



# BritClub News

VOL 19, ISSUE 1

## COMING EVENTS

### SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 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.*

January 25<sup>th</sup>  
Lunch at Stonewood Grill & Tavern  
University Park

**See Page 3**

January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Dance Demonstration

**See Page 3**

February 17<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Valentines Dance

**See Page 3**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Lunch at the Dockside restaurant in  
Palmetto

**See Page 3 inside**

March 24th 2019  
Tampa Bay Downs

**Keep the date!**

## 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](http://www.sarasotabritishclub.com)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER, JANUARY 2019

A final look back at the Christmas Party reminds me that this year's event was one to remember. Sandra Cherry and her elves did us proud, and I am sure that our members will join me in thanking them for giving us a memorable evening. I would also like to thank all our members who gave so generously to the raffle. We were able to donate a total of \$1,365 to our two charities, **Feeding Empty Little Tummys (FELT)** and **Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation**. In addition, in November members gave support to our Walk to End Alzheimers, to the tune of over \$1,000. I am very grateful to all of you for your generosity.

Now that the Holidays are over, we can perhaps catch our breath and look forward to events to come. You will receive invitations soon for our **Valentine's Dance at the Meadows**, and to our annual outing to **Tampa Downs races**. Be sure to use the Eventbrite system to sign up for these and other events as it makes a huge difference to the work involved in organizing them.

We were fortunate to have our son, Mark, join us for a week at Thanksgiving, and we made the trek to Orlando and the theme parks. The Harry Potter attractions at Universal were a highlight, and we fell in love with Butterbeer! On our way home, we stopped at the **Apollo Beach Manatee viewing site**. If you have not seen this impressive, free exhibit I highly recommend it – but hurry, the manatees are only there when the Gulf waters are colder than 68 degrees. Exit 246 on I-75.

Paul

## BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The scheduled Board Meeting took place on Wednesday December 12th, 2018 at 6:15 P.M.

The Board congratulated Sandra Cherry and her team for organizing another highly enjoyable Christmas Party. Sandra's team worked very hard to ensure the event ran so well and the Board passed on their appreciation on behalf of everyone who attended.

The Board reviewed the Christmas Party financials and agreed to book the same venue again for next year's party.

The remainder of the meeting primarily focused on upcoming events – details of which are included in the newsletter.

## COMING EVENTS

### **Free Ballroom Dancing “Taster” Event**



Please join us for a free Taster – to include Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Salsa and others!

The session will be led by Professional Dance Instructors and will give you a little insight into the amazing world of dance.

The event will be held at the Fred Astaire studio at 2738 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34239 on Thursday January 31 2019 at 5.30pm. Afterwards we shall retire to a local hostelry or curry house for respite! Numbers are limited, as is parking, so booking in beforehand is essential!

### **January Lunch**

Our January lunch will be held at Stonewood Grill & Tavern, located at 5415 University Drive, University Park on Friday January 25th at 12 noon.

We will have a special menu. The choices are Chopped Cobb salad with Chicken and all the trimmings, Bacon Burger, Bruschetta Chicken Sandwich, Blackened Chicken Pasta or Vegetarian option. Price of \$12 per person includes choice of Entree and soft drink. Price does not include tax or gratuity.

### **Valentines Dance – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Last year's Valentines Dinner Dance will be repeated at the Meadows Pub. Tony and Tasha will provide entertainment, and we have secured private use of the back room. We will have a limited menu, including the ever popular Fish and Chips supper.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

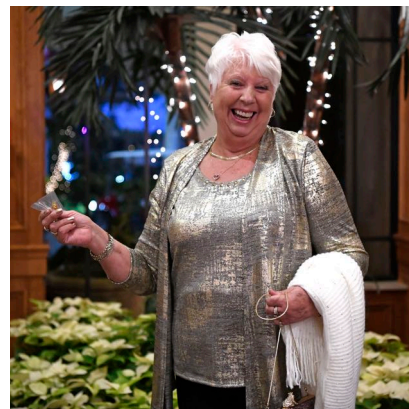
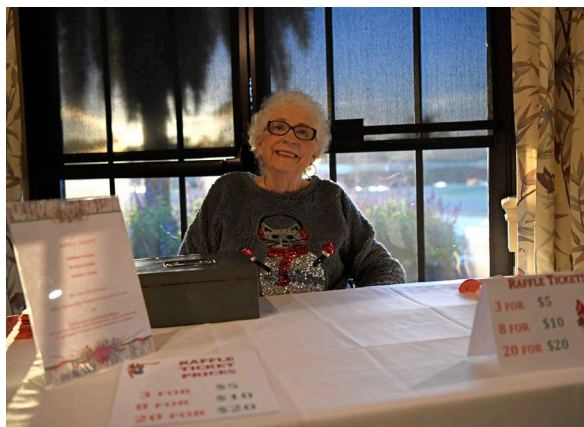
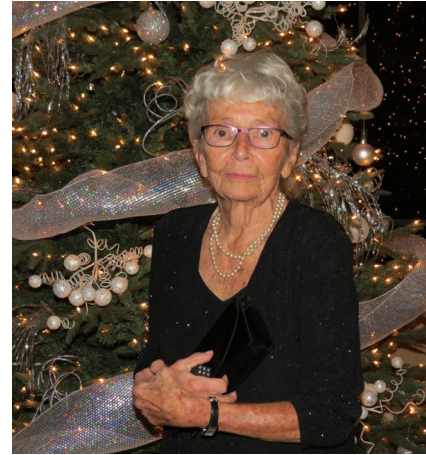
## RECENT EVENTS

We had another wonderful Christmas Party! Lots of great photos from Olga and Sally!





















## RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

It is the end of 2018 – gosh did that fly by faster than a reindeer on Christmas Day! Personally I have escaped the Florida heat and sunshine for a few days of more traditional weather in Atlanta but here is my regular update:

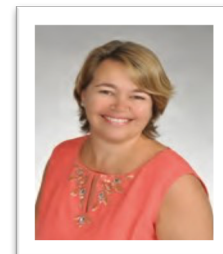
November can generally be a bit slow on the housing front as everyone is awaiting the surge of snow birds as this is traditionally our big selling season, however this November compared to last year was up on Sales, Median Prices and Inventory, and likely the poor weather accounts for this anomaly. So talking of inventory, we appear to be stocking up for a big sell in the New Year. The available housing has increased 9.9% compared to last November, that breaks down to Sarasota single family homes increased by 16.3 percent to 3,131 available properties, while Manatee increased by 4.1 percent to 2,229. Sarasota condo inventory increased by 9.5 percent to 1,811, while Manatee condo inventory is up by 5.6 percent to 931 available properties. A rising inventory favors the buyer giving them more choice and the increased competition can lower prices, though most sellers will be willing to wait a couple of months for the potential influx of snowbirds, so still a ‘sellers market’ at the moment.

	Sales compared to this month last year.	Median Sale Price
<b>CONDO'S</b> 		
	<b>-4.0% Sarasota</b>	<b>\$229,000</b>
		
	<b>12.9% Manatee</b>	<b>\$186,500</b>
<b>SINGLE FAMILY</b> 		
	<b>4.2% Sarasota</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
		
	<b>7.6% Manatee</b>	<b>\$313,496</b>

So that's a wrap for this month, though I'm pleased to say I've helped four families find homes just in time for Christmas, so I celebrated with a proper mince pie and Christmas cake. As always, if you have any questions give me a call 941 914 2463. Wishing you a Happy New Year.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:pwilkinson18@comcast.net)

#### Welsh Society Annual Meeting and Gymanfa January 26

The Welsh Society has extended an invitation to SBC members to attend their annual meeting and Gymanfa. They are looking forward to beautiful music, a delicious lunch, and socializing beginning at 11 am. January 26 at The Glenridge, Palmer Ranch, Sarasota. Details and contacts are as follows:

10:30 a.m. doors open

11:00 - 12:15 Gymanfa (singing)

1 p.m. Luncheon (\$16 adults, \$8 children; pay at the event by cash or check)

1:30 p.m. Annual meeting of the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society

RSVP: [Sarasotawelsh@yahoo.com](mailto:Sarasotawelsh@yahoo.com) or call Maureen Jones: 941-918-2318

## MEDIA MATTERS – VIEWING SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS

***Killing Eve*** lived up to the reviews that we read in advance. Sandra Oh was an unlikely heroine, an MI5 analyst obsessed with catching a female assassin. In typical BBC fashion, everybody nice was killed, and the series ended with a cliff-hanger. Only available on DVD at present but well worth it.

Another DVD disc series that we enjoyed was ***“The Night Of”***. Its connection to the Old Country is that it is based on a BBC series, ***Criminal Justice*** (which is not available on either Netflix or Amazon). A very dark and disturbing tale of a young man accused of murder, but excellent production and graphic content.

If Santa brought you an ***Echo*** or ***Google*** device at Christmas, you can listen free to all BBC radio channels and podcasts. Excellent!

We listen to Jeremy Vine on BBC Radio 2 each morning (on our Google Home device). This morning he interviewed Gyles Brandreth, who has written a new book about the English Language called ***“Have you eaten Grandma?”***

The interview was entertaining and prompted me to find out more. Sure enough, the book is available on Amazon, and a ***FREE series of podcasts can be found on iTunes***. Highly recommended!

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 2018

President	Paul Wilkinson	240-432-2851	<a href="mailto:pwilkinson18@comcast.net">pwilkinson18@comcast.net</a>
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Director at Large 3	Karen Clayton	941-592-8691	<a href="mailto:kclayton12@tampabay.rr.com">kclayton12@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Director Emeritus	Sandra Cherry	941-921-3162	<a href="mailto:yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com">yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com</a>

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.