



BritClub News



VOL 20, ISSUE 4

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8th, it will be a virtual meeting and the time of the meet is to be announced.

All members will receive emailed invitations to the events shown below in due time. Please look out for them in your inbox and be sure to add "Sarasota British Club" to your safe senders list

Save the date!

AGM: Saturday, October 10th.

Guy Fawkes: Thursday, November 5th.

Christmas party: December 12th, 2020 at 6:00pm.

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, APRIL 2020

So far so good, I have not heard any news of members or friends going down with the virus, and we are surviving social isolation pretty well. Of course, we are thankful that we live here, and have the sunshine and warm temperatures to make life more bearable. Speaking with friends in the UK, and listening to the BBC things are definitely more challenging back home.

For us, and I imagine for most, it is a little like the movie Groundhog Day, as each day is much like the previous one. The dogs still need to be walked twice a day, and I ride my bike up Siesta Key to the Village, which is VERY quiet now that 90% of the snowbirds have left. I confess that, along with quite a few others, I have walked the beach a few times, even though it is supposedly closed. There are a surprising number of other walkers (100's), all carefully keeping a safe distance from each other.

We have taken the opportunity to tackle several projects about the house. Diana is painting the front door and shutters, and we have done a major redesign on the landscaping out front. The unusually warm weather made the digging and transplanting much harder than we had originally planned! So we try to get most of the work done early in the day. We bought some lovely bromeliads from Tropiflora (on Tallevast Road), which is well worth a visit if you have an interest in orchids and bromeliads.

Once a week we break out to Costco, where we are carefully herded along by the staff.

We have found that late afternoon is a good time to go, and there are very few other shoppers and plenty of items on the shelves.

I noticed that the warehouse is not accepting returns of toilet paper or other products that were in such short supply recently. So those who stocked up are stuck with what they bought!



Paul Wilkinson

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Précis of the December Board Meeting

The Treasurer's Report showed a Closing Balance of \$2,262.48 on February 29th, 2020. Our total membership is changing; we will let you know the numbers as soon as we have gathered the information.

Future event ideas such as a Cooking Demonstration; Social Night; Movie Night and Bingo are being considered for when our lives returns to normal.

The Sarasota British Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and we'll be having a birthday party at the Annual General Meeting in October.



COMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting:

On Saturday, October 10th, at Village des Pins Clubhouse.

Guy Fawkes Beach Party:

On Thursday, November 5th, at Siesta Key beach.

2020 Annual Christmas party:

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

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

EVENTS THAT WERE CANCELLED

March Luncheon;

Tampa Bay Downs and

2020 Kayak Trip on Lemon Bay in Venice

We thank all the club members who worked so hard on organizing these events.

Many thanks also to Mr. John Sarkozy for his help regarding the Kayak Trip.

MEDIA MATTERS

I am guessing that many members have time on your hands, so here is a recap of ideas that will help you fill your days and nights.

Reading

Kindle Unlimited is a feature of **Amazon** that allows unlimited access to thousands of magazines and books for \$9.99 per month.

Sarasota Public Library has a free service that allows rental of eBooks for 14 days. It is a bit complicated to use, and requires two different apps (one to search, and one to read). There is often a months-long wait for popular titles, which is a bummer. But hey! It's FREE!

TV

First, if you have been holding out, now is the time to consider a subscription to **Amazon Prime** and **Netflix**. There are a TON of other subscription services, but for most of us, these two should be sufficient. You need a device to access the internet with both (an iPad or other tablet will work) and an internet enabled TV. We have a 'smart tv' that is directly connected to the internet via an ethernet cable, but I know many people who use a Fire stick, Google dongle, or other device.

If you have a recent DVD player, it may also have WiFi that will allow you to access the internet.

Netflix

A reminder, that recent releases are available from Netflix via their excellent **mail order system**. Costs a bit more, but is worth it to get the good stuff!

I have recommended **Outlander** before; the first 3 series are available here and should not be missed!

The new season of **Ozark** started March 27th and is a slick, darkly humorous drama about an accountant who gets sucked into money laundering for a Mexican drug cartel. Highly recommended.

Also on Netflix is ***Shaun the Sheep*** – a series of 13-minute animated tales from the studios that produce Wallace and Grommit. Excellent fun!

The English Game is a tale about the origins of football (soccer) from the Downton Abbey team, including Julian Fellowes. Manages to mix the Victorian period piece with an underdog soccer team struggling to win the first FA Cup. Not bad.

I notice that all 8 seasons of ***Call the Midwife*** are available. Not my cup of tea, but I know that this is hugely popular in the UK and you may well get sucked into binge watching!

Netflix, also has quite a few ***Attenborough*** nature specials, every one is spectacular.

Amazon

A reminder, that ***Amazon Prime*** has the ability to add '***Channels***' within the Prime app. Some of them offer a free month teaser, and may be worth a look.

We have ***Acorn***, which for \$4 per month offers a TON of classic British shows including ***Doc Martin, Lovejoy, Vera*** etc. There are 5 series of 'Line of Duty', which should not be missed!

Other available Channels include ***BritBox***, which has many of the same shows as Acorn, but costs a little more. It is a joint venture between the BBC and ITV, which means that it has current series of shows such as ***Eastenders, Coronation Street*** etc.

Starz (which has the recent series, 4 and 5, of ***Outlander***) is a \$9 per month, but worth it for a month to watch Outlander!

HBO is available also, for \$14.99 per month, which is the same as Comcast. We have HBO included in our cable package and are re-watching ***Game of Thrones*** from the first episodes in 2010! We are thoroughly enjoying them, finding that they are easier to understand the second time around.

Let's not forget ***Westworld***, spectacular but sometimes puzzling.

Feel free to email or call me with questions – pwilkinson18@gmail.com or 240 432 2851

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

Material provided by Mark Malkasian:

The Lighter Side of
London's Bloody Blitz
as Seen Through the Eyes of a Young Boy

The paperback format is available from Amazon and other major book sellers. The e-format version is also available as a Kindle eBook from Amazon.

Two-time award-winning writer, Charles Berkoff, was a six-year-old cockney growing up in London's East End at the start of World War II. With an emphasis on its lighter side, he now, eighty years later, relives his vivid memories of the London Blitz...surely the most extraordinary period in a young boy's life. In addition to WWII action, he touches on the ways of old London, and the social issues that significantly impacted his boyhood: the British class structure, corporal punishment, and anti-EastEnd sentiment. Even as everyday living evolved into everyday dying, humor, strong English tea, and not being in the wrong place at the wrong time ensured his survival. Winston Churchill helped. This is "London's Bloody Blitz" all over again, and in the telling of it, that young boy is obviously back in the middle of all the action. Spoiler Alert: The Allies beat the Axis Powers. In overtime.

"An unusually light-hearted and very personal account of a terrifying time" ... "A very different war memoir" ... "Funny and informative" ... "Great sense of humor" ... "I liked the creative way the author divided each chapter into 'Before,' 'During,' and 'After' sections" ... "Fascinating revelations about the great Sir Winston Churchill" ... "Brings back memories for those of us who were there" ... "Love the cockney dialect."

CEBRAL Publications
www.charlesberkoff.com
February 2020

From your editor: A Sniper in The Rookery

Dear everyone: on occasions life gives us the opportunity to witness or participate in something we deeply value. For me at the time it was the experience of visiting a sacred place: the Flamingo Rookery at the Inagua National Park in The Bahamas.

In March 2009, my camera and I were invited to visit the rookery located next to a remote lake in the park; it seemed to be a successful nesting season that year, a rebound after Ike, the devastating hurricane that hit the island the year before.

The flamingo parents got up and walked away from the nests when Henry Nixon, the Park Warden and I arrived, despite us sneaking carefully behind the mangroves. Henry was promptly guiding my steps and my aim: “to the right Olga, to the left, look up!” while I had the camera glued to my face shooting as fast as I could. Just when I started to get the hang of it, he said: “enough, we are leaving now; the parents must return to incubate the eggs and feed the chicks”.

It was a half-hour visit, but it felt like I was floating in the air for only a few seconds, with the sound of the camera, shooting incessantly.

Life in the rookery went back to normal as soon as we left, but my life was changed forever.





The parents kept walking nervously by the edge of the lake, with their necks erect on alert, attentive to our every movement. They instinctively fear humans.

Look at their legs: the one with the grey and green bands was 30 years old at the time; Henry Nixon banded him when he was a chick!

Flamingos live in large colonies; the male and female build their nest together with mud and take turns to protect the nest and the egg. They also feed the chick with a kind of milk produced in glands lining their upper digestive tract.

The new hatchlings remain in the nest for about ten days; after that, they stand up and attempt their first steps; in a few more days the chicks gather in small groups and eventually merge into groups of thousands. Safety in numbers once again.





The chicks are born with white/grey feathers but their plumage changes colour in a few years due to the brine shrimp in their diet.

The Flamingos that inhabit South Florida and the Caribbean belong to the American Flamingo species and are usually non-migratory birds.

They only move far away due to a threat. Many survive the hurricanes hunkering down on the mangroves.

In December, thousands of adults congregate in Great Inagua Island for the mating rituals and another nesting season begins.



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

A FEW JOKES FOR THE ROAD

Submitted by Paul Wilkinson

I met my girlfriend whilst she was working at the zoo. There she was in her uniform – straightaway I knew she was a keeper.

People tell me I take mini-golf too seriously, but my caddy disagrees.

Interesting fact: T-shirt is short for Tyrannosaurus Shirt. Because of the short arms.

I've been learning German for twenty years. It's zwanzig Jahren.

Just a quick note to say thanks to everybody for all the wonderful birthday cards and money yesterday. And to the Royal Mail for giving me the job.

Stretch marks are basically badges to say "well done for eating all the biscuits".

Too many people leave their body to science. I'm going to leave mine to Geography and see if they can do anything with it.

They say one glass of wine in the evening is good for your health, but how many should I be having in the morning?

Tax avoidance is like snogging in public. Disgusting, unless you personally are involved.

I was embarrassed about doing pole vault at school, but you know what? They gave me stick and I got over it.

I love going on holiday. It's important to argue somewhere different.

I spent the last three days alone trying to learn escapology. I need to get out more.

People ask what personal grooming products I use. I just get whatever is available in the supermarket, so this week cat food and grapes.

I saw the list of the top 100 things to do before you die for dolphins and "swim with humans" was not on it.

I like to watch Love Your Garden when I have my tea and then True Crime before bed. I feel really confident being able to bury a body and know what to plant on top of it.

Apparently women are twice as empathetic as men. I can't even imagine what that must be like.

Sex is a bit like making your own pastry isn't it? You know you should, but you're not sure if you can be bothered.

The other day I saw one of those new "driverless" cars. In fact, I saw a whole car park full of them!

...just one more!

The crisis has brought disruption to every section of society. From schoolchildren to the elderly, and from the self-employed to the abruptly furloughed, all of us are facing upheaval in our daily lives and anxiety about our futures.

Amid the clamour of appeal for Government support, however, the plight of one group appears to have been cruelly overlooked:

Criminals.

The Prime Minister may only have announced the nationwide lockdown Monday night, but already families from across the law-breaking community are feeling the pinch. Burglars, for example, have seen their takings collapse.

“It’s a nightmare,” says Barry Knuckles, president of the National Union of Housebreakers. “Now that the entire population is at home 24 hours a day, it’s impossible to burgle anyone. They’re never out.”

Speaking on the Today programme, Mr. Knuckles urged the Government to provide financial support for his members during these tough times. He called on the Chancellor to cover 80 per cent of the value of all the laptops, jewellery and flatscreen TVs that Britain’s burglars would normally have stolen and sold on. So far, however, he has yet to receive a response.

“The political class are completely out of touch with the concerns of decent, hard-working criminals,” he says.

But burglars aren’t the only felons struggling to meet the challenges of the coronavirus age.

“It’s all very well for people who can work from home, like phishing scammers and identity thieves,” says Dave Fingers, chairman of the Association of British Muggers and Bag-Snatchers. “But how are you supposed to pick someone’s pocket from two metres away? Some of our lads have tried using those little hooked rods you get in fairground hook-a-duck games, or those funny reacher-grabber tools that old folk use for picking up stuff they’ve dropped on the floor. But it’s hopeless. The Government’s got to think again.”

The spread of the virus has also caused widespread concern among the Jihadi terrorist community. According to recent newspaper reports, Isil has ordered its members to stay away from Europe for fear of catching the disease.

“We’re disgusted by the number of Western infidels refusing to observe official guidance on social distancing,” says an Isil spokesman. “These people are making the streets completely unsafe. Their actions could cost thousands of innocent lives.

“As an employer, our number one concern is the welfare of our employees. The last thing we want is for one of our suicide bombers to get killed.”

Thank you!

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



Brand new flamingo chick; Olga Stokes photo.

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
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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; you can add your event photos to the wall.