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BRITWEEK

British trade ties celebrated

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Trade between Florida and Great Britain amounts to an estimated \$2.6 billion a year — a fact that business leaders on both sides of the Atlantic say is reason to celebrate.

The second annual BritWeek Miami will do just that, toasting the economic partnership along with nods to British food, culture, entertainment.

“The weather is getting very British around here, so I think that’s a sign we’re off to a good start,” Kevin McGurgan, Britain’s consul general in Miami, joked, referring to Thursday’s gray skies. “This week really is a wonderful celebration of the business, cultural, entrepreneurial and creative links that exist between Miami and all parts of Britain.”

BritWeek, which runs through Wednesday, kicked off Thursday night with a private gala at downtown Miami’s Viceroy Hotel to highlight business innovation. McGurgan presented Marcelo Claure, CEO of Miami-Dade’s Brightstar Corp. and an investor in David Beckham’s bid to bring a professional soccer team to Miami, with a special recognition award for Claure’s contributions to the U.K. and U.S. economies.

“He is someone who understands from top to bottom how the global economy is shaping up,” McGurgan said. “He is also a great philanthropist and an ex-



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BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND: Fab Four music was part of last year’s BritWeek event.

tremely passionate person.”

Other BritWeek Miami events include professional networking socials, a global-business conference at PortMiami and a performance of Monty Python’s *Spamalot* in Coral Gables.

The \$2.6 billion in bilateral trade between Britain and Florida comes mainly from aerospace, medical, military equipment and supply chains, according to UK Trade & Investment, a British government agency. It notes that 340 British-affiliated companies operate in Florida, many of which have Latin America hubs in Miami, including Diageo, Barclays and EMI Music.

The British also have had an impact on Florida real estate: The Association of Realtors said that United Kingdom buyers represented 6 percent of all foreign sales of Florida homes in 2013. Real estate agents, de-

BritWeek events

- Sip Buck’s Fizz cocktails while perusing U.K.-inspired pieces at Britto Central Gallery, 818 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday.
 - Taste British favorites with BritWeek specials at Coral Gables restaurants Ortanique on the Mile, John-Martin’s Irish Pub, Seasons 52 and Tarpon Bend. All day Sunday.
 - Monty Python’s *Spamalot* plays at the Actors’ Playhouse, 280 Miracle Mile. 3 p.m. Sunday.
 - PortMiami Business Conference will highlight Miami’s role as a global economic hub, taking place at Terminal F, parking lot G of PortMiami. 8:30 a.m. Monday.
 - Brits and non-Brits alike are welcome to mingle at a business networking cocktail party at the News Lounge, 5580 NE 4th Ct. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- For more information on all events, visit BritWeek.org.

velopers, investors and BritWeek VIPs will rub elbows during a street party of sorts Friday night at the sales center for the under-construction, British-inspired Bond on Brickell condominium.

Founded in California in

2007, BritWeek is a nonprofit organization that will give a portion of the proceeds from BritWeek Miami events to the Little Dreams Foundation, musician Phil Collins’ South Florida-based charity.