



CHARTER

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The newsletter of the British Charitable Society

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www.britcharity.org

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

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Thomas Keown
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Gavin Nathan
Bruce Lee Rogers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

After a very successful Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee is taking its two month summer vacation from physical meetings. But this doesn't mean the British Charitable Society has gone into hibernation. Far from it, as I will describe below.

The AGM was marked by excellent attendance, a delicious cheese and sandwich spread, and a very interesting talk by Paul Hare, recently HM Ambassador to Cuba. More on that later in this issue. Also remarkable when you think of it, Treasurer Charles Platt reported that the BCS has disbursed \$233,000 in charitable aid over the last 6 years. All cases have been carefully weighed by the Executive Committee. We've not been extravagant, but it's been enough to make a difference to a good number of folk. The whole membership should be proud of this record.

At the AGM we elected a new member of the Executive Committee, Dr. Bruce Rogers. See below.

We continue to get a good number of referrals from the Connecticut 211 help line. Since these calls do not have the benefit of any social service intermediary, i.e. the individuals in need themselves are calling, they require a good deal of sorting out and analysis by Susan Dugdale, our Executive Secretary. The program has been successful enough that all other New England states are copying it and we have to be ready for a bit of a flood of similar calls over the next 2 years, especially from Massachusetts. Susan's organization skills and caring attitude toward the callers are enormous assets for the Society.

We have told you in the past about our help for Max Preston, the young man confined to a wheelchair from cerebral palsy. The story continues with both sweet and sour notes. Using his independent skills, Max determined that his best course for future schooling and entrée to his chosen field of media work was to return to England and a support network of relatives over there. Some of us went to small party to wish him well and we have heard that he is settling in. Sadly, not long after he left, his mother, Susie, lost her year-long fight with brain cancer. Several of us went to her memorials. So, Susie's devoted husband, Charlie, lost his wife and Max lost the one person who had supported his childhood and youth. However, we do believe the Society contributed to Max's independence and we think we shall hear more of him as he develops his career.

As you might suppose from our success in finding aid recipients, expenses continue to outstrip income. In addition to her other work, Susan Dugdale and a committee are close to hitting the mails with a well-documented corporate fund raising appeal. We hope this closes the budget gap and, who knows, we might find

a fairy godfather to add to our endowment, which we cannot afford to spend down. Donations and/or bequests from the membership are equally welcome.

Other efforts gaining steam over the summer are the arrangements for the first British Charitable Ball in living memory. This will take place at the Harvard Club on Friday, November 4th. SAVE THE DATE! Deposits are paid. Band is chosen. Tables are being booked. While we can't pretend that this Ball will be THE social event of the season that it was reputed to be between the wars, it promises to be high on the list. An enthusiastic committee headed by Diane Bailey-Boulet is going strong.

I wish all our members a healthy and relaxing summer, which the weather folk promise will really come.

Tim Hunt

New Executive Committee Member, Dr. Bruce Rogers



Bruce has nearly twenty years experience in the biotechnology industry in the Boston area with a broad science-base in infectious disease, molecular biology, drug screening and anti-infective drug discovery and development.

He also has extensive project management experience in drug development from discovery to proof-of-concept clinical trials plus the management of corporate-alliance relationships.

Bruce received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University.

Bruce is married (22 years this July!) and has two teenage children, both of whom attend Belmont High School, MA. Although Australian in origin, Bruce has a strong interest in things British and has traveled widely in the UK on both business and holidays. Personal interests include reading, travel and personal fitness.

Although not much of an athlete personally, Bruce has an interest in soccer, rugby and Australian rules football. Bruce joined the British Charitable Society two years ago and wishes to get more involved and support its worthy mission.

Mr. Paul Hare's Address at the AGM

Mr. Paul Hare, LVO, has recently been the British Ambassador to Cuba. For the last year he has been a Fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard, and has been living in Marblehead. He addressed the Annual General Meeting



Thank you Tim. I am delighted to be asked to address the British Charitable Society AGM. It is an honour. I would like to pay tribute - and I'm sure this goes for many other Brits who are outside this Society - to the wonderful work you do. I think a lot of it is unsung, although the British Consulate here are closely involved - Kathy Tunsley and the British Consuls-General. But it is a wonderful institution, a great reassurance to Brits who move to the area, that there is this back up, that there are these people of good intent, who give these many hours of voluntary work. And I'll remember the 2-1-1 number if ever we get stuck here! But I do want to say it's a remarkable reflection of how the British spirit of volunteering, the British spirit of can-do, which goes back, as we all know, many centuries and through many continents, is still alive and well in this corner of the world.

With that, I had more or less two speeches prepared. One was a sort of a general reminiscence on life in the Foreign Service, and one was on life in Cuba. The life in Cuba one, in Cuban style, was five hours long, so I don't know whether you're ready to accept that (laughter), but I will say a bit about Cuba perhaps towards the end, and I know from a straw poll taken over the refreshments that there is quite a bit of interest from Society

members. Several people have been to Cuba, and know it, so I'll dwell on that a little later.

The Foreign Service – I mean, what does it have to offer to somebody? I think, as somebody who came to it after a spell in the private sector, I would say it's probably the last outpost of the generalist, because you are thrown into a wide variety of different issues, literally any issue that might assault and affect the lives of mankind wherever you are. Jacqueline is here tonight from the Consulate-General, and she knows the many difficult issues that the Consulate-General (faces) here, particularly in terms of distressed citizens.

I did have five years in the private sector, so I can add up and do sums, and know a little bit about law, and it was a rather unusual switch, because I switched perhaps in the reverse direction from many people who perhaps come to the private sector after a spell in the public.

Moving around in a business sense does of course create quite a lot of stress on families. I know a large number of you have lived in different places, but one has to pay tribute to wives, children and so on, who endure that. I would like to say at the outset that through all this variety Lynda has been a great source of support in keeping things running when the wheels were about to go off the track in many instances. But it is very important, as I'm sure you all know in the world of business as well, to have a supportive family.

Well what happened at the beginning? After law and banking I did start in a job in international commodities in the Foreign Office, and that sounds rather obscure and esoteric, and indeed it was. Within my first week of taking up that job I was at a dinner in Westminster being introduced by I think it was a junior minister as the Foreign Office as an expert on cobalt. Not having done beyond O-level chemistry I was struggling with this high-powered mining engineer. But anyway we got through that. We got through the first year, and then it came to the point "Where do you want to be posted?" question asked by the Foreign Office personnel department. This is always a question which is very loaded, because they know if you're of a certain age and you mention the Arab world, or you mention the Far East, you're off for two years to study the language. Then you're locked in to Arabic or

"Where would you like to go?" [we were asked]. We said "Anywhere but Europe". So what did they do? They sent us to Brussels.

Japanese or Chinese, whatever, so we left the field open. We said to them – "Where would you like to go?" We said "Anywhere but Europe". So what did they do? They sent us to Brussels. Not only Brussels, but that was followed by Portugal, so you might say they don't take account of people's wishes, but I'm sure that's not the case. I mean we've survived now for - what? - twenty-seven years, and some of our wishes have been taken account of.

Brussels was, actually, quite an interesting job because I was Private Secretary to the EU Ambassador there, or the European Community as it was then, right in the early years of the budget battle. You may remember Mrs. Thatcher going over and demanding her money back from the Eurocrats in Brussels. So it was quite an interesting period to be there. And it was right at the start of what those years was certainly not a love affair with the EU, but it was a time when we set out our stall and got significant concessions.

We were then in Portugal, as I mentioned, four years in the beginning of the eighties, and it was a great period when this was a new democracy. It was only about five or six years after they overthrew the dictatorship of Salazar and Caetano, and there was a great sense of adventure together with a tradition of a country with colonies recently, in Africa, which had just been given independence. But the political class were extremely young, in their twenties and thirties.

There were ministers of twenty-nine – that sort of thing. Wonderful romantic evenings with mass rallies in the heat of Lisbon. And

we remember it with great affection. We lived in a town house – and I don't know how many of you know this – but it's a very attractive city, and has been transformed by EU money – but it was a town house which had survived the earthquake of 1755. So it was very old, with a very good view of the Tagus. We had a lot of visitors in those years. You may remember they were the years of the Falklands war, and we had visits from ships which had been in the action down in the South Atlantic, including aircraft carriers where Prince Andrew was a helicopter pilot. So we had several visits from him. We had a visit, a major visit, from Mrs. Thatcher during that time. It was, you may remember again, when Mark Thatcher got lost in

the desert, on one of his rallying expeditions. I was actually Press Officer, so the press were bugging her about, you know, "Have you heard from Mark?" questions, more than any other questions about bilateral relations with Portugal.

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The Gala Ball in November

Next November the 4th, in the Great Hall at the Back Bay Harvard Club, the Society will be holding its first ball since before the war. It will be a black tie or dress uniform affair, and very glamorous. The band has already been hired, the save-the-date invitations are in the mail and excitement is mounting. Details can be found inside the back cover.

Corporate Fundraising

As you will now be aware from the remarks made at the AGM, the British Charitable Society has given out nearly \$250,000 in aid over the last 5 years. In recognition of this the Committee has been pondering just how we can encourage some of the larger organizations in the New England area to support our work and hopefully add to our coffers.

A little bit of investigation has confirmed what we had long suspected; there are a significant number of large companies in this area who have trading connections with Britain. The biotech industry in Massachusetts is only one example of how many ex-pat Brits are working here in senior, influential positions, not to mention how many companies with brands which are household names have strong footholds in both countries.

Most of these organizations also boast a commitment to community, and many have a dedicated team of staff whose responsibility it is to investigate worthy and needy causes and allocate funds if they feel the cause is justified. The British Charitable Society is one such cause!

Over the course of the next few weeks we shall be making representations to many of the large corporations in the area and requesting grants from their relevant funds. The process is quite complicated and time consuming; (the document package alone weighs nearly one pound), but the

grants can be quite substantial. We haven't set a dollar amount target for this campaign, but would hope to raise in excess of \$100,000 towards our operating expenses.

Grants are usually made on a quarterly basis, so success won't be measured instantly, but we should be able to report on this new venture by the end of the year.

Susan Dugdale – Executive Secretary

Implications of 2-1-1

2-1-1 used to be the number we dialed in order to make a long distance telephone call. When we became able to dial area codes directly, 2-1-1 became redundant, and available for another use. We still dial 4-1-1 for directory enquiries, and 9-1-1 is for acute emergency situations where the police, or an ambulance, or urgent medical advice are needed. 2-1-1 is now being used across the country for less immediate emergencies, and for help with social and financial problems of almost every kind. At last count Connecticut, Idaho, Minnesota and Vermont were up and running statewide, and many other states are on their way. Massachusetts has finished constructing its database – 33,000 programmes and 734 different services - and is expected to be operational statewide by January of next year. Some regions in Massachusetts, e.g. Worcester, are already working. By early 2007 all six New England states will have 2-1-1. This is important for the British Charitable Society.

Anyone who has tried recently to get help in an emergency from a government agency or a charity will have quickly discovered that the helping industry's bureaucracy is a jungle so impenetrable that it invites despair. The 2-1-1 project involves setting up state databases of all the sources of help available, making them easily searchable, and staffing them with people who know their way around them, the so-called licensed Information and Retrieval Specialists. In a fully operational state, all a person in trouble has to do is dial 2-1-1 and a live, trained specialist will direct him or her to the most likely source of help. For British people that source is likely to be us, because we are in all the complete, and partially complete, New England databases.

The advent of 2-1-1 offers two major opportunities for the British Charitable Society. Firstly it has made us more visible and has thus increased the number of applicants finding us and coming to us for help. The number of applicants coming to us from the completed system in Connecticut has skyrocketed. We get twice as many calls from Connecticut as we do from Massachusetts, and yet Massachusetts has 56% more British or British-descended people than Connecticut. Of course those who come to us directly from 2-1-1, and not referred to us from an agency, require a more thorough intake, with a corresponding increase in workload, because they come to us unscreened.

The second opportunity is that our own growing familiarity with the New England databases allows us to make better informed referrals when we cannot help, or only partially help, an applicant.

This is did not start out to be a fundraising piece, but it is too tempting not to end by pointing out that serving more people, and serving them better, does, inevitably, put something of a strain on our financial resources.

Forthcoming British Events From the Consulate-General's Website

Arts Exhibition: British Painting and Sculpture in the 20th Century

A new installation of twentieth-century paintings and sculptures from the permanent collection of the Yale Center for British Art demonstrates both the persistence of tradition in British art and the remarkable ability of modern British artists to revise and transform it.

Present – 1 July 2005
Yale Center for British Art
1080 Chapel St.
New Haven, CT

Concert: Tom Jones with Tower of Power

Wales crooner returns to New England
15th July, 6:30pm (Tickets: \$55, \$45, \$35)
Bank of America Pavilion
Boston, MA

Concert: Coldplay

Coldplay return to Massachusetts in August!
August 6, 7:30 pm
Tweeter Center
Mansfield MA
Tickets go on sale June 4

Maine Highland Games

20th August 2005
Thomas Point
Brunswick ME

Concert: The Rolling Stones

The legendary British band The Rolling Stones will have three live performances in New England this summer. The band play the opening two concerts of their US tour on the 21st and 23rd of August 2005 at Boston's legendary Fenway Park and play their third New England show at Rentschler Stadium in Hartford, Connecticut on the 28th of August. Tickets for the Fenway shows are priced from \$63 to \$163 and go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m. at all Ticketmaster locations: ticketmaster.com, and teapartyconcerts.com or call (617) 508-931-2000 or The Orpheum box office.

21st & 23rd August
Fenway Park
Boston MA

28th August
Rentschler Stadium
Hartford, CT

Quechee Scottish Festival

27 August 2005
Polo Festival
Quechee VT

The 3rd Annual Scottish Heritage Golf Classic

The Scottish Heritage Society will host its 3rd Annual Scottish Heritage Golf Classic at Canterbury Woods Golf Club in New Hampshire. Both registration forms and sponsor forms can be downloaded from the SHS website at:
www.scottishpride.org
30th August 2005

Canterbury Woods Golf Club
 15 West Road
 Canterbury, NH 03224
 Golf Club Details: www.canterburywoodscc.com

Arts Exhibition: The Worlds of Francis Wheatley

Francis Wheatley (1747-1801) is best known to visitors to the Yale Center for British Art for his group portraits, or "conversation pieces," which include the masterful and perplexing portrait of the Oliver and Ward families.

31st August – 31st December 2005

Yale Center for British Art
 1080 Chapel St.
 New Haven, CT

Informal Welsh speaking group

8:00pm every Wednesday informal Welsh speaking group meet in the Cambridge Common Pub (Massachusetts Avenue). For more information contact Dr. Eirug Davies, telephone: 1 (617) 492 9838; e-mail: Eirug@msn.com

Cricket, Anyone?



Yes there is cricket to be watched and played around Boston during the summer. Every Saturday and Sunday there are five or six matches on pitches in South Boston, Franklin Park, Lynn and Wrentham. The fixtures for this July are on page 9, and directions to the fields can be found on the web. Go to the Massachusetts State Cricket Club website at: www.mscl.org and click on "Schedules and Events". (Why do you suppose they call themselves the Massachusetts State Cricket Club? What would their initials be without the "State"?) Also check the Boston Brits for pick-up games: BostonBrits@groups.msn.com

Paul Hare

(continued from page 3)

It was my first experience of being in a foreign country, when my own country was at war, and the Portuguese, being our oldest allies, took our side, largely. The oldest alliance we have in the world is with Portugal, and they gave not only R & R to our ships, but the press were very favourable to the British case for going to the Falklands. They have, as you know, the islands of the Azores, a long way away from the Portuguese mainland, and Madeira, as well. And because Spain were taking the side of Argentina, the Argentine, over the border, the Portuguese naturally took our side.

But undoubtedly the highlight of the time we had in Portugal was the state visit of Her Majesty the Queen, which is quite a rare occurrence now, to be in a post where you get a major, full-blown state visit. And that was also significant for being one of the last times they used the royal yacht, Britannia. Of course the River Tagus, and the entrance to Lisbon, was an ideal setting. The Queen didn't actually arrive in Portugal on the yacht. It was a bit of secret – she flew in, but then boarded the yacht, and it came in on a wonderful sort of misty morning down the Tagus, by the Explorers statue, the statue of Christ, and a great setting to embark on a state visit. Our daughters, who were then five



and three, were privileged to figure – actually on a very *ad hoc* presentation of flowers - to Her Majesty on arrival. The Portuguese press happened to snap these two blonde little girls in their Sunday best presenting the Queen with flowers, and that was on the BBC news that evening, as a sort of backdrop, we would call it "screen-saver" these days, but that's always been a great memory. And an unforgettable evening, too, being present at beating retreat on *Britannia* before she left.

I'll fast forward now. We move to the late eighties, and we had then a posting in the United States, a foreign posting for us, based in New York, living in Connecticut in the Greenwich area, but trying to promote US investment in Britain. And I'm sure a lot of you in this area have come across the regional development organisations for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and so on, and my job was to cover New England, based in New York, and so I was always on the road, going round 128, 495, calling on Mom and Pop shops, the biotechs, the Fortune hundred companies. It was great fun. One of the ones I called on was down in Rhode Island, called G-Tech, which happened to be the company which now runs the lottery which we were setting up in those times. So that was a fascinating period.

During the time in New York, too, we happened to be there when the Princess of Wales visited, and promoted a British toy exhibition at FAO Schwartz, and our children were presented to her then and, as you probably remember, Thomas the Tank, and all that industry, which was very popular. And I know that the Princess loved New York as a city.

In those years we came to know and love the US and all aspects of it. Our kids very much integrated into the US educational system. We collected the fridge magnets of the states, which some of you may remember with fondness, and I think we acquired something like 38 of them, so we travelled through many states across the country. And our kids got into Little League, and the baseball, and we got interested in quite a serious way in baseball and learned, as I don't think how many of you know, that in fact Great Britain were the first World Baseball Champions in 1938. So if ever you feel inferior here to your American friends, just mention that to them, and very few of them will know that. It's down in the official literature. 1938 was the year.

After New York we went to Venezuela, a country which we knew very little about, but is, as you know, mainly known for oil, one of the major exporters in the world, and in fact the gold mine of other minerals too, if that's not an odd phrase to

During the time in New York, too, we happened to be there when the Princess of Wales visited, and promoted a British toy exhibition at FAO Schwartz, and our children were presented to her ... And I know that the Princess loved New York as a city.

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use, but they literally have everything you could think of, as well as under-exploited tourism, agriculture – it's a very beautiful country. It has some of the most spectacular beaches and archipelagos off the shore, mountains, wild life parks, they are spoilt for choice.

Then we had a spell in London, and I was forced to get used to British commuter rail again. This was in the late eighties, early nineties – the joys of cricket – our kids went to school the first time where they learned cricket, having been brought up on Little League and baseball. And we discovered, much to our surprise, that there was a rural Surrey still in existence. I don't know how many of you know that, but it's still, much to our surprise, it's the most beautiful parts of Surrey. John Rankin, whom you know well, actually was a close neighbour in the sort of West Byfleet-Horsley areas, and we used to meet him at the local super markets there, quite a few years ago.

Then I had a spell in the late nineties, till 2001, as head of Non-proliferation Department, which was dealing with things like weapons of mass destruction, the Iraqi weapons inspections, India, Pakistan, Iran, North Korea and so on. And also armaments exports, and this was in fact during the last EU presidency headed by the UK, which is about to come up again in July this year, and we negotiated what was the first EU code of conduct on arms exports, which is still in existence. It is the first agreement between all the states to consult on grounds of stability, human rights, and so on, what you should sell in terms of armaments.

So there we are – we've reached Cuba, 2001, Lynda and I and, in fact, our whole family of six children went off to Cuba. We had a daughter who was going to teach at the International School there, one other daughter in college, and four attended the Grand Academy, which is known as the International School of Havana. To give you an idea of the size, is something like 220 kids from the ages of three to eighteen, which has a British Principal – I should say a Welsh Principal – but is the only international school, as you would expect, in Cuba.

Overall, I think Cuba have been one of the best postings one could ever have in the Foreign Service, mainly because it is a foreign country. It's a very unusual country; it's a very beautiful country; it's a big island - it's the same dimensions as Greece, in terms of square mileage, square kilometers and population. It's about the length of Florida, so you're talking of almost a thousand miles from east to west. It's not a minor sort of sun, sand, sugar Caribbean island.

There's also a British connection, which is quite interesting, dating back to 1762. The British had a dispute with the Spanish fleet in Havana harbour, and got the better of the Spanish, and succeeded in occupying Havana for about ten months, until, in 1763. We then traded it for Florida in a deal at the Treaty of Paris with the Spanish. So if you look –if you ever see Jeb Bush speaking, with a sort of podium, he has the state flag of Florida in front of him, you will see the Union flag of Britain still, I think, in the state flag of Florida, because that dates from those days. If you just think we traded Cuba for Florida, or Havana, at least, for Florida.

The second major interest - before I move on to someone called Fidel Castro - the second major British interest is Churchill's connections with Cuba. In 1895, just before his 21st birthday, he took his first foreign adventure in Cuba as a war correspondent. He was a war correspondent, on the Spanish side, who were fighting to defend Cuba, as a colonial power, from the independence forces, who were subsequently joined by Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, who secured Cuban independence in 1902. Churchill was there, as a 21-year-old - he actually celebrated his 21st birthday in Havana – sending these dispatches back to London, doing his sketches from Old Havana of the hotel he stayed in, which is called the Hotel Inglaterra, the Hotel of England. One of the things we did, when we were there in the embassy, was to get one of his grand-daughters, Celia Sands, to come out and lecture on Churchill's connections. Churchill was meticulous about keeping records, so he kept in the archives, now at Churchill College, Cambridge, a letter he had written from the Hotel Inglaterra to his mother, in 1895, on the notepaper of the Hotel Inglaterra.

Overall, I think Cuba have been one of the best postings one could ever have in the Foreign Service ...

We presented a facsimile of this letter to the hotel at that time.

Churchill then came back to Cuba later– of course he'd created this image of the Cuban cigar. The Cubans were eternally grateful to him for promoting one of their great products. He'd been made a Freeman of a city, which he never visited in Cuba, Pinar del Rio, which is the centre of the cigar trade, and he came back to the Hotel Nacional. Now anybody who's been to Havana knows that. It's the great traditional 1930s hotel on the Malecon front, and he spent several weeks in 1946 in this hotel, in the Presidential Suite, and he worked on his speech where he mentioned the Iron Curtain – the Fulton, Missouri speech, I'm sure you've all heard of – in Cuba. So it's interesting. Right at the beginning of his adventures, and towards the end of his life as an international statesman, Churchill had those two connections with Cuba.



Fidel Castro: 46 years in power, coming up to his 79th birthday. He's actually the same age as Her Majesty the Queen, strangely enough, born in 1926. He's created an economy which is still very closed. There have been a lot of phases, of course, when he was dependent on the Soviet bloc, up until 1990, and he had nationalized most things. He promoted the communist ideology. He used the Soviet largesse of oil supplies and industrial goods, to create his public services of health and education. But he has always used international connections basically to maintain control. I think most analysts would see his main objective in life has been to organise the country and maintain control. He's used - and we can go into this a bit if you're interested – the US measures, which were

first imposed by Kennedy in 1961, to create an atmosphere of the hostile neighbour. Here's the big empire imposing sanctions: trade, investment, tourism and so on, on us, to prevent us becoming truly independent. Because of course Cuba in the first half of the twentieth century was, I suppose, not exactly a US satellite, but very much in the axis of US industrial and commercial power.

Castro is now in a very close relationship with Venezuela, as you may know. Chavez, the President of Venezuela, is supplying him with cheap oil, if not free oil, and they're very much interlocked in terms of exchanges. There are twenty, thirty thousand Cuban doctors due to be in Venezuela by the end of this year. So it's a very close relationship. Again, he has foreign support.

But conditions for ordinary Cubans – I mean one could go into a lot of the swings over 46 years, and what he's created in public services – conditions for ordinary Cubans are not good, it's fair to say. We knew a lot of ordinary Cubans. We've been to a lot of Cuban homes throughout the island. They are not allowed to start businesses, to travel, to choose careers, to build homes. There's very little property available. You can't buy or sell property in Cuba, you can only barter it, so there's very little new building. So if a couple wants to get married and start a family, they basically move in with a mixture of extended family, in-laws, the lot. So it's a very unstable environment. There's very little private enterprise allowed, a bit in tourism, a bit in some guest houses, taxi drivers, but they're heavily taxed, and the majority of people have to follow a career determined for them by the government.

There's very extensive control on information, press, TV, internet access is very limited. Some have email, but it's very expensive. The average Cuban salary, and these are the official figures, is \$12 a month. A doctor would perhaps earn \$15 a month. Just last month Castro raised the minimum wage from \$4 to about \$9 a month, and they said that officially 1.5 million of Cuban workers actually benefited from that raise in the minimum wage. So it's not a country where people have much in the way of spare cash at the end of the month. They are heavily dependent on family gifts, from the families in Miami, and we can talk a bit about that if you're interested, which of course is a

major factor determining US policy towards Cuba. Many of them, perhaps fifty, sixty percent, certainly in the Havana area, get family remittances through Western Union and other means, of maybe \$100 a month, which you can see, in Cuban terms, is very well worth having.

The EU policy has been, particularly since 1990, when the Soviet bloc collapsed, and the UK policy as well, to engage critically with Cuba, both with the government and with the opposition, with the Church, and with civil society. So we don't accept the rules the government seek to impose.

There has been quite a lot of European investment, a lot of British and European tourists go there. We are the major aid donors. We have tried to do things like invite the peaceful opposition, the church, alongside the government, to meetings, to official receptions, and our houses, to encourage openness, to encourage tolerance. But still there are quite a few political prisoners in Cuba. Most people live in fear of overstepping the mark. If you visit there, you will find people very reluctant to talk in public, openly, about what they really feel should be done, because there are so many informers around, that the likelihood is they will be slammed in gaol.

I think Cuba has a bright future. They are quite well educated, as I've said. It has enormous natural assets. Which other country in the world is 35 minutes flight from Miami, with hundreds of mile – literally hundreds of miles - of virgin beach with nothing on them? There are airports there. Anything will grow. It has eco-tourism. It has nickel, substantial deposits in the east of the country. So it has a lot going for it, if the government allows people to build their lives, and you adopt a sort of individual enterprise tax-paying system, you can maintain public services.

There we are. It's a career which is work in progress. I don't think we're finished yet, although you never know with the Foreign Office. We've had a great year at Harvard. As Tim says, we've learned to know and love Marblehead and, despite the last week, we haven't been blown off course by living there. We hope to maintain roots with this area wherever we go in future, and I'm sure we will come back. And I have to confess we're even Red Socks fans, and this comes from people who used to go to Yankee Stadium quite regularly in the past. But there we are. Thank you very much.

I think Cuba has a bright future.

The Massachusetts State Cricket Club Fixtures

July 2005				
Date	Home Team	Visiting Team	Venue	Details
Saturday, July 09 12:30 pm	Caricom S.C.C	Star C.C of N.E	Franklin Field II	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'A'	Commonwealth C.C 'A'	Wrentham I	
	Guyana C.C	Middlesex S.C	Roberts Field	
	North Shore C.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'B'	G.E Field	
	United Athletic Association	Melbourne S.C	Almont Park	
Sunday, July 10 12:30 pm	M.I.T C.C	Conway C.C	Franklin Field II	
	Caribbean Cultural Center	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'C'	Franklin Field I	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'B'	Commonwealth C.C 'B'	Wrentham I	
	Eagle C.C	Combined Islands S.C	Wrentham II	
Saturday, July 16	<u>International Tournament Games</u>			
Sunday, July 17 12:30 pm	Star C.C of N.E	M.I.T C.C	Franklin Field II	
	Commonwealth C.C 'A'	Guyana C.C	Bedford	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'A'	Middlesex S.C	Wrentham I	
	Caribbean Cultural Center	Melbourne S.C	Franklin Field I	
	United Athletic Association	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'B'	Almont Park	
	Eagle C.C	Commonwealth C.C 'B'	Wrentham II	
Saturday, July 23 12:30 p.m.	Commonwealth C.C 'A'	Star C.C of N.E	Bedford	
	Caricom S.C.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'A'	Franklin Field II	
	North Shore C.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'C'	G.E Field	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'B'	United Athletic Association	Wrentham I	
	Melbourne S.C	Combined Islands S.C	Almont Park	
Sunday, July 24 12:30 pm	Conway C.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'A'	Franklin Field I	
	Middlesex S.C	Guyana C.C	Franklin Park	
	M.I.T C.C	Commonwealth C.C 'A'	Franklin Field II	
	Commonwealth C.C 'B'	Caribbean Cultural Center	Bedford	
	Combined Islands S.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'C'	Roberts Field	
	Eagle C.C	Melbourne S.C	Wrentham II	
Saturday, July 30 12:30 pm	M.I.T C.C	Guyana C.C	Franklin Field II	
	Commonwealth C.C 'B'	Melbourne S.C	Bedford	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'B'	North Shore C.C	Wrentham I	
	Eagle C.C	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'C'	Wrentham II	
Sunday, July 31 12:30 pm	Conway C.C	Commonwealth C.C 'A'	Franklin Field I	
	Star C.C of N.E	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'A'	Franklin Park	
	Caricom S.C.C	Middlesex S.C	Franklin Field II	
	Commonwealth C.C 'B'	United Athletic Association	Bedford	
	Boston Gymkhana S.C 'C'	Caribbean Cultural Center	Wrentham I	

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, 4 November 2005
for the

BRITISH CHARITABLE SOCIETY BALL
at
Harvard Club of Boston

A Black Tie Dinner-Dance



Bring your friends! Join us for a fun and elegant evening—the Society’s first ball in over 60 years!

Friday, 4 November 2005, 7:00 p.m. to Midnight

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and dancing to acclaimed Boston swing band *Kahootz*. Silent Auction and Raffle.

To guarantee your space, order your tickets now! Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1400 for a table of ten if booked by 31 August; \$175 per ticket or \$1750 per table from 1st September. Contact: Diane at 781.674.0498 OR see details on our Web site at www.britcharity.org. Please note: tickets are non-refundable.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

The British Charitable Society is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization. Tickets are deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by law.

For comments on, or corrections to this newsletter, please call or email Michael Dawson: 617-492-9588; michael.dawson@verizon.net
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