



Brit Club News

January, 2016

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

Vol. 16, Issue 1

Coming Events

The SBC Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 14th January at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

Announcement – New President welcome reception

We have a traditional welcome reception for the new President. This year we will celebrate with a cocktail party at the Kona Grill at University Town Center. You may remember that we held a similar event there last year, and it was a very pleasant evening.

The first drink will be ‘on the President’ – thereafter the restaurant has offered Happy Hour pricing. For members who wish to stay for dinner, they will offer a discounted rate on their normal menu.

Please join us!

When: Sunday, January 31, 5 - 7pm

Where: Kona Grill at University Town Center

RSVP to: pwilkinson18@comcast.net

MUST RSVP TO SECURE A SPACE

For menu see

www.konagrill.com/restaurants/sarasota-fl.aspx

which is a Welsh hymn-sing, at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 23. at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, at the corner of Honore and Palmer Ranch Pkwy., south of Clark Road in Sarasota. Come to the MacIntyre Rooms, 2nd floor in The Glenridge main building. There is no charge for participating in the hymn sing. The Gymanfa precedes their Annual Meeting luncheon. Lunch costs \$15.

Lunch reservations are essential: contact Ronnie Crain at: rcrain61@verizon.net or call 941-922-4801.

**Happy
New
Year!**



Elsewhere

Club members are invited to attend the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society's Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced with a hard G, gimanfa ganee),



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'.



**President's letter –
January 2016**



It is a great honor to serve as the leader of the Sarasota British Club in its 16th year. With almost 200 members, we have a wealth of talent and experience from which to draw for events and social gatherings. I encourage you to share your thoughts and requests with members of the Board, and offers of assistance are always welcomed. Thanks to Sandra Cherry we have a thriving British Club where we can share our experiences with other expats.

Always by my side is my lovely bride of 42 years, Diana. She has been dragged around the US as my career with Rentokil progressed, and built homes for us in Pittsburgh, Ft Lauderdale, Chicago, Boston and Annapolis. Finally tired of shoveling snow, one of her friends recommended Sarasota and Siesta Key, and one Spring Break weekend was enough for us to pack up and move here four years ago!

I am still working, now as a Strategic Account Manager for a Food Safety Company, where I protect our relationship with some of our largest clients in regulated industries such as Healthcare, Food Processing and Distribution. I travel two or three times a month, flying up and down the East Coast to meet my customers.

Over the past three years Diana and I have met many new friends at the Club. I encourage new members to attend as many events as you can, you can be sure that you too will make new friends. I want this year to be an opportunity for us to get to know each other better, and I will be calling on you to share your life experiences with other members at coming events. If you have a talent or skill that you think others may find interesting, please let me know.

I am excited to welcome the New Year as your President, and look forward to working with your Board to explore new ways to amuse and entertain you.

Paul Wilkinson

Christmas Party Photos

A reminder—The photos taken by Sally Scott and Brian Thompson can be viewed and downloaded if wished at the original resolution.

See <http://tinyurl.com/h3htv7t>

A small sample—



Precis of December Board Meeting

This was held on Thursday December 10, 2015.

Board discussed only emailing the newsletter, this will save the club over \$1000 per year.

Members will be asked to 'opt in' for a regular mail copy. Some discussion on adding and removing businesses from our website. Plans are complete for the Christmas Party on December 12th. October lunch at Olive Garden was attended by 35 members and guests. Need volunteers to arrange 2016 lunches. Board approved 2015 charitable donations of \$500 each to The Alzheimer's Association (Gulf Coast Chapter) and Sarasota Senior Friendship Center (Care Giver Support). New President's Tea tentatively set for January 17th 2016. Need member input for 2016 club activities.

Submitted by Jane Jacobs



A List of people and businesses who donated Christmas Raffle Prizes:

Olive Garden



Wagon Wheel Nurseries – David Rees

McAllisters



PLUS MEMBERS:

- Paul and Diana Wilkinson
- Ross and Jane Jacobs
- Brian and Jane Thompson
- Hana Mares-Sirotkova
- Maggie Hughes
- Roger and Sally Scott
- Norman and Mary Shelley
- Bill and Mary Torrance
- Barry Evans
- John and Vivienne Jefferies
- Barry Evans
- Penny Mulak
- Sandra Cherry
- Alan and Beryl Perry
- Gary and Jane Lee

Holly Kate of Michael Z Salon



Simon's Coffee House

The British Corner Shop



Beckhams



The Hearing Spa - Noel and Brenda Moore

British America Cars - David Colley

Yellow Strawberry Lakewood Ranch

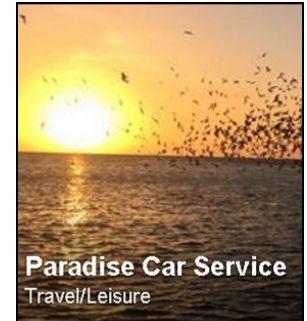


Jeremy Adams who obtained Word of Mouth Gulfgate and Downtown



Asolo Theater tickets

Paradise Car Service – Neil Haberman



Thank You

Sun Coast Real Estate

So – has the housing market in Sarasota and Manatee gone crazy in the last year and have prices rocketed? If you read certain newspapers or websites the resounding answer is ‘Yes’. But being British we like to know the facts behind the hype.

With 19,020 sales recorded in the first eleven months of 2015 in Sarasota and Manatee, only 370 property sales are needed in December to break the record for number of sales in a year. Sales have exceeded 1,000 every month this year, so it seems pretty sure that 2015 will be a historic year for real estate sales.

Year on year, Sarasota county saw an 18.5% increase in single family home median sale prices; while Manatee County experienced a 14.9% increase. In addition, condo median sale prices are up in both counties, Sarasota coming in with a 13.17% increase, and Manatee County with 12.8%.

The two-county area saw the month's supply of inventory remain well below the 5.5-month level, which typically defines a market in equilibrium between buyers or sellers. Single family in Sarasota County has a 3.7 months' supply, compared to 3.9 in Manatee County. The months' supply of condos available is the same for both counties, at 4 months. Median days on market continues to decline, as homes sell more quickly, another sign of strength in the market, with intelligently priced properties in popular areas attracting several offers, some over market price. Say ‘hello’ to the bidding wars and ‘best and final’ offers. One property I saw recently attracted 32 offers within 2 days.

Another sign of health in the market was the drop in the percentage of foreclosure and short sales. Single family distressed sales of both counties combined were down 55 percent from last year; and the same is true for condos, which were down almost 38 percent. During the foreclosure and short sale market crisis in 2008, almost 50 percent of the sales were distressed. Today, distressed sales account for less than 12 percent of sales.

These figures all seem wonderful if you already own a home – but a word of caution. The market in Sarasota and Manatee consists of several different micro-economies. Whilst the median price of a single family home under \$500k increased by 18.5% over the year, a townhouse/condo priced between \$500k - \$1m increased by 5.4%. These differences are even more dramatic when you start to analyze statistics for areas such as Siesta Key and Longboat Key.

Submitted by Sharon Gould.

Sharon@sharoninsarasota.com

Editor's Note:

Employed by Caldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, after only 15 months in the USA Sharon has been named ‘Newcomer of the Year’ by the Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee.



Exchange Rates from Moneycorp on Dec.30th

| From | To | Rate |
|---|--|--------|
|  GBP |  USD | 1.4811 |
|  EUR |  USD | 1.0932 |



A Knotty Problem

In December's newsletter I entered an article on tying an elaborate knot in a tie. One member proffered ‘Double Windsor’ as the name but according to the site Ties.com, it is a Trinity Knot. Youtube has a video of the tying method.

Brian Thompson

It is with deep regret that I have to tell you that Mike Hughes passed away early Friday morning, 18th December. Mike was married for many years to Maggie, our Treasurer, and although they joined the Club only 2 ½ years ago, they were warm and constant supporters. Maggie took over the Treasurer's slot last summer, and Mike enjoyed our events and functions by her side. He was an avid book reader and had wry sense of humor.

At this point we do not have details of any memorial service, and we ask that you respect the family's privacy at this difficult time. We will let you know any additional information as soon as we have it.

Paul Wilkinson
President

The Sarasota British Club
[410 990 4698](tel:4109904698)

DINNER IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.(UK's crisps)

Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

Cream was the top of the milk, or out of a tin.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available.

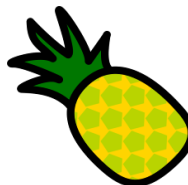
It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties...was elbows, hats and cell phones!

Now we're lucky to see any family eating at a table !



JOKE

Jewish Modesty

A Catholic, a Protestant, a Muslim and a Jew were in a discussion during a dinner.

Catholic: "I have a large fortune. I am going to buy Citibank!"

Protestant: "I am very wealthy and will buy General Motors!"

Muslim: "I am a fabulously rich prince. I intend to purchase Microsoft!"

They then all waited for the Jew to speak.

The Jew stirred his coffee, placed the spoon neatly on the table, took a sip of his coffee, looked at them and casually said: "I'm not selling!!"

Financial Matters

*W*e start the year with a request to our members.

A review of expenditure on printing and mailing the BritNews each month shows that it was a whopping \$1650.00 over the year!

We spend so much money on this when it could be used for far better causes! We could have donated at least \$500 to 2 more charities with the savings!

I am sure members will be horrified once they discover how much is being spent on postage every year.

Remember that apart from the email copy there is also an archive of past copies available on the Club's website.

Please let us know if you will opt out of mailed copies.

Every little helps!

Reply to lakewood2@gmail.com



Media Matters: The Mysterious X & O

Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?
Because:

In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

When did O join X is another big question?

One Theory:

It's a spill over from the game of tic-tac-toe that dates back to ancient times. The earliest use together was 1960 as an indicator of a hug. Critics deride the combo's usage as girlish. Nowadays emoticons - now numbering in the thousands - are pushing the poor, defenseless X & O into quaintness.

Mark Malkasian, Web Liaison



City of Portsmouth Insight

Recent photos on the Home Page of our Club website <http://www.sarasotabritishclub.com> of HMS Warrior berthed in Portsmouth Harbour inspired Member June Copeland to offer up this current insight.

“The Warrior has been restored and these days is a very popular tourist attraction and can be hired for weddings and other events.

Also in the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth are Nelson's HMS Victory (which is in the process of being repainted) as well as the 16th century The Mary Rose. This ship was raised from the Solent in 1982 and is now housed in a purpose built museum in the Dockyard.

The newest addition to the ships that can be viewed is HMS M.33, the only remaining ship from the Dardanelles Campaign in 1915/1916 and the Russian Civil War which followed. She is only one of three British ships remaining from WW1.

The Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth has, this year, been voted the UK's best visitor attraction by the Group Travel Awards and is definitely a very interesting place to see if you are in the UK. In addition to the ships, the dockyard is home to the National Museum of the Royal Navy and other interesting buildings. There are harbour tours where visitors can see ships of the British Royal Navy Fleet if they are not somewhere else in the world helping to keep the peace!

The City of Portsmouth is also home to The Royal Marines Museum, The D Day Museum and a Royal Navy Submarine to view. It has other historical strings to its bow, being the birthplace of Charles Dickens and is the only English City built on an island. From Portsmouth, ferries take visitors to the Isle of Wight and also further afield, to France and Spain. Visitors can ride to the top of the Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth's Millennium project for a fantastic view of the area on a good day. Charity abseils [rappeling] are also done on a monthly basis from this building.”



HMS Warrior with the Spinnaker Tower.
Source Wikimedia commons

Thank you, June, for sharing your personal perspective.

Mark Malkasian, Website Liaison

A British Influence in Sarasota's Theatre.

The Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota has been staging the play 'One Man, Two Guv'nors' by Richard Bean. I noted that the handbill carried a small quiz on British slang. The chosen list of examples is not exhaustive but reflected the language of the play.

I have had favourable reports of the show from Brits and Americans alike.

Brian Thompson

British Glossary of Slang

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cheeky | Flippant |
| Lairy | Aggressive, looking for a fight |
| Knackered | Tired out, specifically hung over |
| Peanuts | Cheap |
| Cock up | To mess up |
| Snookered | Up a creek without a paddle |
| Folding | Slang for money |
| Bangers and mash | Sausage and potatoes |
| Skint | Broke |
| Rozzer | Slang for policeman |
| Nine-bob note | Slang for 'gay' |
| Barmy | Mad or crazy |
| Blinkered | Narrow-minded |
| Chuffed to bits | Pleased |
| Spend a penny | Go to the bathroom |
| Tooled up | Armed |
| Porridge | Serving time in prison |
| Guvnor | Boss/someone of authority |
| Quid | An English pound £ |

Quotes

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

— Winston Churchill

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."

— C. S. Lewis

JOKES

Paddy is doing some roofing work for Murphy He nears

the top of the ladder and starts shaking and going dizzy.

He calls down to Murphy and says

"I tink I will ave to go home, I've come all over giddy and feel sick."

Murphy asks "Ave yer got vertigo?"

Paddy replies "No, I only live round the corner."

Sign at a Scottish golf course:

'Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.'

Canny Scot

At an auction in Glasgow, a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, 'I'll give £150.'

For New Year

An optimist stays up to see the New Year in. A pessimist waits to make sure the old one leaves.

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck - the bartender was almost crushed to death.

New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paying hell with them as usual.

Mark Twain

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things.

John Burroughs

Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.

Oscar Wilde

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.



Quotes

“Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.”

— Margaret Thatcher

“We've got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant. You can't just accept it and leave it in the cupboard or just think it's going to get on by itself. You've got to keep watering it. You've got to really look after it and nurture it.”

— John Lennon

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life..”

— Richard Bach

Board of Directors (1/1/'16)

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| President | Paul Wilkinson | 410-990-4698 | pwilkinson18@comcast.net |
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