



BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NEWSLETTER AND EVENT INFORMATION FALL 2010

Coming Events:

Teatime in London "Fashion Show" 2:30 pm, 17th October 2010.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY 11:30 am, 5th December 2010.

"The Visit," The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 3:00 PM, 7th November 2010.

"Murder in Play," British Players 8:00 PM, 20th November 2010.

"A Christmas Carol," The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 7:30 PM, 10th December 2010

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS

OFFICERS OF B&CSNA 2010

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Treasurer	William Barker	703-892-6522	Member at Large	John E. Prevar	703-684-7537
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Events Chair	Pamela J. Prevar	703-684-7537	Ex-officio Member	Jerry Hamilton	301-980-8289
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Notes from the Secretary

How good to have enthusiastic, computer savvy members who help out... New board-member Anita Hood has volunteered to produce this newsletter and has done a great job standing in for Pearl Smith. Pearl's spirits were good when last we talked when she was finishing up chemotherapy. She has really become extremely knowledgeable about her treatment. Veronica Barker-Barzel will still be doing flyers.

Welcome on board to Canadian members who have joined. We welcome articles/memories for the newsletter about Canada each quarter. Canadians must be very law-abiding because we do not hear much from over the border?

Elizabeth Davis, Secretary

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY at the charming European style Café Renaissance of Vienna (same location as last year); The Cafe Renaissance is located at 163 Glyndon Street SE, Vienna VA 22180 (Phone: 703-620-9417);

Fun, who

challenge: a fun quiz; Please reserve early as space is very limited; It is off route 123 (Maple Avenue) 2.2 miles South of Tysons Corner. Lunch begins at 11.30 AM on Sunday, December 5th and will end about



Raffles, Christmas Crackers, Good and for those want a

2:30 PM. Remember to send cheques before December 1st for Christmas Lunch Party to:



Pamela Prevar 1405 Roundhouse Lane apt 503 Alexandria VA 22314. No refunds

after 30 November 2010; if you need more information call Pamela at 703-684-7537

(pamelaprevar@hotmail.com). The cost per member: \$25.00 and Guests are \$35.00 (if you do not have family membership the cost for family members is \$35.00).

Queen Elizabeth II

Remains undecided to the end CURRENT ELECTION YEAR 2010

The Queen may have worn blue, red and yellow dresses during the election but the



Queen did not vote, although however, strictly speaking, she was eligible to vote. "The law does not prohibit the sovereign from voting in general or local elections."

But it would have been unconstitutional for her to have exercised her right. With the removal of the hereditary peers from the Lords in 1999 the Royal Dukes (Edinburgh,



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York, Gloucester and Kent ceased to be members of the Upper House and therefore became eligible to vote in elections, and even to stand for election.

Under the Maastricht Treaty, the Queen and the Royal Family would also be entitled to vote – and stand for the European Parliament.

“Of course they don’t do so”. To vote or hold elected positions would not be in accordance with the need for neutrality.

From: The Daily Telegraph of May 7th 2010

Tim Walker – Mandrake reports.

Although the Queen remains one of the wealthiest women in the world by the grace of inherited estate, masterpieces of art and magnificent jewels, the Queen is also famously frugal. “She is said to wander the halls of Buckingham Palace at night, turning off lights.

First Royal Great Grandchild

Buckingham Palace says Peter Phillips and his wife, Autumn, are expecting their first child in December, a baby who will be Queen Elizabeth II's first great-grandchild.

A statement issued by the palace said "the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, as well as Autumn's family, have been informed and are delighted with the news."

Peter Phillips, the son of Princess Anne, is the Queen's oldest grandchild. He is 11th in line to the throne and married Montreal-born Autumn in May 2008 at

Windsor Castle. Phillips, 32, is among the most low-profile members of the royal family, and he and his younger sister, Zara, are the only ones among the queen's eight grandchildren not to hold royal titles. Princess Anne turned down her mother's offer of the honors for her children.

Prime Minister David Cameron Visits

President Barack Obama

Mr. David Cameron made his first visit to the United States as United Kingdom prime



minister. He and Mr. Obama last met at the G8 and G20 summits in Canada. Downing Street said Mr. Cameron was keen to build on "excellent discussions" they enjoyed there.

Photograph: WPA Pool/Getty Images

THE THICK EAR – Was it worth it?

By R. Donald Hood

Scene – Ladywell, a district of Lewisham
On a bright Sunday morning in the early years of WWII, Dad’s in the army and gone off to war.

Mother decides that it’s time to go visit Grandma in the country, near Chessington



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Zoo. The purpose of the visit is twofold, Mum needs to catch up on family gossip and more importantly Grandma has indoor plumbing and a large bath tub. We arrived at Grandma's and as protocol require, baths were taken (all using the same water).

"Something had been got in for tea" – meaning we were eating salad and fruit cake for dessert. Time marches on, tea is finished, the coal fire for hot water has been damped down, all the new gossip has been shared, and it's time to leave.

"Come inside and say goodbye, we are leaving, don't want to miss the last train" from Mum was met with complete silence. A second and third call went out, still no response.

I was spotted by a nasty neighborhood kid, who ran up to where I was playing and announced "your Mums' calling you and she is not very happy with you". "But I didn't hear you Mum – honest" was met with a "back hander", palm against the ear. Off to the train station. Along the way though there were places to be investigated, dogs and cats to be chased all this under threats of "another thick ear" if we missed the train.

Long story short – we missed the train. With the promised thick ear and a few tears this time, we walk back to Grandma's to stay the night. The next day, Monday, was not a school day, our schools had been closed due to the bombing threat and classes were held in parents' homes 3 days a week. I digress. Off to the train station, no hanging about, hand held tightly. For some reason, not explained at the time we couldn't get to Ladywell Station.

After lots of walking we got to the park by the station. All seemed well, but there was a strange smell in the air, and the big billboards were lying on the ground at the end of our street. Turning the corner into a row of terraced houses where we lived we were faced with a pile of smoldering building rubble: our house, along with two each side, was not there anymore, gone! As memory serves the rest of the houses were still intact, it seems that the bombs aimed at the railway line went adrift.

There were some neighbors about and the corner shop was open for business. Mum and I went in the shop and gossip was exchanged. To a seven year old none of what was happening made any sense, particularly when the shop owner gave me a Mars Bar I was only entitled to a Milky Way bar for my Saturday treat and this was Monday.

Back to Grandma's we went to be greeted with "What are you doing back here? Don't tell me you missed the train again."

We lived with Grandma for a couple of years until her passing. Was it all worth a "Thick Ear"? What might or might not have been, had we not missed the train, I will never know.

1940: WORLD WAR II What I Remember By Vera Long

We just had the 70th anniversary of Dunkirk. Thousands of trapped British, French, Belgian, Polish and other allied troops were saved by the "miracle of Dunkirk". Churchill summoned all available civilian boats and vessels, guided by naval craft, to cross the



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Channel and bring home thousands of stranded troops to England. Also at that time hundreds of civilian refugees were saved. Many war refugees were given shelter at the Wembley Stadium, Middlesex, until temporary housing could be found.

My widowed Mother with my younger sister Joan and me (then 12 years old) lived nearby so she decided to help out and have an older couple from Belgium live with us for a while. Soon, Gohn Lauer and his wife Bertha from Ostend moved in with us. She spoke no English. Their daughter, Simone, a nurse, and a teen aged son, Ferdinand, lived nearby. Gohn helped my Mother with many hard war time chores in the house and he even installed our living room (Morrison) air-raid shelter. Everyone helped in our garden where we grew much needed vegetables and fruit. After a few months the Belgians and other refugees left and were moved to North Wales for the duration of the war.

Correspondence continued between our two families after the war. Friends for life! My Mother was invited and entertained in Ostend many times. Families were given a choice of an outdoor (Anderson) air-raid shelter, or an indoor (Morrison) shelter, named after their designers. "No use freezing to death out there," said my Mother with winter approaching, so we eventually had an indoor Morrison monster in the dining room. It was made of heavy metal and looked like a large ungainly, rectangular table. However, it did its job as a table on top, and an air-raid shelter

underneath with steel springs holding a large mattress, blankets and pillows. We crawled in there to be snugly protected during the worst of the air-raids. Frequently, while taking cover under our steel shelter we talked about our last wonderful sunny holiday on the Isle of Man. Alien civilians were being interned. War clouds were gathering and in the years to come, we would remember this holiday as an oasis of brightness and plenty while we endured the dark days of war.

On the Isle of Man for the duration, and from all accounts, they were never bombed by the enemy and managed to keep well supplied with food. I remember my Mother smiling when she said "Why didn't we stay there? We would have missed all of this!" Instead the grave circumstances of war made us youngsters grow up in a hurry. We had left our childhood behind on that lovely tiny island.

Good Reading - Operation Mincemeat – how a dead man and a bizarre plan fooled the Nazis and assured allied victory – by Ben Macintyre – Harmony 400 pages \$25.99

Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary

In 1940, from 10 July until 31 October, the Royal Air Force Fighter Command defeated the Luftwaffe's





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attempt to gain air supremacy over southern England and averted a possible German invasion, downing 1,733 German aircraft and losing 915 of their own.

An estimated 544 of the 2,927 aircrew of the RAF were killed and their numerical disadvantage prompted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to describe them as the 'few' in his speech to Parliament on 20 August 1940. The Messerschmitt Bf109E (Me-109) was the principal German fighter but with a range of 700km it had only 15 minutes' fuel over Kent and was at the limit of its range over London.

The RAF had the better equipped Hurricane and the faster more manoeuvrable Spitfire. Many of the RAF pilots were from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and central European countries overrun by the Germans. The 'Blitz' continued after the Battle of Britain had finished, until May 1941.

Battle of Britain Day is celebrated on 15 September.

Copied from the Royal British Legion website.

Some interesting headlines from the Daily Express 5-10-2010

**Man is fatally murdered.
Prisoners escape after execution.
Red tape holds up bridge.**

Did You Know?

That there are three (3) branches of the British Legion in CA,



are three (3) of the British San Francisco, Sunrise, FL and Colledgeville, PA.

www.britishlegionusa.com. It is an interesting website. I found the Royal Navy link of interest, e.g., Victoria Cross, Albert Cross awards in WWI with recipient write-ups. Many books and articles on WWI subjects. They also list a Remembrance Service Sunday November 7th 2010 at Grace Cathedral.

The Daughters of the British Empire present TEATIME IN LONDON a "Fashion Show"

Sunday, October 17th 2010 at 2:30 for 3:00 – 5:00 pm Doubletree Hotel, 210 Holiday Court, off Riva Road, opposite Festival at Riva, Annapolis – tickets are \$35.00

To order tickets, send cheque to DBE Lady Arundel Chapter, P.O. Box 63, Millersville, MD 21108. For more information, please email dbeladyannearundel@verizon.net or phone 410-729-3614.

We Wish Good Luck and Best Wishes to Members Moving.

"Athena Taylor Mueller" to Scotland aboard the QE2 "John and Val Leverton" to South Carolina.



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Don't SIT

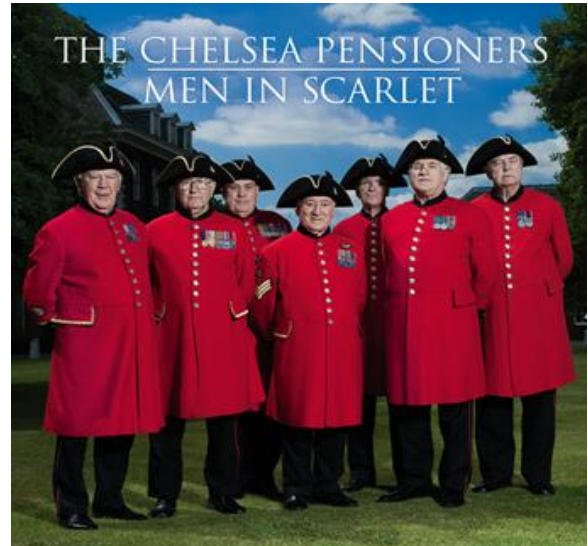
By [Daniel J. DeNoon](#) - WebMD Health News - Reviewed by [Laura J. Martin, MD](#)
July 22, 2010 -- Sit at leisure, die at haste, an American Cancer Society study finds.

In the 14-year study, people who spent at least 6 hours of their daily leisure time sitting died sooner than people who sat less than 3 hours. People who both sit a lot and exercise little are at even higher risk of death, find ACS



epidemiologist Alpa V. Patel, PhD, and colleagues. After adjusting for smoking, height/weight, and other factors, Patel's team found that compared to sitting less than three hours a day, sitting six or more hours a day: Increased the death rate by about 40% in women Increased the death rate by about 20% in men Increased the death rate by 94% in the least active women Increased the death rate by 48% in the least active men "It is beneficial to encourage sedentary individuals to stand up and walk around as well as to reach optimal levels of physical activity," Patel and colleagues conclude.

The study findings appear in the July 22 early online edition of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.



From left to right: David Poultney, John Shuter, Denis Shiels, Paddy Fox. BEM, Malcolm Smart.MBE, Michael Allen and Thomas Fox.

There are few institutions in the United Kingdom with an unbroken three centuries of service and none of them is so close to the heart of the nation as "The Men in Scarlet", the Chelsea Pensioners, and their home, the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Founded in 1682 by King Charles II and intended for the 'succour and relief of veterans broken by age and war', the Royal Hospital, with its Grade 1 listed buildings, still serves its original purpose and intends to continue to further its role well into the 21st Century.

On this website (www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk) you can find details of how to [apply to become an In-Pensioner](#) and discover how to support the [Chelsea Pensioners' Appeal](#). You can also find out how to [arrange a visit](#)



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Upcoming Events:

"The Visit," The Little Theatre of Alexandria, Alexandria, VA, 3:00 PM, 7 November 2010, Sunday matinee, 703-683-0496.

"Murder in Play," British Players in Kensington, MD, 8:00 PM, 20 November 2010, Saturday evening. 443-266-7015.

"A Christmas Carol," The Little Theatre of Alexandria, VA, 7:30 PM, 10 December 2010, Friday evening, 703-683-0496.

All tickets will be purchased individually from the shows. The dates and times listed are the ones that members of the B&CSNA will be attending. If one is interested in purchasing a ticket, one calls the number listed and orders it. When one shows up they can meet with other members of the B&CSNA.

For the two shows at "The Little Theatre of Alexandria" when one calls in, please state that you are with B&CSNA and it will help the ticket office provide you seats that are near other members, since all seats with the Little Theatre are assigned. This is not necessary with the British Players since they do not use assigned seats.

Report of the 26 September Brunch

At the 26 September Brunch, at Fort Myer's Officers Club, Denis Lipman, British ex-pat and author of "A Yank back to England" gave a very lively talk and reading from his book which is a personal account of his change in perspective on his return to England after living in the States a while. All enjoyed the delicious champagne brunch. The raffle prizes included a bottle of champagne and British goody basket. Elizabeth Davis Secretary

Report on the British Pantry Tea on Sunday afternoon, 23 May 2010:

A great time was had by over 20 members in Aldie VA at the British Pantry, with tea, scones with clotted cream and jam. Also there was coffee for the non tea drinkers. Three potential new members attended.

Travel Tip

Cell phones can be quite affordable if you travel abroad: Travelocity has phones for rent or purchase. 1-877-899.ROAM or www.travelocity.cellularabroad.com Eurobuzz has a flat rate for 70 countries in Europe. 1-888-792-7647 or www.eurobuzz.com

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mailing list
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To be kept "In the Know" please send your e-mail address to:

anita@darkassociates.com and jillbritengland@yahoo.com



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Manure... An Interesting Fact



Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed less than when wet, but once water hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again of which the by-product is methane gas. As the cargo was stored below decks in bundles, you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction "Stow high in transit" on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the vessel would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term 'S.H.I.T', (Stow High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to

this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word.

BBC Television License Fee

The BBC's television license fee could be cut under the government's public spending austerity drive. Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt has said that the cost of the TV license fee - which is used to fund the BBC - could be cut under new austerity measures. Education Secretary Michael Gove questioned whether the license fee was good value for money on the BBC's Today programme.

Find it if you Can!

The Bell Inn, Outwood Lane,
Redhill, Surrey.

By R. Donald Hood

Visiting Surrey in England? Try to find the Bell Inn, a 17th century coaching inn, complete with beams salvaged from a Charles II Man of War, a Grey Lady ghost and an authentic Witches Hanging Tree from late 16/17th century.

The bell outside of the Inn is believed to



have been recast from melted down cannons. The food is good, the beer great and the service is customer friendly. The menu is quite extensive Roast Beef, Bacon and

Liver – a broad offering of English favourites served in just the right ambiance.



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The menu is quite extensive Roast Beef, Bacon and Liver – a broad offering of English favourites served in just the right ambiance. Our party of 5 were not disappointed with our selections.

Our hosts, General Manager Siam Smith and Assistant Manager Ami King who took good care of us. Siam/Ami we enjoyed ourselves.

To reach this Pub in-car SatNav users should select the Latitude/Longitude (Lat Lon) screen and enter: **Lat = N51.19515** and **Lon = W 0.09981**

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A TEST EMAIL FROM B&CSNA THEN WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR WE HAVE AN INCORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS – PLEASE UPDATE US WITH OR ADD YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS. SEND TO

anita@darkassociates.com and jillbritengland@yahoo.com



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