



BritClub News

Vol 22, Issue 4

A MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brit Club members,

I would like to thank all of you for your support in getting the Sarasota British Club back up and operating again in 2022. We started off tentatively at first, with monthly club luncheons and then we held the St. George's Day party in April. The Queen's Jubilee was a success in June, due in no small part because it was entirely free !

I took over as President in June, with David as Vice President and a re-activated Board of Directors – which reminds me, we really need to have an Annual General Meeting as soon as the temperature warms up again. We introduced a new regular feature – a monthly Pub Night which has been garnering support. Our Guy Fawkes party was very well attended, and we recently had a successful Christmas party at the Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club.

During the summer, we updated our membership records to get a clearer picture of how many active members we have. Our membership now stands at 135. A total of 28 people had either left our area or chose to not renew. But most exciting is the number of new members who have joined the club this year with 35 people.

We have 30 single members and I appreciate that it can be a little difficult for these folks to participate in some of our events, particularly if it means driving alone at night. I have also heard that some people have particular interests that may not appeal to the whole membership.

With this in mind I would like to offer my assistance in setting up some "special interest groups". For example, I know there are members who enjoy going to a concert of classical music, or perhaps an opera. Other members may be interested in craft work or quilting. I know of two members who are model railway enthusiasts and we have at least one prolific stamp collector.

I invite each of our members to write to me at sarasotabritclub@gmail.com to let me know what your interests are so that I can connect you with other members who share similar interests. This may not work in every case, but I am hoping for some partial success at least in helping members have a more fulfilling social life.

As for next year, we shall continue with our monthly luncheons and pub nights. These will be at various locations and covering alternating areas within Sarasota and Manatee counties. We may go further away on occasions; for example, Sunday brunch at the Tampa Downs Racecourse is quite likely to happen in either March or April next year. Trips such as these will include transportation by coach with convenient pickup locations.

A special “thank you” goes out to those members who donated gift baskets or a raffle prize for our Christmas raffle. We raised a total of \$450.00 which was donated to the All Faiths Food Bank located at 8171 Blakie Ct, Sarasota, just in time for Christmas. See below more info below.

On a personal note: having spent the past 3 years doing all the right things, social distancing, masking, and 5 doses of the vaccine, I started to feel confident again and dropped my guard. Then my wife Olga and I end up getting the Coronavirus just before our club’s Christmas festivities. We are feeling better now after 3 long weeks and I look forward to meeting up with you in the near future. Special thanks to VP David for filling in for me during my absence.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and my best wishes to you for a happy, successful and **healthy** New Year !

Cheers, Peter

A special message to friends of Ross Jacobs: Ross is terminally ill and has been admitted to hospice; for more information, please send an email to: sarasotabritclub@gmail.com



RECENT EVENTS

Guy Fawkes party

On Saturday November 5th, a near record group of members gathered at the Turtle Beach Pavilion on Siesta Key to celebrate Guy Fawkes.

The weather was much kinder than last year, so the open-air venue was ideal for a cook-out and sparklers! Chef Roger Michel, aided - or more likely hindered! - by other members of the club undertook the cooking and all food preparation. Members joined with the President in reciting "Remember, Remember the 5th of November " followed by the lighting of sparklers (sadly, no fireworks permitted!). A most enjoyable evening was had by all".









Queen Elizabeth II Celebration of life

Once again, a good crowd got together in festive mood to say farewell to Queen Elizabeth, remembering moments of her life and her impeccable style. The evening's games and quizzes were masterfully planned and organized by Christine Green. Thank you very much Christine!





2022 Christmas Party

Some 60 club members and a few friends gathered at the Heritage Oaks Country Club on December 3rd for the club's traditional Christmas Party. The venue was appropriately decked out with two Christmas trees and festive table decorations - including Christmas crackers! - and guests were welcomed by a piper and Father Christmas - and due thanks to Christine Green's son for "volunteering" to stand in for his Dad, Stewart - who was indisposed. Guests were able to drink the Royal toast to the new King followed by a hearty three course dinner. Thereafter, the ever popular "Pass the Parcel" began the entertainment followed by some renderings of Christmas carols (though until the performance of "Twelve Days of Christmas" guests exhibited a reluctance to give full voice to their singing despite the efforts of Mr. Derek Brashier at the piano!). A well supported raffle was then drawn with prizes spread across the party. The evening concluded with dancing till "Old Lang Syne" rang out at 10pm. At the party, we were delighted to welcome 4 new members - Linda and David Ivell and Dennis Ciborowski and Meryl Gale. Appreciative thanks are, of course, due to the numerous members who willingly gave of their time to ensure the party was a success.



December Pub Night

Our last gathering of the year was on December 13th at the British Open Pub in Venice. Nineteen members were present and enjoyed each other's company one more time before we say goodbye to 2022.



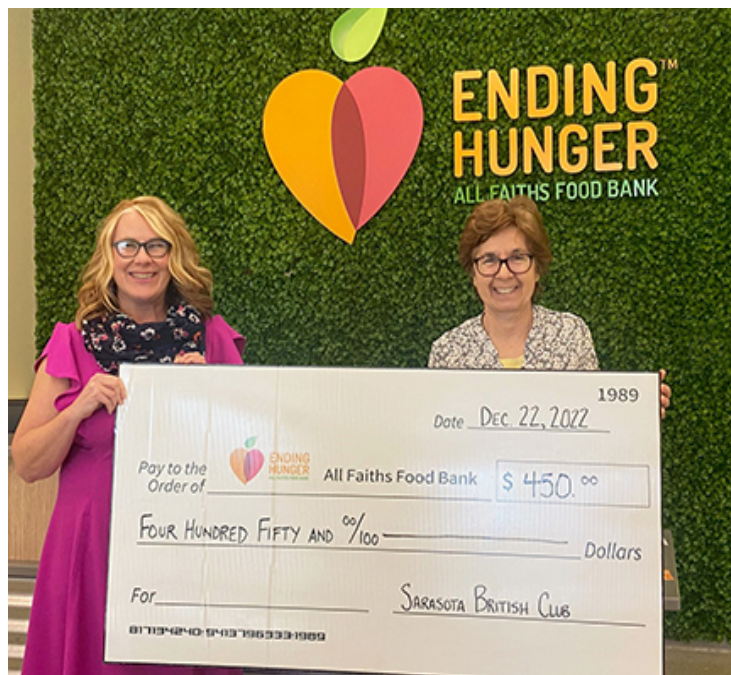
Donation to All Faiths Food Bank

Olga and I visited the All Faiths Food Bank (“AFFB”) on Thursday morning to hand over the check from the raffle proceeds, which was received with a great outpouring of gratitude by the staff and volunteers that work there. This is a really impressive place; in terms of its structure, organization and the work that they do there.

The AFFB covers all of Sarasota and Desoto counties. It collects food donations from Publix, Walmart and local farms which it then distributes to the local soup kitchens, churches, Salvation Army, etc. They make 784 deliveries on average per month. They also purchase specialized nutritional foods and send out thousands of food packages to children via the schools and other outreach centers.

If any Brit Club members are interested in donating their time you can call: Ms. Victoria Hasselbring at 941-549-8156. They have a particular need for volunteers during those months when the snowbirds have returned up north. To learn more, checkout their website at: <https://allfaithsfoodbank.org>

It never ceases to amaze me how many thousands of people there are in our area – one of the wealthiest in Florida - that need this kind of assistance.
Peter



Rachel Bradley, Director of Philanthropy AFFB & Olga Stokes SBC

From your editor

Many thanks to the members who have contributed to this edition with special thanks to Beryl Perry; Robert Schuler and David Welch for their photographs and written material.

Your Newsletter Editor, Olga

Sarasota British Club name badges

Please obtain Club badges directly from **Sarasota Trophy, 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota, FL 34321.**

Phone 941 921 4339.

- \$12.50 plus tax for badge with magnet
- \$12.50 plus tax for badge with pin (no magnet)

Badges can be collected in person (Mon.– Fri. 8.30 – 5pm, Sat .9 am – noon) or shipped to your home for an additional charge.

SARASOTA BRITISH CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022

President	Peter Stokes	941-536-4408
Vice President	David Welch	941-210-4455
Immediate Past President	Paul Wilkinson	240-432-2851
Secretary	Stevan Collins	941-685-2297
Website Liaison	Stewart Green	941-914-2470
Treasurer & Newsletter	Olga Stokes	941-536-4408
Director at Large 1	Christine Green	941-914-2463
Director at Large 2	Linda Mercurio	941-400-1156
Director at Large 3	John Burdette	Welcome John !
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.