



BritClub News

VOL 19, ISSUE 2

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13th at Village Des Pins Clubhouse: 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:15 pm. Guests welcome (*please let us know you are coming!*)

All members will receive emailed invitations to the events shown below. Please look out for them in your inbox, and be sure to add "Sarasota British Club" to your safe senders list.

February 17th 2019
Valentines Dance

See Page 3

Unforeseen circumstances have forced us to postpone the Valentines Dance to a later date

February 22nd
Lunch at the Dockside restaurant in Palmetto

See Page 3 inside

March 24th 2019
Tampa Bay Downs

See Page 3 inside

STAY UP TO DATE

To keep up to date on other activities and events throughout the local British community please visit the Links Page of our website

www.sarasotabritishclub.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, JANUARY 2019

With several new members now confirmed, your board is working hard to organize events that will offer all our members an opportunity to meet new friends and socialize with old ones. In our first three months we will be dancing with the (fallen) stars, party with our friends, and enjoy a day at the races. I look forward to meeting you at these events.

As many members know, Diana and I bought a small RV last year and enjoy traveling with our two dogs, Yukon and Xian. We started the year with a trip to two Florida State Parks, Jonathan Dickinson (near Jupiter) and Blue Springs. Jupiter has a 2.5-mile dog-friendly Atlantic beach and the dogs loved the ability to run free, although neither of them will go near the water (thankfully!). The JD park features a boat ride on the Loxahatchee river to the Trapper Nelson camp. In the 30's and 40's this was a top attraction in south Florida, and movie stars would visit with Trapper Nelson, who lived like Tarzan in this remote location. The Blue Springs park featured the largest Florida spring, where 100 million gallons of crystal water emerge from the spring each day. In cold weather (and it was very brisk while we were there!) hundreds of manatees seek out the warm water of the spring and provide a fascinating sight.



We are looking forward to more explorations of Florida's State Parks before our next Big Trip in May to Texas and New Mexico.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Precis of the January Board Meeting held on Wednesday January 9th, 2018 6:15 pm at the Village Des Pins Clubhouse:

Paul Wilkinson took the chair and Kevin Clayton kept the minutes.

Minutes of the December meeting were present and approved.

The treasurer reported the club had a balance of \$3717 on 31st Dec 2018.

Membership was unchanged at 171, consisting of 146 family and 25 single.

The Board discussed and passed a motion to NOT provide and pay for name badges for new members, but encourage that new members buy and wear them.

Sharon has suggested that the Sept/Oct newsletters ask members for suggestions for charities for the Christmas raffle donations.

Ivan proposed and David seconded a motion to book Toni and Tasha for the 2019 Christmas party and the board agreed. Paul to arrange.

Membership Dues are due by 3/31-Peter is going to do a 2018 recap to see if we need to consider increasing. Also discussed that Eventbrite cannot be used for membership so we would continue to accept checks.

Paul reviewed Board Member duties.

The option to print the hard copies in black and white to reduce costs was discussed. Steve to follow up.

Precis of Board Minutes (continued)

Peter confirmed that the insurance has been paid.

It was discussed that we need to get an additional key for the PO Box- Peter is going to follow up.

Sharon is going to look in to the option of a March lunch at Angelo's.

COMING EVENTS

Valentines Dance – Sunday 17th February

Unforeseen circumstances have forced us to postpone the Valentines Dance to a later date.

February Lunch

Our February lunch is at Dockside restaurant located at 102 Riviera Dunes Way, Palmetto. The lunch is scheduled for Friday, February 22nd at 12 noon. This establishment was formerly called Blu Mangrove.

Dockside restaurant offers fresh fish dishes in a variety of styles, sushi, salads, sandwiches and other lunchtime favorites. In addition the full dinner menu will be available.

Looking forward to seeing you in February,

Vivienne (Sivak)

Tampa Bay Downs – Sunday 24th March

One of our most popular annual events returns again with Sunday Brunch in the Skyline Terrace while we watch the races. Coach transportation will be available from Sarasota to the event. Provisional departure times are as follows:

9.10am from Oaks Plaza, 3950 Central Sarasota Parkway;

9.50am from Twelve Oaks Plaza, 7290 55th Avenue East (Route 70 just southwest of the I75 junction)

Bus will depart the races at 4.30pm and should arrive back in Sarasota at approximately 6pm.

Ladies, this is the opportunity to wear your hats!

RECENT EVENTS

February Lunch

A group of approximately 30 of us met for a very enjoyable lunch at the Stonewood Grill & Tavern.





Fred Astaire Dance Evening

Everyone had a very enjoyable evening at the Fred Astaire studio – followed by an excellent curry!







RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

Hi my fellow Brits,

Happy New Year, and my first thanks for this year must be that I am in Florida and not in a state up north where it is currently -50F, we even have snow back home in the UK, so I must tell myself that our current 65F is not really that cold! Happy to be in Florida!

December looks like it is a turning point for the property market in Sarasota and Manatee, we have had a good 2018, with increased prices and good sales, but December the market has turned cold! December is usually a quiet month because sellers wait until the New year to list, but I think it might be more than a Dec slump! Compared to Dec last year, this month showed a decrease in overall closed sales, pending sales, and median prices, and with less sales the inventory has gone up, single-family homes in Manatee County increased by 4.6 percent, and Sarasota increased by 16.9 percent. Condo inventory experienced a 10.8 percent increase in Sarasota, while Manatee decreased by 0.9 percent.

CONDO'S	Sales compared to this month last year.	Median Sale Price
	 	-26.6% Sarasota \$220,000
	 	-17.2% Manatee \$190,000
SINGLE FAMILY		-17.5% Sarasota \$285,000
		-1.6% Manatee \$309,000

So are we all excited for coming of the snowbirds? Are you ready for the traffic and congestion? Hopefully they will be migrating in droves after the polar winds have frozen them out of their northern homes, we have plenty of properties to sell them. Finally, I am pleased to report our red tides have gone, hopefully for another hundred years!

So as always, if you have any questions give me a call 941 914 2463.
Wishing you a happy and warm 2019.

Brought to you by Christine Green, Licensed REALTOR® with Coldwell
Banker Siesta Key.

Data compiled from My Florida Regional Listing Service.



COMMUNITY BOARD

This section of the Newsletter is available to members who wish to connect with our community to announce events and seek connections within the community. It is not available for commercial purposes or to advertise events outside the interests of our members. The rules for inclusion are simple: the Newsletter editor has the final call as to whether something is acceptable for inclusion! Please forward your items to stevepankhurst55@gmail.com.

HELP – Storage Space Needed!

The Club needs a place to store the materials that we use for our events, mostly disposable dinnerware, and decorations. Currently we are using a storage facility that has raised its cost to \$40 per month, which means that we use the membership of 12 members to pay for storage!

We will provide two free tickets to our annual Christmas Party in return for allowing us to store our stuff in your garage! We have a cart and half a dozen tote boxes.

Contact Paul Wilkinson if you can help. (410) 990 4698 or pwilkinson18@comcast.net

Calling all Scots!!! Calling all Scots!!! Asolo Rep is partnering with the Caledonian Club of Florida West, inviting Scots to don their Scottish attire on April 11 and celebrate Sarasota's Scottish heritage and the birthday of the installation of Scotland's Dunfermline Opera House that has become the Mertz Theatre. There are special reduced theatre ticket prices for Scots to attend the 7:30pm performance of NOISES OFF, considered one of the funniest comedies ever written! To receive the discount, use the promo code: **SCOT** when ordering your tickets*. Theatre goers will also be treated to a special post-show reception on the Asolo Rep Mezzanine. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

Tickets may be purchased online, by phone or in person at the box office. Seating is limited and is first come, first served, so be sure to make your reservations early.

For more information about the show and to purchase tickets online, [click here](#).

Box Office: 941-351-8000 | 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243

MEDIA MATTERS – VIEWING SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS

While not a British topic, I must mention **Netflix**' Taylor Swift "*Reputation*" concert. Even if you are not a fan of her music, it is worth watching for even a few minutes to see a truly spectacular show. Better yet if you have a big screen TV and surround sound! This young lady has astonishing talent and poise, and the production in front of an audience of over 100,000 in Dallas is stunning. For Brits, I have previously recommended "*Charlie Luxton's Homes by the Sea*". **Netflix** now has a follow up in the eponymous "*Homes by the Med*" in which he visits stunning homes around the Mediterranean. Jaw dropping is an apt description of some of the houses that he visits.

On **Amazon** we watched "*Castles in the Sky*" – Eddie Izzard stars as the inventor of Radar in WWII. This could have been much better, but dragged. Still it was an interesting portrayal of the struggle to develop this device that turned the tide in the Battle of Britain.

Also on **Amazon** "*On Chesil Beach*" was a dramatisation of Ian McEwen's novel which is one of Diana's favorites. A BBC production, it was their usual high quality, with dramatic scenery and music. It deals with adult themes, however – so be warned. Paul Wilkinson

Sarasota British Club name badges

Please obtain Club badges directly from **Sarasota Trophy, 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota, FL 34321. Phone 941 921 4339.**

- \$8 plus 56c tax for badge with magnet
- \$6 plus 42c tax for badge with pin (no magnet)

Badges can be collected in person (M – F 8.30 – 5pm, Sat 9am – noon) or shipped to your home for \$3.75.

SARASOTA BRITISH CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2019

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Don't forget that Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture. Check out 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.