



# BritClub News

Vol 20, Issue 9



## COMING EVENTS

### **SBC BOARD MEETING**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm, it will be a virtual meeting.

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

### **Annual General Meeting**

We are required by our By-Laws to hold an AGM every year, at which we ratify the Board for the coming year and approve any changes to the By-Laws.

Covid 19 has made a physical meeting an impossibility, and your Board is exploring opportunities for a virtual meeting, or proxy voting by email. Whatever is decided, we will be shooting for a date in late October or early November for the event, with more details to come later.

As part of the AGM process, we are accepting applications for any Board positions, including President. Our incumbent President has led us for four years now and has indicated that he is willing to allow a fresh face to take the helm. Any member who wishes to be considered for a position on the Board should send an email to Paul Cassidy, [pfc512@hushmail.com](mailto:pfc512@hushmail.com) who is heading up the nominating committee.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER, AUGUST 2020**



Most of you know that Diana and I have a son, Mark, who is a police officer in San Rafael, CA. When he was about 10 years old, we announced that we were to make the family pilgrimage to see Grandma in Worcester, UK. He was not overly excited, so we tried our best to tempt him with promises of what we would see and do on the trip. One of these promises was a visit to Worcester Cathedral. As a lad growing up there, I recalled my visits to the cathedral, climbing the bell tower, seeing the crypt, but most of all, seeing the thumb of King John, who was buried there. The thumb bone was displayed in a glass case along with a dirty piece of old leather. It was this latter that captured my attention, as it was alleged that this exhibit was part of the skin of a Dane, who had committed some kind of crime, and had been flayed alive as punishment!

Well, the 10-year-old boy could hardly wait, so once we arrived, we took ourselves down to the Cathedral, which took 420 years to build, between 1084 and 1504. Alas, no thumb of King John (although his tomb is there), and no skin of a Dane. Crushed, we took ourselves off to ride the steam trains at the Severn Valley Railway (highly recommended if you are ever there!).

Two years later, we made another trip, and this time Grandma came through! She knew someone who arranged a private tour for us, and we duly presented ourselves at the main door on the appointed hour. We were instructed to go to a door in the South corner of the main nave, and to ring the bell. A voice told us to enter and climb the stairs. Now this was at the height of Harry Potter mania, and the ancient door creaked open to disclose a VERY narrow winding stone staircase – so narrow in fact, that my shoulders touched the walls. The 12-year-old thought he was at Hogwarts and scrambled up the worn stone stairs.

Eventually we emerged into the Library – quoted thus in Wikipedia:

“The Cathedral Library at Worcester, located since the 19th century in the loft above the South Nave, contains nearly 300 medieval manuscripts, 55 [incunabula](#), and 5500 post-medieval printed books. Of particular note are the Worcester [Antiphoner](#) (the only book of its kind to survive the Reformation), the will of King John and a 1225 copy of [Magna Carta](#).<sup>[40]</sup> The large [scriptorium](#) at Worcester produced many manuscripts and was a place of work for many famous scribes, such as the chronicler [John of Worcester](#) and the unnamed monk identified by his distinctive handwriting as [The Tremulous Hand of Worcester](#).<sup>[41]</sup>

We were greeted at the top of the stairs by the librarian, who showed us the said manuscripts and books, some of which were 1,000 years old! And here, in a glass display case, was the thumb bone retrieved from the grave of King John. And there, next to it, was the piece of leather – that had been carbon-dated and DNA checked to be human, and 1,100 years old. What an adventure!

On a side note, at that time I was doing pest control work for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. One of their treasured collections was their book collection, containing rare books from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was housed in a temperature and humidity-controlled room, accessed via an airlock. Contrast this with the Cathedral’s collection of 1,000-year-old books housed in the attic above the nave!

I am sure that many readers have similar tales to share, and you have no excuse that you are too busy during the current time. So please send us your items to share!

Paul Wilkinson

## BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Précis of the July's Board Meeting

The Treasurer's Report showed a Closing Balance of \$3,567.31 on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.  
Our present total membership is 130.

### Club's Revised mission Statement

As part of the recent redesign of the Club's website, the Mission statement was modified with the removal of terms that the Board considered exclusionary. Those terms referred to expatriates and newcomers. The statement now casts the broadest possible invitation to attract potential new members. Recognition of British owned businesses were also eliminated.

The editing rework is shown here with added words in **bold** and deleted words as ~~strike throughs~~.

*The Sarasota British Club welcomes those of British heritage, their partners, and others interested in British culture in the Sarasota, ~~Manatee and Charlotte Counties~~ **and surrounding** counties. The Club fosters the British ~~expatriate~~ community in a spirit of friendship and mutual support.*

*Its goals are to provide a social setting-for newcomers ~~in the area as they adjust to the American way of life~~ **members**, organize social events ~~recognize nearby British-owned businesses~~; and promote community outreach by supporting local charitable organizations.*

On July 8, 2020 the Board of Directors approved the revised "Our Mission" statement as now shown in the Footer on the Home Page of the Club website [sarasotabritishclub.com](http://sarasotabritishclub.com)

Mark Malkasian, Website Liaison, 7/16/2020



## MEDIA MATTERS

I have written in the past that **YouTube** is more than car crashes and stupid people. There is a lot of solid entertainment on it, and if you have a Smart TV connected to the internet, it offers a lot more variety. We watch a channel called **Keep Your Daydream**. A couple, Mark and Trish, are full time RVers, and they produce a weekly show about the RV life. We find it entertaining and informative. Also, on YouTube is **Escape to the Country** – house hunting shows featuring a different scenic area in the UK. Love this!

On **Netflix** we have been bingeing on **The Last Kingdom**. This dramatization of Bernard Cornwell's books about Saxon Britain was slow to grab our attention, but after two episodes we were hooked. Just as well as there are FIVE series. Filmed in Hungary, with mostly new (European) faces, it had plenty of action and intrigue.

Also, on **Netflix**, I cannot recommend **Peaky Blinders** too highly. There is a lot of violence, and the 'Brummy' dialog can sometimes get muddled, but this award-winning show is better the second time around.

On Amazon, **Very British Problems** is entertaining in small doses, spot the famous faces explaining our quaint customs to the US audience.

Paul Wilkinson



TV Show	Platform	Recommended by	Comments
Breaking Bad	Netflix	Paul and Diana	Classic Noir series, in which a high school chemistry teacher turns into a Drug Baron
Defending Jacob	Apple TV	Christine Green	Crime drama
Confession	BritBox	Christine Green	Crime drama
The Mill	Amazon Prime	Christine Green	Period drama
Suspects	Acorn	Peter and Olga	British Crime Show
Unforgotten	Acorn	Peter and Olga	Cold cases, British Crime Show
Line of Duty	Acorn	Paul and Diana	British Crime show
The Last Czars	Netflix	David Welch	Docudrama
Marvelous	Acorn	Ron Platt	Heartwarming British drama starring Toby Jones
Golden Years	Amazon Prime	Paul and Diana	DON'T MISS - retired Brits decide to top up their cash by robbing banks
Murder City	Amazon Prime	Peter and Olga	British Crime show
World's Fastest Indian	Netflix DVD	The Bigdens	Possibly Anthony Hopkins best role. Also available for rent on Amazon
The Sapphires	Netflix	The Bigdens	a real-life Australian aborigine singing group and their bumpy career
Closed Circuit	Netflix DVD	Paul and Diana	British spy thriller
The Nest	Acorn	Paul and Diana	Clever series set in and around Glasgow, wealthy couple engage teen to be the surrogate mother of their child...
Thirteen	Acorn	Paul and Diana	DON'T MISS this drama about a girl returning to her family after a 13 year abduction
Peanut Butter Falcon	Amazon Prime	Paul and Diana	quirky movie starring a downs syndrome man in an off-beat adventure in the deep south
Very British Problems	Amazon Prime	Paul and Diana	Comedians and celebrities talk about the peculiarities of the British.

COMMUNITY BOARD

*From Paul and Maggie Cassidy:*

***Letters: The Great Plague of London, 1665***

Draft of summary of 10 pages chapter titled **Letters from London during the Great Plague (of 1665)** from a 1966 edition of a book titled **London Unknown** – initially published in 1919 by: “Unknown”, original **Author Walter George Bell**. The 1966 edition was ‘**completely revised**’ and with added chapters by **E R Wetheret**.

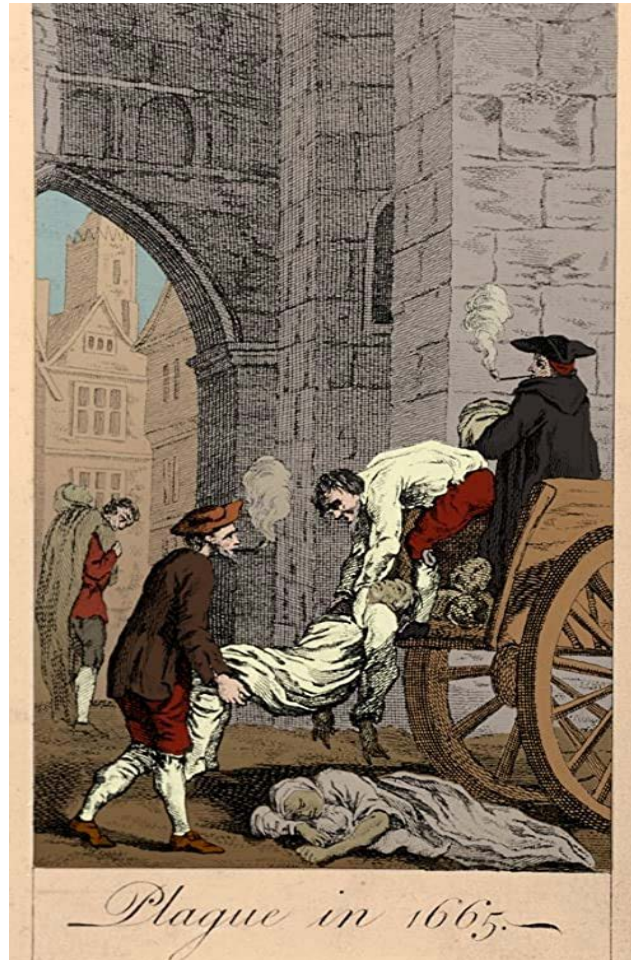


Direct quotes from the book are defined by the words in italics.

*“John Alli; Gospel Minister and student of Medicine wrote these letters in 1665.*

*Fires were kept burning in the London streets, which were mostly empty of people. There was a dread of meeting others ‘as with a leper’ as citizens were intent on maintaining their own existence”.*

*London was a city of prisons, described as ‘locked and guarded dwellings of prisoners with the Plague’ where watchers ‘stood before each door, ready to fetch the bare necessities of life for the stricken prisoners’.*



*In the streets, doors were only opened for the ‘dead cart’ used to collect the bodies, sometimes of whole families, to take them ‘away for the pit’. ‘Over the city was a strange uncanny silence, broken only by the dirge of church bells’. There was no traffic, all activities were stopped and shops closed in what was described as a ‘big city’ in 1665. ‘A goodly part of the population had fled’ and ‘London had become a tomb of the living and dead’.*



John Allin mentioned in his letters that a severe winter frost started about Christmas 1664 which continued until April. He casually mentioned that on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1665, he heard that *'2 houses were shut up in Drury Lane for the sickness'*. Allin wrote nearly 200 letters to friends (in Rye, a Cinque Port) over a period of 10 years. These were often *'received with dread lest contagion be carried on the written sheet'*. In one letter, he wrote: *'Surely if my friends be afrayd of my letters I would not be afrayd of theirs'*. John was a parson in Rye till 1662 until the Conformity Act (for the Uniformity of Publique Prayers and Administration of Sacraments et al) caused him to join with many other *'brave Churchmen who went out into the wilderness at the Great Ejectment'*.

He eventually arrived in London and took up medical studies. His letters cover many topics and there is no connected narrative of the Plague. The book notes that Daniel Defoe's uncle Henry may have written a Journal of the Plague Year, but this was published as fiction whereas Allin's letters are based on facts, for example, the weekly records ('bills') of the number of Plague deaths.

From here on, I include brief extracts from Allin's letters, the first letter being dated May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1665. I retained the spelling and grammar et al in the quoted letters exactly as the original book text – in this case, 17<sup>th</sup> Century English.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – *Ye sickness is said to increase in Holland as it doth here; ye bill (I assume a public listing of deaths) mentioned 3 last weeks and 14 this weeke, but its believed to bee treble the number.*

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – *I heare ye general bill this week will be about 2500. I thank God I goe about my busines without any slavish feare of it (the Plague)... many whole families of 7 to 18.... Totally swept away.*

**11<sup>th</sup> August** – *I shall not thinke myself safer there (at Rye) than here whilsy my call is to stay here; yet I am troubled at the approach of the sickness nearer every weeke .... Et al.*



**18<sup>th</sup> August** – 5319 this weekes bill in general. Mr Miller's brother-in-law dyed last Tuesday .... but pray let him know of his brother's death. (It seems Mr. Miller is an acquaintance in Rye)

**24<sup>th</sup> August** – I am through mercy, yet well in midst of death, and that too approaching nearer and nearer; not many doors off, and the pitt open daily within view of my chamber window.


Notes from the author – during August, troops had moved into Hyde Park, Charles II Court had gone to Hampton Court and then to Salisbury, where upon arrival of the Plague there, the Court fled to Oxford and a Royal proclamation was issued directing Parliament to meet in Oxford.

**29<sup>th</sup> August** – Ye sickness here is very much increased; this weeke I feare willbee neare double the former; truely I know not how to thinke it should lessen..... Though its said that one major of ye soldiers hath threatend by that meanes (moving the sick into already crowded prisons!!) quickly to drive that plague away. The author records that 20046 persons had died during August 1665.

**2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Ye sickness increased very much (in) last bill of ye Plague 6102. Since that bill I have bot heard anything whether still increasing or not but feare, by the dolefull and almost universall and continuall ringing and tolling of bells it doth increase.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**- The increasing sickness hath now drawne very nigh mee, and God knoweth whither I might write ony more or no; it is at the next doore on both hands of meeand under the same roofe: but I have no place of retiring, neither in the city nor country; none in heaven nor earth to go unto but God only.....

Author's note – the Plague grew in virulence in the first weeks of September and the deaths scaled ever higher..... September has the worst record ... of the Plague year. Allin then tells the facts of a medical investigation and its frightening sequel.

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.	
	Grief— 1
A Borne— 23	Gripping in the Guts— 45
A Aged— 57	Head-mould-fhor— 2
Bedridden— 1	Jaundies— 3
Bleeding— 1	Impoſthume— 6
Cancer— 1	Infans— 10
Childbed— 39	Kingſevil— 1
Chriſtoms— 20	Leachury— 1
Collick— 1	Mcagrome— 1
Conſumtion— 129	Plague— 6544
Convulſion— 71	Planner— 1
Dropſie— 31	Quinſie— 3
Drowned 3, one at Stepney, one at St. Katharine near the Tower, and one at St. Marga- ret VVestmiſter— 3	Rickets— 20
Feaver— 332	Riſing of the Lights— 15
Flox and Small-pox— 8	Rupture— 4
Found dead in the ſtreet at St. Olave Southwark— 1	Scowring— 4
French-pox— 1	Scurvy— 2
Frighted— 1	Spotted Feaver— 97
Gangrene— 1	Stone— 1
	Stopping of the ſtomach— 5
	Strangury— 2
	Surfeut— 45
	Teeth— 128
	Thruſh— 6
	Timpany— 1
	Tiflick— 4
	Ulcer— 1
	Vomiting— 2
	Wormes— 15
Chriſtomed { Males— 90 } { Females— 78 } { In all— 168 }	Baried { Males— 3783 } { Females— 3907 } { In all— 7690 }
Decreased in the Burials this Week— 562	Plague— 6544
Parishes clear of the Plague— 11	Parishes Infected— 119
The Aſtze of Bread ſet forth by Order of the Lord Mayor and Courts of Aldermen, A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three half-penny White Loaves the like weight.	

London 39 From the 12 of September to the 19. 1665			
Bar.	Plag.	Bar.	Plag.
S <sup>t</sup> Alban Woodſtree— 23	19	S <sup>t</sup> George Beoolphane— 5	3
S <sup>t</sup> Alhallowes Beoolphane— 41	32	S <sup>t</sup> Gregory by S <sup>t</sup> Pauls— 22	23
Alhallowes Green— 59	53	S <sup>t</sup> Hellen— 8	8
Alhallowes Honeylane— 1	1	S <sup>t</sup> James Dukes place— 29	26
Alhallowes Leek— 29	26	S <sup>t</sup> James Gatechurche— 13	11
Alhallowes Lombardſtree— 8	7	S <sup>t</sup> John Baptiſt— 7	6
Alhallowes Stayning— 16	10	S <sup>t</sup> John Evangeliſt— 3	2
Alhallowes the Wall— 41	30	S <sup>t</sup> Katharine Coleman— 44	36
S <sup>t</sup> Alphage— 25	13	S <sup>t</sup> Lawrence Jewry— 8	6
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Hubbard— 6	5	S <sup>t</sup> Lawrence Poyncey— 22	17
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Underhoſt— 25	22	S <sup>t</sup> Leonard Foffchurche— 34	32
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Wardrobe— 63	54	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Newſtreet— 17	13
S <sup>t</sup> Ann Alderſgate— 33	28	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Patens— 5	3
S <sup>t</sup> Ann Blackfryers— 79	65	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Abchurch— 13	9
S <sup>t</sup> Antholias Parith— 6	5	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Aldermurphy— 20	16
S <sup>t</sup> Aukins Parith— 2	2	S <sup>t</sup> Mary le Bow— 4	2
S <sup>t</sup> Bartholomew Exchange— 3	3	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Bochow— 9	8
S <sup>t</sup> Bennet Fynck— 1	1	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Colechurch— 1	1
S <sup>t</sup> Bennet Gracechurch— 5	4	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Hill— 12	8
S <sup>t</sup> Bennet Paulwharf— 55	15	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Mountthun— 9	9
S <sup>t</sup> Bennet Sherehog— 1	1	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Sommerſet— 36	34
S <sup>t</sup> Beoolph Billinggate— 4	4	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Sayning— 2	1
Chriſt Church— 55	48	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Woolchurch— 2	2
S <sup>t</sup> Chriſtophers— 6	5	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Woolnoth— 9	6
S <sup>t</sup> Clements Eaſtcheap— 3	3	S <sup>t</sup> Marcin Ironmongerlane— 1	1
S <sup>t</sup> Dunſon Backchurch— 10	3		
S <sup>t</sup> Dunſon Eaſt— 20	10		
S <sup>t</sup> Edmund Lambardſt— 4	4		
S <sup>t</sup> Eichelborough— 16	6		
S <sup>t</sup> Faith— 7	6		
S <sup>t</sup> Foffter— 10	9		
S <sup>t</sup> Gabriel Fenchurch— 6	3		
		S <sup>t</sup> Marcin Ludgate— 21	11
		S <sup>t</sup> Marcin Organs— 9	7
		S <sup>t</sup> Marcin Ourwicke— 8	3
		S <sup>t</sup> Marcin Vintrye— 6	6
		S <sup>t</sup> Marſhew Friars— 1	1
		S <sup>t</sup> Mauldin Milkſtree— 5	3
		S <sup>t</sup> Mauldin Oldſtreet— 10	11
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Boltſtun— 17	12
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Corthill— 14	11
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Crookedlane— 10	10
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Queendiche— 11	6
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Quern— 4	3
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Royal— 20	17
		S <sup>t</sup> Michael Woodſtree— 6	2
		S <sup>t</sup> Mildred Beoolphane— 6	3
		S <sup>t</sup> Mildred Poultrye— 4	2
		S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Acon— 8	7
		S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Colehobby— 14	13
		S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Olaves— 12	9
		S <sup>t</sup> Olave Hartſtree— 20	18
		S <sup>t</sup> Olave Jewry— 7	5
		S <sup>t</sup> Olave Silverſtree— 23	17
		S <sup>t</sup> Pancras Soperlane— 2	2
		S <sup>t</sup> Peter Cheap— 4	3
		S <sup>t</sup> Peter Cornhill— 10	6
		S <sup>t</sup> Peter Paulwharf— 12	12
		S <sup>t</sup> Peter Poor— 6	6
		S <sup>t</sup> Seven Colemanſtree— 47	40
		S <sup>t</sup> Seven Walbrook— 5	5
		S <sup>t</sup> Swithin— 11	9
		S <sup>t</sup> Thomas Apoſtles— 19	17
		Trinity Parith— 13	13
Chriſtomed in the 97 Parithes within the Walls— 40 Baried— 1493 Plague— 1159			
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Holborn— 271	247	S <sup>t</sup> Beoolph Aldgate— 162	158
S <sup>t</sup> Bartholomew Green— 21	17	S <sup>t</sup> Beoolph Biſhopsgate— 204	256
S <sup>t</sup> Bartholomew Leſſe— 14	12	S <sup>t</sup> Dunſon Well— 88	79
S <sup>t</sup> Beidges— 236	180	S <sup>t</sup> George Southwark— 195	176
Beidwell Precinct— 32	31	S <sup>t</sup> Giles Criſplegate— 456	373
S <sup>t</sup> Beoolph Alderſgate— 68	62	S <sup>t</sup> Olave Southwark— 530	363
Chriſtomed in the 16 Parithes without the Walls— 65 Baried, and in the Peſthouſe— 363 Plague— 240			
S <sup>t</sup> Giles in the fields— 140	125	Lambeth Parith— 48	41
Hackney Parith— 12	18	S <sup>t</sup> Leonard Shore ditch— 183	173
S <sup>t</sup> James Clerkenwel— 77	67	S <sup>t</sup> Magdalen Bermondſey— 207	180
S <sup>t</sup> Kerk near the Tower— 93	66	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Newington— 155	152
Chriſtomed in the 12 out Parithes in Middleſex and Surrey— 42 Baried— 2258 Plague— 2091			
S <sup>t</sup> Clement Dunc— 168	140	S <sup>t</sup> Marcin in the fields— 286	228
S <sup>t</sup> Paul Covent Garden— 30	29	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Savoy— 20	19
Chriſtomed in the 5 Parithes in the City and Liberties of Weſtmiſter— 29 Baried— 915 Plague— 815			

**14<sup>th</sup> September** – This sickness, though more dye, because more are infected, yet, thanks bee to God is not so mortall as at the first, for more recover .. now than formerly. ... many chymicall Galenist practitioners have died because they could not resist the Plague by their Galenical medicines (PFC summary of balance of this long letter - these Galenists worked on Plague victim bodies – using dissection etc to search for ‘the seate of this disease’).

## Paul Cassidy note - Galenism & Galenists

Medical theory and practices as taught by the Greek physician Claudius Galen ca. 130-200. Galen brought some science into medicine but was mistaken in many of his ideas. His influence was so great that for 15 centuries it was considered heretical to question his dicta. Many important advances, such as the concept of the circulation of the blood and the appreciation of the dangers of blood-letting, were thereby delayed.

**20<sup>th</sup> September** (to friend Jeake in Rye)– *It is somewhat refreshing to mee to thinke you are yet willing to receive a line from mee. .... Whither the Lord will make good that word (reported to have been) spoken by a (dead) child here concerning the increase of ye Plague, till 18137 dye in a weeke (which all endeavours are used to conceale) though still goeth on in reality to increase it ..... (PFC note, letter continues with suggestion that the child's 'prophecy after death' and spread by word of mouth foretold another year of the Plague!!)*

**27<sup>th</sup> September** – *I am where ye Lord hath hitherto, amidst 100 dyeing weekly, preserved me, and yet through mercy I am in health, the Lord be prayesd. (PFC note – Allin claimed to one of his Rye contacts that, like him, they should keep an 'Angellgold coin' in their mouth at all times to ward off the sickness. Angel Gold is apparently a high purity (22CT +) Edward IV/Elizabethan/Henry VIII gold coin which had an image of St Michael.*

The author says about the time of this letter that 'the worst was over'. In September, the Plague claimed 26230 in London. The letters continue through December - reported deaths decrease. In November, Allin says - *Through mercy I am yet very well*, in December, he reports that 68596 London residents died of the Plague in 1665. The author ends this chapter by reporting that 'the toll of the Plague cannot have been less than one person out of every five'. In 1666, a total of 12838 London residents died of all causes – very much lower than some of weekly deaths in 1665!!

Final note from Paul Cassidy:

The Great Plague, lasting from 1665 to 1666, was the last major epidemic of the bubonic plague to occur in England. It happened within the centuries long Second Pandemic, a period of intermittent bubonic plague epidemics **which originated from Central Asia in 1331**, the first year of the Black Death, an outbreak which included other forms such as pneumonic plague and lasted until 1750.

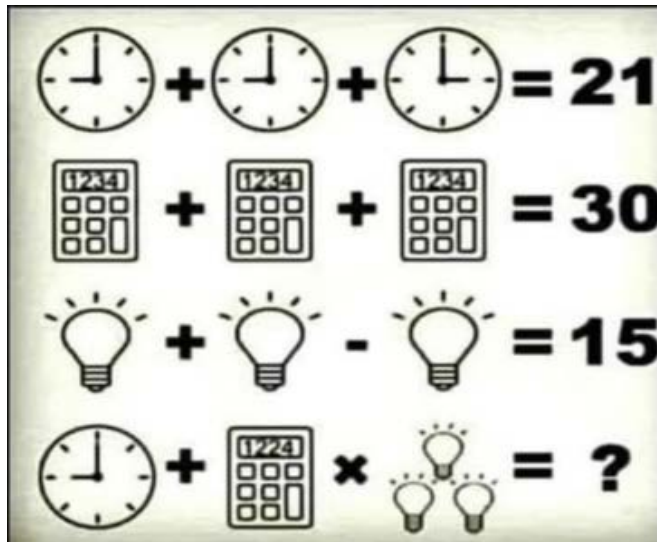


*Just taking a moment:*



*From Christine Green:*     **BRAIN TEASERS**

**Puzzle One**



**Puzzle Two:**

You are on your way to visit your Grandma, who lives at the end of the valley. It's her birthday, and you want to give her the cakes you've made. Between your house and her house, you have to cross 7 bridges, and as it goes in the land of make believe, there is a troll under every bridge! Each troll, quite rightly, insists that you pay a troll toll. Before you can cross their bridge, you have to give them half of the cakes you are carrying, but as they are kind trolls, they each give you back a single cake. How many cakes do you have to leave home with to make sure that you arrive at Grandma's with exactly 2 cakes?

**Puzzle Three:**

These stacks add up to different numbers. Can you make their sums even by moving just one block from each stack to another stack?

Email your answers to: [peter13454@gmail.com](mailto:peter13454@gmail.com)  
Winners will be announced in next month's newsletter

**COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH: *Tangerine Martini***



**INGREDIENTS:**

1 Cup Ice

3 fluid ounces freshly squeezed tangerine juice

1 ½ fluid ounces Vodka

1 teaspoon orange-flavoured liqueur (such as Cointreau)

**DIRECTIONS:**

Place ice in a martini shaker and pour tangerine juice, vodka and orange liqueur over ice. Cover, shake vigorously and pour into a martini glass.

**NOTE:**

Use a shot glass or other small container to measure out parts. This 2-to-1 ratio allows your guests to enjoy the martini experience without overdoing the amount of alcohol served.

***ENJOY!!!***

*From Doug and Eileen Schuler:*

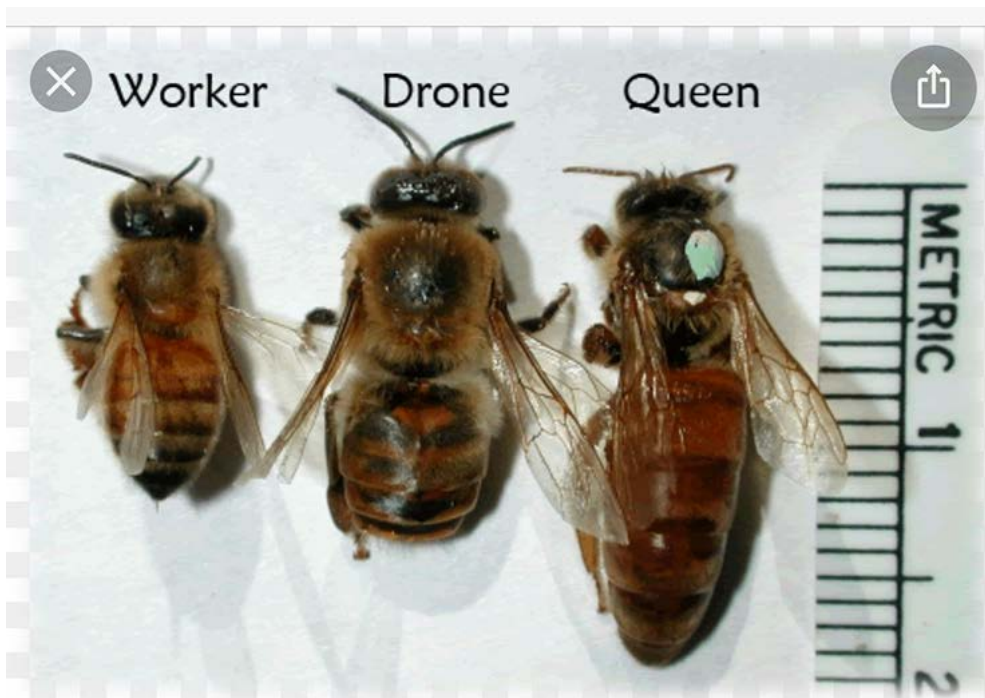
***BEES WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE COLONY***

I have been a hobby beekeeper for many years and these little creatures have taught me to slow down, enjoy the world and watching them is always a welcome distraction.

A bee is an exquisite chemist.

Honeybees are social insects that live in colonies. A colony consists of a single queen, hundreds of male drones and thousands of female worker bees. Worker bees do not breed. The queen creates all the new honeybees in the hive! The colony also consists of developing eggs, larvae and pupae.

The number of individuals within the colony depends largely upon seasonal changes. A colony could reach up to 80,000 individuals during the active season, when workers forage for food, store honey for winter and build combs. However, this population will decrease dramatically during colder seasons.



The colony depends upon diversity of population for survival, as each caste of bee performs specific tasks. Thus, while queens are extremely powerful within their



societies, they cannot establish new colonies without the help of drones and workers, who provide fertilization, food and wax to construct the hive.

A bee becomes a queen thanks to the efforts of the existing worker bees. When a hive needs a new queen, it will select up to 10 larvae less than three days old and worker bees will begin feeding them royal jelly. The first queen to emerge will sting the other developing queens through their cells, killing them before they can hatch. If two or more queens hatch at the same time, they will fight to the death!

Royal jelly is a protein rich excretion from the glands of worker bees. All larvae are fed royal jelly for the first three days of life. Larvae chosen by the worker bees to become queens are bathed in royal jelly in special elongated "queen cells." After the queen bee emerges, she is fed royal jelly throughout her life.

Queens are the only members of a colony able to lay fertilized eggs. An egg-laying queen is important in establishing a strong colony, and she is capable of producing up to 2,000 eggs within a single day. Queens mate early in life with drones from numerous colonies (broadcasting the genetic pool) and store millions of sperm within their bodies. While they are capable of living up to five years, they often only live two to three years producing eggs.

Worker bees are the largest population within a colony. Worker bees are entirely female, but they are unable to produce fertilized eggs. Worker bees use their barbed stingers to defend the colony, but after attacking, the barbs attach to the victim's skin, tearing the stinging bee's abdomen, resulting in death for the bee. Workers are essential members of colonies. They forage for pollen and nectar, tend to queens and drones, feed larvae, ventilate the hive, defend the nest and perform other tasks to preserve the survival of the colony. The average life span of worker bees is approximately six weeks.



The queen bases her fertilization decisions upon the size of the cell built by workers. This, in turn, is determined by the hive's need for each caste, at any one point in time. Drone cells are larger, so the queen knows to lay unfertilized eggs there. A drone egg is the only type that can be laid by either the queen or a worker. This is because the drone eggs are not fertilized.

Drones, or male honeybees, have only one task: to fertilize new queens. Drones mate with queens outdoors, usually in midair and die soon after mating. Drones do not have stingers and gather neither nectar nor pollen. They offer something essential to the future of bees: genetic diversity. Some colonies will eject surviving drones during fall when food for the colony becomes limited.

Swarming is a natural part of a developing colony. Honeybees swarm as a result of overcrowding within a hive. To create a swarm, an old honeybee queen leaves the hive with about half of the hive's worker bees, while a new queen remains in the old hive with the rest of the workers. In the wild, honeybees swarm most in late spring and early summer, at humid times of the day. While swarming is part of the healthy life cycle of every honeybee colony, beekeepers often attempt to reduce the incidence of swarming in domesticated bees.

A honeybee swarm may contain hundreds or thousands of worker bees and a single queen. Swarming honeybees fly temporarily, and then cluster on shrubs and tree branches. The cluster rests there for several hours to a few days, depending on weather conditions and the amount of time needed to search for a new nesting site. When a scout honeybee locates a good location for the new colony, the cluster immediately flies to the new site.

#### HONEY MAKING:

The production of honey by bees involves several chemical processes, including digestion, regurgitation, enzyme activity and evaporation. Bees create honey as a highly efficient food source to sustain the hive...human beings are just along for the ride!

Simply put:

Bees collect nectar from flowers within a radius of around 5 miles from the hive. They travel from flower to flower, sucking up nectar using their proboscises (a long straw-like part of the mouth). The nectar is mixed with an enzyme secreted by the bee. This nectar is then stored in a special pouch within the bee called a honey pouch. Nectar does not enter the bee's digestive system. When the pouch is full, it tells the bee it's time to return to the hive. Back at the hive, the nectar is passed from one bee to another, further mixing the nectar with the "bee enzyme" and turning the nectar into honey.

Finally, the mixture is regurgitated into hexagonal shaped cells the bees make out of beeswax and these cells act as storage jars. Initially the honey stored in the cells is a bit wet, so the bees fan their wings over the cells, which helps the water to evaporate. After some time, the water content is reduced to around 17%.

Once the honey is ready, the bees will cap the cells with a layer of wax. It is a little bit like putting a lid on a jar.

Taking care of a colony takes vigilance by the beekeeper. By law, beekeepers in Florida must register honeybee colonies with the Department of Agriculture. The State inspection ensures hives are free from pests of regulatory significance and free from unwanted types of honeybees.

When I got my first hive all those years ago, a State inspector spent a whole afternoon helping me to become a beekeeper. I value the State's advice and look forward to the inspector's annual visit.

If you are interested in becoming a hobby beekeeper, please join me in preserving this essential pollinator playing a vital role in Earth's food chain. You can contact me through the SBC board for any questions you may have.

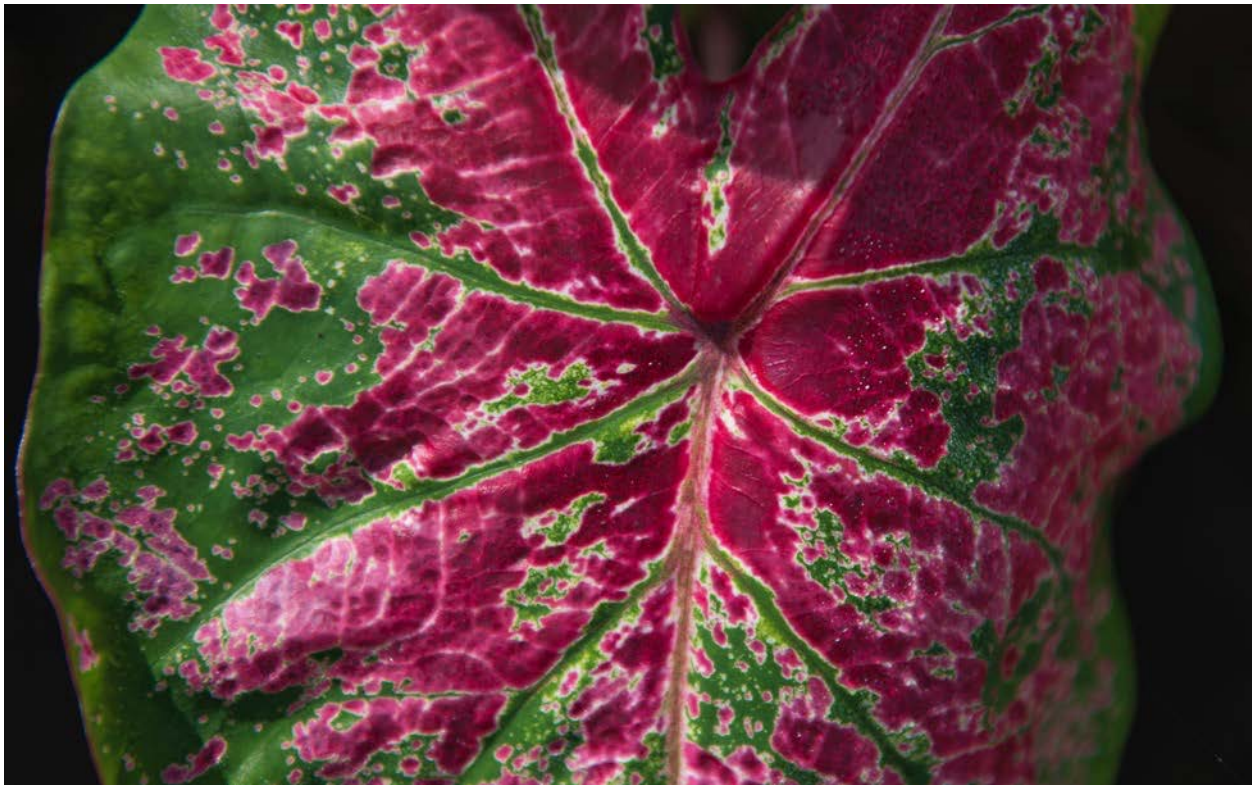


Bee safe...bee happy...bee your best.  
Doug Schuler, Hobby Beekeeper

***From your editor:***     ***Caladium Fields in Lake Placid***



Following Paul & Diana's advice, Peter and I recently drove to Lake Placid: "The Caladium Capital of the World". Although it is late in the season, we were still able to see and admire the vastness and beauty of the Caladium plantations.



***Thank you!***

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



A dragonfly visiting the Caladium Fields

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## **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**

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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; you can add your event photos to the wall.