



BritClub News

VOL 18, ISSUE 5

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, May 9th at Village Des Pins Clubhouse: 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:15 pm. Guests welcome (*please let us know you are coming!*)

May 6th
Toad Rally

See Page 4 Inside

May 19th
Royal Wedding party

See Page 4 Inside

May 25th
May Luncheon
Our April lunch will be at the Riverhouse Reef & Grill located at 995 Riverside Drive, Palmetto, 34221 telephone 941 729-0616.

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June 9th
Murder Mystery Evening

See Page 5 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 201



It is nice to go on vacation but it is always nice to get home. It is about a month since Ross and I returned from our 'downunder' expedition and although it was wonderful seeing all our friends and family we were ready to get home after 5 weeks of living out of suitcases. I am definitely not good at suitcase living, I try so hard to pack lightly and pack in travel packs etc. but somehow my stuff always seems to grow! Same phenomenon that makes clothing shrink in the wardrobe I suppose!!

It was lovely seeing such a nice group of members at the Bonefish Grill last month, it was especially nice to meet some new members who decided to join us. I hope to see many of you at future events.

Once again, the horses I bet on at Tampa Bay Downs appeared to be the three-legged ones! I am never going to get rich on my racetrack winnings although it was great to see some members cashing in winning tickets. Sadly, the weather was not on our side and the last couple of races were cancelled due to pouring rain but looking on the bright side, we saved a few bucks by not betting!!

We had a visit last week from our son and grandson who drove down from Chicago for a few days. We have not seen Dominick (grandson) since last summer and he's grown another inch and is now 6'4", I still come up to his armpit – just! Our son Stuart is a great cook so I sat back and had my meals cooked for me for a whole week, what a treat. Stu is a quite eclectic in his tastes and cooks up 'different' combinations but he is very health conscious so we always have lots of veggies in his creations. He is very much into Mexican influenced cuisine and likes lot of hot peppers etc. but luckily he held the heat down for me and added extra hot sauce for himself. Sadly, Stu left yesterday so it's back to self-catering in our household.

Jane

PRÉCIS OF APRIL 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING

The bank balance at March 31st, 2018 was \$6,330.85, largely due to incoming 2018 Dues. There is still approx. \$800 due from members..... **Membership** stands at 158 family, 24 singles for a total of 182 members. ... **Newsletter Editor**, Steve Pankhurst will consider recipes and travel columns for inclusion.....**Website** maintenance is running smoothly; several restaurants are no longer registered and are no longer around, such as Morgan's. ...**Road Rally** comes up on May 6th...**Murder Mystery** evening is still awaiting a venue; date is June 9th from 6-10:00 p.m....**Kayak Outing** on March 27th was cancelled due to bad weather... **Royal Wedding** function on May 19th will now be an informal gathering to celebrate the couple at one of the Siesta Beach Pavilions. Suggested time is 6:00 p.m. and the Club will sponsor pizza and beer. **Florida Native Plant Nursery** outing on April 27th has been indefinitely postponed. Suggested event in August is coach trip, dinner and a visit to the Salvador Dali Museum. More information will be in the Newsletter. The next meeting will be at **6:15 p.m.** on **May 9th, 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

Toad Rally – May 6th

This event is now closed.

Royal Wedding Celebration

Saturday May 19, 2018 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Siesta Beach.

Join your friends to celebrate the wedding of Harry and Megan!

We will meet at any open pavilion on the EXTREME North end of Siesta Public Beach (750 Beach Road). Look for the UNION JACK

Bring your own Adult Beverage. The Club will provide Pizza and a Prosecco Sunset Toast to the Royal Couple (Sunset 8.13 pm).

Ladies - wear your fascinators to mark the occasion! Gentlemen, crowns are optional.

May Lunch

Our May lunch is at the Riverhouse Reef & Grill located at 995 Riverside Drive, Palmetto, 34221 telephone 941 729-0616.

The date and time of the event is Friday May 25th, 12 noon.

The Riverhouse Reef & Grill offers a fresh approach to incredible cuisine and casual elegance. Their waterfront dining room brings the outdoors in with an interior that opens completely to the water.

You will be receiving an electronic invitation to this event. We look forward to seeing you. Vivienne Sivak

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 year is 1950 and it's a night like any other at Bourbon Jazz Club, the hottest of hot spots for the local glitterati, the biggest celebrities and those who want to join them. The guest list is exclusive and the patrons happy. In short, it's the place to be, and is renowned the world over as one of the world's premier lounge clubs. People are dying to get in – one man quite literally!

Mitzi, the club's headliner, takes the stage and has just begun her first song when a scream rings out. A man has been found murdered! The doors are quickly locked and everyone is contained, and will remain within the doors of the club until the murderer is discovered!

This is not your usual sit-down mystery – everyone mingles as you try and gather clues and questions the suspects - there are no scripts! No one – not even the murderer – knows who is guilty until the end!

The Clubhouse at Village des Pins will be turned into a 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 – just bring along a side dish to share – and we will also provide dessert. BYOB.

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

If you would like to be a suspect, please let me know when you book.

Cost \$15 per head. Carpooling encouraged.

You will be receiving an electronic invitation to this event. We look forward to seeing you.

RECENT EVENTS

Tampa Downs

The Tampa Downs Race Day has become one of the Club's most popular events and this year's event was, yet again, a highly enjoyable day out. We started with a comfortable coach ride from Sarasota to the race track, followed by an excellent lunch and a lot of fun betting on the horses. This was one of the few rainy days we have had this winter but the heavy rain held off until after the sixth race, by which time most of us had won enough (according to the bragging on the coach home!) to happily head back home.



April lunch

On 27th April about 25 of us met for lunch at the Carmel Kitchen and Wine Bar. The food was good, the company excellent and everyone had a very enjoyable experience!



RESIDENTIAL REALTY UPDATE

Hello, my name is Christine Green and I skipped over the pond to Sarasota with my family ten years ago. I can honestly say that moving here was the best decision we ever made, it is not only our family home but we wake up just loving being here every day. We have dabbled in property all our lives, so five years ago, when I was looking for a change, I took the plunge into becoming a licensed Realtor. I have to admit that my first year I was slow to break into a very competitive and challenging market, but I have worked hard and found not only a position I have excelled at, but it is work that I love. I am truly blessed to be in paradise with a job I love and although I don't like boasting, this is now my fourth award winning year and I have moved from top ten to ranked 4th in the Coldwell Banker Siesta Key office. I will be writing a regular monthly article on our local property market and of course if you have any questions whatsoever I would love to answer those for you.

There are a lot of statistics on how our local property market is doing, rather than just recite the numbers I will try and explain what these numbers indicate.

To the end of March this year, our area had closed on 5,015 properties that is an increase of 2.3 percent from this time last year. Most of this growth is from Condos sales which are up 9.8% while single family homes are down slightly. - *This shows that properties are selling, there is demand and a growing market, that's good for sellers, and buyers want to buy into a growing market.*

The median sales price for Manatee condos increased by 15.1 percent to \$201,500 and Sarasota condos increased by 4.3 percent to \$240,000. Single-family median prices in Sarasota increased by 9.3 percent to \$287,053 and Manatee decreased by 1.7 percent to \$285,000. - *This is good news for sellers, the prices that properties are selling for are going up. If you add in that inventory compared to last year, single-family homes experienced a 15.4 percent decrease, and condos decreased by 11.4 percent, it shows a lack of properties is probably causing an increase in prices, when there is a shortage, then now is a good time to sell your home.*

In the short term we know this trend will continue, "Pending sales showed a combined 14.9 percent increase from February 2018 to March 2018," so even more properties are going to be sold, and when compared to last month, inventory has decreased by 12.2 percent, so there will be even fewer properties available.

Overall lack of properties and increased demand should push prices higher, and Condos are selling better than Single family homes.

Christine Green

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anyone interested in playing Bridge?

If you are a bridge player or would like to learn to play the game, please call Vivienne Sivak 941 251-7494. If there is sufficient interest in the club we will get together and figure out the logistics.

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



Versailles is a BBC co-production with the French TV networks. Allegedly the most costly French TV show ever produced, this is a lavish interpretation of the Court of Louis XIV (the Sun King). Although made by a French team, the actors and language are English, and the plot moves along at a splendid rate. As one might expect, this is an adult show with plenty of sex, murder and mayhem. Many of the scenes were filmed at the Palace of Versailles, and other nearby chateaux. Gorgeous costumes and sets.

Doctor Foster is a BBC production in two series, set two years apart and starring Suranne Jones (Scott and Bailey), this drama depicts the breakup of a marriage and its aftermath. Our heroine is deeply flawed and we found ourselves shouting at her to stop her self-destructive response to her husband's infidelity. Lots of fun!

Charlie Luxton's Homes by the Sea is a Channel 4 production featuring a charming and energetic young architect who tours us around amazing British seaside homes. If you thought we had spectacular homes on Casey Key, wait until you see some of the houses in these shows! Each episode features a different part of the country, and the diverse and awesome landscapes are well presented.

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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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.