



Brit Club News

November, 2015 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Vol. 15, Issue 11

Coming Events

The SBC Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th November** at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

Annual General Meeting and Social **Evening.** This is set for Saturday November 21, 6:00 pm at Lakeshore Village Clubhouse. **Members will have received an email notifying them of the AGM.**



**HEAR YE, HEAR YE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY, 21
NOVEMBER 2015**

Do note the date above for the Club's Annual General Meeting. Beginning at 6:30 pm, the business part of this evening is to elect the SBC Board for 2016. Following the AGM, we will have a meal. The Board will supply entrees; attendees are asked to bring salads, vegetables and desserts. Assignments for the latter will be specified later. The Club will also provide water and soft drinks. Please bring your own alternative beverages. We also plan a trivia quiz and a raffle drawing.

Members will be asked to vote for the following slate of candidates:

President—Paul Wilkinson
Vice President—Sandra Cherry
Treasurer—Margaret Hughes
Secretary—Jane Jacobs
Membership Director—Ivan Gould

Website Liaison Director -- Mark Malkasian
Newsletter Editor—Brian Thompson
Directors at Large—Barry Evans and Diana Wilkinson

Gary Lee, will by default, become Immediate Past President

Note that under our By-Laws, no nominations will be accepted from the floor during the AGM.

Christmas Party on December 12th—see Page 9 for time, place, menu and ticket form.



Club members are invited to attend the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society's Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced with a hard G, gimanfa ganee), 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 the Annual Meeting luncheon. Lunch costs \$15. Lunch reservations are essential: contact Ronnie Crain at: rcrain61@verizon.net or call 941-922-4801.

President's Letter

Having just returned from 4 weeks in England, Jane and I have gradually settled into normal sleep patterns and re-adjusted to the local time zone. We've also had time to reflect on our adventures along the way, which were overwhelmingly positive. Foremost in the negative column, was the long-agreed upon plan upon landing at Gatwick Airport (from Tampa) to strike out immediately by hired car for the Lake District, a distance of considerable miles. (Yes, we had done that some years ago with ease; but in the interim, both age and UK traffic volume have notably increased). At any rate, we started out well; but lost time due to our being in the wrong lane of the M25 in morning rush hour traffic and erroneously exited. We managed to correct that error after a few miles and re-entered the M25. Life looked good for several hours and we stopped for a meal at one of the services location on the M6. Upon leaving there, we discovered there that our UK cell phone battery had failed. That cell phone contained the telephone number of the B&B we had reserved for the evening. We could handle that, we reasoned, once we arrived in Keswick in the Lakes several hours onward.

Cruel Fate then intervened in the form of a dead stop/delay on the motorway for more than 2 hours due to a traffic accident some miles ahead. Ever optimistic, about 3 hours later we reached the turn off the M6 for our B&B, a distance away. We found the B&B's driving instructions most arcane and evidently took the wrong exit at a small roundabout and found ourselves on a very narrow road. Except for our auto headlights, everything was pitch black as there was no moonlight. After some time, we finally managed to retrace our steps and get back on the M6 (in the wrong direction, unfortunately); and had to drive many miles before being able to rectify that error. All these delays meant we finally arrived in Keswick after 1 a.m and were unable to find the B&B as it was some miles outside the town on unlighted roads. The final blow was that there were NO accommodations to be had in Keswick as we found out when dragging our cases through the town in the wee hours. There, by pure chance, we encountered the night manager of one of the hotels who confirmed there was no room in any inn. He knew this because his hotel owns all the others in town.

Thus thoroughly defeated, we resigned ourselves to bunking down in the car on a quiet side street for the night. At sunrise, we struck out for our B&B (The



Dancing Beck), which we did find with a bit of help; enjoyed a full English breakfast prepared by the delightful owner; and then retired upstairs for a well-deserved sleep. We'd certainly stay there again. We enjoyed two weeks in the Lakes and North Yorkshire at several locations blessed with plentiful sunshine and perfect for invigorating walks and exploration. Thereafter, all went well aside from a few navigational errors in getting to our friends in the greater London area; but that's another story! Suffice it to say, we did stay with two old friends, one in Surrey, the other on the border of Kent for several days each. Both our friends know London very well. We went by train to London nearly every day; travelled about widely on foot; and were taken to sites and delightful eateries we would not have seen otherwise. Too, we managed to take in five West End shows—once, two in a day. Who could ask for anything more?

Do put on your calendar, the Guy Fawkes evening on Saturday, 8th November and our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 21st November.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Gary Lee

Editor's Note. On visiting the UK

Our visit to the UK in March was marred by the chaos at the Dartford Crossing. The road works and high traffic concentration distracted us from the changes that have occurred since a last Thames crossing in 2013. Gary Lee also witnessed this chaos and he and I have both fallen foul of the auto-payment system.

There are cameras to read number plates and one should pay before midnight to avoid a minimum fine of £70, reduced to £35 if paid in 14 days! . If you don't have internet or phone access it would be impossible, certainly penalising foreign visitors with hired cars

News update to September: Motorists have been hit with £4.8m in fines since changes were introduced in paying to use the Dartford Crossing.

Be warned!

From KentOnline: *Dart Charge boss Nigel Gray apologises for 'unanticipated' problems. But six months after Dart Charge was launched, drivers have instead faced a vast array of errors caused by its computer system. From being double-charged for crossings to having money pinched from motorists' bank accounts, readers have regularly contacted the KM Group complaining of their frustrating experiences with the system.*



November's Recipe

I know we are still in the 80's and we don't have the Fall Colours, but it is Autumn, and I love warm desserts, especially with some Bird's custard sauce poured over. This recipe is adapted from an old Sainsbury's magazine, and is oh so easy!!



Hot Berry Charlotte

- 1 cup blackcurrants/blackberries
- 1 cup mixed raspberries, blackberries or blueberries
- 1/2 cup fresh, white, rough texture breadcrumbs (crusts optional)
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp water

Custard sauce or cream for pouring when serving

Preheat oven to 400F. If using fresh fruit, remove the stalks. Put all the fruit in the baking dish and add 2 Tbsp water. Melt the butter in a small pan and stir the breadcrumbs and sugar in. Stir briefly over medium heat, until you see the crumbs take on a golden colour, about 20 minutes. Tip the crumb mix loosely over the fruit, but don't pat them down. Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes, by which time the fruit should have burst and be bubbling through the crumbs. Serve hot with cream or custard. Serves 4

Recipe from *Sandra Cherry*, Union Jack Food Columnist. I welcome comments, requests and recipes, and can be reached at Yourcuppateal@yahoo.com



Image from Wikimedia commons.

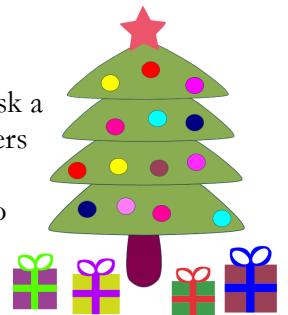
Precis of Board Meeting Thursday October 8th.

Current Club membership stands at 191 with 2 new members added last month. Two new 'Blue Star' listings for British owned business on our website, The Hearing Spa and Hearing Aid Systems Inc. 68 members signed up for Club's 15th anniversary party on October 11. Wine tasting at Casa Italia on October 16th has 29 members signed up. AGM all set for November 21 at Lakeshore Village Clubhouse. Luncheon at MacAllisters on Sept 18 has 48 members in attendance. Next month lunch will be at Olive Garden Oct16th. Guy Fawkes party on November 8th has 29 signed up so far. General discussion on Christmas Party planning. Last Night of the Proms screening and possibly arranging a group to attend the new James Bond movie at the I-Max theater in Sarasota Square Mall. Board members should have recommendations for 2015 charitable donations at next Board meeting on Thursday November 12.



CHRISTMAS PARTY REQUEST

Please can you donate a prize or ask a local business for a prize/vouchers for our raffle? The proceeds will support the Club's annual donation to local non-profit(s).



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'.



Many thanks to all who came to the Club's 15th Anniversary party on Sunday October 11. Venue, food, music & dancing were deemed a great success by everyone. Thanks once again to Sandra Cherry the Founder of the Club who was not able to attend.

Brian & Jane Thompson



Sad News

The Club heard that member Iris Martin had passed away and there was this obituary in the Herald Tribune Sept 12-13th.

Martin, Iris M. Aug. 3, 1918 - Sep. 6, 2015 Iris M. Martin, 97, a twenty year resident of Village Gardens, in Sarasota, died on Sept. 06, 2015 following a massive stroke. Iris' family name was Jago, a name



believed to be of Spanish derivation. It is thought her family descended from a Spanish officer who was captured during the Spanish Armada in 1588. Iris was born in Essex, England. She was in London during the Blitz and enlisted in the Royal Air Force. She was posted to Egypt and for many years lived in the Middle East. In addition to Egypt, she served in Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, India, Yemen and Bahrain. After military service, Iris worked as an airline stewardess and traveled to over eighty countries. Iris married Ronnie Martin and they lived in San Paulo, Brazil and Beirut, Lebanon. After Ronnie died, Iris joined the Peace Corps. She also worked for nineteen years with the U. S. State Department and with the U.S. Information Services. Iris had an abiding love for animals. She was especially fond of dachshunds and owned several over the years. She was particularly interested in the Brooks Animal Hospital in London and supported them generously. Iris had many close friends and neighbors in Village Gardens and she was assiduous in maintaining contact with her numerous friends from around the world. She will be mourned by all. She is survived by her God-daughter, Shelagh Blundell of Berkeley, New South Wales, Australia. Per her request, there will be no services.

Memorial donations may be made, in her name, to: Florida Dachshund Rescue, Inc. or to any Humane Society of your choice. Arrangements by: Gulf Coast Cremations.

BBC Radio

For those who do not listen to the 'Today' programme on BBC Radio 4, this is English humour at its best.

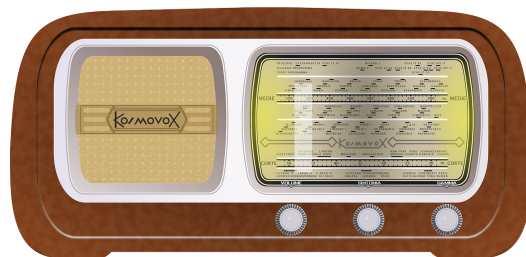


Image from Pixabay.com

Right at the end of a programme recently, there was a discussion about the cost of entry into Premiership football matches where ticket prices of £60 or £100 per game is not uncommon.

An elderly chap being interviewed said he could recall many years ago arriving at the turnstiles when the attendant greeted him with: "That will be ten quid, mate".

"What?!" the old chap said, "I could get a woman for that!"

Without batting an eyelid, the fellow on the turnstile retorted, "Not for 45 minutes each way with a brass band and a meat pie in the interval, you wouldn't!"

Northern Ireland still the happiest place in the U.K. 'Lower well-being in London'

The happiest place in the UK is the area of Fermanagh and Omagh in Northern Ireland, a survey has suggested.

Meanwhile, Bolsover in Derbyshire came lowest for happiness, worthiness and life satisfaction.

Pendle in Lancashire had the highest anxiety levels, the Office for National statistics poll of 165,000 adults said.

The ONS also warned the data suggested a "growing inequality" between people rating their lives highly and those reporting low levels of well-being.

It said ministers needed to consider how to address this apparent disparity.

Happiest places in the UK

1. Fermanagh and Omagh
2. Ribble Valley, Lancashire
3. Eilean Siar, The Outer Hebrides
4. West Somerset
5. Orkney Islands

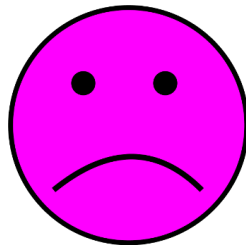
Source: ONS



Least happy places

1. Bolsover, Derbyshire
2. Cannock Chase, Staffordshire
3. Dundee City
4. Dover
5. Liverpool

Source: ONS



Northern Ireland recorded higher average ratings for well-being for all measures except anxiety, which the ONS says has been the case for the past four years.

Wales was the only country to not have any significant improvement in the last financial year, according to the ONS.

Londoners reported lower well-being than the UK averages, but have seen improvements in each of the four measures since the survey was first carried out.

Glenn Everett, ONS director of well-being, said: "Overall, people are generally rating their lives higher than they did four years ago.

"But what is interesting is that they show a slight growth in inequality between people rating their lives highly and those reporting low levels of personal well-being... a growing inequality that policy makers need to consider."

Where in Britain would you be happiest? Take this test online!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3g487h>

Taken from the BBC World News, submitted by Tracey Corporan

Editor's note. The quiz placed me in Suffolk.



People were questioned on four measures of well-being: Happiness, life satisfaction, feeling life was worthwhile and anxiety.

The ONS said personal well-being had risen every year since 2011/12 when data was first collected, with the greatest improvement for levels of anxiety.

But the proportion of people giving the highest ratings for well-being increased "significantly" in the financial year to 2015, while the decreases in low well-being "were small" in comparison.

"It indicates that while improvements are widespread across the population, they are uneven," said the ONS.

15th Anniversary Party at the Meadows Pub

Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos.



Wine Tasting at Casa Italia

Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos



Friday Lunch at the Olive Garden

Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos.





Sarasota British Club Christmas Party

Heritage Oaks Country Club
4800 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota FL 34241
December 12, 2015 - 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Menu

Salad

Baby Mixed Greens, Poached Pear, Gorgonzola, and Candied Pecans
with Port Wine and Pear Vinaigrette

Entrées

Choose from these two:

Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef
Baked Potato and Fresh Vegetable Medley

Or

Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon
Buttermilk Whipped Potatoes and Fresh Asparagus with Lemon Cream

Dessert

Raspberry Panna Cotta with Berries

Bread Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

All payments to be sent to: Sarasota British Club, PO Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Please return this form with payments. Make checks payable to Sarasota British Club.

Deadline for bookings is December 3rd (all payments to be made by this date).

Full Name	Member (\$45) Or Guest (\$55)	Choice of Entrée (Beef, Salmon or Veg*)
Total amount enclosed	\$	

Names of those you would like to sit with (if possible)

*Vegetarian option on request

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

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.”

— Albert Schweitzer



“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.”

— Will Rogers

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

— Nelson Mandela

2015 Board of Directors

President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Vice-President	Barry Evans	993-9752	barry.evans@ml.com
Treasurer	Maggie Hughes	487-7216	mvhuges50@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jane Jacobs	847-370-2811	jane60010@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Paul Wilkinson	410-990-4698	pwilkinson18@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Brian Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Website Liaison	Mark Malkasian	445-2890	mark@armeng.com
Director at Large 1	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcupatea1@yahoo.com
Director at Large 2	(Vacant)		
Director at Large 3	Diana Wilkinson	410-990-4698	dwilkinson18@comcast.net
Past President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net

BritClub News



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