



# CHARTER



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The newsletter of the British Charitable Society

Christmas 2006

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[WWW.BRITCHARITY.ORG](http://WWW.BRITCHARITY.ORG)

## Society Officers

President – Charles Platt  
Vice-President – Susan Dugdale  
Executive Secretary – Susan Dugdale  
Treasurer – Kathy Tunsley, MBE  
Recording Secretary – Margaret Hunter

## Executive Committee

Guy Bennett  
Diane Bailey-Boulet  
Jan Carrigan  
Michael Dawson, Editor  
Jacqueline Greenlaw  
Robert A. Groom, OBE (Past President)  
Timothy J. Hunt, MBE (Past President)  
Thomas Keown  
Geoff Mullis (Past President)  
Gavin Nathan  
Bruce Lee Rogers

## President's Message



Charles Platt, President

Ever wonder what it would be like not to be able to pay your bills each month? Or to have to decide which one to pay this month ... electricity or phone? Or to have to decide between two really important bills, like heat and food? For some people, this is an all-too-real dilemma. And for many of those whom the British Charitable Society helps each month throughout the year, it is a dilemma that they find themselves faced with through no fault of their own. A middle-class lifestyle can come to an abrupt end if one spouse loses a job for health reasons. A grandmother can find herself looking after a grandchild when the parent decides to walk out on the family. The cases are as varied as human nature itself but every one has a compelling personal element.

For people like these, the Society has literally been a lifesaver. We have distributed an average of \$50,000 a year for the last three years to individuals and families. The sad thing is that, with greater resources, we could have distributed even more ... and the need was certainly there. That is why I hope that every member will take a few moments to pause and reflect at this busy time of year. The name of our Society is the Charitable Society. With your help, we can not only live up to our name, we can fulfill what has never been a more important mission. An Appeal letter is in the mail; please respond as generously as you can. Thank you.

The Executive Committee joins me in wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## A Review of 2006 from the Executive Secretary



**Susan Dugdale**

It has been another interesting year from the viewpoint of the Executive Secretary. In many ways things have stayed very much on the course that has been set over the last few years; enquiries from 211 Emergency Helplines continue to come in, the British

Consulate still supply a steady stream of applicants and of course, anyone who does apply has mostly left it until the last minute to do so, which makes each case we look at – URGENT!

Enquiries from new applicants seem to be fairly steady at around 3 per month, with the usual increase in the Fall as winter bills and demands from suppliers increase. Of these, nearly 60% are from Connecticut, which still has the most highly developed, and therefore most highly used, 211 system. Another thing that doesn't seem to change is that once an application form and details of the Society are sent out, the attrition rate is about 50%.

What has increased noticeably this year is the number of people we have helped in the past who have come back to us with further requests. This has always been the case to some extent, but in 2006 it has been remarkable. Executive committee meetings usually discuss one new case and maybe 4 or 5 'returners.' This has provoked a number of discussions about the merit of helping people out more than once and whether the Society should consider cut off points in such cases. What is obvious is that our initial help with emergency payments is really only a band aid for many families' problems. In most cases if they found themselves in difficulties in the first place, the chances are that their circumstances won't have changed sufficiently for the situation not to crop up again. As we enter 2007 this will be an ongoing conversation.

The advantage and the disadvantage is that we become more familiar with the *people* who are these cases.

In September of this year we decided the time had come to see if anything could be gained by actually meeting a few of them. I traveled to Connecticut and can honestly say, had the pleasure of being introduced to a bunch of really nice folk. Names that had become familiar are now faces too and this has made a difference in the way we have approached a couple of repeat applications. There is only so much information that can be gleaned from a form – background details from a face- to- face meeting have been so much more informative. We hope to repeat the exercise a couple of times in 2007. If anyone out there is traveling in central or western Mass or Maine and would like to break their trip and meet a 'client' – give me a call.

In addition to this we are seriously looking at asking experts in the social services fields to help us sort out individual requests and maybe point applicants in the direction of aid that would be more permanent than ours. This will require a lot of investigation and will probably involve most members of the Executive Committee in the research.

And a final note of novelty; the spirit of co-operation between organizations: An applicant who first approached the Society had to be rejected as her connection to Great Britain was too tenuous. She did however have a link to Ireland and a quick call and follow up email to the Irish Charitable Society provided her with the funds for much needed new flooring in her mobile home.

Best wishes for the Season to all. Don't forget – always carry a Membership Application in your pocket, you never know when you'll meet a new Brit in town!

*Susan Dugdale, Executive Director*

## Remembrance Day Service

The annual Remembrance Day Service, hosted by Christ Church in the City of Boston (Old North Church) and sponsored jointly with the British Officer's Club of New England, was held on Sunday November 12, 2006. The preacher was the Reverend Gareth Evans, an English priest presently Rector at St. John's Charlestown. The traditional Morning Prayer service was led by the Vicar, The Reverend Stephen Ayers. The scripture was read by the British



Old North

Consul-General, John Rankin and by the President of the British Officer's Club, Tim Hunt.

The service started with a reading of "In Flanders Fields", a two minute silence at 11 a.m. and the skirl of bagpipes playing "Flowers of the Forest". It ended with the magnificent singing of "God Save the Queen" by the whole congregation.

This service enjoyed the largest attendance of all annual services that I can remember. The church was full and the balconies had to be opened.

Afterwards, the parish put on a generous spread of cheeses, cakes and biscuits and sherry and soft drinks in the parish house next door. It was a memorable coming-together of British and Commonwealth members in an historical setting.

*Timothy J. Hunt, MBE  
President, British Officers Club*

## The British Army Benevolent Fund of America

*Keith Taylor, a former officer in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, has recently arrived in the U.S. to fund raise for the BABFA so that they can help any British Army ex-servicemen living here, and elsewhere, who may be in need. His territory officially covers all of the United States, but he reports that he is focusing on the East, plus California. When he made contact with us, we asked him to write a brief account of his mission. Here it is.*



Keith Taylor

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) is the largest British Army registered charity in the UK, which was formed in 1944 and of which HM The Queen is Patron. It is committed to the welfare of soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. In 2005 grants of nearly \$7.5 million were also made to other related

charities for the disabled, children, older people and individuals.

It had been known for a long time that a large but unknown number of former British Army personnel live as expatriates in the USA. Also British and American soldiers have served alongside in WW2, Korea and other theatres and, of course, currently in Iraq and Afghanistan. These two situations provide scope for fund raising in the USA, and it is the intention to build on the generous donations of those living in the USA who already subscribe to ABF.

BABFA has been registered with Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) America which means that it has 501 (c) (3) status. Thus donors may claim the maximum tax benefits allowed by law for their contributions. All US donors wishing to support BABFA may make contributions using the (CAF) America gift form obtainable from the BABFA office or [www.cafamerica.org](http://www.cafamerica.org).

Keith Taylor, himself a former British Army Officer, who served in Korea in 1951, has been appointed Chairman of BABFA and would be delighted to hear from former British Army personnel now living in the USA. He is forming a New England Committee and would welcome offers of help, advice and suggestions and, yes, money too!

Make contact with him at PO Box 381487, Cambridge, MA 02238-1487 and look at the website [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org).

## Coming Events

**(from the Consulate-General's website, courtesy of Melissa Murphy, RNC)**

### **ART: Art & Music in Britain: Four Encounters, 1730-1900**

**The Yale Center for British Art is the first and only venue for this exhibition, which will explore the relationship between art and music in Britain at four distinct historical moments: Handel's London (1730s to 1750s), Music and Polite Society (1760s to 1820s), Romantic Landscapes (1829 to mid-1830s), and Aspiring to the Condition of Music (1860s to 1900). It will also consider the relationship between high and popular culture in each period. Drawing from several departments and collections at Yale University, Art & Music in Britain will be the latest in a series of teaching exhibitions presented at the Center. A**

rich slate of programs has been planned to augment the exhibition.

**05 October-31 December 2006**

**Yale Center for British Art**

**1080 Chapel Street**

**New Haven, CT**

**Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Sunday 12-5**

**203 432 2800 - [www.yale.edu/ycba](http://www.yale.edu/ycba)**

**Free and open to the public**

**ART EXHIBIT: Canaletto in England: A Venetian Artist Abroad, 1746-1755**

The fame of the great eighteenth-century Italian artist Giovanni Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto (1697-1768), rests on his views of Venice, where he lived most of his life. However, Canaletto's popularity with English grand tourists and patrons led him in 1746 to travel to England for a period of nearly ten years. This exhibition features nearly eighty objects and is the most ambitious survey ever mounted of Canaletto's time in England. Co-organized by the Yale Center for British Art and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London. The exhibition's guest curator is Charles Beddington, an independent scholar. The organizing curator at the Yale Center for British Art is Angus Trumble, Curator of Paintings and Sculpture.

**19 October - 31 December 2006**

**Yale Center for British Arts**

**1080 Chapel Street**

**New Haven, CT 06520**

**203-432-2800 [ycba.info@yale.edu](mailto:ycba.info@yale.edu)**

**<http://ycba.yale.edu/index.asp>**

**CELEBRATION: Boston Brits Halloween 4**

**Costumes mandatory! Prize for best costume. Arrive early for free drinks.**

**Happy Hour 8-9pm. British DJs!**

**28 October 2006, 8:00pm**

**Boston Tennis & Racquet Club**

**939 Boylston Street**

**Boston, MA**

**\$15 [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) via**

**[BostonBrits@gmail.com](mailto:BostonBrits@gmail.com) or \$20 at the**

**door**

**MUSIC: Scotland's Three Tenors**

The International Trade Resource Center proudly presents Scotland's Three Tenors in concert at the Portsmouth Pearl. The power and the passion! Celebrating New

Hampshire's links with Scotland. Ticket price \$25 with Hors d'oeuvres to be served.

**Friday, 17 November, 6:00-10:00 pm**

**45 Pearl Street**

**Portsmouth NH**

**For tickets call 603-334-6074 or email Melissa at [maho@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:maho@dred.state.nh.us)**

**ART: Short Days-Long Shadows**

The progression of the seasons at this time of year can leave many of us longing for the salad days of summer but the fall, with it's backdrop of long-cast shadows and blazing colors, offers an entirely new range of images for a painter to thrive on.

Lorica

Artworks is proud

to present, "Short

Days- Long

Shadows,"

showcasing an outstanding collection of recent work by over 15 Irish and American artists, working in oils, acrylics and pastels.

**17 November-31 December 2006**

The exhibit will open Friday November 17, 2006 at 90 Main Street, Andover with a reception from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. featuring live traditional Irish music by the Ceili band.

Admission is free of charge and wheelchair accessible

Lorica Artworks

90 Main Street

Andover, MA

[www.loricaartworks.com](http://www.loricaartworks.com) 978 470 1829

Gallery hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10-5;

Thur, 10-7; Sun 12-4, and by

appointment.



**MUSIC: Fine Arts Chorale**

The choir is performing "Music for a Coronation" and will celebrate the music of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The concert will feature music of Ralph Vaughn Williams, Herbert Howells, G.F. Handel, and C.H. Parry.

**Sunday, 19 November 2006**

**Old South Union Church**

**South Weymouth, MA**

**Call 1 800 230 7555 for ticket**

**information**

**THEATRE: The Publick Theatre presents: Design for Living**  
 Noel Coward's *Design for Living* is about a trio of bohemians – a playwright, a painter, and the woman they both adore, Gilda, who is an interior decorator. She loves them both, and the play, which is one of the 20th century's greatest, suggests the possibility that she shouldn't have to choose between them.  
 4 January - 27 January 2007  
 Tickets will be available online soon  
[info@publicktheatre.com](mailto:info@publicktheatre.com)

**MUSIC: Boston Early Music Festival presents - The Tallis Scholars Renaissance Splendor; Music of Monteverdi, Palestrina, Gombert, Lassus, and others. A mainstay of the BEMF concert series, The Tallis Scholars directed by Peter Phillips are without rival in the world of Renaissance polyphony as their glorious sound invokes the magnificence of the mighty European cathedrals. This special spring appearance highlights innovations of the revolutionary Renaissance composers who paved the way to the Baroque. Saturday, 24 March 2007 at 8:00pm St. Paul Church 29 Mt. Auburn Street Cambridge, MA 617-661-1812 For tickets, visit: [www.bemf.org](http://www.bemf.org)**

**Informal Welsh speaking group 8.00 pm every Wednesday: informal Welsh speaking group meet in the Cambridge Common Pub (Massachusetts Ave). For more information contact Dr. Eirug Davies, telephone: 617.492.9838; e-mail: [Eirug@msn.com](mailto:Eirug@msn.com)**

**Television: Premiership Soccer & British Sport on TV in New England**  
 Looking for a place to watch Premiership Soccer, or other British sports and sporting events in New England? Please visit our **British Radio, TV and Media** page for information on television and radio networks that cater to fans of British sports.



## Miscellaneous Pictures (Top three pictures from the BBC website)



Daniel Craig as Bond



Kite Surfing on Barra



The Queen Opening Parliament



The Editor's Librarian, without whose help this newsletter would have been produced in half the time. Or less.

EDDI'S SERVICE  
(A.D. 687)"The Conversion of St. Wilfrid" –  
from *Rewards and Fairies*

Eddi, priest of St. Wilfrid  
In his chapel at Manhood End  
Ordered a Midnight Service  
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,  
And the night was stormy as well.  
Nobody came to service,  
Though Eddi rang the bell.

"Wicked weather for walking,"  
Said Eddi of Manhood End.  
"But I must go on with the service  
For such as care to attend".

The altar-lamps were lighted,—  
An old marsh-donkey came,  
Bold as a guest invited,  
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,  
The water splashed on the floor,  
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock  
Pushed in through the open door.

"How do I know what is greatest,  
How do I know what is least?  
That is My Father's business,"  
Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

"But—three are gathered together—  
Listen to me and attend.  
I bring good news, my brethren!"  
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger  
And a Stall in Bethlehem,  
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider  
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,  
They listened and never stirred,  
While, just as though they were Bishops,  
Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes  
And the windows showed the day,  
And the Ox and the Ass together  
Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,  
Said Eddi of Manhood End,  
"I dare not shut His chapel  
On such as care to attend."

*Rudyard Kipling*