



BritClub News

March, 2014

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

Vol. 14, Issue 3

Coming Events

The March SBC Board Meeting will be held at the home of Brian and Jane Thompson, Thursday March 13th, 2014 @ 6:30pm. Members welcome but please call ahead, see Page 3, as space is limited.

Visit to Solomon's Castle on March 14th. The home and studio of internationally known sculptor Howard Solomon. His work is held by collectors and museums nationwide and overseas.

The three story castle presents a gleaming silver face to the visitor since it is built with aluminum printing plates thrown out by the local newspaper.

The spacious interior displays an extensive range of Solomon's highly imaginative and often quirky sculptures made from discarded materials such as oil drums, broken appliances, car parts, drink cans plus many other junk items.

A few yards from the castle is the Boat in the Moat, a 60 foot replica of a 16th century Portuguese galleon, which serves as the Moat's restaurant.

The lunch menu comprises a wide range of sandwiches, hot meals and salads with prices ranging from \$7.95 to \$10:00.

Check out their website for photographs, more information and menu....<http://solomonscastle.org/>

General Admission: \$10.

Please note that **credit/debit cards NOT ACCEPTED.** Cash or check only, meals also.

Meet at castle at 10:30 a.m.

Driving time from mid-town Sarasota is about 1 hour.

You may wish to make your own carpool arrangements.

The street address is **4585 Solomon Road, Ona, FL**

If lost call [863-494-6007](tel:863-494-6007)

DIRECTIONS: I.75 to Hwy.64 East. Go 29 miles to Hwy. 665.

Go South on 665 for 9 miles. Turn left at sign to the castle.

GPS co-ordinates...N27 22' 26.5" W 087 58' 40.1

(If you use your GPS, any GPS, it will drop you off in an orange grove three miles from Solomon's Castle (so we are told).

PLEASE let Terry Sweeney know if you plan to embark on this great adventure!!

[941-918-0550](tel:941-918-0550) or tsweeneyau@aol.com

DEADLINE DATE: March 10th

Orioles vs Braves Spring game on March 21st. As of 28th February, one ticket remains. Contact Paul Wilkinson, pwilkinson18@comcast.net 240-432-2851

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

Monthly Lunch Club, March 28th, 12:30 pm at the Alamo Steakhouse and Grill, 6231 Lake Osprey Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240 (within the Holiday Inn, off University Parkway just east of I-75, Exit 213.) Each month, we have hoped to find a restaurant that perhaps you have not visited before. The Alamo Steakhouse and Grill has a reputation for its good value Southwestern twist on American classics as well as Tex-Mex favorites. The dining room is cosy with a very friendly atmosphere, including a lovely fire burning in the hearth on chilly days—the kind of place we Brits are drawn to. Lunches start at \$5.99 and they even have 'Blackened Alligator' on the menu. To see the full menu, go to www.hilr.com/dining.aspx. I do hope you will join us. Please email or call me (sueford@janbury.com or 941-751-3811.) Note: there will not be a monthly lunch in April as horse racing at Tampa Bay Downs is the event I will chair for the month.

Save the date!

When: Wed May 7.

What: **Picnic at South Lido Beach Park.**

How: Pot luck lunch

Event organizer: Jane Thompson

More details to follow in the April newsletter.

MORE EVENTS on Page 8

Letter from SBC President Gary Lee

Dear Members,

As I write this, the brilliant, warm sunshine streaming through my study windows combined with present weather predictions bring the promise that we can once again revel in delightful Spring weather bestowed on Florida's west coast. After all, isn't the generally very pleasant climate the major reason most of us are now in Florida? This is also the time to take stock of an assortment of upcoming Club social events featured in this newsletter and make your plans to join in the fun. Speaking of time reminds me of calendars and of the following historical developments.



From the Did You Know Corner---

The Gregorian calendar was first introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII—hence its name. It has been implemented by most countries because the Julian calendar—introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C.—assumes a full year is 365.25 days; whereas it is actually some 11 minutes less than the solar year. As a result, the Julian calendar gained about 3 days every 4 centuries compared to equinox times and the seasons. This discrepancy was corrected by the Gregorian reform. Time periods vary as to when countries switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. For instance, Spain, Italy and France changed over in 1582, but many protestant countries did not follow suit until much later. Among the latter, Germany and the Netherlands adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1698; but it was half a century later that Great Britain and the colonies made the change. This was brought about by the British Calendar Act of 1751, which was implemented in 1752. Prior to that Act, September 2 in London, for instance, was September 13 in Paris and Lisbon—a difference of 11 days. I can only suppose in view of the much slower pace of international missives, trade documents, etc. of the period that the difference of 11 days between Britain and the Continent was not unduly disruptive. Interestingly, Russia did not accept the Gregorian calendar until after the 1918 revolution; while Greece joined the pack only in 1923. Today many Orthodox churches still honor the Julian calendar, which is, at present, some 13 days behind the Gregorian.

New Newsletter Feature--

In this issue of the newsletter, I am introducing the first of several very interesting pieces on selected stately homes around the UK. These were written by a colleague, Gary Beaver, who served with me for several years on the Board of the British Embassy Players in Washington, D.C. He is an avid traveler around Britain with a keen eye for lovely properties and gardens; and he

writes splendidly. This other Gary, or "OG", as I refer to him in emails, has given me carte blanche to edit his pieces as necessary to comport with any space constraints, add website references, etc.. I think you will enjoy his essays immensely. You will find the first installment, featuring Audley End House in Essex on page 6.



SANDRA'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

At time of writing am looking forward to attending the Welsh Club's do on the 1st, I thought it appropriate to feature a "Welsh" recipe...(it actually was first featured in the cookbook in England in 1747!) Welsh Rarebit can be as simple as just slicing cheese on toast and grilling it, but it's worth the extra effort to make it with the sauce, I often use this with toast points and serve the sauce in a small crockpot to use as an appetizer. Hope you like my version.



Welsh Rarebit

4 Tbsp butter
1/4 cup flour
1 1/2 tsp dry English mustard
salt and pepper
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup beer
1 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
2 cups grated cheddar cheese
Tomato slices (optional)
Toast

Melt butter over medium heat, stir in flour and mustard and mix into a ball, add the milk gradually, stirring constantly until smooth. Add the beer and Worcestershire Sauce (don't make it too thin) Stir in the cheese and mix until smooth and melted, Top each piece of toast with 2-3 Tbsp of the sauce and optional tomato, and grill until the sauce is bubbling and lightly browned.



(Recipe from Sandra F Cherry, Union Jack food columnist, and can be reached at Yourcuppateal@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.

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.



February 2014 -Board Meeting Precis

February 2014 Board Meeting Precis

February 13th meeting held at the Malkasian home.

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

Treasurer's Report shows balance of \$4935.03. Membership Report indicated nine new members so far this year. Annual renewal of membership begins March 1st. Discussion of use of PayPal resulted in a motion to eliminate its use on the website. Level of response to several past and upcoming offerings were discussed, concluding that items such as the Sarasota Ballet visit and the like should become annual events. Sandra confirmed that Heritage Oaks will be the site of the annual Christmas Party on December 20th and that MC Squared will provide music. The Board unanimously approved sending a donation of \$200 to The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society Scholarship fund drive. On Gary's suggestion a 4 member sub-committee was formed to work on improvements to the website. Suggestions for future events included a May picnic at Lido Beach, a July games night and an evening cruise on LeBarge in August. Next Board meeting is scheduled for March 13th tentatively at the home of Brian and Jane Thompson. (Submitted by Jean Malkasian, Temporary Acting Secretary.)



HELP NEEDED

The Club needs some assistance with our web page design and help in making it more user-friendly. If you, or someone you know, (perhaps a youngster!) has some skills with computers, please reach out to the following.

Paul Wilkinson

pwilkinson18@comcast.net

240-432-2851

Mark Markasian

mark@armeng.com

941-918-8360

QUOTATION

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

— Abraham Lincoln

My Appalachian Trial

It has long been a somewhat distant, yet fervent, hope that I may one day be able to thru-hike the entire **Appalachian Trail**, the 2185 mile long eastern spine of America, stretching North to South from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt Katahdin in Maine. It was a relatively safe bet that it would never happen, so, when my wife and I sold our business in December, the whole adventure took on a whole new, possible perspective for me. As a consequence, and with some trepidation, I am delighted to be able to inform my Brit friends that I will be setting out to make this distant dream a reality in late March 2014. There are some daunting statistics about the trail that resonate with me, quite apart from the astonishing 2185 miles I'll be hiking. I will travel through 14 states, in approximately 6 months, where I may encounter bears, snakes, mountain lions and elk, while the elevation gain along the trail is the equivalent of 16 times up Mt Everest. Happily, there will also be a few downhill as well. I'll be sleeping in a tent, hanging my food (and toothpaste!) from a high branch to discourage foraging bears, as well as going considerable periods of time without the benefit of a shower. The least said about my impending toilet arrangements the better. Suffice to say, my dear wife has equipped me with a garish orange trowel to dig holes and bury "stuff."



The equipment is costing quite a bit, though keeping weight down is a priority, so it seems that the lighter it is, the more expensive it is. Thus far, I have invested in boots, backpack, trekking poles, tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, stove and fuel, water bottle, water purifier (don't ask) and my wife bought me a solar charger that will be attached to my backpack to enable me to charge my phone.

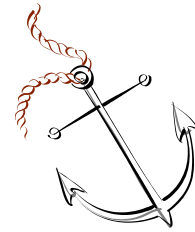
I will be writing a blog and invite you all to visit the site at www.myappalachiantrial.com, while, if you're on Facebook, please "like" my site My Appalachian Trial (note the spelling of TRIAL in both cases) and I'll keep you all up to date with my progress.

It may well be that I don't even get out of Georgia, yet this is such an adventure that I am flying from excitement right now, so as much encouragement as possible is always going to be welcome. I've heard of too many friends and acquaintances recently who have either died or been debilitated for various reasons. I realize that, at 61, my window of opportunity to do this thing is closing somewhat rapidly and I'd hate to look back in 10 years and think "if only...." I'm hoping that, instead, I'll be able to look back and say "I'm REALLY glad I did that."

Steve Adams

Christmas Party Photos.

In case you missed the link in the January BritNews, you can see all of them at <http://tinypurl.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.



Boat Trips around Sarasota Bay

My name is Barry Evans and I am a member of The Sarasota British Club.

I want to offer to all members, friends & family of the Sarasota Brit Club the opportunity of a morning cruise around Sarasota Bay. I am a member of a boat club in town and would love the opportunity to take people out on a Friday morning and stop for a bite to eat if passengers desire. (I do not work for the boat club so this is not a sales event. I am just trying to make sure I take advantage of my boat club membership)

The details are as follows:

Every Friday at 9.30 am from Phillippi Harbor Club, 1780 Phillippi Shores Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231.

You can call me on my cell phone, 941-993-9752, to reserve space. I can take 4-5 people at a time.

The only requirement is that everyone chips in for fuel (\$5 each).

This is weather permitting, of course; but I will call and let you know if the boat is not going out.

Sun cover. There will be shade on the boat but I recommend bringing a hat and sunglasses. Sun block is also needed.

I will be doing this on a weekly basis and will see how many people take me up on it. If anyone has an interest in fishing, then let me know and we can arrange a fishing trip as well.

Barry

Have you looked at our website recently?

www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

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 twosomes 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.



JOKES

What do you call a Spaniard leaving hospital?
Manuel

Why did the moth nibble a little hole in the carpet?
It wanted to see the floor show...

A sceptical anthropologist was cataloguing South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal elder, who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the elder looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas."

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'.

Recent photo additions have been some of the Christmas Party and our charity donation.

Check out Steve Adam's Appalachian Trail too, see Page 4



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 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.



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 as 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; 941-706-1172.)

An Essex Treasure

Among the many beautiful country mansions of England, Audley End House ranks as one of the loveliest. Set near the lovely town of Saffron Walden, Audley End was once a Benedictine monastery seized by Henry VIII and passed on to a court favorite. A great Jacobean mansion was raised by First Earl of Suffolk by the early 17th Century, recognized

as the largest house in Britain. This engaged the suspicions of James I who placed the earl and his wife in the Tower for embezzlement from the Treasury and eventually, Audley End became a Crown property and then a royal palace to Charles II.

By the 18th Century the property was passed on to Baron Braybrooke and house was reduced to a more manageable size and is substantially the structure and gardens that we can enjoy today. The house is in the grand and monumental style of its day and its interior and collections are truly magnificent. The rooms were redesigned by the Third Baron Braybrooke in 1825 in a lavish Regency style with beautiful furniture and decorations. The art collection contains paintings by Holbein and Canaletto along with beautiful tapestries. The gardens were designed by the famous Capability Brown and are extensive and are arguably one of the best, if not the best, in Britain. It is an estate, parkland and a series of gardens with long avenues of trees, a parterre garden, a rose garden and fountains, and a walled kitchen garden now in use as a working organic kitchen garden.

The property is now in the hands of English Heritage. The Neville family (The Lords Braybrooke) suffered, as many did during World War II. Henry Neville, the 7th Lord Braybrooke died in March 1941 and then came the imposition of substantial death duties upon their fortunes. Tragedy struck again when a younger son, George Neville, was killed in August 1941 when his corvette, HMS Picotee was sunk in the North Atlantic by a U-boat. The eldest son, Richard Neville, the 8th Lord Braybrooke, served in the Grenadier Guards and was killed in action in North Africa in 1943, which occasioned another round of death duties on the family which their fortune could not survive. As part of the tax settlement, Audley End House was sold to the Ministry of Works, but the current Lord Braybrooke and his family retain the right to reside on the property. Audley End House is easily accessible from London by British Rail as Audley End Station is nearby.

To see pictures of the estate visit the websites:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.12088>

and

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1076>.

Used by permission of author: Gary C. Beaver, The British Players, Washington, D.C.

Quotation

Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."

— **Helen Keller**

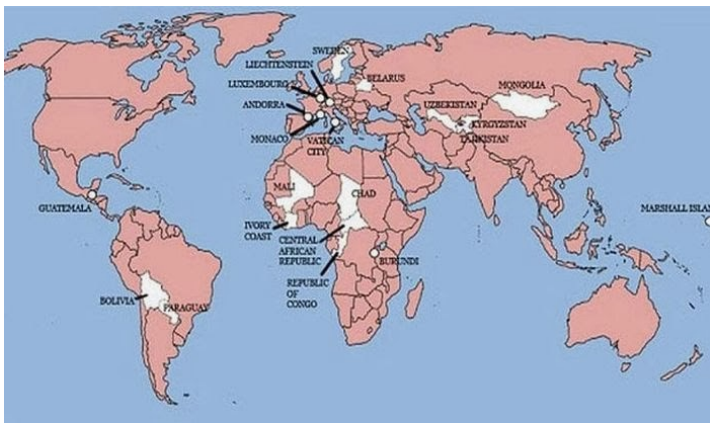
MAPS

A recent email to me included some maps which showed a different perspective on some facts. Some of which I thought are especially interesting to the USA/UK.

Brian Thompson



Countries in blue drive on the left.



Shows the countries in white that England has never invaded.(only 22!)



All the world's internet connections in 1969.



Countries in red don't use the metric system.



Media Matters

- **For Downton Abbey fans** – the complete soundtrack is available in the Apple iTunes store and on Amazon.com: a beautiful seven minute long, semi-classical piece entitled “The Downton Abbey Suite” composed by John Lunn, played by the Chamber Orchestra of London priced at \$1.29
- **For Beatles fans** – on Netflix DVD or instant play streaming “Good Ol’ Freda”, an 86 minute documentary narrated by Freda Kelly, a shy Liverpudlian teenager asked to work for a local band hoping to make it big. Her story as the secretary for the Beatles is a heartwarming and insightful reminiscence into her first telling of the short but legendary mania splash of 50 years ago.
- **Mark Malkasian**



Freda with George Harrison

REMINDER - 20th of each month is the deadline for me to receive entries for newsletters. Anything received after that date will go into the following issue.

The preferred format is Times Roman font in a Microsoft Word attachment or plain text in the body of your email.

Your editor Brian Thompson
lakewood2@gmail.com

Coming Events

Continued from Page 1

Tampa Downs Horse Racing and Sunday Brunch,

daVinci Exhibition in Bradenton

Sunday, 27th April Mark the date in your diary. This fun day of racing offers you fine dining service on the third floor of the Clubhouse, which provides exciting panoramic views of racing action in a smoke-free environment. Those of you who have joined us in the past already know what a great day out this makes. If you want to enjoy a drink or two at the races, you can do as we have arranged a comfortable bus with one pick-up point each in both Sarasota and Bradenton. The price of the splendid brunch buffet and sumptuous dessert table, entrance fee and program is \$29.00 including gratuity. (Bar drinks are extra.) The round-trip bus fare is \$20, gratuity included. For those taking the arranged bus then, the total fee for the day is \$49 pp. Note: Tampa Downs is a very popular venue, they have limited our group to 50 persons maximum. To reserve your place, email/phone Sue Ford: sueford@janbury.com; 941-751-3811.



Club members Carol Brown and Rhet Redpath are docents for the Leonardo daVinci Machines Exhibition now at the Bradenton Municipal Auditorium through May 18. They enthusiastically encourage Club members to come and see some 60 machines based on daVinci's drawings and specifications. They were built by artisans in the Leonardo daVinci Museum in Florence, Italy. Says Rhet, "...marvel at the Genius King of the Renaissance whilst you enjoy a docent-led tour and interact with many of the astounding mechanical creations. This is something I think you will remember forever."

Hours for this exhibition are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-6pm Sundays. Tickets are \$15.95 for adults; seniors, \$13.95. The group (20 or more) rate is \$11.00.

The Bradenton Municipal Auditorium is located at 1005 First Ave., West, Bradenton 34205. From I-75, take exit 220B, Rt. 64 W; turn right onto 10th St. W; left onto 1st Ave W. The Auditorium will be on the left. For more information: 941-932-9484.

Read a Herald Tribune article about the exhibit at <http://tinyurl.com/kny7a6p>

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