11 year old next door whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and

asked him to come over.

Richard clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong?'

He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.'

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.'

Richard grinned.... 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?'

'No,' I replied.

'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.'

So I wrote down: I D 1 0 T

I used to like the little \*\*\*\*\*.....



A school inspector is sent to assess a Year 4 class in a local Allybammy School.

He is introduced to the class by the teacher.

She says to the class, "Let's show the inspector just how clever you are by allowing him to ask you a question".

The inspector reasons that normally class starts with religious instruction, so he will ask a biblical question. He asks: "Class, who broke down the walls of Jericho?"

For a full minute there is absolute silence. Eventually, little Billy raises his hand.

Billy stands up and replies: "Sir, I do not know who broke down the walls of Jericho, but I can assure you it wasn't me".

Of course the inspector is shocked by the answer and the lack of knowledge of the famous bible story and he looks at the teacher for an explanation.

Realising that he is perturbed, the teacher says: "Well, I've known Billy since the start of the year, and I believe that if he says that he didn't do it then he didn't do it".

The inspector is even more shocked at this and storms down to the principal's office and tells him what happened, to which the principal replies: "I don't know the boy, but I believe his teacher. If she feels that the boy is innocent, then he must be innocent".

The inspector can't believe what he is hearing. He grabs the phone on the principal's desk and in a rage, dials the State Governor and rattles off the entire occurrence to him and asks him what he thinks of the education standard in the State.

The governor sighs heavily and replies: "I don't know the boy, the teacher or the principal, and I've never heard of the school. Just get three quotes and have the !@#\$\$% wall fixed!"

I have stumbled across a little known historical fact - Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss League records were destroyed in a fire . . . and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled!



Conrad Phillips as William Tell from the cover of his autobiography "Aiming True" See page 6

## Kayak Outing on the Intracoastal Waterway in Nokomis



If you missed our kayak outing last fall or were one of the lucky few who didn't here's another opportunity to experience our next silent seas adventure. This time our professional guide, John Sarkozy, who has nearly 20 years of experience in running local kayak trips under the auspices of the American Littoral Society <http://www.littoralsociety.org/index.php/trips-a-events/sarasota>. will be guiding us along the "Waterways of Nokomis".

We'll undertake a leisurely North to South figure-eight route among the small islands, mangroves and sand bars dotting the ICW along Casey Key. There will be one "wilderness stop" during our three-hour journey of paddling and observation.

**DATE and TIME:** Wednesday, **March 26**, 2014. Please arrive by **9am** to be prepared for our launching at 9:30.

**DIRECTIONS** to the Launch Site: In Nokomis on Rt 41 turn west onto Albee Rd, proceed 0.9 miles over the ICW bridge, turn right onto Casey Key Rd. and then immediately turn right around a wooden & chain link fence and then over a short bridge and finally turn left continuing along the dirt road approx. 0.1 miles to a break in the mangroves on the left marked by a wooden fence.

John provides all the necessary equipment and safety gear and especially welcomes first time kayakers. As he did for several newbies last year, he'll have you quite comfortable on the water in a matter of minutes. He can accommodate up to 11 paddlers in single kayaks and two-somes in up to three double (tandem) kayaks or 17 guests in total.

Fees are \$25 per person, \$20 if you are a member of ALS or \$5 if you bring your own kayak and life vest. Recommended personal items are: a sun hat, plenty of water, sunscreen, quick-dry clothing and shoes that you don't mind getting wet. John usually has granola bars for the rest stop.

Après-kayaking we will adjourn for lunch at a quite nearby, waterfront eatery most likely Pop's Sunset Grille.

Checks payable to the Sarasota British Club should be sent to P.O. 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276.

For more info and insights feel free to call the Event Coordinator Mark Malkasian at (941) 918-8360.

Please note checks, preference for kayak type (single or double) and lunch commitments are due by Wednesday, March 20. Since our excursion occurs during the high tourist season car-pooling is encouraged as parking at the launch site can at times be a bit congested.

### Southeastern Guide Dogs 2014 WALKATHONS

The SGD were beneficiaries of our annual donation subsequent to the Club's delightful field trip to their Palmento Campus in October 2012. Walkathons are SGD's biggest fundraisers of the year. Local events are planned at Payne Park in Sarasota (March 29), Rossi Park in Bradenton (February 22) and Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg (March

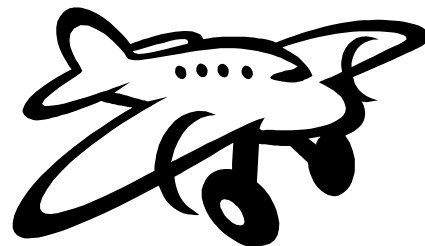
1). Fundraise or Walk or Buy a Raffle Ticket! Event details and signup info are found at [GuideDogsWalkathon.org](http://GuideDogsWalkathon.org) Our Treasurer, Mark Malkasian, has received one info packet that he can mail to the first-come, only-served person who wishes to contact him

at <mailto:mark@armeng.com>

### JOKE

#### Signs You've Chosen a "No Frills" Airline

- You can't board the plane unless you have the exact change.
- Before you take off, the stewardess tells you to fasten your Velcro.
- The Captain asks all the passengers to chip in a little for gas.
- When they pull the steps away, the plane starts rocking.
- The Captain yells at the ground crew to get the cows off the runway.
- You ask the Captain how often their planes crash and he says, "Just once."
- No movie. Don't need one. Your life keeps flashing before your eyes.
- You see a man with a gun, but he's demanding to be let off the plane.
- All the planes have both a bathroom and a chapel.



## 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](mailto: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.



## Who recalls actor Conrad Phillips?

See picture on page 4.

Born Conrad Phillip Havord in London in 1925, he was brought up largely by his mother as his father was usually absent.

He joined the Navy in 1942, lying about his age. After the war he studied at RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art)

He is best known for playing the title role in the British television series 'The Adventures of William Tell', which ran for 39 episodes in 1958-9

However, he also appeared in the theatre, films and other television plays

Ill health – in particular various injuries suffered during the course of his career – obliged him to give up acting in 1991.

His first marriage, from which he has a son, ended in divorce; he met his second wife, Jennie, in 1968 during a shoot for a commercial.

After retirement, he and his wife bought and ran a Scottish hill farm, Skeoch, about which Jennie has written a book.

They subsequently moved to France and spent 20 years restoring an old barn

The couple now live in Chippenham, in southern England. Having published his autobiography, 'Aiming True', Phillips is currently working on a novel.



## NOTICE OF A VACANCY ON THE SBC BOARD

Diana Bradfield, who was elected as Secretary of the Board at November's Annual General Meeting has had to resign due to health issues. The Board regrets Diana's resignation and extends to her our best wishes for continued participation in Club events. As the Secretary is one of four Officers of the Board it is necessary to fill the position as soon as possible. The duties of the position are described in Section 4.53 of our Bylaws are: "The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping and distributing the minutes of all meetings of the Board, the Annual General Meeting, and any special members' meetings of the club." Minuting the monthly Board meetings, which are held the 2nd Thursday of each month in Board members' homes, is the primary responsibility of the Secretary. At these monthly meetings, it has become customary to bring and share light fare; and to enjoy good conversation along with a glass of wine, perhaps, following the business part of the meeting. If you are interested in this Board position, please contact Gary Lee ([glee01@verizon.net](mailto:glee01@verizon.net); 941-706-1172.)



## English Flower Festival and Tea

### 2014 Theme - Pathway to the Lord

Friday and Saturday February 21 and 22 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
 Sunday February 23 Noon to 3:00 pm

Flower Viewing and Musicales - Free Admission  
 (donations gratefully accepted)

Come for Tea — \$14.00 per person  
 Traditional English Tea served:  
 Friday and Saturday  
 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

#### Friday Musicales

10:30 a.m.

Young Musicians  
 String Trio

1:00 p.m.

Philomusica  
 Chamber Ensemble

#### Saturday

#### Grand Musicale

1:00 p.m.

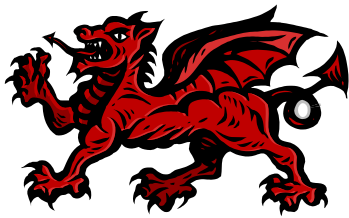
Nativity Musicians and  
 Guests Artists

featuring

Martha Lopez-Leschke, Soprano  
 Bonnie Caplan, Harpist

Church of the Nativity

5900 North Lockwood Ridge Road (just south of University Pkwy.)  
 Sarasota, FL 34243 355-3262



**You are invited to attend the St. David's Day 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society.**

Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 6-10 p.m.

HERITAGE OAKS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
 4800 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34241  
 Bee Ridge Extension east of I-75 between Bee Ridge and Clark Roads.  
 Tell the guard you are attending the Welsh Society Banquet.

**Menu:**

Potato Leek Soup  
 Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter  
 Heritage Oaks House Salad with Citrus Dressing includes:  
 Fresh Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Walnuts, Golden Raisins and Crumbled Blue Cheese

\*  
 Continued in column 2

**Entrée Choice:**

Pan Seared Flat Iron Steak and Grilled Chicken Breast  
 Fresh Vegetable Medley and Dauphinoise Potatoes  
 Wild Mushroom Jus

**Members \$38, Guests \$43**

or

Portabella Mushroom Wellington  
 Sautéed Spinach and Fresh Asparagus  
 Roasted Red Pepper Coulis

**Members \$30.50, Guests \$35.50**

\*

Vanilla Bean Cream Brulée with Fresh Berries  
 Coffee and Tea

**Entertainment:**

Erik Sumner, Baritone, performing Welsh Music  
 Group Singing  
 30 Years of Memories

Dressy Cocktail Attire Suggested.

Reservation checks are due by February 25  
 to: Sarasota Welsh Society, Box 19343, Sarasota, Florida 34276

Questions or Additional Information: Amy Ferrell,  
 President: 941-349-6069  
 email: sarasotawelsh@yahoo.com  
 website: www.sarasotawelsh.com

**GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY**  
 March 1, 2014 St. David's Day 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Please mail your reservation form and check by February 24 to The Sarasota Welsh Society, PO Box 19343, Sarasota, FL 34276. Please complete a separate line for each person in your party; children under age 12: \$15  
 Please check your entrée choice: Steak and grilled chicken breast or Portobello Mushroom with vegetables.

Names as you wish them to appear on each name tag	Meal choice					Child \$15	Annual Membership \$10	Remembrance Listing* \$10	Sub Total
	Member Meat \$38	Member Veg. \$30.50	Guest Meat \$43	Guest Veg. \$35.50					

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address, telephone and email \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please seat us with \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Special interest/request \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Ealing Comedies*

Almost any Briton or Anglophile of a certain age will immediately relate to the phrase “The Ealing Comedies”. Ealing Studios is a London based film company which started in 1902 and is active to this present day. In its 110 year history it has turned out a huge number of films, but the “Comedies” referred to were a series of 17 films produced between 1947 and 1957. Devotees have considered some of these as the finest comedies ever made. Many of these films used a repertory of directors and actors, the actors including Alec Guinness, Alistair Sim, Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford. Following are four recommended favorites of the Ealing Comedies.

**Kind Hearts and Coronets** (1949) – a black comedy of manners and murders set in Edwardian England. It is presented mostly as a flashback by the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Chalfont writing his memoirs in prison awaiting his execution for committing the murder of a man he did not actually kill. However, our hero was the poor relation far down the pecking order of inheritance of the dukedom and chose to and did “remove” numerous of his relations that stood in his way. Alec Guinness plays eight separate roles of family members that our hero must eliminate. This is an extraordinary film and a must see for everyone.

**The Lavender Hill Mob** (1951) – a farce involving a heist of gold bars where our hero (Alec Guinness) plays a timid bank clerk who for twenty years has accompanied and accounted for his bank’s bullion shipments. Yearning for the good life, he assembles a “mob” to steal the gold with a view to melt it down and smuggle it out of the country. The film also stars the fa-

mous Stanley Holloway as one of mob. Of course, their plans go awry with hilarious results.

**Barnacle Bill** (1957) – another farce also starring Alec Guinness who is descended from a long line of mariners. His own World War II efforts as a Royal Navy officer were limited by his violent tendency towards sea sickness, thus his wartime efforts consisted of his testing cures for that malady. Post-war our hero purchases and takes command of an ocean side amusement pier and christens it as a ship as to accommodate patrons also suffering from sea sickness. In historical flashbacks, Alec Guinness also plays his ancestors beginning with a caveman. This is another brilliant film though not currently available in the Region 1 DVD format used in North America. However, many DVD players today are capable of playing both the video standard used in the US and in Britain.

**Passport to Pimlico** (1949) – a farce starring Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford. A few years after the war an unexploded German aerial bomb uncovers an ancient vault located in the district of Pimlico in central London. In the vault is a royal charter signed by King Edward IV granting the area to the Charles VII, the Duke of Burgundy. As the charter was never revoked, the residents of Pimlico are legally Burgundians and have to locate the ducal heir, form a government and defend their borders from Great Britain. There follows an hilarious series of events to include black market avoidance of rationing, closed borders, blockades, and airlifts of food to our besieged heroes (mimicking the then ongoing Berlin airlift to thwart the Russian blockade). This is another film not to be missed

# BritClub News



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