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## BritClub News



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

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# BritClub News

June, 2007

Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 7, Issue 6

## Coming Events

**Board Meeting June 4** – 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sandra Cherry, 2930 Williamsburg St., Sarasota. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, BUT PLEASE PHONE AHEAD AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

**Vineyard Tour & Luncheon June 3** – Ciao Amici!! Our fun filled afternoon in the Tuscany of south west Florida is **fully booked**. Those of you attending the Rosa Fiorelli Winery in Bradenton on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, please meet us there about 10 minutes to 2:00. The event will last from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. In a special covered pavilion amidst the vineyards, we will sample some 7 to 10 different locally produced wines, eat an Italian meal (buffet style) and learn about the delicate science of making wine. We will also get a chance to see the grapes just before they are harvested (mid-June) and tour the facility where the wine is actually made. This is a small, rustic winery which is owner-operated. If desired, wine can also be purchased to take home.



**For those who have RSVPed**, the cost is just \$25 per person, which includes the tour, lunch and wine tasting. We also get to keep our wine glass as a souvenir. If you have not done so already, please send your check to: Sarasota British Club, P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276.

**Directions:** Take State Route 70, east of I-75 until you come to CR-675N. Turn left onto CR-675N. You will drive just over 4 miles until you come to: 4250 County Road 675 E., Bradenton.

**Pub Dinner July 7 (07-07-07)** – This intriguing date is significant because this is when we will gather for food, drinks and chit-chat at Osprey's newest restaurant – **Beckham's Osprey Grill**. Sorry, not the Beckham, but co-owner George Beckham is possibly, just possibly, related to David.

He and his business partner, Annie, offer a reasonably priced, mostly American, menu which includes good fish and chips. However, at our request Annie will cook her outstanding cottage pie and steak and ale pie.

We will gather in the bar area at 6:00 and sit down to eat at 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. We have promised David, oops, George that we will give them a head count by July 1<sup>st</sup> and seating is limited, so please RSVP Terry Sweeney at 918-0550 or Amy Croshaw at [acrowshaw@verizon.net](mailto:acrowshaw@verizon.net) or 928-2580.

**Our website is [www.SarasotaBritishClub.com](http://www.SarasotaBritishClub.com)**

## From Our President

Well, the dog days of summer have begun, as those who attended the Memorial Day service in Arcadia can attest. I'd personally like to thank all of you who came out to honour those brave lads who perished during WW II. While I'm thanking people, I'd be remiss in not mentioning the Yeoman's job done by Kathy Curtin in pulling together the Twin Lakes picnic. The weather cooperated, the smoke from the state's wildfires was held at bay, and many dozens of us enjoyed an array of delicious food ranging from multiple shrimp preparations to a sherry trifle, in addition to the fried chicken and ham provided by the Club. Thanks to all who helped make this such a fun event.

The special event for August that we've been teasing you about will have to be placed on hold. The venue just recently announced they are closing for major renovations during August and September. Once they reopen, we'll try again.

After several months of discussion and planning, the Board, at the request of our newsletter editor, has allowed her to redesign The Brit Club News. The new format is less expensive to produce, and will continue to allow for increased distribution throughout the community. We are finding these extra copies to be helpful in getting new members to join, as well as increasing the numbers of non-members who attend our events, many of whom subsequently join. I hope you like the new look.

Hope to see you at our upcoming events. As always, if there's something you'd like to see us do, feel free to ring me on 321-9631. Until next time,

Cheers!

Nairn' B. Gillet, President

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## May 7<sup>th</sup> Minutes Précis

Reviewed the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting; all went very well with good attendance. May 11<sup>th</sup> picnic plans also doing well with reservations coming in. A budget of \$100 was approved for a wreath or flowers for the Memorial Day service. Upcoming events include the Winery tour in June, a get-together at the new Beckham's Osprey Grill for July, rest of year planned. Business group still in formation, hoping to start in July. Decided to condense the newsletter to save on costs of printing and posting. Plan another newcomer tea in October. Website upgrading the data base to help with emails. Next meeting June 4<sup>th</sup> at Sandra Cherry's home, reservations requested.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Rose's Corner

So sorry I couldn't attend the picnic, but I had a death in the family and needed to take a long trip around the Eastern US to attend to everything for the funeral. I had surgery three days after returning to repair a deviated septum and hope to be completely well and breathing easily for our winery tour this month. Hope to see many of you there!!

As always, 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](mailto:rosegillet@yahoo.com). Closing date for the news-letter is the 15th of each month.

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## 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the newsletter editor, Rose Gillet, at 3219 24<sup>th</sup> Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235 or email them to her at [rosegillet@yahoo.com](mailto:rosegillet@yahoo.com).

## Membership News from Kathy Curtin

We have a few 2007 membership renewals outstanding. I shall be sending out a reminder to the few soon. Also if you have changed your mailing address or email and didn't update the renewal letter please, please email me with the update to [kathrmcurt@msn.com](mailto:kathrmcurt@msn.com).

We welcomed two new members at the picnic, Gary and Susan Flynn (Susan won the ladies raffle prize). They own Java Florist and Café in Venice so stop by and say hello if you get chance.

**Picnic at Twin Lakes Park** – Many thanks to all who signed up and came to the picnic, we hope you had a good time. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the preparation, setting up and cleaning up. I acquired a small wooden bowl, bottle opener and a yellow tea towel that was left at the picnic. Lost and found can be retrieved by calling Kathy at 941-379-9861.

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## Talk of the Suncoast Update

The peripatetic Cliff Roles and his radio programme, *Talk of the Suncoast*, now heard from 2 to 3 pm on WSLR, 96.5 on the FM dial, will be changing its air time effective **July 1** to 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

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## Immigration and Visa News

As President, I recently received an impassioned plea from one of your fellow Brits to ask that you do what you can with your local reps in Washington to urge them not to throw out the baby with the bath water in their ongoing efforts to crack down on illegal immigrants.

More information can be found at <http://www.expatsvoice.org>. As I understand it (and I am admittedly no expert), the proposed legislation would do away with, or make extremely more difficult to obtain, compassionate visas, as well as a host of other issues. I was asked by Sue Ward, the founder of ExPat's Voice, to bring this issue to your attention, and to do what you can in contacting your local House of Representatives members.

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## 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, both British Open pubs, The Irish Rovers, The Coach & Horses Pub, Shakespeare's, McAllister's, Scots Corner and Simon's Coffee Shoppe. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.

## Watercress Soup

Watercress is now easily found in the stores and, although it requires a bit of fiddling to pick off the stems and clean, it is worth the delicate flavour of this soup. It is also referred to as Hampshire Soup as that is considered the watercress 'capital' in England. This soup is good warm or chilled.

2 Tbsp. butter  
2 chopped onions  
2 bunches of watercress (washed, patted dry and removed from stalks)  
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced  
2 cups chicken stock  
1 ½ cups milk  
¾ cup cream  
Salt and pepper



Sauté the onions, watercress and potatoes in the butter for five minutes. Add chicken stock and simmer for 30 minutes or until potatoes are cooked. Cool and blend in a processor until smooth. Return to pan, add milk and warm, season to taste. *(If serving warm, swirl the cream into the soup just before serving; if serving chilled, cool, add cream and refrigerate a few hours.)*

Recipe by Sandra Cherry, Your Cup of Tea Inc.; comments, queries and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to [Yourcupoftea1@yahoo.com](mailto:Yourcupoftea1@yahoo.com) or [www.Yourcupoftea.info](http://www.Yourcupoftea.info)

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## A Stiff Upper Lip



When disaster overtakes you  
Never show it, though it breaks you.  
In a crisis truly crucial  
One must carry on as usual.

If the chaps all round you panic  
Be depressive, never manic.  
Though your road be steep and slippery  
Cultivate stiff-upper-lippery .

Catastrophic misadventures?  
Clench your fists or grit your dentures.  
Just be calm and just be static.  
Doesn't do to be dramatic.

When the sky begins to redden  
At the dawn of Armageddon,  
If a fellow makes a fuss  
He just isn't one of us.



(Author unknown)

# British Business Connection (BBC) Meeting

The Sarasota British Club is proud to announce the first meeting of the BRITISH BUSINESS CONNECTION (BBC).

**Event:** *Let's "work" together*

**Where:** Four Gees Cafe  
3615 Webber Street (NE corner of Beneva)  
Sarasota 34232

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, July 17, 2007  
Noon to 1:15PM

**Fee:** \$15, includes lunch

**Reply to:** Valerie Woodger/Cell: 313-5500

At its February meeting, the Board voted to promote and actively support a new business-oriented arm of the Club – British Business Connections (BBC). The Mission Statement of BBC is:

***Focused on and dedicated to providing a forum to meet, exchange ideas, and make contacts, to promote and develop business support and great relationships within the British business community. Guiding principles are: Integrity, Professionalism, Superior Client Service, Member Support, Mutual Profitability.***

Ideas and suggestions from members for promoting BBC are solicited and will be most welcome. We are favoring breakfasts, lunches and early evening events (wine and snacks) as venues and a great means to interest business people. We will be promoting BBC at upcoming events and look forward to all the support you can offer.

For further information or interest, please contact:

Mike Bentley 780-4594 ([mhbentley01@yahoo.com](mailto:mhbentley01@yahoo.com))  
Sandra Cherry 921-3162 ([yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com](mailto:yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com))  
Amy Croshaw 751-6194 ([acrowshaw@verizon.net](mailto:acrowshaw@verizon.net))  
Jim Croshaw 928-2769 ([jcroshaw@standoutsolutions.com](mailto:jcroshaw@standoutsolutions.com)) or  
Valerie Woodger 922-1070 ([valeriewoodger@yahoo.com](mailto:valeriewoodger@yahoo.com))

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN TO ADDRESS BELOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS EXCITING NEW ADDITION TO THE BRITISH CLUB!!

# British Business Connection (BBC)

The BBC will meet once a month in various interesting venues around town with the object of networking and showcasing individuals and businesses with specific British interests, connections or affiliations.

Businesses or individuals who are interested in this kind of activity and look forward to the fun of meeting new and exciting British oriented people with new products and ideas as well as established goods and services are encouraged to join by completing the form below. (There will be a small service charge for non-club members.)

Name: .....

Street Address: .....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....

Business: .....

Products Handled/Services Offered: .....

Email: ..... Phone: .....

Comments or Areas of Interest: .....

Please return to Sarasota British Club, P.O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 or fax to 941-752-3293.