



# BritClub News

Vol 23, Issue 3

## A MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings BritClub members,

Having spent the last few months watching the weather reports, I realize how fortunate we are to be living here in Sarasota, where we seem to avoid the searing 3-digit temperatures, wildfires and floods. I'll take 95F over 115F any day!

Many of our members have been travelling either around the US or to the UK during the summer, so attendance at our monthly luncheons and social evenings has been lower than we normally see during the cooler months. Nevertheless, Linda continues to find new and interesting places for us to try out. Thanks Linda.

It's that time of the year now when we need to start planning our year end parties: Guy Fawkes on November 5th and our two Christmas events – the evening dinner/dance on December 12<sup>th</sup> and the luncheon on December 20th. Look for email invitations coming soon!

Membership renewals are coming in, so our bank balance is building up again – just over \$5,400 now. The BritClub Board met recently to take this into account to set the pricing and make plans for our upcoming events. We have a lot of exciting things planned but I had better not get ahead of myself, so more on that below.

Our newsletter editor John has done another stellar job with this edition and thanks go out to those members who answered the call for interesting stories to share. There is lots of great information below, so read on!

Best wishes,

*Peter*

Peter Stokes, SBC President

## RECENT EVENTS

### Out and about:

On Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> BritClub members met at PF Chang's for a fun evening of dinner, drinks and conversation. We had quite a good turnout and as you can see from the photos, it was a most pleasant evening!



## BRITCLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Invitation to Van Wezel:**

BritClub members and US national dance champions, Ivan and Sharon Gould, are offering tickets to a special show at the Van Wezel on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Ivan and Sharon have been tremendously successful in recent years and you can read their story below in the "Member Spotlight" section. Tickets are priced at \$35.00 and can be obtained in advance by calling Ivan at: 941-323-9655

### **Guy Fawkes party:**

Guy Fawkes party on Sunday, November 5th at the Siesta Beach Pavilion, 948 Beach Road; Siesta Key, starting at 5 PM.

We shall be requesting a donation of \$15.00 per adult - kids are free - to cover the cost of the food and supplies- payable in cash or by cheque on arrival. Please bring your own beverages. The menu will include BBQ'd sausages, baked potatoes, condiments and a selection of desserts. Plates, cutlery, napkins, cups, etc will be provided.

### **Christmas party-choice of an evening dinner party and/or a luncheon:**

#### ***Christmas dinner party: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM***

- Location: Heritage Oaks Country Club, 4800 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota
- Price per person for members and their guests: \$50.00
  - Beverages: Cash bar
  - Live music provided by Tony & Tasha.
- Menu options: Prime Rib; Turkey or Vegetarian option
- Seating: You can choose who to sit with (or not)
- Dress: This is a formal event, so black tie suggested, or smart casual if preferred
  - Raffle: Please bring cash for the raffle

#### ***Christmas luncheon: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 12 noon***

- Location: British Open Pub, Library room, 367 Jacaranda Blvd, Venice
- Price: Order from their menu and pay direct
- Beverages: First drink free on the club, then cash bar
  - Activities and prizes to be announced.
- Dress: This is an informal fun event so casual dress.

*\*The BritClub needs donations from our members of raffle prizes. If you are able to make a donation, please email us at: sarasotabritclub@gmail.com*

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



The Suncoast Scots are calling all Kilted (and unkilted) folks to join us to help raise funds for the launch of our new Scottish Highland Games that will be held on February 10, 2024 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto Florida.

Many of the local and regional Scottish & Celtic groups are joining forces to help us in our fundraising efforts for this event. Representatives of the New World Celts Chapters of Sarasota, Venice & Dunedin along with the St. Andrews Society of Sarasota, Caledonian Club of Florida West, and Sister Cities will be in attendance. We will have raffle items for you to win, whiskey tasting and discounted Highland Games tickets for you to purchase at this event. If you would like to donate before this event please visit our website at [www.suncoastscots.com](http://www.suncoastscots.com) or for more information please email us at [suncoastscots@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastscots@gmail.com). Wear your favorite tartan and share your Clan pride with us:

Date-October 15, 2023

Place-Sofia's 8130 Main Street, Lakewood Ranch

Time-doors open at 1:30pm

Musical Guest-Bill Mullen from Dundee, Scotland 2:00pm-5:00pm

Cost: \$15 cash only must be paid as you enter. This is for food only.

Alcohol can be purchased by credit card.

RSVP's-are required, seating is limited so RSVP early. Please RSVP :

[lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:lindascot5770@gmail.com)

---

**What:** A fundraising event for the upcoming Scottish Highland Games that will be held on February 10, 2024 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto Florida.

- Many of the local and regional Scottish & Celtic groups are joining forces to help us in our fundraising efforts for this event.
- Representatives of the New World Celts Chapters of Sarasota, Venice & Dunedin along with the St. Andrews Society of Sarasota, Caledonian Club of Florida West, and Sister Cities will be in attendance.
- We will have raffle items for you to win, whiskey tasting and discounted Highland Games tickets for you to purchase at this event. If you would like to donate before this event please visit our website at [www.suncoastscots.com](http://www.suncoastscots.com) or for more information please email us at [suncoastscots@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastscots@gmail.com).

**When:** Sunday, October 15, 2023, doors open at 1:30PM

**Where:** Sofia's 8130 Main Street, Lakewood Ranch

**Who:** YOU!! and Musical Guest-Bill Mullen from Dundee, Scotland 2:00pm-5:00pm

**Cost:** \$15 cash only must be paid as you enter. This is for food only. Alcohol can be purchased by credit card

RSVP's-are required, seating is limited so RSVP early. Please RSVP to [lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:lindascot5770@gmail.com)

# SAINT ANDREW'S DAY CEILIDH



**CELEBRATE SAINT ANDREW'S DAY  
CEILIDH AND DINNER  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 2023  
BEGINS AT 5:00PM**



**Buffet Supper, Dancing to Macgilliossa Celtic Band  
Highland Dancing by Tampa Bay Highland Dancers  
\$70.00 per person**

**Credit Card Bar  
Silent Auction**

**Highland Dress  
or Jacket & Tie**

**Tickets and information: Call Chris (239) 784-0382 or  
cvnind@comcast.net**

**Palm Aire Country Club, 5601 Country Club Way, Sarasota**

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### **From BritClub member Steve Adams:**

*"Last year, on July 1, I was driving in my neighborhood. I'd been out for an hour or so but felt uncomfortable. My heart seemed to be racing a touch, so I looked down at my newly-acquired Apple Watch and checked my heart rate. That normally reads around 68-74, so I was somewhat taken aback by a reading of 185. I even shook my watch to check if it was a misreading! Doh! There's something about having visual evidence that all is not well, so I couldn't ignore my lyin' eyes. Stubbornly, the reading stayed around that level for another half hour and I decided to go home and sleep it off, in the completely ridiculous belief that this may help. But as I approached my house, I felt an urge to call my doctor and pulled over less than 200 yards from my door. She told me in no uncertain terms to get myself to the Emergency Room. That didn't help. The reading, which had "subsided" to 164, shot straight back up.*

*Calling my partner, Dana, on the way, I arrived at the ER and staggered into reception, now doubled up in pain. They took me immediately and I felt my heart slowing quickly (great oxymoron). They checked me in, put me in a room, did a number of tests, kept me overnight, then discharged me the following day. Curiously, they couldn't find a reason for the rapid heart rate. A week later, I asked my Doctor if there was any cardiac reason I shouldn't do a 75-hike the following month through the Californian wilderness that would take me ultimately to the top of Mt Whitney, at over*

*14,500 ft, the highest point in the lower 48 states. He told me that he wouldn't do it but, no, there was no cardiac reason for me NOT to do it. So, two months to the day after my hospital stay, I got to the top of Whitney, checking my heart rate on my watch every minute or so. Anytime it went above 150, I'd stop, breathe deeply, then continue once I was back in the low 130s. I never deviated from this practice. The point of my story is that there are myriad reasons NOT to do something. But the only reason that counts is your own. I listened to advice, I took onboard the various factors, then I executed my plan to achieve my goal. Had I not done that, I'd never be able to share the picture below. We only got this one time. Make it count."*



**From BritClub member Sioux Faragher-Hurley:**

*Almost the same size as the city of London, Dartmoor covers 468 square miles and measures 20 miles across. Many in the area are reluctant to cross the moors, especially at night, for fear of being seen by 'Old Crockern', the mythological protector of the moor. With skin like granite and hair made from ragged mosses, Old Crockern is the embodiment of the landscape. Astride his skeletal steed, he leads his hounds in pursuit of unwary travellers, reminding them that the soul of Dartmoor cannot be tamed.*

*The Guardian Spirit of the moor was summoned as recently as January of this year but in order to understand the significance, one needs to know the legend. Local folklore concerns a farmer who moves to the area seeking to cultivate the moor and add to his fortune. From the vantage point of Crockern Tor, his ambition is matched only by his greed and he vows to make this barren land productive, proving himself better than the backward locals.*

*Just as the time comes to finalise his plans, the farmer meets a local man who has received a chilling warning from Old Crockern in a dream. The Guardian Spirit of Dartmoor is aware of the greedy farmer's plans, and he warns that "If the farmer as much as scratches his back with a plough, he'll tear his pockets out."*

*The farmer scoffs at the warning, never having seen any sign of a supernatural figure at Crockern Tor. Over time, the ambitious farmer's harvests become poorer and poorer and the long months spent cultivating the moor drain him of money and energy. Finally, he is forced to leave, a broken man and painfully aware that Old Crockern has been true to his promise.*

*Until recently, the right to freely camp in Dartmoor National Park in Devon without seeking the landowner's permission was assumed to be protected by a local bylaw. That right was overturned earlier this year when Dartmoor's sixth-largest landowner won a court case against the Park Authority in which he argued that the right to freely camp in the park had never existed. This sparked huge protests; the more spiritual among them hoping to invoke Old Crockern in their fight against the landowner.*

*With pressure from the Open Spaces Society, Right to Roam and The Stars Are For Everyone organisation, the DNPA agreed to appeal. On July 31, 2023, three judges who heard the case at the Court of Appeal ruled unanimously to overturn the original ruling.*

*Do you believe in the legend of the Moor? Did Old Crockern have a hand in this outcome?*

*Cheers,  
Sioux*



**From BritClub member Mary Buckley:**

I am offering afternoon tea it would be served in a box per person would include 4 different types of sandwiches and can be pre ordered to include a slice of quiche and cake's assortment. Starting at \$25 per box. If anyone would be interested in ordering they can email me for details at: [mary\\_uk67@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_uk67@hotmail.com)

**Passing of BritClub members:**

Dr. George Straschnov, aged 100, has passed away. You will recall that we published a bio on Dr. George in our last newsletter, which is on our website.

Also, longtime member Roy Deakins passed away after a long illness on August 7th.

I would like to send our condolences to the grieving family and friends of both George and Roy, they will be remembered with much affection.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*This quarter, our spotlight shines on BritClub members Sharon and Ivan Gould.*

*Sharon and Ivan embarked on an exhilarating journey five years ago when they decided to learn to waltz for a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip with parents. With lots of practice and determination, Sharon and Ivan started competing as an Amateur Couple in American Smooth and Rhythm –Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, Cha-Cha, Rhumba, Swing, Bolero and Mambo. Over the last 3 years, they have taken part in Regional, National and World Championship events and at their first World event took eleven World titles, including Cabaret, Solo and Nine Dance Amateur Couple Champions. They have also won numerous National Titles and competed at the renowned Ohio Star Ball and the Millennium Dance Sport Championship, where they were successful both as an Amateur Couple and also dancing Pro-Am with professional partners. They appreciate all the support and guidance they get from Fred Astaire Dance Studios Sarasota where they take lessons and from their coaches who are always (brutally) honest with them.*



*They are looking forward to attending the United States Dance Championship in September and then will be performing at the Van Wezel on October 14<sup>th</sup> in a show choreographed by Louis Van Amstel from Dancing with the Stars. Beyond these accomplishments, Sharon and Ivan enjoy helping other Amateur Couples understand the challenges and joy that dancing together brings. It is not always (or even seldom) easy – but that is part of the excitement and drive. Ivan has discovered that rhinestones have a place in his wardrobe – and that as the leader almost everything is his fault. Sharon, on the other hand, has discovered the 4am hair and make-up sessions to be ready to hit the competition floor by 7am and that she does (to quote Ginger Rogers) 'Everything he does – but backwards and in heels'. Together they have discovered another way to be true partners - on the dance floor as they are in life – it just takes understanding, commitment, good communication, a sense of humor, hard work plus a lot of love.*

*If any Brit Club members would like tickets for the Van Wezel event on October 14<sup>th</sup> please reach out to Ivan at 941 323 9655 - tickets are \$35 each.*



### ***New members:***

Since the beginning of 2023 we have 29 new members. Membership currently totals 153 of whom some 120 members have renewed for the 2023/24 membership year. We hope that more folks will renew their membership before the September 30<sup>th</sup> cutoff date.

We welcome the following new members who joined the club since our previous newsletter issued in June:

**Malcolm and Rita Barry;** they have been in Sarasota for over twenty years, since Rita was offered a job.

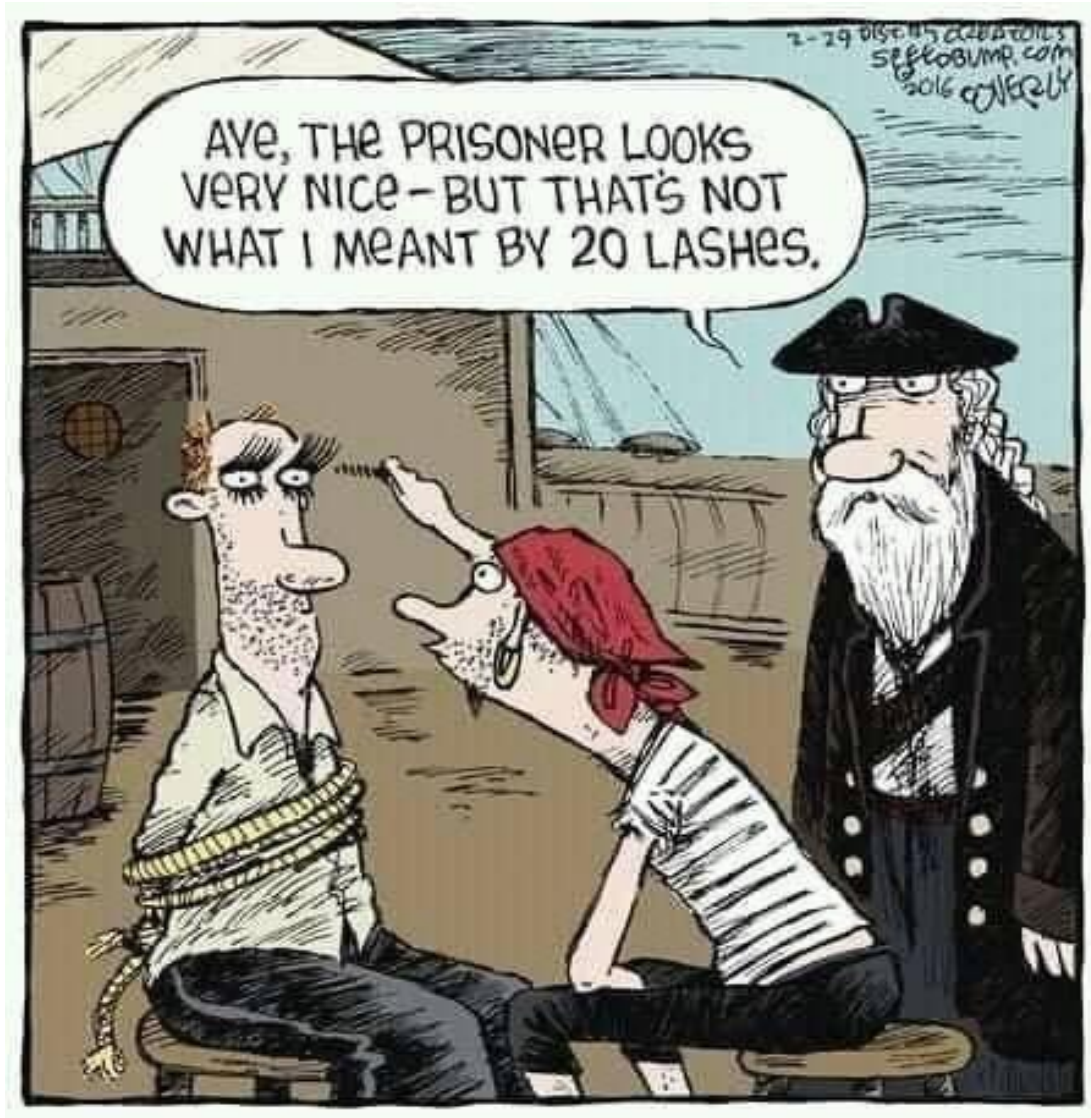
**Jan Hardman;** Born in the USA but became interested in the UK through the Beatles! So, went to the University of Essex and then joined the US State Department.

**Veronica and James Judge.** James hails from Manchester (but has Yorkshire connections!), Veronica is from Wales.

**Stephen Mulligan.** From the US but grandparents from Cornwall!

Another returnee is **Vivienne Sivak.** Vivienne used to be the club secretary and was responsible for arranging a venue for the monthly get-togethers.

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**



## FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear BritClub members:

As we head into the last quarter of 2023, I would like to continue to encourage all BritClub members to attend our events. The events offered are only able to continue with your support, both through attendance and through planning (for those who are able).

As a standing reminder, for new members interested in obtaining a Sarasota British Club badge, they are available directly from **Sarasota Trophy, 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota, FL 34321. Phone 941 921 4339.** Badges can be collected in person (Mon.– Fri. 8.30 – 5pm, Sat .9 am – noon) or shipped to your home for an additional charge

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

Lastly, 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?)

Many thanks to the members who have contributed to this edition with photographs and written material.

*Your Newsletter Editor,*



*John Burdette*