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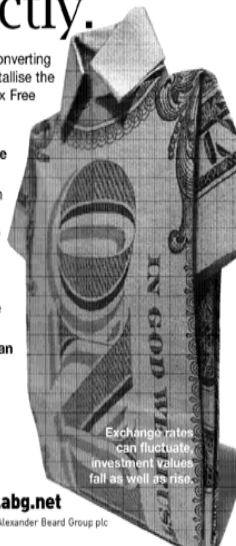
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BritClub News



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

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BritClub News

September, 2009 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 9, Issue 9

Coming Events

Board Meeting September 10 – 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ken Jukes, 4047 Wilshire Circle East, Sarasota, at 6:30 p.m. MEMBERS WELCOME, BUT PHONE AHEAD AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

Coffee Morning September 15 – 10:30 a.m. at the home of Sue Ford, 6706 Oak Hammock Dr., Bradenton. Contact Sue at sueford47@yahoo.com or 941-751-3811.



Social Sue's Happy Hour September 20 – Come to Sue Ford's house at 5:00 p.m. for a picnic in her beautiful back yard. Soft drinks will be provided – the rest is up to you. Call Sue at 751-3811 or email her at sueford47@yahoo.com.

McCurdy's Comedy Theatre September 26 – Join us as we watch Uncle Dow Thomas at the 7:30 p.m. Saturday show (non-smoking). The multi-talented Dow Thomas' unique writings and routines have delighted audiences everywhere. He is a songwriter and musician whose sense of humour has taken his act to a multitude of venues throughout the United States. Tickets are \$5 each for members (*and guests – special, this time only: no surcharge for guests!*), and there is a two-drink minimum per person in the showroom. Tickets MUST be ordered and paid for in advance. Send your check to the club's post office box (address on back of newsletter). Seating is LIMITED, and your check and reservations must be received by September 15th.



Annual General Meeting October 10 **Changing of the Guard, Brit Club Style** – Be sure to make a note of the date, October 10, because this is when we hold our Annual General Meeting, followed by Casino Royale – gaming tables with a 24" wheel, roulette table and horse racing. Obviously, there will be no monetary gambling, but we will have a few surprises for the winners at evening's end. We need volunteers to be "croupiers" for the evening. Please RSVP Terry Sweeney by email or phone (see back page) if you can offer your services or are planning to attend. Members are invited free of charge and guests will be asked to pay a mere \$5 to attend. The Club will provide heavy hors d'oeuvres, cake and soft drinks. Please bring your own beer or wine.

The Slate of Officers for which you will be asked to vote is: President, Ken Jukes; Vice President, Doreen Wilson; Treasurer, Gary Lee; Secretary, Joan Forsberg; Membership Chair, Derek Curran; Public Relations Chair, Amy Croshaw; Newsletter Editors, Brian Thompson and Sue Bridgeman; Website, James Croshaw; Director at Large, Kim Brooker; and Sue Ford will, by default, become Immediate Past President.

Please note that our bylaws do not permit nominations from the floor.

Location/directions to Lakeshore Village Club House, Lake Shore Village, Wilshire Blvd., just off Clark Road, about 300 yards east of Beneva Road. The Clubhouse is 100 yards on the left.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From Our President

You may remember my saying in the August newsletter that my husband and I were taking a week away in Charleston. We had a great time – it has all the Southern charm imaginable, with beautiful homes, historic churches and unforgettable carriage tours. I recommend you go see for yourself.

I heard you all had a wonderful evening at Word of Mouth. My thanks go to Shona and Bob Burtner who organized this event where everyone turned out in force.

Our August coffee morning was its normal success with 26 members attending and bringing with them goodies to share. Our next coffee morning is September 15th, as I do not return from England until the 13th.

Our cocktail party at the home of our Secretary, Doreen Wilson, was attended by 50 members. We all had a wonderful few hours of conversation, enjoyment of food and socializing together.

Because we had to limit the numbers and many of you missed out on this event, we will be holding a 'Social Sue's Happy Hour' on Sunday, September 20th, at 5:00 p.m. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us. Sodas will be provided – the rest is up to you. Please RSVP to me by email or phone.

Our other September event is September 26th at McCurdy's Comedy Theater. We have purchased 25 tickets at \$5.00 each and it promises to be a great value for an evening out. Thanks go to Nairn' Gillet who organized this evening for us. Please see the cover for details on how to attend.

October brings us to our AGM month and a new Board to keep us going in the right direction. The AGM will be followed by 'Casino Royale' and will be held at the Lakeshore Club House on October 10th, starting at 6:30 p.m. Please see the front page for details of this fun meeting.

As I close, I have to get the zip closed on my suitcase ready for a four-week vacation in England and Spain. I shall miss my husband, daughter and grandchild, as someone has to stay home to look after the animals. My Vice President, Kath Curtin, is available to you should you need to contact her. Her email address and phone are on the back page of the newsletter.

Bless you all and see you on my return,
Sue Ford

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.

Do You Own Your Own Business?

For advertising, our rates are reasonable and 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 per month. There is a 20% discount if you purchase your advertisements annually. Sale ads for unwanted items is \$10 for up to 3 lines of copy. 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.

August Board Meeting Précis

The board meeting was held on Thursday, August 6, 2009. The Treasurer's report was distributed to the board by Shona Burtner. There is a balance of \$5,143.24. Ken Jukes reported that we have 4 new single members and 4 new family members. There are 72 family units, making 151 family members and 31 single members in the club. James Croshaw presented a detailed report of the website, which is up-to-date, and described how the site is used to make announcements of forthcoming events with photos on the home page. Amy Croshaw gave an introduction and overview of the Facebook page. There are now 55 friends on the site. Old Business: It was decided to change our bank from SunTrust to BB&T to avoid a monthly service fee and to give us free initial checks, online checking and a deposit box. There are 50 signed up for the cocktail party; James made nametags for everyone. Sue Ford has offered her home for a picnic on September 20th. September 26th we go to McCurdy's Comedy Club for a cost of \$5 each. The AGM will be on October 10th at Lakeshore Village Clubhouse. Terry Sweeney, chair of the nominating committee, asked for suggested names for the 2010 board. The event is free to members, there will be casino style games, and the club will provide food and soft drinks. Regarding advertisements in the newsletter, it was stressed that one must be a club member to advertise in the Brit Club News. The next board meeting will be at the home of Ken Jukes at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

Sunshine Corner

Congratulations to Sue and Paul James on the Silver Wedding anniversary in August – this wonderful London (Essex) family deserves the best! Glad to hear Andy Reeves is coming along well also and settling in his new job at BB&T Bank. Best wishes to Jim Smith also, in his continued recuperation.

If a member has any news they would like to share, a special occasion, anniversary, illness or recovering etc., please contact Sandra Cherry at Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com, or 374-9760. We are pleased to hear of Jim Smith's progress, do keep Jim and Tina in your thoughts.

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)

Braised Beef in Guinness

This is an old classic favourite, one I adapted from an old Sainsbury's cookbook. It is worth the time to marinate the beef ahead, if possible. Usual method to bake is in the oven, but I tend to use my crockpot when I have the time for it, since it makes it so tender. When we used to make it in England, we had an Aga, and cooked it in the bottom oven with the same results as crockpot baking. Hope you enjoy this version.

½ lb. stewing steak cut in chunks	2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
½ cup red wine	2 Tbsp flour
½ pint Guinness	2 Tbsp butter
1 garlic clove, peeled and finely chopped	1 small onion, chopped
½ tsp. chopped thyme	1 tsp. tomato puree/paste
1 bay leaf	2 cups beef stock (Oxo is super!)

Two days before serving, if possible, put the beef in a Ziploc bag with the wine, Guinness, garlic, thyme and the bay leaf. Marinate in the fridge two days. When ready to cook, drain the meat, reserving the marinade. Dry the meat with a paper towel. Slowly heat the oil in a frying pan and lightly toss the meat, ½ tsp flour and salt and pepper. Saute until nicely browned. Heat the butter in a heavy casserole pan and gently sauté the onion until soft. Add the remaining flour and tomato puree and stir over low heat about 1-2 minutes. Add the marinade, slowly stirring constantly until smooth. Raise the heat and simmer to reduce the liquid about half, stirring frequently. Add the beef stock and the beef and transfer to a casserole or crockpot. It can be baked in the oven 2-3 hours at 300 F., slowly simmered on the hob 2-3 hours, or in a crockpot for 6-8 hours. Ready when it is your desired consistency. Serve with potatoes and veggies. Makes 4-6 servings.

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

Membership News

EMAIL ADDRESSES: PLEASE email Ken Jukes at kena.jukes@yahoo.com or call him at 941-927-6499 if you have changed your email in the last 6 months.

Welcome to our newest members, Ken and Joyce Mainstone from Osprey; Conrad and Judith Perkey from Venice; Michael, June and Nicole Valentino of North Port; Jean Taylor of Venice; Sheila Perkinson of Venice; and Jacqueline DiCocco of Venice.

Rose's Corner

As you can see by the new slate of directors for the Annual General Meeting, I will not be continuing as the newsletter editor. It has been my privilege to serve The Brit Club for nine years, and I want to thank each and every one of you who has expressed pleasure in the quality of the newsletter and for making me feel treasured for doing what has truly been a lot of fun. This is, without a doubt, the best group of people it has been my pleasure to serve.

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 items is the 15th of each month.

Rose Gillet, Newsletter Editor

Florida Gardening by Nicholas Davis



There are many poisonous plants that grow here in Florida, and you probably have them growing in your garden. Crotons, Lantana, Peace Lily and Oleander are a few common plants that are toxic. The Brazilian Pepper tree that you see growing everywhere is also poisonous – that's the one with the bright red berries – don't try and put that on your steak! (Call Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you do!)

Also, there are many plants that can cause irritation when the sap gets on your skin. Philodendrons and Wandering Jew plants are a couple that make my skin burn, and so can the Virginia Creeper, a wild growing vine that has green leaves that turn red (a really pretty vine, but will take over your landscape – cut it back asap!!). As a precaution when in contact with plants you are unsure of, always wear long sleeves and gloves.

Last month we covered shrubs and before that lawns. This month, as the intense summer heat is fading, we can start thinking about new shrubs for color this fall. Pyracantha, which has white flowers in spring and produces fruits in the fall which can be used to make jelly, and Surinam Cherry, which makes a nice hedge and produces red early summer fruits (which are an acquired taste) are a couple to think about.

If you have Crape Myrtles, remove the seed heads early this month and you may get one last bloom. As always, walk your landscape and look for plant problems, turning over leaves and looking for insects. Some are beneficial, but look for caterpillars, grasshoppers and others that are eating the leaves. Try to use organic spray and treat promptly. Check your irrigation system, look for overgrown heads, stuck sprinklers and leaks. You can fertilize if plants show signs of deficiencies, using granular or liquid feeding. To renew the green color and encourage growth, always water the fertilizer into the soil after an application.

As always, if you have any questions or need some advice, please don't hesitate to email me lawnjockey@live.com and I will be happy to help. Happy gardening!!



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Autumn Theatre Outings

October 24 & November 21

We are planning to see Cliff Roles as Stanley Gardner, in Ray Cooney's really funny play called "Run for Your Wife" at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre on October 24. A month later, on November 21, we shall go to see the sequel, in which Cliff also performs, called "Caught in the Net," taking place 15 years later and equally as funny. You won't want to miss these two comedies, although you can choose to go to only one of them if you prefer. In order to get a group rate and good seats, please call Doreen Wilson at 966-9330 right away if you would like to be part of these fun evenings.

Classic Putdowns

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison." He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second.... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx