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A 30 min call-back or initial email exchange is free for SBC members. Call IAN MANWARING on +44 (0)1952 850359 or you can email me at: uk2us.wealth@btinternet.com
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BritClub News



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

Board of Directors

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Past President:	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Eileen Schuler	753-4589	emkbentley@gmail.com
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Director at Large1:	Edith Edmunds	925-4077	Sgt2484@verizon.net
Director at Large2:	Shona Burtner	925-0462	skburtner@hotmail.com
Director at Large3:	Glen Stillwell	201-6324	Sstil10289@aol.com



BritClub News

January, 2012

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

Vol. 12, Issue 1

Coming Events

Board Meeting —Thursday January 12th
@6:30 p.m. at the home of Brian & Jane Thompson.
Members welcome but please call ahead, see Page 16,
as space is limited.

President's Party, — Sunday 22nd January
3pm -5pm, at the home of Sue and Roy Ford, see Page
16 for contact info.

House Concert—Friday 27nd January . Back in
Florida, singers Bill and Kate Isles will be at Brian and
Jane Thompson's home. \$15 pp, BYOB & appetizer to
share. Call 941-388-8018 or lakewood2@gmail.com

Curry Night at the White Horse Pub.—
Wednesday January 25th . Landlady
Fay is extending a welcome to the Club
by adding an additional Indian evening.
Please let me know of your interest so
that we can let give her advance notice
of our numbers. 941-388-8018 or
lakewood2@gmail.com



Sarasota Fire Station Tour—
Wednesday February 1st, see Page 5

Valentine Dance — Saturday February 11th,
see Page 5

Horse Racing Trip — Sunday, March 4. to
Tampa Bay Downs, Page 7 for details.



April Charity Jumble Sale—See Page 15

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS!

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From here you will find local information, Club news, coming events, photos from past events and many past newsletters .

Letter from President Sue Ford

Happy New Year' to each and every one of you.

Here we are in 2012, hopefully a more successful year than the Mayan Astrological Calendar would have us believe. The Mayan Calendar predicts that December 12, 2012 is end of days. Thankfully, this will give me a full year to serve my term as your President. With the Mayans proclaiming our demise, we might as well enjoy and celebrate being alive. I, myself, think it highly unlikely that it will be the end of the world. Just in case, be sure to sign up for all of the events.

2012 is also an election year in America. Another good reason for the British to celebrate coming to this wonderful country in the first place. Our Club is not political. It is purely a social group. Somewhere for you to come, leaving religion, politics and work hanging at the entrance. Just as the Old West gunfighters left their shooting irons at the doors of the saloon.

As many of you will know, I am interested in astrology and follow the action and reactions of the Heavenly bodies on a regular basis. I shall occasionally be mentioning some planetary effects in the monthly newsletter that I hope will be of a personal interest to you. Also returning to the newsletter will be Sandra Cherry's recipes. I know many of you have missed trying Sandra's tantalizing recipes each month.

Let me tell you something about our new 2012 Board. We have ten of the most wonderful members. They are all looking forward to being active and adventurous with new ideas for use in the Club. As the year moves on, I hope you will become acquainted with all of them and that friendships will develop. It is our aim to meet each and every member on our membership list. And we want to put a face to that name. You can help us by supporting our events and mixing with your fellow members.

Since I joined the British Club in 2001 our membership has grown and is still growing monthly.

Due to this, we ask that when we advertise an event that you would like to attend, please respond immediately even if your check is going to follow. It is so nerve-racking for the Board to worry whether we are going to have a good response from members. A poor response will impact Club funds. There will be occasions when we will have to limit numbers due to insurance or space available. So, please sign up for events as soon as possible. This will ensure that we will always have a place for you. Already we have the next three months' events planned. We hope you will attend as many as possible... here they are:

Sunday January 22nd Kicks off the New Year with 'The New Presidents Party' as mentioned on page 1
January 25th Brian Thompson has organized a 'Curry Night' at the White Horse Pub (Lockwood Ridge/ University Parkway) for all you Curry lovers, further info on page 1.

January 27th, a House Concert at Brian & Jane Thompson's home.

February 1st A tour & talk at the new fire station on Honore Avenue, info on page 5.

February 11th 'Valentines Night' at South Bay Yacht Club. Further info on page 5.

March 4th Horse Racing & Buffet at Tampa Downs info on page 7.

April 7th Jumble Sale "Charity for Back Pack". Please save all books, bags, bric-a-brac, plants, good cloth items - on hangers please. Donations, pricing and help with manning stalls will be gratefully appreciated. We are also hoping to have an Easter Egg Hunt, provided we take in enough money.

If there is something you would like the Club to offer, or if you are interested in playing a more active role within the Club, please contact any of the Board members. We all will be very pleased to hear from you.

Anything you might like to have placed in the *BritClub News* send to Editor Brian Thompson... no later than the 18th of the month.



Sue's Corner

APRIL'S CHARITY JUMBLE SALE

Calling all you members who are willing to participate in our Easter Jumble Sale. Please sort out your cupboards for sale-able items. If you have a talent for making things from wool, materials, wood, clay, paint, plants, flowers or indeed anything at all, we are

asking that you help us with our Jumble Sale. If cooking is your forte, could you bake for us? We are hoping to recreate the old church hall fete and in doing so, help those less fortunate than ourselves. Please commit yourself to something. April will come around very quickly.

Each week leading up to the event, on a Wednesday, between 10am and 12 noon, there will be a work in progress morning. The first one to be held at my home. Hopefully, we can all share in doing some good for our community. Please email or phone me if you are able to join us.

Remember.. Wednesday, 25th January at my home 10am to 12 noon

Sue Ford

Dear Members:

A Donation is the Best Answer to Hunger

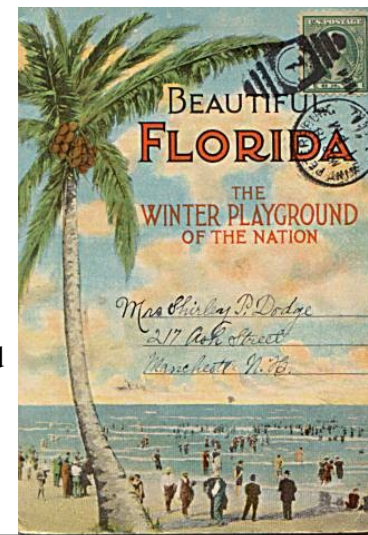
I'm happy to be able to tell you that because of your support, the Club donated \$1,000 in December to All Faiths Food Bank, an effective anti-hunger organization in Sarasota. The check was hand-delivered by our 2011 President, Gary Lee, in time for the holiday season. Thank you for attending Club events and making this donation possible when there is so much need in our communities.

Eileen Schuler,
Treasurer

See also Page 7

WELCOME BACK

to our Snowbirds
who have returned
to their winter
paradise.



December Board Meeting Precip

Meeting held at home of Ken & Ildiko Jukes. Treasurer's report shows balance of \$9,074.56, which includes Christmas party deposits. \$1000.00 was approved to give to the Sarasota All Faiths Food Bank. November events included The Legacy Trail in Venice, Guy Fawkes' Night which was well attended, 30 Brit Club members on the Caribbean cruise, the 2nd. Annual Osprey Community Outreach event, and several Brit Club members attending the Sarasota Cricket Club's Gala event and Six-a-side games. There would be a Christmas Coffee morning on December 13th, getting many reservations. Christmas party plans for

December 17th going very well, almost at cut off point with reservations. The 2012 event will be the President's Party at home of incoming President Sue Ford on January 22th. Plans are in effect for celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on June 2nd. Next Board meeting will be held at the home of Brian and Jane Thompson on January 12th 2012

Submitted by Sandra F Cherry, Secretary

Locations to Hold Our Events

We put out a call to all members who could offer their clubhouse as a location for a Sarasota British Club (SBC) events, and members have generously responded. So... A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS. The Board will be busily organizing and coordinating events for those locations at our monthly meetings—we'll keep you posted. This keeps our events affordable to all members, and adds diversity for our get-togethers. The SBC will cover overhead charges, and our members generously volunteer to help with the set-up and clean-up. If other members can offer their clubhouse, please contact sueford47@yahoo.com with suitable dates and locations. Thank you for your support.



BUSINESS GLIMPSES: We would like to hear from our members who have found their business niche in and around Sarasota. If you would like to write to us, we'd enjoy catching a glimpse of your business enterprise in our local economy. Your article can be sent to lakewood2@gmail.com, and we will select one 'Business Glimpse' each month.



The Club would like to thank the following merchants for their cooperation in spreading the good word about our Club

by allowing the *BritClub News* to be distributed in their premises: **Word of Mouth (3), Champions Pub, Tastefully British, 4 & 20 Pasty Company, The Open Pub & Restaurant, The King George Pub, Beckham's, The White Horse Pub, McAllister's, Scot's Corner, British Open Pub & Restaurant of Venice, Bentley's Resort Hotel, Scrambles, Ezpiez, Yellow Strawberry Salon (LWR), Simon's Coffee House.**

Also John and Hillary Drinkell at the **UPS Store** in Clark Road for printing this Newsletter. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.

Jokes

There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore looking like an idiot.

+++

Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant? I'm halfway through my fishburger and I realize, Oh my God....I could be eating a slow learner.

+++

A man and his wife are sitting in the living room and he says to her:

"Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state dependent on some machine.

If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife gets up and unplugs the TV.

+++

Innkeeper: The room is \$15 a night. It's \$5 if you'll make your own bed.

Guest: I'll make my own bed.

Innkeeper: Good. I'll get you some nails and wood.



November 2011 sales up 12.7 percent over last year

November 2011 property transactions in the Sarasota real estate market totaled 602, up 12.7 percent over last November. The market has remained strong and stable as the winter season gets into full swing, reflecting continued confidence in Sarasota as a destination location.



In fact, the Today Show's real estate report from Barbara Corcoran in late November noted that Sarasota was one of the top recovering markets in the nation. Corcoran said Sarasota is a "beautiful beachfront community" that offers residents and visitors "a sophisticated, urban cultural experience" that is propelling sales and prices in 2011.

Overall, sales in 2011 continued on pace to exceed last year by a wide margin, and should put the Sarasota market at the highest level since 2005. This sales resurgence has paralleled the drop in the available inventory, and put the remaining months of inventory in the range of a seller's market.

The November 2011 median sale price for single family homes rose to \$162,000 from the October 2011 median of \$149,838, a rise of 8 percent. This month's figure was also higher than last November, when the median was \$160,100. The condo figure has been fluctuating for several months, and again dropped in November to \$127,000 - lower than last month's figure of \$143,000 and last November's figure of \$159,000. The year-to-date median sale price was \$155,000 for single family homes and \$157,250 for condos. These figures have remained remarkably steady for the past year, indicating a stabilizing market.

"The Sarasota real estate market has retained traction, and we hope the brightening national economic picture will help maintain and even push this market higher," said SAR President Michael Bruno. "There is an encouraging sense of stability and strength in our market."

The distressed property market was relatively unchanged, but did drop slightly from 43 percent of the total market to 41.3 percent. At the height of the foreclosure crisis, that figure topped 51 percent in the second quarter of 2010.

"We were certainly happy to see that Sarasota was in the national spotlight on the Today Show, and in a positive way," said Bruno. "Very few communities in the nation can compete with Sarasota in terms of affordable home values, climate, culture, amenities and the wealth of properties offered here."

Jane Ebury

Real Estate Professional

RSVP Real Estate Inc jane@relocatesarasota.com

www.rsvprealestate.com

On your Computer

Do you use Google Maps to find driving directions?

Have you noticed the small [3D] button next to the directions on the left of your screen?

If you click that button you will then see an animated view of your route, as if you are flying over the roads using satellite imagery.

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GBP/USD December update

GBPUSD High: 1.5697 GBPUSD Low: 1.5479

Both currencies are, however, assisted by the lack of political and fiscal cohesion in the euro zone. As long as investors remain nervous about the future of the euro they will need alternatives. The pound and the dollar offer two of those few alternatives. There is no reason why they should not extend their truce for another month.

FX update 12/22/2011 from Moneycorp

Twice in the last month sterling has threatened to head lower and twice it has bounced, resulting in a four-cent range that could be broken in either direction. The dollar's situation is jeopardised by the puerile budget squabble on Capitol Hill and by the threat of rating agency Fitch to join Standard & Poor's with a downgrade of America's credit rating. The risk to sterling is similar, with Moody's warning that the sovereign debt shambles in Euroland could drag down the UK economy and, with it, Britain's undisputed AAA rating.

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Big Smiles

From the Club's Caribbean Cruise in November.

f 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'.

Sunday, March 4, 2012. HORSE RACING TRIP TO TAMPA BAY DOWNS RACING EXCITEMENT NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!

Sunday brunch in the Skye Terrace Dining Room with panoramic views of racing action. We will travel by coach to Tampa Bay Downs (pick up points in Sarasota and Bradenton)...and we will stay until we know the winner of the last race! Experience the thrill and excitement of thoroughbred racing. Members \$54 including brunch, coach fare, entrance fee, program, tax & gratuities. Non-members \$59.

We can offer some seats in the coach for those interested in booking transportation only for \$25 member and \$30 non-member. You will

be responsible for entrance fees, etc. Hurry! Hurry! Book immediately. This is a popular event and seating is limited! Please send your check payable to the Sarasota British Club to our Treasurer at 102 Tidewater Drive, Bradenton, FL 34210.

Any questions or to put your name on the reservations list, please contact Eileen Schuler (941)-753-4589 or emkbentley@gmail.com



Letter to the Club from All Faiths Food Bank sent December 9, 2011



8171 Blaikie Court • Sarasota, FL 34240
(941) 379-6333 • Fax: (941) 371-0582

Dear Friends

Thank you for your donation of \$1,000, and for taking the time to reach out to those in need in our local community. You have given one of the most basic, but important gifts of all ... the gift of food to a hungry person.

At All Faiths Food Bank, we see hope, relief, and gratitude on the faces of people who turn to us and to our agency partners for food in the midst of their own quiet desperation. We have the privilege of seeing a little something else, too ... the way that giving changes the lives of our donors. The families who are the recipients of your kindness are deeply grateful to you, as is All Faiths Food Bank.

Friends, whether you are a company whose support has provided dozens of meals for hungry families or a generous individual donor, choosing to make a difference in the lives of those who need our help, each of us is bettered by becoming agents of change.

Those of us who work at All Faiths Food Bank continue to be inspired by your enthusiasm and tireless commitment to our mission. It is an honor to be in this partnership of compassion and caring with you. None of the work that we do would be possible without your ongoing support, which is a vital investment in the community that we all call home.

With sincere gratitude to you for your caring and generous support..

Sincerely,
Nicole Double
Interim Executive Director

Come and Join the Club

The Sarasota British Club (SBC) serves the needs of its membership in the spirit of friendship and mutual support. This includes the planning, developing and overseeing of a social setting where members can meet and exchange interests. The SBC assists British newcomers in settling into the community, and provides British businesses with valuable networking and support. 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 _____ E-Mail _____

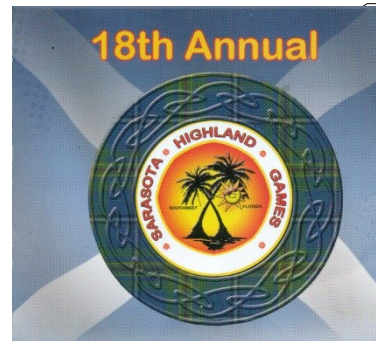
MEMBERSHIP: Single \$25 Family \$35 (includes all children under 18)

How did you hear about us? _____

WHAT'S ON 18th ANNUAL SARASOTA HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 4TH 2012

Where: SARASOTA FAIRGROUNDS
3000 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, Fl



9am -8 pm

Includes Highland Athletics, Pipe Bands, Highland Dance, Irish Dance, Celtic Bands, Clan Tents, Celtic Vendors, Kid's Events

See www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

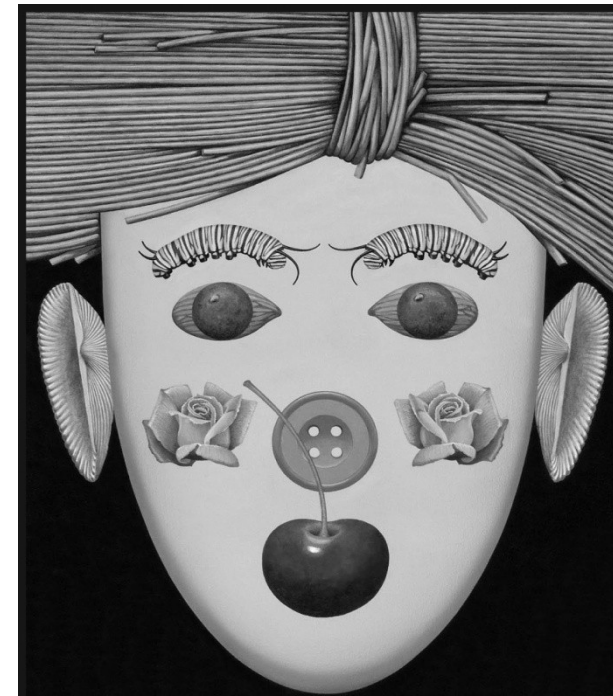
Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the gate.

Advance ticket locations include

Sarasota: Scots Corner, Tastefully British, 4 & 20 Pasty, Davidson's Drugs,

Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch: Chop Shop, MacAllister's Grill & Tavern, Irene's Resort Wear.

Venice: Paper Pad



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

January of course has 2 special times for the Scots; Hogmanay at New Years, and Robbie Burns Night, so I would like to feature Shortbread which the Scots can lay claim to, going as far back as the 12th. century. A Scottish baker who used to visit our tea room told me in her wonderful brogue the secret was "careful handling and careful firing" , so don't over process the dough and slow even baking is the key. Hope you like my version.

Shortbread

4 cups all purpose flour
1 lb (4 sticks) real butter, lightly salted
1 cup sugar

Using a processor, put half of the flour in add the cut up butter and sugar, add the remaining flour and lightly pulse several times until the dough just starts to bind together. Turn into a large bowl and use a pastry blender to even up the butter. Turn into a lightly greased 13"X17" baking tray. Gently press down to even out and prick with a fork. Bake in pre-heated oven at 325 degrees F for 30-40 minutes or lightly golden. Gently cut into 'fingers' or whatever shape you want before it cools completely, and allow to cool completely before taking out of the pan. (Can be frozen after baking if it lasts that long!)

I welcome requests, and comments and can be reached at Yourcuppteal@yahoo.com

Recipe from

Sandra Cherry, Union Jack Food Columnist

Some Christmas Party 2011 photos courtesy of David Brading, who has made over 200 photos available in a web album. Email me at lakewood2@gmail.com for the link.



Murphy's Military Laws II

No captain can do very wrong who places his ship alongside that of the enemy. (Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson)
Only numbers can annihilate. (Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson)
Always know when it's time to get out of Dodge.
Always know how to get out of Dodge.
Never forget that your weapon is made by the lowest bidder.
Priorities are made by officers, not God. There's a difference.
Always honour a threat.
The weight of all of your equipment is proportional to the cube of the time you have been carrying it.
Hell hath no fury like a non-combatant. (Charles Edward Montague)
Fighter pilots make movies; attack pilots make history.
There are two kinds of naval vessels: submarines and targets.
A lost battle is a battle one thinks one has lost. Ferdinand Foch (Principles de Guerre)
Surprise is an event that takes place in the mind of a commander. (Jerry Pournelle)
All warfare is based on deception. Sun Tzu (The Art of War)
A little caution outflanks a large cavalry. Otto von Bismark
No combat ready squad ever passed inspection. No inspection ready squad ever passed combat.
Five second grenade fuses burn down in three seconds.
The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
Radios function perfectly until you need fire support.
If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share to take.
Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
Parade ground inspections are to combat readiness as mess hall food is to cuisine.
The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions:
a. when you're ready for them.
b. when you're not ready for them.
Try to look unimportant, they may be low on ammo.

Anything you do can get you shot, including nothing.
Make it tough enough for the enemy to get in and you won't be able to get out.
If you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in a combat zone.
When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
When in doubt empty the magazine.
Snow is not neutral. (Frunze Military Academy Maxim)
The tank is a monument to the inaccuracy of indirect fire.
Diplomacy has rarely been able to gain at the conference table what cannot be gained or held on the battlefield. (General Walter Bedell Smith)
War is the unfolding of miscalculations. (Barbara Tuchman)
Perfect is the enemy of good enough. (Soviet Admiral Gorshkov)
He who wants to defend everything defends nothing. (Frederick the Great)
If they're shooting at you, it's a high intensity conflict.
Artillery adds dignity to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl.
Never draw fire. It irritates everyone around you.
A sucking chest wound is nature's way of telling you to slow down.
If at first you don't succeed, call for artillery.
When that doesn't work, call for an air strike.
Mine fields are not neutral. They attack both armies.
The Claymore you set now points at you.
The effective radius of a hand grenade is always greater than the distance you can jump.
The effective radius of a hand grenade is greater than the average grunt can throw it.
Your mortar barrage will put exactly one round on the intended target. That round will be a dud.
The mortar team will always have the correct number of safety pins to prove they armed all the rounds.
To ensure this, the mortar team carries extra pins.



JOKES

After Quasimodo's death, the bishop of the Cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he would conduct the interviews personally and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process. After observing several applicants demonstrate their skills, he had decided to call it a day.

Just then, an armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell ringer's job. The bishop was incredulous.

You have no arms!

'No matter,' said the man. 'Observe!'

And he began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon.

The bishop listened in astonishment; convinced he had finally found a replacement for Quasimodo.

But suddenly, as he rushed forward to strike the bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the street below.

The stunned bishop rushed down two hundred and ninety five church steps, when he reached the street, a crowd had gathered around the fallen figure, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moment before.

As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, 'Bishop, who was this man?'

'I don't know his name,' the bishop sadly replied,

BUT HIS FACE RINGS A BELL!

WAIT ! WAIT ! There's more...

The following day, despite the sadness that weighed heavily on his heart due to the unfortunate death of the armless campanologist, the Bishop continued his interviews for the bell ringer of Notre Dame.

The first man to approach him said, 'Your Excellency, I am the brother of the poor armless wretch that fell to his death from this very belfry yesterday. I pray that you honor his life by allowing me to replace him in this duty.'

The bishop agreed to give the man an audition, and, as the armless man's brother stooped to pick up a mallet to strike the first bell, he groaned, clutched at

his chest, twirled around, and died on the spot.

Two monks, hearing the bishop's cries of grief at this second tragedy, rushed up the stairs to his side.

'What has happened? Who is this man?' the first monk asked breathlessly.

'I don't know his name,' sighed the distraught bishop, 'but.....'

'HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR HIS BROTHER!'

=====

IT IS A NEW YEAR!

Jemima was taking an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve before the festivities. After she woke up, she confided to Max, her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?'

'Aha, you'll know tonight,' answered Max smiling broadly.

At midnight, as the New Year was chiming, Max approached Jemima and handed her small package. Delighted and excited she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled: 'The meaning of dreams'.

Dieting - New Year Resolutions

2008: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2009: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2010: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2011: I will work out 3 days a week.

2012: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week

February 1st

Have you ever wondered how a Fire Station deals with call-outs, if you would to join us to see inside the new station only built two years ago on Honore Avenue and learn more about the EMS. A tour of the station at 11am on Wednesday February 1st has been arranged. Our new Fire Chief Mike Tobias is looking forward to showing us around this station that he and his team are very proud of.... Mike also will give us an insight to their procedure within the station. Please phone Sue Ford if you are joining us. No cost parking is available.

February 11th

"Valentine's Night" - we have booked The South Bay Yacht Club...the theme is 50's and 60's music... food includes...Shepherd's Pie supper...dessert & sodas... members to please bring along your own wine or beer. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. More info. in the next edition.

Letter from the Editor

A handful of Members have let me know that their BritNews was not delivered on time. All the mailing was done on 30th November from the same location. The newsletter is available on the Club's website or you can request it by email. US postal service was under pressure of the seasonal rush but if your copy does not arrive in future please let me know ASAP and I'll endeavor to find a spare copy if possible or I'll email the PDF file.

THANKS

The Club would like to thank the businesses that donated gifts or vouchers for our Christmas raffle. And a "Thank You" to the Members that made the effort to collect these gifts.



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