



BritClub News



VOL 20, ISSUE 1

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th 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

Breakfast: Salty Dog Long Boat Key on January 10th at 10:00 hrs. Join us for a Full English Breakfast.

Presentation: "Talking about Sea Turtles"; presented by Olga Stokes and Charlene Donnelly, members of the Long boat Key Turtle Watch

Venue: VDP Clubhouse

Date: January 22nd at 6:00pm.

Luncheon: January 31st, noon at the Riverhouse Waterfront Restaurant in Palmetto.

Eventbrite

A gentle reminder: please use the Eventbrite system to let us know that you are coming to our events. Many events require us to notify the venue of numbers attending. At several recent events members have arrived without advance notice, and this causes confusion and seating difficulties.

In future members who have not signed up will be asked to wait until registered members are seated and we hope you will understand that it is only fair that we should give priority to members who have used the system.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, JANUARY 2020

Let me begin by wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to another eventful year, working together with our new board members

Wrapping up, December was busy, with the last-minute preparations for the Christmas Party keeping Diana and I running up until the last moment.

We enjoyed the party very much, and special thanks should go to the “Elves” who worked hard to make it happen.

Recognition also to Greg Hurst and his team at Heritage Oaks for a wonderful venue and to Tony and Tasha who worked so hard for us.

NEXT YEAR'S PARTY WILL BE ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 12 – Make a note in your calendars now!

Our Party preparations were made much more challenging as we had booked a cruise out of Ft. Lauderdale the following day. So we had to drop the dogs off at their foster home, and pack for the trip in amongst all of the party arrangements!

Sunday morning arrived and we traveled successfully to the cruise port with our good friends Lynn and Vinny. At the last minute Peter and Olga Stokes joined us!

We had cruised on the Nieuw Statendam (Holland America) last year on its maiden voyage, and we liked the ship very much. It did not disappoint, with excellent accommodations, great entertainment, and outstanding food.

We were home for the Holiday, which we enjoyed quietly with our pets, and made a bunch of phone calls to friends and family to tell them how lovely the weather is at this time of year. I do hope that all of our members were able to enjoy the Holiday as much as we did.

Now we turn our attention to the New Year – hard to believe it is 2020. I am looking forward to our coming events, and hope to see you soon.



BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Précis of the December Board Meeting

The Treasurer's Report showed a Closing Balance of \$5,126.34 at 30th November, 2019.

In 2019, we had 24 new members joining the club and our total membership has increased to 162.

The Board approved the sending out of a Survey Monkey to solicit suggestions from Club members for future guest speakers and seasonal events.

The Sarasota British Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year



COMING EVENTS

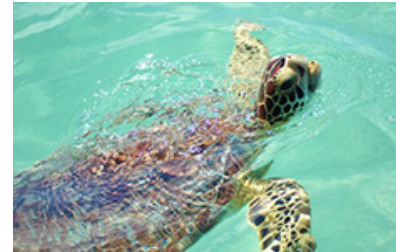
Breakfast:

On Friday, January 10th, 10:00 a.m. at The Old Salty Dog we will be able to enjoy a British breakfast, complete with eggs, bangers, mushrooms, tomato and baked beans for \$10.99; or if you prefer all the usual breakfast dishes are available.

The restaurant is located on City Island, 160 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota.
Telephone: 941 388-4311

Presentation: 'Talking about Sea Turtles'

An abundance of wildlife share our beautiful Sarasota beaches with visitors and residents alike. There are various species of birds, manatees, dolphins, turtles and more, living in the delicate balance of their natural habitat.



All species of Sea turtles are threatened or endangered.

We invite you to attend a talk presented by Charlene Donnelly & Olga Stokes, members of the Long Boat Key Turtle Watch; come to hear about the Sea Turtles, their biology and behavior, their vulnerability and how we can help reduce the impact of human activity

Date: January 22nd at Village Des Pins Clubhouse: 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota.

Luncheon:

This month's lunch will be held on Friday, January 31st, 2020, 12:00 noon, at the Riverhouse Waterfront Restaurant. The restaurant is located overlooking the Manatee River, and serves some delicious lunch specials such as lobster pot pie for \$15, or fish and chips for \$12 in addition to many other choices

Please get your reservations in early as we are limited to seating 35 in the area they have given us.

The restaurant is located at 995 Riverside Drive, Palmetto FL 34221; telephone 941 729-0616.

2020 Annual Christmas party:

December 12th, 2020; at 6:00pm.

Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club, 4800 Chase Oaks Dr. Sarasota, FL. 34241

RECENT EVENTS

2019 Annual Christmas party

The day of our Christmas party finally arrived! There we were together, once again, to celebrate Christmas with friends and some family members.

Although the number of attendees was down a bit compared to last year, the festive mood was all around from beginning to end and some of us, despite trying, still cannot learn the steps of the Electric Slide!

Santa Claus couldn't make it this time but the elves filled in and worked very hard to make it all happen, so everyone who attended could have a good time!

Sharon & Ivan Gould graciously performed a beautiful dance that delighted the audience, thank you both so much for your gift!







Christmas Raffle Donations:

On January 2nd, our president and two members of the club accompanied by Yukon, visited the offices of “Parenting Matters” and “All Faiths Food Bank”. Each association was presented with a cheque for the sum of \$500.00.

Parenting Matters



All Faiths Food bank



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

MEDIA MATTERS

Star Wars was outstanding! We went to see it in 3D at the IMAX theater at Sarasota Square. We found it hard to believe that we saw the first movie (with Luke and Leia) at the Tatton Cinema in Hazel Grove, Stockport **IN 1977!** This movie wrapped up the saga nicely, and the spectacle and effects were awesome. Highly recommend seeing it on the biggest screen you can find.

The Two Popes was an unlikely recommendation from **Netflix**, but we found it riveting. Anthony Hopkins is a great actor, and his portrayal of Pope Benedict was outstanding. Highly recommended.

Of course series 3 of **The Crown** did not disappoint. For those of us who remember the winter of discontent, and the troubled governments of Harold Wilson and Ted Heath, the drama of the events were brought back by this excellent show.

I binge watched **Mars** on Netflix and loved the care taken to portray the reality of what colonization of Mars would require. It cleverly uses experts from the present day (including Elon Musk!) to explain the challenges that the fictional characters are going through on the distant planet.

Those of us who lived through the swinging 60's and the music of the Beatles will love **Yesterday**. Expertly directed with wit and sensitivity by Danny Boyle, it tells the story of a young man who wakes up after an accident to find that the Beatles never existed – but he remembers all of their songs! He proceeds to become a major rock star by recreating them. Great fun.

Paul Wilkinson.

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: peter13454@gmail.com

Notes on UK Election 14th December 2019

When you read these notes in the next Sarasota British Club Newsletter, the UK election will already be a few weeks old. However, the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement details are still to be resolved with EU.

It seems that Brexit was a major factor – but not the only one – which resulted in the Conservative victory on 14th December. A significant result of this December 2019 UK election was that so many traditional Labor seats (including many North England, Midlands & Wales constituencies which had voted Labor since the 1930s+) voted Conservative.

During the (short) pre-election campaign season, the predictions for a Conservative win varied across a range of 10-20+ % but with some pundits suggesting Labor & supporting parties might win enough seats to form a new government. Election day exit polls however did forecast a major win for the Conservative Party. These **Exit poll results** were remarkably accurate – Conservatives - 368 seats, Labor -191 seats, SNP (Scottish National) – 55 seats, others (including Brexit Party, Liberal Democrats, DUP (N Ireland) - total 36 seats. **Actual results;** Conservatives -364 seats, Labor – 203 seats, SNP – 48 seats, others 35 seats. Note, the results of the 3 of the last 4 UK elections were correctly forecast by the **Exit Polling** numbers.

Labor did win 14 seats but why did Labor lose so many? Review of some Press & other ‘expert’ commentaries after the election suggest a general belief that Labor (under Corbyn’s leadership) had ‘let their traditional supporters down and generally ignored them’.

Some press comments referred to the rise of the ‘Workington Man’. Workington is in Cumbria (along with another long time Labor town – Barrow-in-Furness). The view of one ‘Workington Man’ was that ‘Labor let us down – I never voted other than Labor in my life – but I could not vote for Labor this time’.

Some of my family came from Bolton (Lancashire) which with a long list of other local towns voted Conservative after traditionally voting Labor (for many decades). Note this comment below from a Sky News Anchor in Australia.

"Brits went to the polls and told the hard left, institutionally anti-Semitic, Brexit-blocking, identity politics obsessed, climate change hysterics of the Labour Party, led by terror sympathizing socialist simpleton Jeremy Corbyn to get stuffed". Wow!! (my edit)

On 20th December, Parliament voted 358 – 234 to approve, in principle, the first steps required to formalize the UK exit from the EU by 31st January 2020. Final ratification of the “Withdrawal Agreement” is to be completed by 9th January to allow time for passage by the House of Lords and to gain ‘Royal Assent’ by 31st January.

The Big Question now is how & when Boris Johnson will get the (mainly trade related) agreements with the EU to finalize details of the separation of UK from the EU. We should learn more on these issues during January.

Paul Cassidy

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear members:

Facebook: the club needs a Social Media person to take responsibility of our Facebook account and keep it up to date. Volunteers are most welcome!

Thank you!

The editor wishes to thank all the club members who have contributed to this edition.



Yellowstone National Park 2019

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 2020

President	Paul Wilkinson	240-432-2851
Vice President	Paul Cassidy	248-756-0010
Treasurer	Peter Stokes	941-536-4408
Secretary	Kevin Clayton	941-744-7863
Membership	David Welch	941-210-4455
Newsletter Editor	Olga Stokes	941-536-4408
Website Liaison	Mark Malkasian	941-445-2890
Director at Large 1	Christine Green	941-914-2463
Director at Large 2	Karen Clayton	941-592-8691
Director at Large 3	Vivienne Sivak	703-626-3562
Director Emeritus	Sandra Cherry	941-921-3162

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.