

NEWSLETTER #4 NOVEMBER 2008

BRITISH AMERICAN CONNEXION

President : Vincent Wallace

V. President: Ian Cairns

Treasurer : Derek Johnson

Secretary : Jean Wallace

Since the last issue of the Newsletter the Committee welcomes the following new members to our club:

[Barbara Shaw](#)

[Jim & Lyn Raville](#)

[Chris & Lyn Bean](#)

Matinee Theatre to: "Phantom of the Opera"

It was reported the matinee theatre outing to Tampa on November 6th was a success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. No mishaps & great seats.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party/Dinner is scheduled on Friday, 5th December at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club between 6PM and 10PM. There will be special door prize as well as a secret Santa gift exchange during the evening. If you have not already picked a name for this gift exchange you should do so at the next regular club meeting in November. Judi Mathews will also conduct the raffle drawing for her donated AFGHAN. Tickets will again be on sale at the November monthly meeting.

Possible Luncheon Boat Trip in January.

The club's Entertainment Committee is proposing an afternoon Boat Excursion trip out of Clearwater in January that would include lunch. A sign-up sheet will be circulated for those interested at the November 24th meeting in the Homosassa Library. A date for this outing can then be agreed.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to the following:

October:

Sheila Aja, Judi Mathews, Ellie Price, Mike Hedges

November:

Bob McGill.

EX Pats!!! Did you notice in the October Union Jack?

The new U.K. Government website in the U.S.A. for renewing passports is now:

www.UKinUSA.fco.gov.uk.

To access this website in other countries where there is a British Consulate, all that is required is to substitute the country name where you are applying e.g. www.UKinCanada.fco.gov.uk, www.UKinChina.fco.gov.uk Etc.

Neat eh!!!

Cruise lovers:

If you are a cruise lover and prepared to act at short notice there are some real "transatlantic" bargains available in November & December. Cruise Operators will be re-positioning a number of their vessels from Europe to the Americas & Caribbean as winter sets in across the pond. Fly to Europe 1 way and return by sea. Contact your travel agent for further information.

Barbara asks about Florida history:

Where is the only Union monument in the South?

- A) Tallahassee
- B) Lynn Haven
- C) New Port Richey
- D) Callaway

Answers to last newsletter's question: Pensacola is known as the city of **FIVE** flags. (**Spain, France, Great Britain, Confederate States of America, and the United States of America**)

NATURE NOTES by Brian Pasby

Symbiosis is a term that describes a close physical relationship between two totally unrelated organisms. We met parasites last time and they are very common. Another fascinating and very common form is Mutualism, a relationship which benefits both.

Let me give a few examples:

Animals that live on leaves or wood have a difficult job, as cellulose is very difficult to digest. One way to get around this problem is to have colonies of micro-organisms in your gut that can carry out this digestion, so the host benefits and the micro-organisms have a nice protected place to live. Cows, horses and rabbits do this. Cows have complex stomachs where the little guys live and horses and rabbits have an enlarged caecum in the large intestine for this purpose. Termites need this relationship to digest wood. If treated with antibiotics they will starve.

Just two more examples from a multitude.

You have probably seen lichens growing on trees and rocks in very exposed locations. A lichen is a fungus with masses of green photosynthetic plant cells embedded in it which manufacture food by photosynthesis. The fungus absorbs water and minerals and the plant cells provide sugar. Some biologists feel that the lichen is actually parasitizing the plant.

One final and similar example is that of the reef corals which are colonies of little animals that capture plankton. They also have plant cells embedded in their tissues and cannot survive long without them. Reef building corals can only grow where the light penetrates as the cells need it for their photosynthesis. The coral provides minerals and protection to the plant and obtains sugar, and so, they both benefit....Prof. B.P.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Xmas Pudding:(Microwave style)

3 oz Butter	6oz Currants
4 oz Raisins	4 oz Sultanas
½ cup chopped almonds	
3 oz Plain flour	
1 Tb spoon Brandy	
Pinch mixed spice	Pinch Nutmeg
3 oz soft brown sugar	2 eggs
Rind & juice 1 lemon	2 tb spoons molasses
Grated rind of Orange	

Mix all ingredients in pudding basin (lightly greased)

Cover with grease proof paper & secure with band.

Cook in microwave 5 mins – Stand for 5 mins,

Cook in microwave 3 mins – Stand for 5 mins

Cook in microwave 1 min & finally stand for a few minutes.

Turn out & serve with hot custard or brandy sauce.

Storing: Wrap loosely in cling-film while still warm. When cool, wrap in grease proof paper & foil. Place in airtight container. Will keep for about 2 months (can be frozen)

NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly club meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 24th and will be held in the new [HOMOSASSA LIBRARY](#), between 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 24 - Monthly meeting- Homosassa Library.

Dec.5- Christmas Party Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club.

Dec. 22 - Monthly meeting- Beverly Hills.

Jan.2009- Possible Lunch Cruise.

Jan. 26 – Monthly meeting-Homosassa Library.

Feb 23 – Monthly meeting –Beverly Hills.