



BritClub News

VOL 18, ISSUE 6

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

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

June 9th
Murder Mystery Evening

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June 22nd
June Luncheon

Our June lunch will be at the Crow's Nest located at 1968 Tarpon Center Drive in Venice (941 484-9551).

See Page 4 Inside

August 24th
August Luncheon followed by Dali Museum visit

See Page 4 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, JUNE 2018

Can you believe we are almost half way through 2018?
Where do the days and weeks go?



By the time you read this I will have my darling grandson staying for a week. Dominick has decided he wants to live with Nana and GPR (grandpa Ross) and attend college in Florida. He is coming the first week in June to register etc. then will return sometime in August to take up permanent residency. We have not had a teenager living with us for many a year so this will be an interesting experience as, like most teenage boys Dominick is not the tidiest person to have around. Sorry to admit that I have mentioned that cockroaches, spiders and even snakes (Dominick hates spiders and snakes) might be attracted by food left lying around and that a pile of dirty clothing on the bedroom floor might be heaven for some critters! The story will continue.....

I had such a great time at the Toad Rally final stop. Ross and I had done the test run last year before Irma decided to rain on our parade so we knew exactly what you were in for. We managed to complete the route in just over an hour but we had an advantage as the route turned out to be one we drive several times a week but even so we did have to turn around a few times as we had misread a clue. We also did not answer all the questions.

Thank you, Shona, Tina and Kath, for all the work you put into creating this event. I know how many hours you put in and it was a lot more than anyone could imagine.

Hurrah for the intrepid Brits who came out to Siesta Key on a miserable evening to celebrate Meghan and Harry's wedding. There weren't too many of us but we looked wonderful in our macs and fascinators, what a great effort the ladies made to come suitably attired. We had our one crown wearing man, King Paul who looked suitably regal. We enjoyed our pizza, prosecco, cake and great companionship and even though it was cold and wet, it takes more than a little rain to keep members of the Brit Club down!!

I am very sad to have learned today of the sudden passing of one of our friends and members Angie Fry. Angie and Tom came to a couple of Brit Club events with Ross and me and decided we were such a fun group they would join the Club. We did not

see Tom and Angie at many events due to their busy travel schedule but Angie was able to join us for the last lunch at the Carmel Kitchen. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Tom and their families.

Yesterday evening I was sitting reading when I noticed a dark clad figure wearing a backpack lurking around our back yard. I yelled at Ross to find out what he wanted. As Ross was telling me not to worry the figure had taken off running, a pair of hands wrapped themselves around me and I discovered it was my son Stuart who had just arrived from Chicago to surprise me for a couple of days. What a wonderful surprise it is. I must be slipping, don't know how they carried this one off without my getting an inkling but they did.

Hope you had a great Memorial Day.

Jane

PRÉCIS OF MAY 9, 2018 BOARD MEETING

The bank balance at April 30th, 2018 was \$7,079.47, largely due to incoming 2018 Dues. There is still approx. \$365 due from members..... **Membership** stands at 150 family, 22 singles for a total of 172 members. ...**Newsletter Editor**, Steve Pankhurst mentioned we are now getting sufficient quality material and no longer need to use jokes as fillers. ...**Website** - No website report this month...**The Road Rally** was considered a great success by most participants - no divorces recorded so far....**Murder Mystery** is June 9th from 5:30-10:00 p.m at the Village des Pins Clubhouse. ***Please consider carpooling due to limited parking.*** An email will be sent out shortly about this event.... **Royal Wedding** function on May 19th will be at one of the Siesta Beach pavilions. Club will sponsor pizza and Prosecco for a toast... **Salvador Dali Museum and dinner** is being scheduled for late August. More information to follow...**Calusa Games Night** is being scheduled for September 27th....**David Welch** has been elected onto the Board to serve out the remaining term of retiring Board Member **Diana Wilkinson**. The next meeting will be at **6:15 p.m.** on **June 13, 2018** at the Village des Pins Clubhouse. Please let one of the Board Members know if you would like to attend.

Sally Scott, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

Murder Mystery Evening

Ever fancied being a detective? Join us to solve a murder!

Saturday June 9th 6pm for 6.30pm start

Village des Pins Clubhouse 7964 Timberwood Cir, Sarasota, FL 34238

The Clubhouse at Village des Pins will be turned into a 1950's jazz club for the evening – there will be around 10 suspects for our detectives (you!) to grill and there will be a prize for the team or individual who solves it correctly (or nearest the official version)!

A main course of fried chicken will be served – so, please remember to **just bring along a side dish to share** – and we will also provide dessert. Also, it's **BYOB**.

Costumes are not required – although some of us may still have dresses from this era! If you wish to dress up feel free!

This event is now full.

June lunch

Our June lunch will be held at The Crow's Nest located at 1968 Tarpon Center Drive in Venice (941 484-9551).

The date and time of the event is June 22, at 12 noon.

The Crow's Nest is located on the waterfront in Venice and serves a variety of delicious dishes including Seafood

Looking forward to seeing you in June, Vivienne Sivak

August lunch and visit to the Dali Museum

We are planning a trip to the **Dali Museum** in St. Petersburg, FL, after having lunch at the **Spinners Revolving Restaurant** at St. Pete Beach, on Friday, August 24, 2018.

Sarasota Coach Lines, will collect us from the parking lot by McDonald's Restaurant on Bee Ridge Road at 10:30 am and take us to the restaurant located on the top floor of

the Grand Hotel for lunch, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, where you will enjoy great food at a reasonable price, with a 360 view of the beach and surrounding area.

After lunch the coach will take us to the Dali Museum, for a tour of the art works and the beautiful building itself. There is a bar, restaurant and gift shop. The coach will leave the museum for our return journey, arriving back at the departure point by 4:30 pm

The cost per person, including transportation, admission to the Dali Museum and the public tour, is \$50.00, plus you order and pay for your own lunch at Spinners. Private tours of the museum can be arranged for an additional \$10.00 per person.

If you are interest in attending, or need further information, please contact Peter Stokes at: peter13454@gmail.com

RECENT EVENTS

Toad Rally – May 6th

A big thank you to all who participated in last month's "Toad Rally". Nine carloads of slightly crazy, but brave people, ventured forth armed with cryptic clues and even more cryptic directions for an afternoon of treasure foraging, scavenger hunting and road rallying. Everyone made it back safe and sound and smiling! There were no punch ups or pending divorces (that we know of) so we think we can declare it a success. After the hunt we all enjoyed dinner and libations at Beckhams on the Trail.

Congratulations to:

The "smarty pants" winners (aka The Gophers)

Roger & Sally Scott

Ivan & Sharon Gould

The "runner up rogues" (aka Rocking Ranch Rollers)

Steve & Hazel Pankurst

Steve & Kerry Bunker-Johnson

and of course our "lovable losers" (aka The Know Nothings)

Gary & Jane Lee

Larry & Vivienne Sivak

Special thanks to Bob Burtner, Ross Jacobs and Jim Smith who helped "grade" all the rally sheets at the end of the day to determine the winners (and losers), and to our stalwart Club President, Jane, for her smiling presence and support.

Thanks again for being such good sports.

The Toad Team Kath, Shona and Tina

Royal Wedding Celebration

On the evening of May 19th 30 members braved the elements to celebrate the wedding of Harry and Megan. Despite the rain, we feasted on pizza, Key Lime pie, and chocolate cake. A prosecco toast was held to wish the Royal couple a happy future together. Several ladies wore fascinators, and a few crowns were spotted amongst the men!



May Lunch

A large group gathered for a lively lunch at the Riverhouse Reef and Grill in Palmetto. The restaurant is situated on a pier in the Manatee River and provided us with good food and great views – another excellent choice of venue by our organizer Vivienne Sivak.



RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

APRIL BRINGS A FLOOD OF SALES BUT A DROUGHT OF LISTINGS

This April we have had 2,014 sales, which is up 3.3% from last year, Sarasota condos were selling like hot cross buns with sales up 17.8% while Manatee increased only 2.5% the reverse happened for Single Family Homes(SFH) Sales in Manatee were up 5.8% but Sarasota had April showers and actually decreased 8.9%!

Compared to last year there were 10.3% fewer listed SFH and 8.9% fewer condos listed – that is a significant shortage, but it is typical of what is currently happening nationally with a National Trend of lower inventory and higher prices. Greg Owens 2018 President of the REALTOR® Association of Sarasota and Manatee confirmed this "This home shortage is a main factor in limiting sales growth", but added "These trends should encourage homeowners who were thinking of putting their property on the market to do so"

I know what you are thinking, number of sales might be up, but what about the actual prices! Well good question. Median sales prices are continuing to rise, SFH up 5.4% in Sarasota and also up 4.6% in Manatee. Condos are obviously appealing to our snow bird purchasers, going up 9.3% in Sarasota, while the biggest increase was in Manatee, where compared to last year the median sales price have gone up by a whopping 23.1%. So more condos were sold in Sarasota, but it was Manatee condo sellers who saw the biggest sales price increase!

Ask Christine whether to buy or sell? Well going by the lack of available listings and the increase in sales prices, we are still in a SELLERS market, so a good time to sell your condo, but if you have SFH in Sarasota, probably best to wait a while if you can!

Taking a crystal ball peek at what next month is likely to be, I can see that pending sales for Condos in Manatee are up 22.1 % so expect inventory to continue to drop and sales prices to rise here.

Christine Green, Realtor® with Coldwell Banker on Siesta Key, a Brit living in Paradise.

Data compiled from My Florida Regional Multiple Listing Service by The Realtor® Association of Sarasota and Manatee (RASM).

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.

Anyone interested in playing Bridge?

We are still looking for Bridge players to either form a British Club Bridge Group or to learn to play the game.

If you are interested please call Vivienne Sivak at 941 251-7494

Do you have an SUV that you are planning to sell?

I'm looking to buy a gently used, youngish Florida born SUV for my son. Thought it might be a good idea to see if anyone in the club is selling such a beast before we start the dastardly vehicle shopping process. Please contact Jane Jacobs at jane60010@yahoo.com.

Bring and Buy Sale

We are planning a bring and buy sale later in the year to raise money for charity. So, please start putting aside those items that you have been planning to donate in the near future!

MEDIA MATTERS – VIEWING SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Some members may not be aware that both Netflix and Amazon Prime now offer the ability to download some movies and TV shows onto tablets, laptops, phones. We found this a huge plus when flying to and from the UK last year, as we were able to binge watch some of our favorite shows.

Here are some shows recently watched

DCI Banks (Amazon Prime)

Well crafted detective drama starring set in Yorkshire. Each story lasts 2 episodes, so they move along much faster than other dramas of 6-8 episodes. There are 5 series available – we will be downloading a bunch of episodes to watch on our coming RV trip!

Safe (Netflix)

A Harlan Coben tale with his trademark hero who blunders through the plot but eventually reveals a not unexpected conclusion. Good fun, with lots of red herrings and WTH moments.

Collateral (Netflix)

A BBC production of a 4 part detective thriller that many reviews branded overly liberal. Solid 3 stars

The Tunnel – Series 2 (Amazon)

The first series of this show was copied from the original Swedish/Danish production. Featuring an emotionless French female detective and a British male with a TON of domestic issues, this follow up has a preposterous plot and more red herrings than the North Sea. But we enjoyed it and binged the final 3 episodes to find out how it ended.

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

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Director at Large	David Welch	941 210 4455	welchdw@gmail.com
Director Emeritus	Sandra Cherry	941-921-3162	yourcupatea1@yahoo.com

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.