



Charter



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The Newsletter of the British Charitable Society

September 2007

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Letter from the President

The Voice of the Society



Charles Platt

How many times have you tried calling a business or “service” provider, only to be met with an artificial voice that says “To continue in English, press 1” and quickly takes you into a recorded message hell that even Kafka could not have envisioned. How different then, when faced with a dire emergency, to find that there is a real, live person who answers the phone at the British Charitable Society. For the past 9 years, Susan Dugdale has been that person. As the contact

person for the outside world, she is the one who gets the frantic call from someone whose electricity is about to be shut off; she is the one who has to try to make sense of a situation that is always emotional; she is the one who has to try to gather the necessary information from an often distraught caller to determine if the case meets our criteria for providing help. When you are in the sort of situation that many of our clients find themselves, just hearing another English voice on the phone is enormously comforting. Time and again over the past 9 years, Susan has taken hours of conversations with a potential case and distilled them down to a few paragraphs so that the Committee can make a decision. She has visited personally with many of our cases in order to provide first-hand reports back to the Committee. She has been, for many, the voice of the Society. With her recent move to Colorado, her responsibilities as Executive Secretary have now been taken over by the team of Gill Sherrington and Jane Ollerhead. We are extremely grateful to Susan for all her hard work over the past years. Fortunately for us, she has kept her home in New Hampshire and continues to attend Committee meetings.

It has been another busy summer for the Executive Committee with the usual crop of cases involving utility disconnections, moving expenses, first and last month’s rent and return flights to the UK. All of these cases have met with a timely response from the Committee and all have been helped in one way or another. We are fortunate that our endowment has benefited from the strong stock market of the last few years, so that we have been able to help these cases. Our successful fundraising efforts of the past couple of years (Black Tie Balls and Annual Appeals) have also strengthened our financial position, but there is more work that needs to be done if we are to continue to do so. The need is growing all the time.

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
Jan Carrigan
Steven Clark
Michael Dawson, Editor
Jacqueline Greenlaw
Robert A. Groom, OBE (Past President)
Timothy J. Hunt, MBE (Past President)
Thomas Keown
Geoff Mullis (Past President)
Valerie Nelson
Jane Ollerhead
Bruce Lee Rogers
Gillian Sherrington

The Annual General Meeting May 24, 2007

Thanks to the good offices of Executive Committee member Jacqueline Greenlaw the AGM was held this year at the Consulate-General's facility in Cambridge. This was an ideal setting. Not only is there a large space for the reception before the meeting, but from One Memorial Drive there is a magnificent view across the Charles River to Beacon Hill. Our Executive Secretary Susan Dugdale arranged for a nourishing collation, and there was time to catch up with old friends before the meeting began.

There are four parts to the meeting: the Treasurer's report, the election of new members to the Executive Committee, a review of the past year by the President and an address by a distinguished speaker.

The Treasurer was able to report a healthy increase of 18% in our endowment, thanks to the efforts of the Finance Committee. As a result we were able to pay out \$55,066 in relief.

Four people were nominated and elected to the Executive Committee for two-year terms:



Steven Clark

Not available

Valerie Nelson



Jane Ollerhead



Gillian Sherrington

We were fortunate to have as our speaker this year a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who has been taking a graduate course at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge. Richard Crowder summarized for us his Master's thesis in which he made a comparison of the relationships between two American Secretaries of State and their respective Presidents – (General) George Marshall with President Truman, and (General) Colin Powell with President Bush. Obviously there were both similarities and contrasts between these two pairs, and the differences had profound effects of US foreign policy. It was a brilliant analysis and provoked some thoughtful questions afterwards.

Two weeks after the AGM, Mr. Crowder gave the Graduate Student of the Year's address to an audience estimated at 32,000 at Harvard's Commencement. The text is reproduced below.

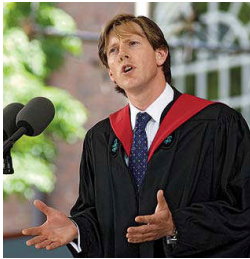
He will be returning to London this summer before taking up a post in Brussels with Javier Solana, who represents the European Union's collective foreign policy. We are grateful for the time he took to be with us at the AGM, and we wish him the best of luck in Brussels.

Harvard Commencement 2007 - Graduate Speech Richard Crowder Kennedy School of Government

Ghosts in the Yard

Some of you may have entered Harvard Yard today through the Meyer Gate, over to my right, which leads across to the Science Centre and Memorial Hall. There is an inscription there, with a quotation from Ralph Waldo Emerson describing a Harvard Jubilee in 1836. One sentence in particular has always struck me: *"Cambridge at any time is full of ghosts, but on that day... a far longer train of ghosts followed the Company - the long unwinding train reaching back into eternity."*

Ghosts in the Yard. Perhaps it is a morbid idea on this day of celebration. But today, we are all here with our ghosts: people who were instrumental in bringing us to Harvard; people who have guided us in our lives; people who we wish could be with us, but cannot.



**Richard Lawrence
Crowder at Harvard
7 June 2007**

Let me introduce you to a couple of my ghosts. As I stand here, I think of my two grandfathers - Lawrence Crowder, and Robert Styles. Lawrence was English, Robert Irish. Both fought in the First World War: Lawrence in the trenches outside Ypres, Robert in the dust of Palestine. We still

have a wrinkled photograph of Robert standing in the Garden of Gethsemane after British forces entered Jerusalem in November 1917. I didn't know either of them personally, but I carry their names in my own, and those images, along with fragments of family stories, have followed me through my life.

Others of you will also have ghosts touched by war, and many far more recently so than in my case. After all, such horrors are never far away. Indeed, the last time that I was in such a large crowd was in July 2005, when, along with thousands of others across the United Kingdom, I stood in silent defiance of the British-born bombers who had just added London to the list of cities scorched by terrorism. I did so that day in Whitehall outside the British Foreign Office, where I was working - and opposite the Cenotaph, which was erected in 1920 to commemorate the dead of the First World War. My ghosts felt very close to me on that silent morning in the sunshine.

How can we respond to their call? Harvard has shown me how varied and powerful those calls can be. I think of one classmate from Chile, inspired by the murder of his uncle during the Pinochet era to establish a charity addressing child poverty, or another from Korea, whose grandparents had fled the north, and led him to create an organization helping political refugees. I feel humbled by such noble achievement at a young age.

Harvard hasn't made me feel any more intelligent, and indeed there have been many moments during this year when I felt less so. But there is a sense of possibility which pervades this place, and which can make us each rise to the call of our ghosts.

For me, that vocation is the work of a diplomat. I leave here for Brussels, to serve on the staff of Javier Solana, who represents the European Union's collective foreign policy. As it happens, I will be

working just a few miles from Ypres, where my grandfather fought.

When I contemplate the job ahead of me, I realize Harvard has taught me that listening will be the hardest part. It is all too easy to react to what others are saying with our own views. But finding the space in which to digest, and moving to a response which heals rather than perpetuates conflict, is a much harder task. It forces us to accept that there is no monopoly on the truth.

Let me give you just one example. Sixty years ago, at this very ceremony, one of America's greatest diplomats—George Marshall—launched the aid plan which would carry his name. In a masterful statement of soft power, matching the hard power of NATO that would emerge two years later, he pledged to use American money to enable the countries of Europe to rebuild after the Second World War. But he did not seek to tell the Europeans how to spend that money: the program obliged them to come up with their own ideas. And the Eastern Bloc countries were invited to participate too. Marshall wanted all sides to listen and collaborate. We can only speculate what ghosts stood behind him, a veteran of almost fifty years' military service, as he gave that speech.

Listening; understanding; inviting others to share in the work before us. In Europe, we have taken a long time to learn these lessons—and we're not there yet. I wonder if, in this new century of uncertainty and opportunity, the world will build on that experience, rather than learning it all over again. You, my classmates, have given me hope. Our time here has challenged us to have courage and do those things which would give our lives meaning, which would lay our ghosts to rest, and continue the best of their work. Let that challenge follow us as we leave here today. For, after all, our ghosts will be watching us.

Richard Crowder

The New Website

Thanks to Chris Hall our new look website will be up and running very soon, though perhaps not quite by the time you get this newsletter. We expect it to be a little more user friendly and will contain new information. We'll let you know when it is finally unveiled.

One interesting thing is the growth in the use of the

website. Although the number of visits is modest – just under 8,000 a year today - nevertheless the growth rate of these visits has been impressive. Year-to-date for the first eight months of this year the increase has been just over 52%. We are excited by the prospects of an expanded rôle for the website, both for making it easier for our applicants to reach us and to keep our members abreast of what is going on. Please have a look and let us have your comments and suggestions.

The Garden Party

Wow! was the word on everyone's lips as they enjoyed the wonderful garden of Fred Rice in Manchester-by-the-Sea on Saturday the 15th of July. Mmmm! That was the second most commonly uttered word as all the guests enjoyed a good old British tea party.

The day dawned bright and warm and got brighter and warmer as the sun rose in a clear sky. An intrepid band of volunteers descended on Fred's garden in the late morning and proceeded to transform it into a tea party haven. The garden, for those of you who have never seen it, is a warren of winding pathways of grass and old brick, with raised beds containing lush tall shrubs and trees on each side. At every turn there seems to be a new surprise; a doll-house here, a clearing with a chair and table there. At the end of several pathways are larger seating areas, gazebos, and for one a shed with chairs and cushions resembling a rustic wooden Wendy house. This was especially popular with the lady guests who seemed to be taken back down memory lane as they sat in the shade and sipped their tea. The leafy canopy and open breezy seating areas kept a coolness in the garden that defeated the strong heat of the day. It was easy to sit back, listen to the birds and insects, smell the mixed scents of honeysuckle and rose and wish you would never have to leave.

The garden was the main draw of the day, but the tea party ran a very close second. The tea, of course, was proper. Boiling water, steeped, milk-in-first tea poured from china teapots into china cups and saucers. None of your tea-bag-in-a-cup-of-warm-water here. And the food was spectacular. Bakewell tarts, Victoria sponge, butterfly cakes, chocolate fancies, scones, trifle, and innumerable other goodies were on offer.

Out in front of the house was yet another delight, this one appealing to the men at the party. Several people were kind enough to bring their classic British sports cars. Pride of place, perhaps even the MG owners agreed, went to an immaculate and gleaming example of British engineering and American restoration - a beautiful Morgan. Also present and correct and shining like rosy-cheeked children were several MGs; a midget and two MGBs.

The aim of the day, of course, was to have fun and raise money for the Society. Both aims were met in magnificent fashion. During the day, the Society held a bake sale, a raffle, and had various British goods for sale. Many of the raffle prizes were donated by local businesses - Manchester by the Book donated an excellent landscape design book; Harbor Sweets of Salem donated chocolate, a gift bag and factory tour; Newbury Perennial Gardens gave some lovely plants for the plant stall; and North Coast store in Manchester gave a gift basket. Foodies Feast in Marblehead helped out by contributing sandwiches and scones. Because of their generosity, the kindness of Fred Rice in opening his garden, and the hard work by members of the Society and their friends, the event raised over \$2300. Well done to everybody involved. When are we doing it again?

Roger Tunsley

Photographs of the party may be found on page 7, and on the BCS website: www.britcharity.org.

Going for a Burton

**Say, for what were hop-yards meant,
Or why was Burton built on Trent?
Oh many a peer of England brews
Livelier liquor than the Muse,
And malt does more than Milton can
To justify God's way to man.**

A Shropshire Lad

On September the 18th some 30 thirsty BCS members and their friends went forth to East Walpole in search of some good English beer. They found it at the British Beer Company, a pub which sells over 30 kinds of British beer on draught, plus many more in bottles, and which is designed to being as close as possible to the snuggerly at The Bugged Ploughman in Nether Wallop, with the likes of which we are all familiar.



This is what they say about themselves:

“The biggest BBC to date! With an interior created and built in England by pub craftsmen, the newest British Beer Company location is an ideal melding of the best of Britain and America. Located along Route 1 South and all of 3 miles from Gillette Stadium, the BBC Walpole further expands the BBC pub experience and embraces new friends in our new neighborhood.”

Well the pub turned out to be as good as it said it was, and the evening was further highlighted by Guy Bennett’s compèring of a Pub Quiz. (Do you remember the hilarious one in *The Vicar of Dibley*?). The prize was won by the “Roses and a Thorn” team, composed of Roger Tunsley and seven ladies. Question: How does Roger do it?

A good time was had by all, and the rumour is NOT true that claimed that one disoriented guest, on leaving, hailed a taxi and asked to be taken to his flat in the Earls Court Road.

Pictures may be seen by clicking on the link at the “Events” page of the website, underneath the paragraph on Pub Night.

Book Review

The Iraq Commission Report

by The Foreign Policy Centre

Free download from:

<http://fpc.org.uk/fsblob/861.pdf>

119 p.

ISBN-13: 978-1-905833-10-8

ISBN-10: 1- uk9058833-10-5

On July the 14th this year, The Foreign Policy Centre, a London think tank launched “under the patronage

of Tony Blair”, released the comprehensive report of its Iraq Commission. This tripartisan Commission had almost enough peers on its masthead to constitute a quorum in the House of Lords. Its Co-Chairs, for example, were:

Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, also known as Paddy Ashdown, former leader of the Lib.Dems.

Baroness Jay of Paddington, or Margaret Jay, responsible, as leader of the Lords, for the removal of most of its hereditary members.

Lord King of Bridgwater, Tom King, former Conservative MP for Bridgwater in Somerset, and former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The nine-member Commission was not without its luminaries either, e.g. the likes of Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Sir Pail Lever and Lt. Gen. Andrew Ridgway.

The Commission interviewed 58 witnesses, who were also among the great, the good, and the expert, e.g. General Sir Michael Jackson.

The point of rather boringly rabbiting on like this, dropping all these names, is to show that this Report is a very serious effort, by some very competent people, to suggest a way for HMG to sort out its role in the Iraq mess. They make 34 separate recommendations, which they have mercifully reduced to eight in the Executive Summary. We will try to be equally merciful and summarise this summary of recommendations to HMG as follows:

- Preserve and underpin the territorial integrity of the Iraqi state.
- Support a strong federal internal structure
- Promote the constructive engagement of Iraq’s neighbours.
- Keep al Qaeda out of Iraq
- The promotion by the UK of a political effort, under UN Security Council auspices, and involving Iraq’s neighbours, to provide international treaty protection for Iraq’s borders.
- A new high level UN envoy to facilitate reconciliation
- The refocusing by the UK of its activities away from military operations and training, regardless of the prevailing security situation.
- An economic road map with emphasis on the

liberalization of the Iraqi economy.

- Support of the UNHCR in addressing the refugee problem.

This is a well-written report, and therefore easy to follow. If you read the four-page summary, you are likely to know more about the UK's stance on Iraq than anyone else in the room at any given time. If you carefully read the whole report, then you are an automatic expert, you will qualify to be a witness in any future studies - and you may well be awarded a peerage.

Coming Events

Armistice Day

November the 11th is a Sunday this year, and there will be a Memorial Service at the Old North Church in Boston's North End, beginning at 11:00 am.

"Scots Wha Hae"

The Scots Charitable Society of Boston, founded in 1657, has the distinction of being the oldest charitable organization in the United States. The Society is celebrating this milestone with a St. Andrew's Dinner and Dance on Saturday, the 17th of November, at the Masonic Hall in Quincy, MA. Entertainment will feature The Brigadoons and the Sylvia Calder Highland Dancers. Tickets are \$40 and may be obtained by calling 781-662-6760 or 978-535-7949.

Christmas Party at the Consul-General's Residence

Plans are under way for a Christmas party for BCS members and their friends at the Consul-General's residence on Wednesday December the 12th, probably from 6pm to 9 pm. There will be mulled wine and sherry, and an assortment of good Christmas fare provided by BCS Committee members.

Musicians are being invited to accompany the evening, and there is a hint of carol singing. Donations will be requested.

Details will be forthcoming; meanwhile, please save the date.

Next Year's Ball

It's over a year away, but we have at least picked Friday November the 7th as the date for our next ball. Please don't schedule anything else for that date!

From the Consulate-General's Website, (courtesy of Ms. Melissa Murphy)

ART: Jem Southam: Upton Pyne

One of the most significant photographers working in Britain today, Jem Southam creates photographic narratives of landscape transformed by time and man. Upton Pyne chronicles six years in the life of an unprepossessing pond near the photographer's home in Exeter, Devon. From 1996 to 2001, Southam returned regularly to the site, recording the changing seasons and tenants attempts to make improvements to the landscape.

28 August - 30 December 2007

Yale Center for British Art
1080 Chapel Street
PO Box 208280
New Haven, CT 06520-8280
203 432 2800 | ycha.info@yale.edu

CELBRATION: Boston Brits Halloween Party

The Colonial Cavaliers and Boston Brits will once again be hosting its Annual Halloween Party. Those that have been before know that this is an event not to be missed.

Saturday, 27 October 2007

Umbria
Boston, MA

For more information:

<http://www.biginamerica.net/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=5&qid=156>

MUSIC: Cross Border Orchestra

The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland is a celebration of youth, music and peace in Ireland for this generation and future generations. Through the power of music, the orchestra's goal is to empower the young people of Ireland to help their country heal, renew and transform.

Saturday, 03 November 2007 2:00pm

Boston Symphony Hall

For more information and tickets, visit:

<http://www.crossborderorchestra.ie/links.html>

TEA PARTY PICTURES



Tim and Jane Hunt



(l-r) Tracey Wilmot, Christine MacDonald and Jacqueline Greenlaw



Louise Fisher (l) and Gillian Sherrington (r)



Jacqueline Greenlaw (l) and Joanna Manwell



**The Star of the Show
Steve Manwell's Morgan**



And it tasted as good as it looks

Please send suggestions, complaints and comments to the Editor:

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