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BritClub News

September, 2008 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 8, Issue 9

Coming Events

Board Meeting Sept. 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!

Bob's Train Sept. 27 – All Aboard! Ladies and Gentlemen...Boys and Girls...Children of ALL Ages...step right up and enter Bob's Train! What is Bob's Train? Bob's Train is an actual train...a circus train. In fact, it's the only circus train in the world owned by an individual (Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus is a corporation.)

It is also a restaurant and a museum of the world of the circus! Join your fellow Brits and enjoy the vintage circus photographs and posters and Bob Horne, the owner and cook, who is a walking history book with expert knowledge of Sarasota and its circus past. Bob's Train is attached to JomaR, John and Mabel Ringling's famous private train car. JomaR is slowly being restored but until then, Bob's Train is open.



Before dinner, Bob will entertain and amuse us with his insights on circus history and especially John and Mabel Ringling and their once-elegant rail accommodations. There are several railroad cars attached which house the museum, full of photos, posters and artifacts from The Greatest Show on Earth.

Dinner will consist of chilled strawberry soup, salad, roast beef a la béarnaise or roasted chicken in a balsamic reduction, oven roasted parsnip potatoes, carrots in an orange glaze, and peach halves caressed with a raspberry puree with whipped cream and iced tea, coffee or sodas. As Bob doesn't have a liquor license yet, you are encouraged to BYOB! A vegetarian plate will also be available. The cost is \$22.00 per person in advance and includes tax, gratuity, and live entertainment.

Bob's Train is at 2211 Fruitville Road. Directions: From Fruitville Road, turn North on Audubon Place (between East and School Avenues). Go one block and turn right, then left at the "Bob's Train" sign. Go thru the gate past the guard shack and head toward the old brown train car (that's JomaR). Bob's Train is red, white and blue and attached to JomaR.

Reservations AND PAYMENT must be received by September 22nd. Phone your reservation (AND entrée choice) to Terry Sweeney at 918-0550, then send your check to the Brit Club at Post Office Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276. For more information on this VERY UNUSUAL venue, go to <http://bobstrain.blogspot.com/>.

BritClub News



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

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Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From Our President

Hello everyone. Let's take a moment to recognize one of your club's unsung heroes, Rose Gillet, Editor of your BritClub News. A lot of work goes into producing the News and somehow Rose manages to produce it on time month in and month out, despite having a full-time job. Thank you, Rose, from all of us.

At this time we send our sincere condolences to Rose on the passing of her Mother on August 12th.

Some Brit Club events exceed our hopes and expectations and Cliff Roles Night on August 16th was one such occasion. Cliff kept an audience of 60 members and guests highly entertained with his talk about his life in the world of pop and rock music, the stage and radio. Amy and James Croshaw greeted arrivals with their famous Pimm's No.1; we played Irish Bingo and guest guitarist Kevin McGuire sang a medley of songs. Great food and conversation helped make this a memorable evening. Sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to our successful evening.

The Sarasota British Club congratulates our loyal supporters – the three Word of Mouth restaurants who are currently celebrating their tenth anniversary. Try their Awesome Omelette – it truly is “awesome”!

September 27th – Exciting Change of Venue!! – The Oriental Buffet will have to wait for another time because our September event will be an unusual experience – we are going to dine on board “Bob's Train”. See the article for full details.

Warm regards,
Terry

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 (for club members only) 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 15th of the month to the newsletter editor, Rose Gillet, at 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235 or email them to her at rosegillet@yahoo.com.

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 (3), Champions Pub, Tastefully British, 4 & 20 Pasty Shop, the British Open Pub, The Irish Rovers, The Coach & Horses Pub, The Open, McAllister's, Scot's Corner, Cafe Continental-Patisserie and Beckham's Osprey Grill. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.

August Board Meeting Précis:

Treasurer's report shows balance of \$4,048.40. Currently 168 paid up members (88 households), still a few memberships not renewed, have attempted to contact since April; board agreed to not call anymore. Website is doing well. Peter Richards volunteered to do a monthly column on real estate and updating information for the newsletter. Plan to congratulate Jeremy Adams of Word of Mouth for his 10th year of business; he has always supported the Brit Club. Discussed nominating committee report, 2 members responded, indicating interest in participating in 2009 board. July 12th meeting at Beckhams was another success. Next meeting will be August 16th, with an indoor picnic and featuring Cliff Roles. Original venue for September 27th meeting is out of business, new venue suggested for Bob's Train. AGM meeting will be part of the November 1st meeting, venue and theme being discussed. Christmas party plans in effect. Board agreed to sponsor a family from “Mothers Helping Mothers” again, will start to inform members by October, to give a chance to collect donations at meetings. Next meeting will be September 4th, 6:30 pm at Sandra Cherry's home. *(Members are invited to attend, but need to call ahead due to space limitations.)*

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)

For Sale

A 54" Sony TV with stand for VCR, AMP, etc. along with surround sound OYKNO amp with 5 speakers and WOOFER.

The TV is just over 2 years old, we have just had it serviced and replaced the tube, it is under insurance until October this year with Sears. The insurance can be changed over to new owners and continued if desired.

This is a fabulous TV – we are asking \$600 for the package.

If you are interested, please phone 941-809-8311.

Reason for the sale is we have re-modeled and put in a wall-mounted TV.

Membership News

EMAIL ADDRESSES: PLEASE email me, Kathy Curtin, at kathrmcurt@msn.com or call me at 941-379-9861 if you have changed your email in the last 6 months.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their 2008/2009 dues. We still have a few outstanding so if you wish to renew please send in your check as soon as possible, Family \$35 and Single \$25.

Welcome to new members Ian McCalla, Barry Evans & Crystal Flowers, Dino & Susan Charters, Mark and Kim Brooker, Howard & Susan Bridgman, Manning & Edith Edmonda, and Derek & Lyn Curran.

Ian McCalla is from High Lane in Cheshire a small village 20 miles south of Manchester. Ian has been here for 20 years, is divorced with 4 children under 12 to keep him busy.

Barry Evans and Crystal Flowers just moved to Sarasota in July from Portland, Oregon. Barry is originally from Worcestershire. Barry and Crystal have two children, Imogen and Emrys.

Scotch Broth

As with any good soup, long slow cooking is recommended, and if you have a crock pot, that is ideal. Lamb over here is now a much better quality, not the old muttoney taste it used to be.

2 lbs stewing lamb with bones	2 diced celery stalks
6 cups cold water	½ tsp thyme
2 Tablespoons washed barley	3 Tablespoons chopped parsley
2 diced carrots	1 bay leaf
2 finely chopped onions	Salt and Pepper

Place lamb in large pot and cover with the water, (place lid on and gently simmer for one hour). Add remaining ingredients and simmer one more hour. Remove bay leaf and lamb. Separate the meat from the bones, shred the meat, discard bones. Add the meat to the saucepan and simmer 15-20 minutes. If lamb is a bit fatty, I advise skimming off the fat, if not serving straight away. It can be refrigerated and the fat will rise to the top to make easy removal. Yield 6 servings

(Recipe from Sandra Cherry, *Your Cup of Tea Inc.* and *Union Jack Food Columnist*. I welcome comments, recipes and suggestions, and can be reached at YourCupofTea1@yahoo.com)



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Rose's Corner

I consider myself a very lucky person to have had my mother here in Florida where I could spend time with her every day since January, even if she sometimes had no idea who I was. My sincere thanks to everyone who has expressed sympathy on her passing and to the Board for excusing me from meetings when I felt I needed to be with her.

If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter such as member articles, jokes, items of interest, please mail articles to me at Rose Gillet, 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235, fax at 366-9248, email me at rosegillet@yahoo.com or call 366-9984. Closing date for the newsletter is the 15th of each month.

Rose Gillet, Newsletter Editor

Realty News

Hi, I would like to introduce myself, Peter Richards, and this new feature of the Brit Club Newsletter: a monthly look at the state of the real estate market in this area and tips to help to buy or sell the home of your dreams in today's difficult market.

I was born in the United Kingdom in 1946 and have travelled the world extensively in the chemical and pharmaceutical fields, ending in Sarasota 13 years ago.

As a member of the Hunt Real Estate group that acquired ERA Mount Vernon this year, we have the backing and support not only of the large Hunt infrastructure, but also the strength of the ERA franchise, a major force nationally, and together we form a very strong team.

My web site link will be available next month, and it will enable you to access easily the central Florida real estate listings via the Hunt web site and save all your searches for future reference. This is a new development for Sarasota County, and it means that a customer (or agent) can search from Charlotte County northward to Tampa and even the greater Orlando area. Enough of the introduction, more information can be found at my website.

There are a lot of houses for sale: in this area alone we have over 9,000 homes and over 4,500 condominiums on the market! In June, sales were down from May to 627 properties, but this was almost double January's total, and while overall sales in June were at 559 properties due to a drop in condominium sales, pending sales at the end of the month were well up to 698.

Good, well-priced homes are selling, and now is a great time to buy and sell if you get it right. I sold my last house at a great price in ten days last October, but it was also in great condition. I recently bought another fixer-upper at a great low price; time will tell if I got it right. The deals are out there; there are a lot of tired houses and condos and they are selling at bargain prices to reflect this. Use your Realtor to assess what needs to be done to update the property and bid accordingly. A good Realtor has a lot of contacts for opinions and you can also use the repair clauses on the sale contract to your advantage. This is also good for the seller, as repairs are controlled.

There is a question as to when the market will change dramatically. I believe it won't be a long time, but certainly it is still 2 years before there is an upswing in price. However, if sales and prices increase then the mortgage rate will also, so now is a great time to buy and keep your payments low.

The Little Old Lady and the Bank

An elderly lady actually wrote this letter to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in The Times and this newspaper thanks him most sincerely.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my Pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, re-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1 To make an appointment to see me.
- 2 To query a missing payment.
- 3 To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5 To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6 To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7 To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorised Contact.)
- 8 To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 8
- 9 To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client