



CHARTER

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Society Officers

President - Tim Hunt
Vice-president - Kathy Tunsley
Executive Secretary - Susan Dugdale
Treasurer - Charles Platt
Recording Secretary - Jackie McGrail

Executive Committee

Jan Carrigan
Alastair Drummond
Simon Eccles
Bob Groom (Past president)
Geoffrey Hall
Eileen Morley
Geoff Mullis (Past president)
Simon Sherrington
Paul Stanislas
Roger Tunsley

Presidents Message

by *Tim Hunt*

The recent past has been a roller-coaster of emotions for many of us. I watched television on September 11th with dry-eyed horror; I learned of friends who had been murdered by those terrorists; I saw the stock market tumble out of bed after already falling with a thump; I listened to economists predict a recession; and, just yesterday, another airline disaster. How bad can things get? Where is the good news?

Actually, it is right here for us to see. The enormous bravery of the firefighters and police; the patriotism and coalescence of support behind our leadership; the first real steps to combat world-wide terrorism; initial successes in what the Economist called "A heart-rending but necessary war"; the coming together of so many countries in this campaign. It has been heartening to witness the stirring messages of support and action from Tony Blair that keeps the very special relationship between our two countries alive. Finally, we now observe that forecaster of the future, the stock market, claw its way out of its slough of despond and climb a wall of worry to levels above September 10th.

All this is written just after November 11th, when we remembered so many who gave their lives, that we might live as we do, at the annual service at Old North Church in Boston. It was a full house. It was a very traditional service of Morning Prayer. We sang God Save the Queen. The pipes played. The choir was spectacular. We listened to Simon Barnes deliver his second sermon at this service in three years. The reception in the crypt afterward was replete with sherry and a table of goodies.

Now, we look forward to our celebrations of Thanksgiving. But, where has the British Charitable Society been in all this upheaval? The Executive Committee has been working diligently to develop and respond to cases of need which we can help appropriately. In fact, this work has been so effective that we have already "spent" in assistance more than we are required to spend by IRS rules for the full year. This is much further ahead of the game than in all the years that I can remember. This will actually require us to use some of our principal. (Anathema to our adopted Yankee heritage!) More seriously, it does actually raise the prospect of appealing to our membership for donations, though we are a long way from doing so.

(continued)

Newsletter: Roger Tunsley, 12 Rhodes Avenue, Sharon MA 02067
Tel: (781) 784-7955 Email: rtunsley@mediaone.net

President's Message (continued)

The cases of charity which we have been helping have been largely developed directly by members of the Committee in fulfilling the conditions we lay out in the typical relief described in the brochure recently mailed to you. Some social service agencies have also helped. As always, we get a number of referrals from the British Consulate-General, though we consider ourselves by no means an arm of the Government. As always, we solicit referrals of cases of need from the general membership. We do believe that the cases we are able to help are those in which we can make a real difference. In several cases, our assistance is the only help, apart from Social Security, if any, that the individual receives.

So my message to you at this time of year, when we look forward to the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas, is to thank you for your support of our charitable efforts by your membership in the Society. Some of you may wish to serve on the Executive Committee at some point and we would love to hear about that. Rotation of officers wouldn't be a bad thing either, if there are those willing.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Henry C. Flory

Henry Flory was the oldest living President of the British Charitable Society, in which office he served the Society in 1940. We heard with sorrow of his recent death. He had a remarkable life. We recently welcomed two of his daughters at Old North Church on November 11th. His obituary follows:

Henry Cyril Flory, of 80 Village Green East, Pinehurst, died September 5th following a brief illness. He was 91 years old.

Henry Flory was born in Overton-on-Dee, Wales, United Kingdom on August 28th, 1910. At the age of six months, he moved with his family to India, where his father was medical director for the Assam Frontier Tea Co. Ltd.

Henry returned to England in 1919, where he attended Stonyhurst College, a Jesuit boarding school where he excelled in rugby, until 1927. From 1927 until 1930, he studied at Brasenose College, Oxford, preparing for a career in the Indian Civil Service.

Doubtful as to the long-term prospects for British Civil Servants in India, and hopeful for opportunity even in the midst of the depression, Henry left Oxford - and England - and emigrated to the United States, landing in Boston on March 11th 1930. In Boston he worked for a series of investment firms, as well as co-founding the Boston Rugby Club.

Following the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, after briefly serving as British Vice-Consul in Boston, he joined the Royal Air Force (RAF). As a pilot in the RAF Ferry Command, he spent the war delivering B-17s, B-24s, and other aircraft from the United States to Great Britain, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia.

After the war, Henry Flory returned to Boston and enjoyed a successful career in the investment business. He retired in 1960 as Vice-President of Keystone Custodian Finds, Inc.

In 1954, Henry married Elizabeth "Betsy" Wyche, daughter of Maj. Gen. (ret.) and Mrs. Ira T. Wyche of Pinehurst. The Florys lived in Southern Pines from 1954 until 1970 when they moved to New Hampshire. In 1985 they returned to Pinehurst. Henry Flory was an avid golfer, bridge player, sailor, and horse enthusiast. He served as co-chairman of the Stoneybrook Races, and raised Hereford cattle at his farm in Aberdeen. He was a founding member of the Country Club of North Carolina, and a member of the Wolves Club of Pinehurst.

Henry Flory is survived by his wife Betsy; his children Peter Flory, Elizabeth Williamson, Christy Chandonait, and Janet Snell; and his grandchildren Henry, Seamus, Fiona, Xavier, Isabelle, and Mairaid Flory, and Molly and Savanna Snell. A sister, Alexandra "Zandra" Flory died in 1987.

A private funeral was held on Saturday September 8th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinehurst, followed by burial at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. September 29th at Sacred Heart Church. Donations may be sent to the Sandhill Childrens Center at 1280 Central Drive, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Finding New Cases

by Susan Dugdale

The 'phone rang on Friday of last week - it was my contact from a **community action program** in western Mass. Nothing particularly unusual about that, except that her call was to give me details of a British woman in need of some financial help. Nothing unusual about that either, except that this was the fifth referral this year from the same woman working in the same office in a pretty small town in rural Massachusetts.

As I scribbled down the details of this latest case, I actually began to think that this was getting to be quite easy!

When I became involved with the British Charitable Society two years ago it seemed such a daunting task; to seek out British people in some need, pry into their private lives and then persuade them that we could help them out and expect nothing in return!

I guess the first thought that crosses most of our minds is one of disbelief that in this day and age, **anyone**, let alone a transplanted British person, could be in such dire circumstances. And, even if they were, most of us are so insulated from the really harsh realities which attend being poor in America, that we wouldn't know where to start looking for them.

At the Annual General Meeting in May some members asked the question; "how can we help find cases?" The reply was general, but it caused me to think about the cases we were currently helping and how we had found them. In virtually all respects, with the exception of emergency situations often arising from contact with the Consulate, it came down to only two activities, **awareness** and **networking**.

Two years ago I found a list of British clubs and organisations and sent them a copy of our brochure and a letter introducing myself. I followed that up with a phone call and a promise to stay in touch. It would be unfair to say that this exercise was a resounding success. In fact it yielded only a couple of replies, an invitation to a 'brown bag lunch' and a small footnote in a publication similar to this.

However one conversation switched on the lights of a dear lady on Cape Cod who ran a British club. She introduced me to an elderly disabled couple who were spending their savings on home health care to avoid being separated and another single lady whose monthly income was pitifully low, but who still managed to take care of others in her community.

So, whilst I had at first been somewhat disappointed with the response, I realised that what had only amounted to a couple of days effort, had in fact been quite successful in bringing in two cases.

I also realised that maybe British clubs and organisations were not likely to be the best investment of time.

As luck would have it, (there's always some luck isn't there?) an old case became reactivated and in the process of checking it out I was introduced to the organisation I mentioned at the beginning of this piece. It would be nice to say that the penny dropped and it's been plain sailing ever since, but it didn't and it hasn't. Although throughout this year I have learned so much about the various aid organisations and how ubiquitous they are and now realise how very easy it would be to answer that question from the AGM.

The **community action program** exists in most towns in the State. It is funded by both State and Federal funds and also from donations from the United Way. It is linked to nearly all the aid agencies which are listed in the

yellow pages. Therefore if any one of the members wanted to start the process of finding new contacts, the simplest thing to do would be to phone one of the agencies dealing with either **housing, mental health,** or the **elderly** and get a lead into the **community action program** office in your area. Once in contact, send them a brochure and follow up just once. If just one third of the members did that over the coming year it would probably yield ten cases!

I have been very surprised by the number of British (actually English) people who find themselves in distress in just that one small area of our state. My case worker tells me that they are not that rare and if contact were made with agencies similar to hers all over New England we would find many more ‘Brits’ like those we’re currently helping. The agencies themselves are motivated by our existence. Their funds are limited and the help they are able to offer is, as a result, quite limited. The sound of a British accent often means that individual might be helped and funds saved for another deserving case elsewhere.

Massachusetts is hoping to introduce a statewide 211 emergency number for people in financial difficulties. If we create enough awareness of our existence and keep networking with the caseworkers we should be an automatic call when help is requested.

Good luck - I would be interested in swapping notes with anyone who’d like to get involved in any particular area and sharing specific ‘phone numbers if needed.

As the Board has become more active and the number of cases increases, it is interesting to note how truly diverse our help can be.

During the summer months we received a letter from one of our recipients who lives on Cape Cod. We thought you may be interested to know how the money we send her every month has affected her circumstances.

Before she came to the attention of the BCS she lived on a very modest income of less than \$600 per month. She managed quite well, but lived pretty frugally, eaking out what she could to run her car, which was her social lifeline. She loves amateur dramatics and is some demand as a ‘grand English lady.’

Here’s an extract from her letter:

‘I would like to say a sincere thankyou to the British Charitable Society. This year the money has enabled me to keep my car on the road. It needed 4 new tires, new brakes and a hit and run destroyed the wing and mirror, (estimate \$495 - just under the deductible!). With your help I was able to get everything fixed and stay mobile for yet another year, even the huge increase in the price of gasoline would have crippled me without you.’ She enclosed a couple of rave review notices of plays in which she’d acted.

Sometimes our help is dramatic, often times it is small amounts that make such a difference.

Annual General Meeting Report

The 184th Annual Meeting of the British Charitable Society was held on Thursday, May 24, 2001 at 7:15 p.m. in The Union Club, 8 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Twenty-eight members and three guests were in attendance.

Tim Hunt opened the meeting by thanking those present for taking the time to attend. Mr. Hunt thanked Mr. Howard Johnson, who was not in attendance, for the use of the Union Club under his membership.

Tim introduced Mr. George Fergusson, Consul General. Mr. Fergusson apologized for not attending a meeting sooner, and brought greetings from the British Government. He also thanked the BCS for all the good work that we have done, and embarrassed Kathy Tunsley by thanking her. Kathy is the link between the BCS and the Consul General's office. Paul Stanislas was also introduced and congratulated on receiving the honour of the Order of the British Empire. Tim then introduced the officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Recording Secretary's Report

Jackie McGrail reported that we currently have 172 members of the Society. We have gained four new members (one of which was in attendance, Ms. Marjorie Fergusson) and, unfortunately, one member died (Mr. John Owens) throughout this year.

Treasurer's Report

Charles Platt presented the treasurer's report, noting that 2000 was a record year in that the Society distributed \$39,600 to individuals; this was up from \$28,000 the previous year. This represents a 50 percent increase over the past five years. The BCS has gotten to the point where we say, "are we spending too much," rather than "we are not spending enough."

The Society holds approximately \$850,000 in assets. Even with the rough market, our investments have been kind to us giving us a 5 percent total return for the year 2000. Accordingly, we did not suffer too much from the poor markets. We received a clean financial opinion from Mr. Lloyd McManus, CPA.

President's Report

Tim then read a quote from our brochure stating that the Society's original purpose was "the relief of poor and destitute Britons, affording aid and consolation in their afflictions; and useful information to British emigrants arriving here." Mr. Hunt stated that this was written back in 1816, and he believes that we are still fulfilling that purpose. We are currently disbursing approximately \$2,600 monthly to eight individuals. This along with special one-time payments totals approximately \$40,000 yearly in relief. The BCS also helps individuals through advice and moral support. We receive many of our contacts through Kathy Tunsley at the Consul-General's office along with Susan Dugdale, our Execu-

tive Secretary, whose telephone number is listed in the brochure. Mr. Hunt also thanked Dr. Eileen Morley who has been instrumental in procuring cases. He stated that we are currently on a roll and it seems to work best when individuals bring cases to our attention. By law, we have to spend 5 percent of our assets or the government taxes us at a 100 percent rate. We also receive deserving cases through social service agencies and hospitals, since, as individuals, we tend not to come into contact with individuals in need. Our brochure has been helpful to these different agencies. In particular, one agency in Greenfield who has given us a few deserving cases. Mr. Hunt reminded members that they are also welcome to bring cases to the Executive Committee's attention.

Tim described the process of incoming cases and how we handle emergency cases. Once a case has been approved, we continue to have active participation with the individual and periodic reviews of the case. Unfortunately, social security does not fulfill the needs of many persons, which is where the BCS can help and make a difference.

Tim asked for questions from members. It was discussed how the brochure was a godsend. Susan Dugdale described it as a "wonderful vehicle," but sometimes it can take six to twelve months for a result from it. It was decided to send copies of the brochures to all BCS members.

Society Website

Roger Tunsley told members about our website and gave members the address:

www.britcharity.org

Recently, this website has been linked to the Consul General's office which may help outsiders find us more easily as it has been difficult to find in the past.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Tim thanked Ms. Joan Biggers and Ms. Enid Wissa for serving on the Executive Committee. Dr. Ed Willett, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following list of officers and executive committee:

- Timothy J. Hunt - President
- Kathy Tunsley - Vice-President
- Susan Dugdale - Executive Secretary
- Jackie McGrail - Recording Secretary
- Charles C. J. Platt - Treasurer
- Simon Sherrington, Paul Stanislas, Jan Carrigan, and Eileen Morley - Executive Committee

By-Laws

Mr. Frank Morrison revised the By-laws in the 1960's. Each member of the BCS received a copy of the proposed revised By-laws along with their AGM package. They have had time to review and examine them. Mr. Hunt reported that he had heard from one BCS member who did not feel that the proposed changes in the By-laws relating to active and associate members were appropriate. This member felt that the BCS would "lose its British character." It was discussed at the May Executive Committee Meeting and decided unanimously to leave the text as is and present the revised By-laws at the AGM. The revised By-laws are only stating what has been the actual practice throughout recent years. One of these changes is that the Executive Secretary does not receive a salary. Another change was the dollar amount of a check that requires two signatures.

Tim thanked Geoff Hall for all the time and effort he put forth revising these By-laws. It was not an easy job, and he did it wonderfully.

After further discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the revised By-laws.

Other Business

Dr. Eileen Morley introduced Ms. Marjorie Fergusson from Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone was a British colony until 1961 when they gained their independence. Ms. Fergusson recently visited her home and described the history of Sierra Leone, the demographics and the conditions in present day life. She also described how her sons and herself came to be in the United States and how grateful she was to her sponsor, Ms. Peggy Sibley, who, unfortunately, has recently passed away. She stated that the only hope her hometown, Freetown, has for peace currently is the British Forces that are there, and therefore, is extremely grateful to them. Mr. Hunt thanked Ms. Fergusson for her time and extremely interesting speech.

Tim declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Address by Mr. Jim Cooke

We were then entertained by a witty and extremely interesting address by Mr. Jim Cooke. Mr. Cooke is an accomplished actor and speaker who has made a special interest of several well known figures of British and American history, such as President Calvin Coolidge. Mr. Cooke relates tales from their lives, taking on their personas as he does so, thereby almost bringing them back to life and into the room. A fine finale to the evening.