



BritClub News

September, 2015

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

Vol. 15, Issue 9

Coming Events

The SBC Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

Sarasota British Club's 15th Anniversary Party
Sunday October 11 from 5pm at Meadows Village Pub & Grill 5013 Ringwood Meadows, Sarasota Fl 34235 [see meadowspub.com](#)

From 5pm - 7pm there will be Happy Hour drinks, music & dancing 5.30 - 7.30. Fully flexible dining times from 5pm - 9pm with choice of entrees from selective dinner menu.



Drinks & dinner to be paid on the night at individual's own expense. SBC members & guests welcome - \$5pp(members) \$8pp (guests) to cover the cost of entertainment.

Full details next month. Brian & Jane Thompson lakewood2@gmail.com, 941-388-8018

Walk to end Alzheimer's Disease.

SBC member Alan Perry appeals to fellow SBC members to consider participating in the 3-mile Alzheimer's Association walk on Sat. 10 October, 2014. Walkers will assemble at 9am at JD Hamel Park, located at Main and Gulfstream (very near Marina Jack) and walk across the Ringling Bridge and back. This is not a strenuous walk and affords lovely unimpeded views of Sarasota Bay.

For more information, contact Alan Perry (Tel: 941-706-3111; email:luciebg@msn.com).

Wine Tasting at Casa Italia on Friday 16th October from 6-8pm. \$10 per person in advance.
Enjoy wines chosen by Casa Italia plus a selection of —1—

savoury treats including artisan meats and cheeses and hors-d'oeuvres from the gourmet market.

Numbers will be limited by reservation only to a maximum of 40. Casa Italia is at 2080 Constitution Boulevard, Sarasota. (turn at the lights on US41 by Phillippi Creek) Send your cheques by 6th October in order that food/wine can be arranged, to Brian Thompson, 11710 Strandhill Ct, Lakewood Ranch, FL34202 made payable to Brian Thompson.

941-388-8018/lakewood2@gmail.com



Locally

At the Van Wezel Performing Arts

Hall—Britain's living legends of comedy, John Cleese and Eric Idle, announce their must-see new show, John Cleese & Eric Idle: 'Together Again At Last...For The Very First Time.' on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October.

JOHN CLEEESE ERIC IDLE
TOGETHER AGAIN AT LAST... FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME



The 12th Annual Sarasota Medieval Fair will be held November 7-8, 14-15, & 21-22, 2015 from 10am - 6pm rain or shine. Visit the website at: www.SarasotaMedievalFair.com for further details on the upcoming festival or call Toll-Free 1-888-303-FAIR (3247).

Back in Britain—On 9 September, after 23,226 days on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II is set to achieve a new milestone. She will succeed her great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria, as Britain's longest serving monarch.



President's Letter

Welcome to September. Doubtlessly, it's not a favorite month of most children as it means farewell to summer fun and hello to scholastic endeavors. Since my own school days, I have found mid to late September to be a perfect time for travel, particularly to northern tier states in the US and to the UK and continental Europe.

Following that precept, mid-September will find the Lees on their way to England—principally the Lake District, Yorkshire and then the London area - and catching up with a host of relatives and old friends as it's been five years since we've seen most of them. At the outset of planning this trip, I was concerned that car hire in the UK might prove difficult or impossible for those over age 70 according to information I read online. As it turns out, there is no age constraint up to age 99, assuming the driver has a valid driver's license and a good driving record (per a conversation with AAA). I have serious doubts, though, that car hires by persons aged 99 are at all frequent.



With respect to London, aside from Heathrow and Gatwick airports, we haven't been in the London area for some 20 years, which means we'll see quite a few changes. In that connection, an affable Canadian writer, Ron Base, whom we met on our tour of South Africa earlier this year, has done a piece titled "London Gone," which he posted on his blog. I found it quite interesting and have Ron's permission to quote from his blog in this newsletter. In that blog piece, Ron describes his reaction to the rampant destruction of long-standing structures to build new office towers; and the development of luxury residential structures in old established neighborhoods. (This ongoing phenomenon, of course, is not limited to London; it is world-wide.)

Base writes: "The London of Dickens, the London of countless Masterpiece Theatre portrayals, the black and white British movies of my youth—in other words the traditional London that tourists flock here to experience, that London is fast disappearing. At the bottom of Portobello Road the jaws of a mechanical monster right out of a CGI-infested superhero movie chew into the ruins of a long-standing structure. Luxury flats are to be built in place of what's there now. The rich have arrived, and they are demanding changes to the landscape." Base goes on: "All over the city complaints are heard as local residents fight luxury developments that threaten the uniqueness of their neighborhoods. The battle is mostly futile. Luxury is winning the war at the expense of historic London. This is

certainly evident at Arnold Circus in London's East End not far from Brick Lane. When they were built in 1890, the dramatic buildings surrounding the circular park with a bandstand at its center, formed the first so-called council estate—what we would call in North America, affordable housing. Today, although there is some council housing, flats in these buildings sell for prices nudging toward a million American dollars." Base also finds that the average price of a house in London is equivalent to a million U.S. dollars.

Yes, London is taking on a new face; but as Base goes on to emphasize, there are still, of course, many monuments that one associates with London including Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Houses of Parliament at Westminster, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey to name but a few. His main premise is that London is rapidly changing architecturally and in terms of standard of living. It has become affordable only to the wealthy and highly paid. The same is true for New York certainly and other major world capitals. London, however, has a special appeal to Base and to most people I know.

Gary Lee

Editor's Note

Author Ron Base has written some novels about Sanibel and Tree Callister, the 'Sanibel Sunset Detective'. A check with Amazon.com shows that paperback and Kindle versions (from about \$3.25) are available.



Downton Abbey Christmas Spoof

The British TV show has been spoofed by its own characters with the addition of George Clooney, Jeremy Piven and Joanna Lumley.

It is shown in 2 parts at <http://tinyurl.com/18nq43h>

JOKE

Daughter: "Daddy, I am coming home to get married. Take out your checkbook. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. I am in California and he lives in New York. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whatsapp, he proposed to me on Skype and now we've had two months of relationship through Viper. Dad, I need your blessings, good wishes, and a big wedding."

Father: "Wow! Really!! Then get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon and pay through PayPal. And if you get fed up with your husband....sell him on Ebay."

Submitted by **Doreen Wilson**

Media Matters 1 — Mystery Photos

On our Club's website www.sarasotabritishclub.com the Home Page displays a scenic photo that is changed periodically. The current image is that of the vintage (1860) battleship, HMS *Warrior*, docked permanently in Portsmouth, Hampshire. The photo is from my personal collection of past trips to the UK and one of many where I've lost record of the name and location of the image. However the caption is the result of a 'reverse image search' available via images.google.com. A RIS is easily done by uploading your 'mystery' photo and then scanning the resultant dozens of similar images until you identify a match. Voila! A defining moment!

A successful search is more assured when the image is likely to appear on the web e.g. famous landmarks versus a family photo. We are all much traveled and surely many of us have lost track of places and sights along the way. If you would like to share on our site a de-mystified scenic photo or two (in jpg format) and suggested text for captions (*), please feel free to send me your candidates.

Mark Malkasian, Website Liaison, 9/15

* If inclined to DIY, consider Phonto, a free, iOS or Android, user-friendly app.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE 2016 BOARD

As it's mid-year, it's time to begin assembling a slate of candidates for the 2016 SBC Board that will be elected at our AGM this autumn. We are fortunate that our Club membership reflects a wide spectrum of strong talents and interests. All organizations stand to benefit and grow stronger by the infusion of new ideas and creative forces brought by members to leadership positions. For our Club, this extends as well to ideas for new and interesting social events and venues that keep members energized, active and engaged. Do bring our own talents and ideas to the fore by standing for the SBC Board. The Board elected positions are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, Website Liaison Director, Newsletter Editor, and Director at Large (2). If you are interested in being a candidate for a Board position or want more information on the positions, please contact Gary Lee (glee01@verizon.net or 941-706-1172). I will put you in touch with the Nominating Committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Precis of the August Board Meeting.

Board meeting held August 13th; Current Treasurer's Balance \$3,706.78; We have 187 members, 162 family memberships and 25 singles; Paul Wilkinson has volunteered to stand as President in 2016; A disclaimer has been added to the Best of British page on the SBC website stating that no fee is charged for inclusion, the listing is for information only and does not imply endorsement; The July monthly lunch at the Boatyard Bar & Grill was excellent; The SBC Cocktail Party at Kona Grill on July 12th was well attended and enjoyed by all; Upcoming events include: Dinner at Miguel's on Siesta Key on August 16th; August monthly lunch on August 21st at Fins at Sharky's in Venice; New Members Tea on September 13th; SBC 15th Anniversary dinner evening at The Meadows Pub on October 11th; AGM to be held on November 21st; Next Board meeting to be at Village des Pins Clubhouse, September 10th.

(Submitted by **Maggie Hughes**, Acting Secretary)



September's Recipe

On the Club's evening out at Miguels we were served a delicious pâté as an appetiser, and my table mates asked if I had a recipe. I may have featured this before but it is one of my favourite starters. I am unable to eat pork products, so

make it with chicken livers. If you can't get them at your local grocery, Geiers on the south trail has it (also many different 'offal' items.) Of course their Bangers are also available.....made with me when I first had the tea room, and they devised a recipe that is still in use to purchase and the local Brit eateries, and very close to the real thing.



Country Pate

1 chopped shallot
 1/2 cup butter
 1/4 lb chicken livers, trimmed
 1/4 lb turkey ham, cut into chunks
 1 tsp sage
 1-2 Tbsp brandy
 2 Tbsp heavy whipping cream
 salt and pepper
 Bay leaves.

Place shallot and half of the butter into a large shallow dish, and microwave on high for three minutes. Stir in the livers, ham and sage. Cover and microwave 5-7-minutes on high, stirring occasionally. Drain off any excess liquid, and allow to cool. Puree in a blender or processor until smooth. Add the brandy and cream, and salt and pepper to taste. Spoon into a dish (traditionally an oval one), top with the bay leaves. Melt the remaining butter and pour evenly over the top, Chill, and serve with melba toast, or regular toast points.

Recipe from Sandra Cherry, Union Jack Food Columnist. I welcome comments, requests and recipes, and can be reached at Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com

MEDIA MATTERS 2

Where else but in the UK would an organization called *The Institution of Silly & Meaningless Sayings* take hold? ISMS has been around since 1973. Home in on isms.org.uk and peruse such pearls as "Any charge of less than one penny will be rounded up to

one pence." Source: HM Revenue & Customs (isms # 1915). There are Previous, Next, Latest, and Random ism pages to scour.

How did I find this, you ask? — Well, after some recent years of mounting frustration with the over use of the phrase "going forward" as a substitute for "in the future", I found via Google a 2011 article in The Guardian suggesting such inane wording be consigned to history. I agree!

Find your favorite?

Mark Malkasian, Website Liaison

MEDIA MATTERS 3 and the Pilcrow

Although the paragraph as we know it today only took shape about 400 years ago, text has been broken into sections since at least the 3rd century BC. Instead of using indenting or spacing, the ancient Greeks used symbols in the margin (hence *paragraphos*, "written at the side"), such as horizontal strokes, wedges and hooks, to signal a change of speaker, topic or scene.

Paragraphos was corrupted, via Old French and Middle English, into pilcrow, which has since come to mean the typographical character that represents a paragraph (on right). The original Greek word was later re-appropriated to mean the block of text so denoted. Photograph: Public domain

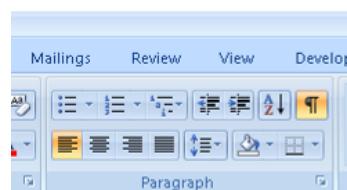


In the early days of movable type, some printers tried to preserve the manuscript traditions of illumination (ornate decoration) and rubrication (the addition of headings, usually in red). The typesetter would therefore leave spaces throughout a printed book, and rubricators, or "rubrifiers" - would fill them in by hand. The trouble was, this small, elite band couldn't keep up with the volume of books being produced, and so many of the spaces ended up being left blank. Thus, according to one theory, was born indentation.

Source: The Guardian.com

Editor's Note: The 'Pilcrow' is normally hidden by default when using word processing but it can be useful to show it. This screen-shot below from Microsoft Word 2007 shows its ribbon location

Exposing the pilcrow (or hard return) will also show tab locations, soft returns, page breaks, section breaks, object 'anchors', etc.



Dinner at Miguel's Restaurant on August 9th

Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos.



Friday Lunch at Fin's Restaurant on 21st August

Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos.



Holidays or Vacations

It's well known that people in the United States on average don't receive as much holiday time as their European counterparts. Studies show 25% of Americans do not receive any paid leave at all, and those who do rank behind their European counterparts.

But what may be surprising is that US workers are also less likely to use the holiday time they do receive.

This year four in 10 Americans do not intend to take all of their holiday time, partly in fear of losing their job or because it isn't encouraged by their employer'

Samples of paid vacation leave by country:

U.K. - 28 paid vacation days + 9 national or "bank" holidays.

Germany - 24 paid vacation days + 10 paid holidays

France - 30 paid vacation days + 8 paid holidays.

Sweden - 25 paid vacation days + 16 paid holidays.

USA - 0 days (The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938 carries no requirements for individual employers to give their employees any paid vacation time. Many companies do still give their employees vacation time and paid holidays to remain an attractive employment option, but they are not legally required to do so)

Did you know that only about 20% of Americans own a passport? (compared to 75% for U.K. citizens) This number may be on the rise, but it's only because Americans are now required to show a passport when visiting Mexico, Canada, and parts of the Caribbean. The number of Americans who have traveled overseas, however, has been on the decline since 2006.

Contribution from **Tracy Corporan**. Excerpt taken from the BBC America website:



Image from pixabay.com

Home Insurance

On August 19th Steve Adams gave members a presentation at Gulf Gate Library entitled '**Home Insurance with NO selling**'.



Thanks to Doug Schuler for the photos.

Joke

Last year, I replaced, like, all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I, like, got a call from the contractor who installed them. He complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't, like, paid for them. OMG! Helllooooo..... Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I'm, like, automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year -- that these windows would, like, pay for themselves in a year.

Hellloooooo? It's been a year, so they're, like, paid for, I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.

Ashes 2015: England lose fifth Test by innings but win the series 3-2

What do you call an Aussie with a bottle of Champagne? - A waiter.

What do you call a world-class Australian cricketer? - Retired.

What do you call an Australian who can hold a catch? - A fisherman.

Why can no-one drink wine in Australia at the moment? - They haven't got any openers.

What is the difference between Cinderella and the Aussies? - Cinderella knew when to leave the ball.

What does an Australian batsman who is playing in The Ashes have in common with Michael Jackson? - They both wore gloves for no apparent reason.

Who spends the most time on the crease of anyone on the Australian cricket team? - The woman who irons their cricket whites.

What's the height of optimism? - An Aussie batsman putting on sunscreen.

What do you call a cricket field full of Australians? - A vacant lot.

What's the difference between an Aussie batsman and a Formula 1 car? - Nothing! If you blink you'll miss them both.

What's the difference between Michael Clarke and a funeral director? - A funeral director doesn't keep losing the ashes.

The Australian bobsleigh team have asked the Aussie cricket team for a meeting. - They want to ask their advice about going downhill so fast!

2015 Board of Directors

President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Vice-President	Barry Evans	993-9752	barry.evans@ml.com
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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

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