



# BritClub News

Vol 24, Issue 1

## A MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear BritClub members,

The BritClub board of directors met for its first meeting of the year earlier this month to thrash out some early plans for 2024. We shall continue to meet for our regular monthly luncheons and, for the time being at least, these will be on the last Sunday of each month. The idea being to welcome as many members as possible including those who still have to work for a living !

A date has been set for the club's annual general meeting, which will be on Saturday, May 18th at the same pavilion where we had our coronation party last year by Turtle Beach, at the southern end of Siesta Key. To encourage you to come along to this important event, it will be a BBQ party - since they - like the Guy Fawkes BBQ - seem to attract the largest crowd. Okay that's a bit of manipulation !

I wish to strongly encourage members to consider putting their name forward to join the board this year. The same invitation obviously fell on deaf ears last year because no one responded. Our periodic meetings are a nice social gathering and being a director is by no means a major commitment of time.

We shall be having our usual Guy Fawkes party on Sunday, November 3rd, which coincides with the drum circle on Siesta Beach. Bonfire night seems to be the most popular BritClub event of the year!

This year our Christmas celebration will be a different type of event, we shall be holding a Christmas buffet luncheon with some treats from the club, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 15th - more details to follow later.

So, having gotten that news out of the way it's time for you to enjoy the newsletter, with many thanks to our newsletter editor John and all those who have contributed to this edition.

Best wishes,

*Peter*

Peter Stokes, SBC President

## RECENT EVENTS

### ***Guy Fawkes party:***

Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November? Although, it has been a few months since our most recent Guy Fawkes BBQ, those who attended had a wonderful time. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Chefs- ANDREW WARD and his wife JAYNE, who worked very hard to make the BBQ truly spectacular!





**2023 Christmas Festivities:**

PREPARED BY DAVID WELCH

This year we had an additional activity at Christmas; in addition to the Club's traditional Christmas Party, we also held a lunch ostensibly for those members not wanting to drive to Heritage Oaks at night-time or those not wanting to be away from home late in the evening.

Inevitably, of course, a number of members who attended the dinner/dance also attended the lunch! The traditional Christmas Party was held at the Heritage Oaks Country Club on December 12th. Some 54 members and guests attended and were welcomed by the Piper and Father Christmas. We were especially pleased to welcome back Tony and Tasha who had provided music for this event on several previous occasions. The format of the party followed that of previous years with our "resident" dance duet of Ivan and Sharon providing the cabaret.

The raffle was very well supported by donors including the Scots Corner Shop, the Yellow Strawberry hair salon, the Hearing Spa, Colleen's Salon & Spa in Osprey and Phase 1 Chiropractic as well as a number of members.

Guests at the party also contributed to the raffle's success by opening their wallets to the tune of \$470 which, with a small contribution from the Club's coffers, was donated to Parenting Matters.

Grateful thanks to all participants.

The lunch was held on December 20th at the British Open Pub in Venice with some 30 members attending. This was akin to the regular Club lunches held each month but with the addition of a "Lucky Dip" with each attendee being given an envelope that contained either a meal voucher for one or other local restaurant - or nothing at all!

Guests were also able to take advantage of the Club's offering of a first drink - but excluding any orders for Dom Perignon! Whilst unlike the party, guests were not expected to "Dress Up", Christmas Crackers were provided!!

Overall, whilst we had anticipated a few more attendees, both events were well received.

The Board is presently deciding on the 2024 festivities and advance notice of likely dates will be provided in the near future - so, please mark your calendars appropriately so that we can avoid conflicts of interest as much as possible!

Dinner:





Luncheon:







## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festival**

On February 10<sup>th</sup> the SBC participated in the Scottish Highlands Games & Celtic festival that took place at the Manatee County Fairgrounds.

We rented a tent and displayed our brand new banner.

Several people approached us trying to learn more about the Sarasota British Club and walked away with a photo of our website. Some members of our club were present at the tent talking to the public and answering questions: Stevan and George Collins, John Burdette, Paul and Diana Wilkinson, Zoe Graham and family and Peter and Olga Stokes; we thank them for their participation, especially Stevan who organized the banner and the setup the tent early in the morning.





## BRITCLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Brunch:**

Please join us for Sunday Brunch, on February 25th at 11:30 am at:

Georgie's Garden Cafe at UTC  
229 N. Cattlemen Road  
Sarasota, FL 34243

If you order before 12 noon then you can enjoy such classics as "The British Breakfast", Steak-n-Eggs or Eggs Benedict, just to name a few.

This is a new venue for us and it promises to be a real treat. We hope to see you there. Let us know by emailing: [sarasotabritclub@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotabritclub@gmail.com)

Check out Georgie's menu here:

<https://www.georgiesgardencafe.com/brunch>

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Sarasota British Club  
[sarasotabritclub@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotabritclub@gmail.com)

## JUST FOR LAUGHS





## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**From BritClub members Peter and Olga Stokes:**



Parenting is the most important job you'll ever have,  
You don't have to do it alone.

Parenting Matters is an organization founded in 1994 and since then it has been serving Manatee and Sarasota County families, approximately 2,200 parents and children annually. Their mission: to advance the lives of children, together with their parents. Their Vision: a future where all children will have the opportunity to succeed.

Their services are offered to Moms, Dads, Adoptive Families, Parents of Children with Special Needs, Spanish-speaking Parents, New Parents, Grandparents...Any parent or caregiver of children up to seventeen years old in Manatee or Sarasota County. The staff offers confidential programs at little or no cost during the day or evenings.

A team of experienced professionals and supportive educators assist families in navigating the ups and downs of today's parenting, understanding children's behavior and providing practical solutions to their challenges.

Their programs consist of: Personalized home visits; Post Adoption Services; Neighborhood-Based Groups; Classes and Workshops; Respite Services; Educational Advocacy and more.

Having been chosen by the BritClub Board of Directors, on February 8<sup>th</sup> Peter and Olga presented to Steve Adams (a long time SBC member and former President) and Katie Becker of Parenting Matters a cheque of \$500.00. The donation was made with the proceeds of our last Christmas Dinner Party Raffle.



*Steve Adams, Katie Becker, Peter Stokes & Olga Stokes*

***The information for this article was provided by Parenting Matters office. [ParentingMattersFL.org](http://ParentingMattersFL.org)***



**From BritClub member Paul Wilkinson:**

**Media Matters**

*We 'cut the cord' a year ago and our TV viewing consists entirely of the following internet based apps:*

**PBS** – for a \$5 monthly donation we have access to WEDU live tv for the nightly BBC World news at 6:00 pm. Most of the popular TV shows are available on demand, including All Creatures Great and Small, Nova, Antiques Roadshow and Masterpiece Theater. Great value!

**Netflix** – some recent good shows – **The Greatest Night of Pop** (making of the We are the World single in 1983), **The Tourist**, **The Night Agent**, **Fool Me Once**, and of course, **The Crown**. The first five series of **Outlander** are highly recommended, too!

**Amazon** – we seem to be watching this channel quite a lot, partly because we subscribe to **BritBox** within it. This latter channel is worthwhile for an endless series of *Escape to the Country*, and all 80+ episodes of **Dad's Army** – which stands the test of time surprisingly well.

Its worth paying on Amazon for some of the shows that originate on other channels, and we have enjoyed **Happy Valley**, **Luther**, **Yellowstone**, and **Fargo** (this latter has 5 series of dramas in a similar vein to the original movie and I highly recommend them). We also paid for the **Taylor Swift** concert, which was outstanding! On the Amazon **Prime** channel we have recently enjoyed **James May in India**, *Yesterday* (excellent if you like the Beatles), **The Tudors**, **Reacher**, and many more.

**HBO-Max** – if you haven't seen **Barbie** I recommend that you do, it's great fun! Max is known for outstanding drama series, including **Deadwood**, **Game of Thrones**, **The Gilded Age**, **Big Little Lies**, **The Sopranos**, **Chernobyl** etc. All of these are worth watching a second time. And there are a TON of outstanding movies that are well worth a second look.

Call or email if you want more recommendations [pwilkinson18@gmail.com](mailto:pwilkinson18@gmail.com)

## FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear BritClub members:

As we head into the beginning of 2024, I would like to continue to encourage all BritClub members to attend our events whenever possible. We all have busy lives and competing priorities- it's the way of the modern world-but participation is the lifeblood of any Club and the events offered by BritClub are only able to continue with your support, both through attendance and through planning (for those who are able).

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,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The script is fluid and cursive.

*John Burdette*