



# BritClub News

VOL 19, ISSUE 6

## COMING EVENTS

### SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Village Des Pins Clubhouse: 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 5.30 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.*

**June**  
**Lunch at Beckhams**

**See Page 3 inside**

**June 29th**  
**Bingo night**

**See Page 3**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**McCurdy's Comedy Club**  
**World Series of Comedy**

**See Page 3**

## 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, JUNE 2019

As mentioned in last month's letter, Diana and I, together with our dogs Yukon and Xian, explored Texas and New Mexico in our RV. We covered 4,700 miles in 20 days and had a fantastic time. We followed I-10 west to New Orleans, then avoided highways as we visited Austin, then West Texas where we were spellbound by the profusion of wildflowers along the roadside.

Then on to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico which is highly recommended as a 'Bucket List' item. Located in its own National Park, you enter via a switchback path that descends into the mouth of the cave. An hour later, and 750 feet deeper, you finally reach The Big Room, the largest cave in the western hemisphere. At over 600,000 square feet it takes another hour to explore before finally (and thankfully!) taking an elevator back to the surface. Outstanding!



North from Carlsbad we climbed to 9,000 feet in the RV before descending to Alamogordo and the White Sands National Monument. Then on to Taos, where we lunched in the town square before taking the 86 mile scenic 'Enchanted Circle' through the mountains of northern New Mexico. Our campground that night was Angelfire, located at an altitude of 8,250 feet – and it was COLD. 25 degrees in the morning, with ice on the windshield.

Next day a long descent into northern Texas and the spectacular Palo Duro State Park near Amarillo. We were serenaded by wild turkeys at our campsite that night! Two more nights at lovely state parks in Texas before we started our 7 night trip home via Louisiana and Mississippi. We are already planning our next trip!

I look forward to seeing you at coming events, and a reminder to please wear name badges!

## BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Precis of the May Board Meeting**

There was a discussion of future events. The Bingo evening was confirmed for 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm.

Next Board meeting will start earlier at 5.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

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## COMING EVENTS

### June Lunch

Our June lunch is provisionally planned for Beckhams, date to be confirmed. Details to follow by email.

### **Bingo Night – ‘two little ducks 22’ June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

Come join us for some good old fashioned fun! We have a Bingo night planned for June 29th at the Village Des Pins Clubhouse. The cost will be \$15.00 per person to include bingo cards, pizza and desert. Members are asked to BYOB and a side dish to share. The fun will begin at 6.30pm with food and socialising then Bingo to follow through til 9.00pm

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

### **McCurdy’s Comedy Club July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

We have a limited number of seats available for the World Series of Comedy at McCurdy's comedy club. ***You will receive an Eventbrite invitation on June 7***, please respond immediately as this event always sells out. As this year's event is slightly earlier than prior years, we suggest that you plan on dining with friends after the show, which will end around 8:15pm.

### **Mike and Jackie Roberts have kindly provided some ideas for future club events**

Please give us some feedback and let us know your preferences

#### Dining

There are many ethnic restaurants in Sarasota especially for lunch e.g French/Greek/Italian/Spanish/Mexican but very few English (discounting tea rooms and Beckham's).

Seafood also abounds with Barnacle Bills, Duvals, Owens Fish Camp etc. Our favorite is the Star Fish Co off Cortez but it is very small and somewhat rundown( but with great food).The Casey Key Fish House is another. Additionally The Dockside Grill in Venice is also quite good if one can find it! Avoid Pinchers unless you want to get nipped.

## CULTURE

We are blessed with many theatres especially in Sarasota with the Florida Theatre Complex conveniently situated in Palm/Main St area with parking and restaurants close by.

How about a musical evening with classical or jazz on offer?

Art galleries are not our favorite but we have them aplenty in Sarasota. In addition we should not forget SELBY Gardens with live music on Sundays.

## ADVENTURE

Well we already have Treasure Hunts; Racing; and a hilarious Boating trip which we must repeat especially for the Lady Pole Dancers!

There is much more like Fishing Charters; Jet Skis; Canoeing; Beach Picnics; Flying Visits to Key West or other key islands. How about the theme parks e.g Kennedy Space Center; Busch Gardens; Epcot ; Fantasy of Flight Museum; What about a 2 day Cruise out of Tampa being offered at \$37/day/person?

## SOCIAL

How about a card night (with or without dinner); presentations by members in areas of their expertise? We are a diverse group and it might be interesting.

A Pot Luck evening; dance lessons!; how to plan a return visit to the UK? Lots of indoor possibilities even Bingo or dare we say it WHIST.

Well we think enough for now, sufficient to merely illustrate that we are only limited by our imagination; willingness to try new things and of course funds. Did we not have a surplus last year?

Good luck to the organizer(s)!

Mike+Jackie Roberts

## RECENT EVENTS

### Memorial Day

A small group of SBC members joined around 50 others in Arcadia at the Memorial Day service to remember 24 air cadets who died during flight training in Florida in 1941-2.

**Paul Wilkinson** laid a wreath, and **Hanna Mares-Sirotkova** placed a flag and cross at one of the headstones. Hana was accompanied by her friend Walter, a 97-year-old veteran of WWII and purple heart recipient, who received a standing ovation to thank him for his service.



### May lunch

25 members enjoyed an excellent lunch at McAllister's Scottish Grill and Tavern. Bangers and Mash and Fish and Chips were both judged to be outstanding.

Regrettably we were so busy eating and chatting that nobody remembered to take any pictures!

## RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

Hi my fellow Brits,

I hope you are all relaxing after a busy snowbird season, now peace and quiet has returned to Sarasota and Manatee. Last year, red tide was a big inconvenience for us all living here and obviously had a negative effect on property, both sales and rentals. So far this year I am pleased to read that there has only been 'background levels' of Red Tide – which is 'normal' and no reported fish kills. I think this is great news for all of us, and I hope we never have another year as bad as that!

This year the Property market is hovering between a buyers and seller's market, with indicators for both courses, it all depends on which sector you look at, my best guestimate is that it is going to turn more into a buyer's market, but it is good news that the we are doing this gradually and not diving headlong into this.

Compared to last year Inventory is continuing to rise, for single family homes this is up 10.4% in Sarasota but decreased 2% in Manatee. Condo Inventory increased 16% in Sarasota and by 2.2% in Manatee all of these increases in available homes will ultimately lead to price reductions, but at the moment we are still getting slight increases in average sale prices compared to last year. SFH sold home prices in Manatee increased 1.6%, in Sarasota they increased 1.5%, and while Manatee condos decreased 4.1% in Sarasota they increased 0.3%.

	<b>April sales compared to April last year.</b>	<b>Median Sale Price</b>
CONDO'S	Sarasota -8.3% Manatee -0.7%	\$235,000 \$196,500
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES	Sarasota -2.6% Manatee +3.9%	\$290,000 \$315,000

If anyone has a property topic they particularly want to discuss or see data on, please let me know, I am happy to write a page on any related subject.

Christine Green

## MEDIA MATTERS

I downloaded the third season of **Versailles** (Netflix) onto my iPad to watch on our RV trip – and we loved the intrigue and spectacle. Highly recommended.

On Amazon a second series of **Fleabag** may appeal to the British sense of the absurd. This adult comedy is written by, and stars, the brilliant Phoebe Waller-Bridge who also wrote **Killing Eve**. This latter is currently showing season 2 on BBC America, and I cannot wait for it to come to Netflix.

We have just started **Gentleman Jack** on HBO, written by Sally Wainwright (Last Tango in Halifax, Happy Valley – both outstanding!) and starring Suranne Jones (Dr Foster, Scott and Bailey), this period piece set in Yorkshire is original and clever.

## 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).

### TERRY SWEENEY

Audrey sends special thanks to all those Brit Club members who sent cards and kind wishes when learning of Terry's passing on March 19th. I treasure them also the many wonderful years we have enjoyed either sitting down to share a meal with you at so many different venues, various fun events, the Christmas Party. R.A.F. Memorial in Arcadia, Cricket at the Thanksgiving weekend tournament, games nights, Guy Fawkes nights, tea at the tea shop etc. etc. Mostly, it was the sharing of our love of all things British. Where else could Terry have a conversation about his beloved Arsenal. (Note, Audrey was born in Tottenham and a big Spurs fan. Yes, we survived the many years in the same house!!!!).

We especially enjoyed sharing travel stories with many of you. Terry travelled extensively in his career selling fine papers in many countries. Never picked up a menu without examining the quality of the paper used. Hmmmm!!!

Terry had been challenged with Parkinson's Disease and after a rapid decline decided to say a quiet goodbye on his own terms. How blessed I and the family are to have had this very special man in our lives. Had just celebrated our 63rd Anniversary.

Thank you for your friendship over these past 17 years, some longstanding and others relatively new.

I look forward to seeing you all at a future event very soon. Fondly, Audrey

## 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.