



BritClub News

VOL 19, ISSUE 3

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 14th 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.

March 24th 2019
Tampa Bay Downs

See Page 4 inside

April 27th 2019
Potential St George's Day event

Keep the date!

March 29th
Lunch at the Curry Station

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, MARCH 2019

I need to apologize for the need to cancel the Valentine's Dance. At the last minute we felt that, for a variety of reasons, The Meadows Pub was not an appropriate venue. We made every effort to find an alternate venue, even to physically visiting the Community Hall in Nokomis (which would have worked well), but alas it was not available. In addition, Tony and Tasha have weekend commitments for the foreseeable future, so it just was not to be. We are very sorry.

I spent the night of Valentine's at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, where I had a cardiac ablation to resolve ongoing arrhythmia and Afib. Coincidentally, my best friend in the UK, Brian, also was admitted to hospital over there with the exact same condition! It was interesting to compare our experiences, and I counted myself lucky to have been here. I am pleased to report that my condition seems to have improved dramatically, and I am looking forward to taking fewer meds from now on.

We have issued the invitation for our annual outing to Tampa Downs, and if you have not already signed up, I encourage you to do so, as space is limited. I also have a limited number of tickets for McCurdy's Comedy Club on July 20 (6:30 pm show, \$21 each), we will not be issuing an invitation for these, as we have only a small number, so please email me directly if you wish to join us.

On a housekeeping note, we strongly encourage all members to wear name badges to events. Details of how/where to get them are elsewhere in this newsletter. We will be asking members to use stick-on labels henceforth if you do not have the official badges.

Enjoy the Season and be kind to the snowbirds!

Paul Wilkinson

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

2019 Membership Dues

Well, it's that time of year again! Seems like only five minutes since you paid your Club Membership dues for 2018 but here we are now looking for dues for 2019! How time flies when you're having fun! Membership fees are due by the end of March and we are glad to inform you that there is no increase over last year - so it's still \$35 for a family and \$25 for single membership. Checks are payable to the Sarasota British Club and should be mailed to *Sarasota British Club, P.O.Box 21063 Sarasota FL 34276*.

Note - Members who joined after January 1st 2019 and those who have already paid for 2019 can disregard this request - you are not required to pay again!

We look forward to hearing from you and to your continued membership of the British Club.

New members

We are pleased to announce four new members:

Stephanie & Douglas Mann of Lakewood Ranch
David & Sandra Rees of Sarasota.

Precis of the February Board Meeting

Wednesday February 13th, 2018 6:15 pm

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report: The balance stands at \$3700.29 as of the 31st Jan 2019.

Membership is unchanged and stands at 175, consisting of 150 family and 25 singles.

The Board discussed current membership fees and voted to keep the same for 2019, i.e \$35 family and \$25 single.

Kevin Clayton, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

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!

March Lunch

Our March lunch is on Friday 29th March at Curry Station, 3550 Clark Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231 at 12.30pm.

Lunch will be a buffet curry selection from one of the highest rated curry places in Sarasota County and we are sure that Purna and his team will do us proud. It seats max 75 so maybe, just maybe, we can fill the place!

The menu can be found at www.currystation.net if people want to look beforehand at the selection.

Cost will be \$10.99 a head - drinks, tax and tip on top of that.

RECENT EVENTS

February Lunch







A group met for a very enjoyable lunch at the Dockside Restaurant in Palmetto. As usual, a good time was had by all.

RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

Hi my fellow Brits,

We are well into Snow Bird season, so avoid the traffic and despite the friendly annual invasion, remember to be thankful, these annual migrants help pay for us all to enjoy the more tranquil rest of the year here in paradise!

I prefer to be the bringer of good news, and this month is usually the start of record sales in all property departments, but this month, as they say in Mary Poppins “Winds in the east, mist coming in, / Like somethin' is brewin' and bout to begin. / Can't put me finger on what lies in store, / But I fear what's to happen all happened before.” Which is a rather dramatic way of saying I forecast a change in the property market. I think this is the end of our ‘sellers market’ and we will be changing instead into a ‘buyers market’. The indicators for this are sales are down 17.2% compared to Jan 2018, and inventory is up by 12.3%. To officially identify when a market is oversupplied – we take the average number of houses being sold and compare this with the number of houses available (the inventory) if this is over 5.5 months supply then we are thinking we have too many houses to sell! In Sarasota for houses we have a 5.4 month supply and for Condos we have 6.1 months supply, In Manatee, houses are at 4.4 months and 4.7 months for Condos. The good news is that actual median sales prices still went up slightly this month, but I think this is the top of that sales curve.

	Sales compared to this month last year.	Median Sale Price
CONDO'S 		
	 -33.1% Sarasota	\$240,000
	 -6.9% Manatee	\$195,000
SINGLE FAMILY 		
	 -11.4% Sarasota	\$286,000
	 -16% Manatee	\$309,000

The oldest tip for property is sell high and buy low, so my tip is sell now and get ready to buy. To end on a high note – our wonderful blue gulf waters are officially free from the dreaded Red Tide, so time for a relaxing day at the seaside, or perhaps after our snowbirds have flown!

As always, if you have any questions give me a call 941 914 2463.

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

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.

Steve Adams

Many members will recall our member and ex-President, Steve Adams. He has been living his dream hiking various trails across the world, and is one of only 500 people over 60 years old to hike the 2,200 mile Appalachian trail in a single year.

Steve joined us at our February lunch, and is recently returned from walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain (500 miles). He tells us that by the time you read this, he will be well on his way into his second hike of the Appalachian Trail.

I am sure that members will join me in wishing Steve well on this endeavor. You can share his adventure by following him on line at <https://mightyblueontheat.com/>. Steve has a regular podcast (rated 5 stars!) on iTunes or your preferred source for podcasts, and I encourage you to join him on his journey.

Good Luck Steve!

The Manatee Players' is proud to announce the production of *Shirley Valentine*, written by Willy Russell

The Manatee Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce Manatee Players' production of the dramatic comedy *Shirley Valentine* (1989 version), directed by Katherine Kerr, for 14 performances, February 28 –March 17 in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theater.

Synopsis of *Shirley Valentine*

The chief character in this play is an ordinary middle-aged working class English housewife. As she prepares chips and egg for dinner, she reflects on her life and tells the kitchen wall about her husband, her kids, her past, and an invitation from a girlfriend to join her on vacation in Greece to search for romance and adventure. It's been 31 years since Willy Russell introduced audiences to *Shirley Valentine*, even in 2019 it remains a fiercely sharp story and we know that Jan Wallace will bring to life this desperately likeable heroine. We promise it will be a good, solid night of entertainment...and a perfect tale about what it's like to be alive.

***Shirley Valentine* Performance Dates and Times**

🎬 8 p.m. – March 1-2, 8, 15-16.

🎬 7:30 p.m. – February 28, and March 7, 13-14

🎬 2 p.m. – March 3, 10, 17

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

I have been enjoying the weekly Amazon releases of **The Grand Tour**, where Jeremy Clarkson and his chums behave like schoolboys with a million dollars an episode to spend. Lots of flash cars and silly British humour – excellent fun.

Freddy Mercury and **Queen** are enjoying a resurgence of popularity. Diana and I were fortunate to see them live at Manchester Town Hall in 1974 on the day that **Bohemian Rhapsody** made #1. They were excellent then, and the recent movie was well worth watching. By the time you read this it will be available on Netflix and it is highly recommended, worth watching for the last 20 minutes.

While we enjoyed **Informers** on Amazon, some of our friends found it very dark. Americans will likely find the London underworld dialogue a challenge to understand, but this tale of how the UK police use undercover informers to infiltrate terror cells is a gripping drama in 6 parts.

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.