



CHARTER



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The newsletter of the British Charitable Society

June 2006

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The Annual General Meeting, 25 May 2006

It was a remarkable AGM. For one thing, it set in motion a number of radical changes among office holders, but at the same time it was a matter of *le plus ça change ...* In other words, we played musical chairs. It was also reminiscent of the last day of school in the summer term when the headmaster puts on his robes and awards prizes for excellence. "While it is true that the first eleven lost all its matches this term, nevertheless the team played with as fine a spirit as I have ever seen, and more than worthy of everything that Bleak House stands for". Do you remember? But the evening also had the air of a party. Friends greeted friends, old and new. Everyone seemed happy to be there.

One happy note was that Charles Platt – the Treasurer as he still was – was able to report that income from the endowment has been encouraging, although, at the same time, demands for our help exceeded that income, meaning that vigorous fundraising is still in order, e.g. next November's grand ball (see page 9).

As to our game of musical chairs:

- Tim Hunt stepped down from the presidency, but will remain a member of the Executive Committee.
- Charles Platt was voted to be President
- Kathy Tunsley stepped down as Vice-President, but was voted in as Treasurer.
- Susan Dugdale was voted to be Vice-President in addition to her position as Executive Secretary.
- Jackie McGrail stepped down as Recording Secretary, and Peggy Hunter was voted to assume that position.
- Jacqueline Greenlaw, a longtime member of the Society, was voted in as a member of the Executive Committee.

Everybody got that? There will be a test later on to see if you have mastered this material.

Now the prizes:

- Tim Hunt was given a crystal bowl from Tiffany's.
- Jackie McGrail received a silver pen, also from Tiffany's.
- Tim Hunt presented Charles Platt with the Society's Jewel, and
- Jane Hunt presented Renia Platt with the former Ladies Auxiliary Jewel
- Charles Platt presented flowers to Jane Hunt. The Hunts are currently celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.

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
Thomas Keown
Geoff Mullis (Past President)
Gavin Nathan
Bruce Lee Rogers



Charles Platt

CHARLES PLATT - PRESIDENT ELECT

As mentioned above, Charles Platt was elected President of the British Charitable Society's Annual General Meeting on the 25th of May. Educated at Sherborne School and Exeter University, he was called to the bar in England in 1975, and to the Massachusetts bar in 1976. From 1976 to 1981 he was with the law firm of Palm & Dodge in Boston, and joined Fiduciary Trust in 1981. He has been a member of the Society since 1990 and its Treasurer since 1996. The following is his summary of his remarks at the AGM.

Tim Hunt has been involved with the British Charitable Society since 1961. 1961! Let's think about that for a moment.

Jack Kennedy was President; John Volpe was Governor of Massachusetts. The Russians put Yuri Gagarin in space; the Americans responded by sending up Alan Shephard. The Berlin Wall was erected. The population of the world was 3 billion (it's now 6 billion). The US population was 183 million (it's now 300 million). The federal budget was \$100 billion (it's now \$2.3 trillion) and US Gross Domestic Product was \$545 billion (it's now \$12.5 trillion).

In the world of sports, the Yankees won the World Series, although the Celtics were in the middle of their ten-year domination of the NBA. Rod Laver won the first of his four Wimbledon titles.

West Side Story was nominated for 11 Oscars and won ten. Dag Hammarskjöld was awarded the Nobel Peace prize. A first class stamp cost 4 cents; a year at Harvard cost about \$1,500.

I list these facts, not to show how much information is available if you are willing to spend half an hour on the Web, as to remind us how much has changed. Because one thing has not changed over that 45-year time span: Tim's amazing dedication to helping his fellow countrymen and women who, for one reason or another, find themselves in straitened circumstances. Over those 45 years, Tim has been involved with the distribution of over \$1 million of relief and his care and attention have changed the lives of literally hundreds of families and individuals. We have heard about some of those cases at past AGMs and he told us of a few more at this Annual Meeting.

Not everyone may know that Tim and Jane are celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary this month. We want to thank Jane for sharing Tim with the Society for that entire 45 years and also for the fact that she was involved as a member of the Executive Committee for much of that time. A simple "Thank you" seems very inadequate.

Tim is leaving some awfully big shoes to fill. I will do my best but even with all the good will in the world, I don't think I will come close to his 45 year record of service. We look forward to his continuing presence and advice at Executive Committee meetings. On behalf of all those whom you have helped: "Thank you very much".



Charles receives the Society Jewel from Tim Hunt



The Society's Jewel

Tim Hunt's AGM Address



Timothy J. Hunt, MBE

Several months ago, a prominent British author, who lives in western Massachusetts, was awarded an OBE and he agreed to be our speaker for tonight. But then he discovered he had a research opportunity in Britain for his next book at just this time, so he had to excuse himself from this commitment. We tried to find someone else of general interest to the membership, but were unsuccessful. Then I suggested that I could reflect on the period I had been associated with the British Charitable Society and, for some reason, the Executive Committee thought that was a good idea. So, you're stuck with me for this evening.

I tried to figure out when I first became involved with the BCS, but I can't pin it down. I think it was 1961 or 1962 (around the time Jane & I got married....which I do remember!). I had recently started my career in the investment management business and the Committee at the time thought this might be useful.



Renia Platt Receives the former Women's Auxiliary Jewel from Jane Hunt

Ronnie Forth OBE had been president from 1952 to 1961 and was still very active. He had also, by the way, been president of the British Officer's Club in the critical years of 1938-1940 and 1944-1945 when he was instrumental in keeping going that club's war effort of offering rest & recreation to visiting British & Commonwealth servicemen. Ronnie was an interesting fellow and always seemed to live an expansive life style. Always drove a Cadillac. He was in the leather business which had a district all to itself near South Station and he brokered hides for the shoe businesses of the time. He was reputed to have made, lost and won several fortunes, but he, and his wife, Dorcas, appeared to be doing well when I knew him. However, when he died (in the late sixties, I think) it transpired that he had no assets and had cashed in all his life insurance policies, without telling Dorcas, and left her penniless. As a result he is buried in the British Charitable plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Dorchester, and so was his wife when she died. While she was a widow, the BCS gave her a small monthly grant just as we do today to a few cases.



Tim Hunt with John Rankin, the Consul-General, at last November's Ball

Both before and following Ronnie Forth's tenure, Gordon Peacock, another OBE, was president and he was really the mainstay of the Society in the fifties and sixties. He was also a broker, this time of wool, in the wool district south of the Fort Point Channel. We used to meet in his office in one of those old buildings surrounded by samples of wool that he would physically take around to buyers in the district. The aroma of lanolin was very agreeable. Although Gordon continued to run the Society, in fact Bill Heaman was made president in 1965 as he had been a very loyal member of the "old guard" and was just tickled pink to have the title. Bill had (I think) been manager of the Harvard Faculty Club and so we always had our annual meeting and dinner there during those years. Also, this was a black tie event and Bill was always talking about the grand balls that the Society had in the pre-war years. How much he would have enjoyed knowing that we resurrected the event last November.

In the sixties and seventies, the principal beneficiaries of the Society were a relatively few elderly folk, both men and women, British of course, who were just able to get by with a small monthly stipend from us. Bob Groom will recall one of the newly widowed beneficiaries tugging on his sleeve at her husband's funeral to get his assurance that her monthly check would not be

cut. In the previous decade, the Society had helped a number of G.I. Brides to get home when the stories of life in the U.S. they had been told by their servicemen husbands turned out to have been exaggerated.

In the sixties and before, the Society responded to the needs that were presented to us and, in truth, the amounts paid out were not large. The balance of the Society's income from its small endowment could, therefore, be retained to increase the capital. The Tax Reform Act of 1969 changed all that and decreed that undistributed income would, in effect, be lost to the government, and that remains the case today. Clearly, the legislators wanted charities to be charitable. For many years thereafter, the Society needed to make year-end distributions to avoid the penalty. Often we chose the Victoria Home, an old age home in New York state "for aged British men and women", which duly served tea at 4.30 daily. Another annual gift was a small credit to the account of British and Commonwealth patients at the Tewksbury Hospital. These were mostly Canadians with various long term problems. However, when one BCS member delivering the check asked too many awkward questions about the institution's management, he was disinvited from visiting and we didn't continue that relationship. Other local charities also benefited from our left-over income, and Committee members came to the December meeting equipped with their favorite charity names.

As to my own involvement, I started becoming the investment advisor and manager early on. Initially, I found a few specific stocks (like AT&T) in the holdings and various savings bank accounts. The equity holdings were switched to, and increased with no-load mutual funds, and low interest savings accounts were reduced or moved into corporate bonds. As a result the Society benefited from the rise in the stock markets in those years, and the re-invested capital gains did not have to be paid out. Since then, the Society's portfolio has always had a substantial percentage in a diversified mix of mutual funds which has grown quite nicely to the \$700,000 that you see today. Interestingly, my early work on the Society's bonds was my first real introduction to fixed income investing. It prompted me to welcome a change in my work responsibilities from common stocks to fixed income halfway through my investment career, a time when my firm's business in that sector took off like a rocket.

When Bill Heaman retired in 1971, I became President and Bob Groom became Executive Secretary dealing with our beneficiaries and requests for aid. He had an office on the docks in South Boston and dealt with stevedores. We had our fair share of phonies looking for money, but very few got by Bob, though for real cases he had great compassion. I recall we gave some money to an Australian passing through Boston with a very sad tale; we always wondered about him. Then a few years later the same guy turned up with a different name. No money that time.

For as long as I can remember Brinton Watson was the Society's Treasurer. He was an officer at the Home Savings Bank, long since absorbed into other institutions. When he retired, Al day took over but he didn't stay in Boston long. As there wasn't anyone else on the Committee with much financial background, I took over as Treasurer and Bob Groom became President, holding that office for 15 years. He continued to deal with the cases and I with the numbers. So, our roles didn't change much. We kept going with handful of folk getting monthly stipends, for whom it was very important, cases referred from the Consulate, a few other special one-time cases, and our annual year-end, clean-out-the-income, donations. Bob's long service was rewarded very properly with an OBE, but his tenure came to an end unexpectedly in 1995, and Geoff Mullis became President until I took over again in 1996. Looking on the positive side, these events produced a favorable sea change in our activities. We started to market the Society, to look for cases to help, and to use up all of our income in direct charity. This was helped by many active members of the Executive Committee. I think particularly of Lansing Fair, Gill Packer and Eileen Morley, but everyone helped. Five or six years ago, Susan Dugdale became Executive Secretary and spends a tremendous amount of time dealing with the requests that now come in. It would be hard to function without her today. All other Committee members contribute in their own special way and I feel blessed to have been supported by such an energetic and effective team. What's more important, we have, I believe, made a difference in a far greater number of lives of individuals and families. We get many quite touching thank-you letters and some have appeared anonymously in the Charter. Obviously, privacy concerns restrict the naming of clients, but members will recall what we were able to do to help the special case of Max Preston, who is now back in

England and doing well, and who has allowed us to mention his name.

One program which has generated a great many inquiries and quite a few cases is the 211 scheme in Connecticut. This is a help line, similar to 911 for life saving emergencies that gives callers references of organizations that might be able to help. It is proposed to expand to Massachusetts and other New England states, so we shall have to be braced for even more calls. Our success in searching for appropriate cases to help is now more than using up our endowment income, and has prompted fund-raising efforts and requests for greater charity from our whole membership and their friends. Since membership dues are only a paltry \$45 for life, it seems only right to suggest our members enlarge their annual tax-deductions by considering the British Charitable Society.

As you know, we reinstated the annual ball last November after a gap of 67 years. This also required an enormous amount of work led by Diane Bailey-Boulet and her Committee, but it was so favorably received that we are committed to do it again this November 3rd. Mark it in your calendar. Finally, I was delighted that Charles Platt, our trusty Treasurer for the past 11 years, was ready to take over the reins and I hope he has the same kind of support that I have had.

Jackie McGrail

Jackie McGrail is stepping down as a member of the Executive Committee, and our Recording Secretary, after many years of faithful service. She has kept an accurate listing of our ever-growing and ever-changing membership, and has been responsible for our numerous mailings. Labeling 200 envelopes, stuffing them, stamping them and then lugging them to the post office is not a trivial task.

We have not been seeing much of Jackie lately, but we continue to hope that her busy life will allow her to make at least an occasional visit in the future.

Thank you, Jackie!

Perceptions of a 'New' Town By Joseph Pickerill, Vice-Consul, Press & Public Affairs.



Joseph Pickerill, Vice-Consul, Press & Public Affairs

As the wheels of my plane touched down into Logan on 1 April of this year I sat up, partly desperate to stand up again after a long flight, but curious also to get a full look out onto my new city. I will soon learn more about the wider New England region but my journey here begins with Boston. This is not the first time I've picked up and moved half way across the world for a job and nor do I think I am unique in that regard. In fact, of all the predictions

my old teachers would submit from time to time about what life will be like in the 21st century, the one that I believe has come true is that few people can expect to live, work and retire within the same community anymore.

Taking a broader look at this issue one can appreciate the sense of foreboding amongst major cities in terms of their ability to compete for jobs and a share of the increasingly global economy. With so many people equipped to pick up and move for the next best opportunity it is no small wonder that cities have turned to image consultants and strategists to position themselves as the preferred choice for employers and the public at large. One can no longer rely on industry to stay put and 'build roots' in the community. It is the community that must now provide the environment within which industry and its employees can thrive and it must re-evaluate this environment constantly.

As a newcomer to Boston, I have had the opportunity to meet some fascinating people and have been impressed by the diversity of this town. Coming from London I expected things to be a little more homogeneous and while that may be the case for which baseball team one *should* support that is

not so in the origins, views and outlook of each individual fan.

I am often asked what strikes me most about life in Boston compared to London and my reply has invariably been, 'very little'. That is to say, what strikes me most when comparing these two cities is how similar they are to one another. Both cities are gripped with the issue of competing in a truly global society, both have interesting histories that reach well beyond city limits, and both share the knowledge and acceptance that in a global society one cannot rest on one's laurels.

It is important to remember that while traditional borders remain people and particularly industry are becoming increasingly savvy about their choices. And, those choices have as much to do with the raw economic data as they do about the cultural opportunities and softer quality of life issues. It will be crucial for cities to remain forward thinking and global in their outlook as they contemplate their futures in the global economy. To do otherwise would fail to recognise that in today's marketplace everything is fluid and subject to change.

My perceptions of Boston are of a town that is progressive and outward looking. I believe the people of Boston have a history and ability to make their views known and I look forward to being a vital part of the vibrant city in which I have the fortune to find myself.

Consular Comings and Goings



**Kathy Tunsley Says
Goodbye
At the Consulate**

In the last issue of this newsletter we printed Goodbyes written by Kathy Tunsley (Management and Consular Affairs) and Terri Evans (Press and Public Affairs) at the Consulate. Then later the Consulate had separate parties for each of them. Your editor is hardly a party animal, but he was invited to both and can report that they were worthy send-offs for these two friends of the Society.

John Scaife will be

succeeding Kathy Tunsley, and Joe Pickerill will be succeeding Terri Evans. Melissa Murphy, who recently joined Terri, will be staying on. Both Kathy Tunsley and Terri Evans received warm letters of appreciation and gratitude from the Consul-General, John Rankin, and from the Ambassador, Sir David Manning. In addition Terri was presented with a citation from State Senator Steven A. Tolman for her "Exceptional representation of the United Kingdom and her tireless work in supplementing the implementation of the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland".

Jacqueline Greenlaw – New Member of the Executive Committee.



In 1997, Jacqueline relocated from England to Massachusetts due to her husband's work. After several months of playing tennis, sun bathing, shopping and partaking in morning coffee gatherings, she decided to do something more useful with her time and sought out voluntary

work. After careful consideration of her options, she applied to the U.S. government and secured a position working three days per week on the Massachusetts Governor's Alliance Against Drugs campaign, an extremely worthwhile and rewarding programme which demonstrated to schools, and through advertising, the devastating effects of taking drugs.

It was in 1998 that Jacqueline noticed a vacancy at the British Consulate General, Boston and submitted her curriculum vitae with excitement. The move paid off as she is still there today and works as Vice Consul (Consular), appreciating the role which demands a wide range of skills on a daily basis.

In addition, she is a member of a US-based Rapid Deployment Team, being deployed to scenes of disaster or crisis to help British nationals in distress. She and other members of her team were deployed last year following the devastating hurricanes in Florida, New Orleans and Cancun.

In her own time, Jacqueline is a Massachusetts-certified rape counsellor and volunteers for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Centre, advocating against domestic violence towards women, and providing support to survivors of sexual abuse.

For leisure, she enjoys hiking and biking with her husband around New England and aspires to visit every National Park in North America! She is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Welcome to New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Ms. Judith Coquillet
 Mr. Derek Gardiner
 Mr. Thomas R. Ollerhead
 Mr. Joseph Pickerell
 Ms. Tracey Wilmott

ANNE COVINA GOLDENBERG



Anne Goldenberg Was Taken by Surprise

On Tuesday March the 21st Anne Goldenberg retired from United Way after 36 years.

This was obviously an important day for her, but why was it also important to us? Read on!

A few years ago we realized that we may have been a little too modest for our own good. We prided ourselves on being one of the best-kept secrets in New England. But

as a result of that becoming modesty, not enough agencies knew of our existence, so that they did not know to make referrals to us, and many individual British people facing emergencies did not know that we there to help. So what to do?

United Way may be thought of as a wholesaler of charitable help, channeling funds to many charitable organisations and agencies throughout New England. Our researches soon brought us to

United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and to the Director of its Special Fund, Anne Goldenberg. The Special Fund specializes in agencies which give emergency aid, and sometimes will deal directly with individuals in urgent need. In that respect the Special Fund does very similar work to the British Charitable Society, although, of course, on a much larger scale.

So we made an appointment with Anne and she opened her arms to us. She connected us with the large, amorphous helping network around Boston, and, by extrapolation, showed us how to become connected throughout New England. In particular she educated us about the colossal computerized databases (2-1-1) which are available to individuals and to organisations looking for help. Connecticut has been up and running for some years now, Vermont opened last year, and Massachusetts is due to be open and manned this summer. The rest of the states are not far behind.

Anne has always been available to us, always returned telephone calls, and even invited us to her famous “info-sharing” sessions at the United Way offices. So we have reason to be grateful to her, but, besides that, like everyone else, we were drawn to the compassion which shines through her like grace through a sacrament.

So there was a secretly planned party for her in March. Thinking it would be gauche to arrive right at the starting time of 3:30 pm, we arrived shortly before 4 pm, just as Anne was being escorted up the steps by the Chairman of United Way of Massachusetts Way. Not knowing what was in store for her, she asked us, “What are you doing here?” We waffled something about “Oh we just happened to be in the neighbourhood”. Then she caught sight of the balloons, and the streamers, and the cheering crowd, and the game was up.

We had lots of speeches, there was a cake and presents (we sent flowers). A mixed bag of state pols with fixed smiles made appropriate remarks, operating in their sincere mode. There were laughter, stories and tears. Anne rose to the occasion but was clearly overwhelmed. It was all like a love-in out of the 'sixties. So she retired, as she has done so many times before. But hearing of someone in need is, for Anne, like a war horse hearing the call of a trumpet. So will she be content to look out of her window in Belmont and watch the grass grow? We strongly doubt it.

PUB NIGHT

By Thomas Keown

(It was Thomas Keown who suggested that this event be held at Doyle's Irish Pub, so he must be held at least partly responsible for what happened there)

BRITISH OCCUPY BOSTON IRISH PUB Munching Marauders Cite 'Charity' as Reason for April Invasion

(April 27 2006, Jamaica Plain, Mass) – Shock and surprise reverberated through the local Irish community after close to forty British men and women descended upon Doyle's Irish Pub in Jamaica Plain last night, armed with ravenous appetites and sharp wits.

The group, later revealed to have links with the British Charitable Society – a shadowy New England organization with secret monthly meetings in abandoned downtown office buildings – took possession of the pub's revered 'Menino Room' and refused to leave until the last of the landlord's Pickwick Ale and the waitress's patience had been exhausted.

"There was nothing we could do," said Fergus O'Mallery, manager on duty at Doyle's on Thursday. "Some of my junior staff wanted to intervene and fight back, but for their own safety I couldn't allow it. It was obvious that for some of them this was their big night out of the year and they were serious about their ale. Nothing was going to get in their way."

The crown forces, deceptively attired in civilian clothes with frequent flashes of flair and splashes of style, left a trail of fish bones and empty pint glasses in their devastating wake. They were clearly enjoying themselves and were intent on doing so regardless of the consequences. The laughs, cheers and tall tales belted from rambunctious lungs betrayed an abject lack of sympathy for the senseless slaughter of scrod that fueled their furious fiesta.

"It was unbelievable," said Todd Kropp, a JP resident and Doyle's regular who happened to be

dining in the bar that night. "In America we typically see the Brits as all about old hats, old English, and sober staidness – but by-and-large a peaceful bunch. These folks exposed that as mere myth."

Experts in international gastronomical disorder this morning speculated that the clash was not the result of spontaneous over-exuberance sparked by a year of impatient anticipation – building since last spring's curry night – as some have sought to paint it. But rather was an act of premeditated abandon. Some have suggested that it was a last hurrah by outgoing Charitable Society President, Tim Hunt, eager to prove his mettle to members of the British Officers Club – a military organization he is reportedly eager to seize control of.

Others point more to those who weren't there in order to fuel theories of conspiracy:

"It is significant that no media presence was permitted," said Flavio Van Peebles of the Dutch Onion Ring Research Institute. "Even Michael Dawson from the Charter was absent and that is a clear sign that publicity was to be kept to a minimum. The

only pictures taken were by Mrs. Susan Dugdale, but they showed only the labels of scotch bottles, and Mrs. Dugdale is well known as a close ally of Mr. Hunt."

The British government moved quickly to distance itself from the rampage. "No members of Her Majesty's Government had any prior knowledge of last night's activities," said a Number Ten spokesman. "Not even John Prescott – although he would have come had he known about it."

Evidence in support of the premeditation allegations continued to build today as it emerged that former British Vice-Consul Kathy Tunsley was present just weeks after leaving her consular position to become a landscape gardener.

"It all seems just a little too coincidental," said Boston police Chief Kathleen O'Toole of the timing. "For both Tunsley and Hunt to have left, and be leaving, prominent positions just before this incident



I-r: Todd Kropp, Tom Keown,
Guy Bennett, Roger
Tunsley, Tom Boulet

suggests that they had been involved in planning it for some time.”



I-r: Steven Clark, Jane Hunt, Tim Hunt, Charles Platt, Renia Platt, Peggy Hunter

In a further blow to Tunsley’s protestations of innocence, police this afternoon found a pair of green Wellington boots strung over electrical wiring next to Doyle’s pub. Known as ‘tagging’, the stringing up of sneakers on overhead cables has become the premier means by which local gangs mark their territory in urban centers. Tunsley was unavailable for comment despite several attempts to reach her, but her husband, Roger, agreed to speak with reporters briefly.

“So that’s where they went!” he said. “She might at least have used her own.”

Reaction from around the world to the incident and aftermath was swift. President Bush described the action as a “proportionate response to an imminent clear and present threat of a hunger attack.” Bill O’Reilly of Fox News said that “This type of thing will continue to happen until we have secured our borders and deported all illegal immigrants. That will also give us better weather.” Mayor Menino said “Thereyelmphan” several times and left it at that. Brewers of Pickwick said “Wahay!” from gate 17, terminal A at Logan airport as they boarded a Delta flight for a three month vacation to Tahiti to celebrate a bumper end to the quarter.

It is unclear what action will follow and what charges will be brought against whom. But whatever happens, it seems unlikely that the British Charitable

Society can be reined in. They appear to be here to stay.

“This was a fabulous night of fun and friendship,” said Diane Bailey-Boulet, of the Society’s committee, in a prepared statement. “If members missed it, they really missed out. But we hope to see them at our November Ball. You think that Doyle’s was big? You haven’t seen anything yet.”

Photographs courtesy of Kathy and Roger Tunsley

A Thank You Letter

Thank you so very much for your kindness and increase in my monthly payment. I have been an educator for 20 years, an artist, and caregiver. I have been thoroughly engaged in the world for my entire life ... I certainly never imagined that I would be in such dire straits ... but life is unpredictable and health is a gift! Thank you! BE

(See? It is all worthwhile. Ed.)

Invitation to the Ball

Reserve now for the 3 November British Charitable Society Ball

By Diane Bailey-Boulet

Back by popular demand, the British Charitable Society Ball returns to the Harvard Club of Boston (Commonwealth Avenue) on Friday evening, 3 November 2006. It follows the enthusiastically received 2005 revival of this BCS tradition, which had last been held in the 1930s. The strong chorus from last year’s 200+ revelers was, “Please do it again next year!” And so we will.

The ball is a fun and elegant evening out—and, most importantly, it proved to be a vital source of charitable dollars for the society’s work helping people in difficulty. The need is real and in these days of rising costs for fuel and shelter, dire. Last year’s event was full—so we encourage you to gather your friends and book now to avoid disappointment. We will accept reservations until early October or room capacity has been reached, whichever comes first. We sincerely hope that you will join us. Photos from last year’s event are posted on the Society’s Web site, should you need further inspiration: www.britcharity.org

This year's ball fun will include

- a cocktails reception with complimentary whisky tasting courtesy of William Grant & Sons (makers of *Balevenie* and *Glenfiddich* single malt scotches); they have even hinted at a complimentary martini bar this year!
- sit-down dinner (with harp music for ease of conversation with your friends!)
- dance music by acclaimed band *Kahootz*
- silent auction.

Sponsorship opportunities available: a great way to highlight your business

We are actively seeking business sponsors for this year's event. The more sponsorship we have, the more of the proceeds we raise can go directly to the Society's aid mission. The event proved to be a great way to raise the profile of a number of businesses among our membership and friends last year. Please contact me for more details on 781.674.0498 or by e-mail: dbboulet@aol.com

Suggested next step: book now!

Please complete the accompanying reservation form and return it, with your payment, to Ms. Susan Dugdale, the Society's Executive Secretary, as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to a great night for a worthy cause!

Miscellany

Routemasters Revisited

(Our London correspondent, Mr. Anthony Cope, reports on the tenacity of Routemasters, despite mayoral attempts to retire them).

London, May 16, via email

A brief note in reference to the piece in the last issue about the Routemaster bus. In spite of Ken Livingston's efforts, the Routemaster still survives! They are occasionally used on the number 15 route, which runs right through central London. In fact, I saw one today on Fleet Street, while on the way to my office. They seem to run them on the part of the route that goes from Paddington Station to the Tower of London. I don't know whether they are in use anywhere else – I haven't seen them.

By the way, I assume that everyone recognised that the picture (in the March issue) was taken at Horse Guards.

Coming Events

The Queen's Birthday

The true date of the Queen's birthday is April the 21st, and this year she turned 80, a very splendid age to be. Her official birthday, when she reviews the troops at Horse Guards, is the third Saturday in June, which, this year, is June the 17th. On Sunday the 18th the flowers on the high altar of the Church of the Advent in Boston will again be offered to the glory of God and in celebration of the royal birthday.



The Queen during a Birthday Walkabout at Windsor (from the BBC website)



HMS Illustrious Spells It Out (from the BBC website)

From the Consulate-General's website

ART/FILM: Daria Martin's "Soft Materials"
Daria Martin presents a 16mm film projection of improvised movements between human dancers and robots. Daria has been living in London since 2002 where she was awarded an Artist Residency at Delfina Studios Trust. Her work is also in the collection of the Tate Gallery. This exhibit is part of MIT's List Visual Arts Center Choreographic Turn event. The artist talk will be held on 06 May 2006 at 2:30pm in the Bartos Theater.

04 May-09 July 2006

**MIT List Visual Arts Center
 20 Ames Street, Wisner Building E15
 Cambridge, MA 02139
 617-253-4680 - <http://web.mit.edu/lvac>**

EXHIBIT: Britannia and Muscovy: English Silver at the Court of the Tsars
This is the first U.S. exhibition of the superb collection of English silver from the Armory Museum of the Kremlin—the greatest surviving group of English sixteenth- and seventeenth-century silver in the world. Almost all of the silver from this period that remained in England was melted down during the English Civil War, making the examples at the Kremlin exceedingly rare and historically important. The exhibition features nearly thirty-six pieces of silver from the Kremlin collection. The exhibition charts the development of diplomatic, trade, and cultural ties between England and Russia from the time of Queen Elizabeth I through the reign of Charles II.

Organized by the Armory Museum of the Kremlin in association with The Gilbert Collection, London, and the Yale Center for British Art. The exhibition has been curated by Natalya Abramova with Yelena Yablonskaya from the Armory Museum of the Kremlin. The organizing curator at The Gilbert Collection is Director Timothy Stevens. At the Yale Center for British Art the organizing curator is Cassandra Albinson, Assistant Curator of Paintings and Sculpture.

25 May - 10 September 2006

**Yale Center for British Art
 1080 Chapel Street**

New Haven, CT 06520

203-432-2800 ycba.info@yale.edu
<http://ycba.yale.edu/index.asp>

BALLET: The Royal Ballet – Manon with Full Symphony Orchestra
75 Anniversary Celebration! Following its triumphant Boston presentation of *Swan Lake* in 2001, The Royal Ballet returns with one of Kenneth MacMillian's best-known and much-loved works, *Manon*. The Royal's *Manon* is a work of engrossing narrative and touching sadness that soars to romantic heights before plunging to its climax of despair and death. Tamara Rojo, who dazzled Boston audiences in *Swan Lake* returns in the title role of Manon.

15 June - 17 June 2006

**The Wang Theater
 270 Tremont Street
 Boston, MA
 617-482-9393**

INFO@WANGCENTER.ORG

www.wangcenter.org

ART EXHIBIT: Searching for Shakespeare
In 1856, the first portrait presented to the newly founded National Portrait Gallery in London was a work believed to portray William Shakespeare (1564–1616). How England's most famous poet and playwright actually may have looked had already been a matter of national interest for two hundred years.



Searching for Shakespeare will examine the representation of Shakespeare, bringing together for the first time in this country all six "contender" portraits. Originating from the National Portrait Gallery in London (on the occasion of that institution's 150 anniversary in 2006), the display at the Center will present the results of the latest technical analysis and research on several of these pictures, casting new light on the search for Shakespeare's authentic appearance. Organized by the National Portrait Gallery, London, in association with the Yale Center for British Art. The

exhibition's guest curator is Tarnya Cooper, 16th Century Curator, National Portrait Gallery, London. Elisabeth Fairman, Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Yale Center for British Art, is the in-house organizing curator.

23 June - 17 September 2006

Yale Center for British Art
1080 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06520
203-432-2800 ycba.info@yale.edu
<http://ycba.yale.edu/index.asp>

CONCERT: The Exeter Cathedral Choir
The choir of the Cathedral is a world famous organization made up of 17 Gentlemen and 40 boys and girls who are students at the ancient Cathedral school. This choir has been performing since the 13th Century and regularly tours the world. Their appearance on Cape Cod this year is the first ever. Tickets for each of the concerts are \$20.00 each and may be purchased in advance at the following branches of TDBank North: Hyannis (airport) Hyannis (Main St) Osterville, S. Yarmouth, Centerville, Buzzards Bay, Sandwich, Pocasset, Falmouth Palmer, Falmouth, Wareham, Mashpee, and Barnstable.

Friday, 28 July 2006, 7:30pm - Holy Spirit

The Church of the Holy Spirit.

204 Monument Rd.

Orleans, MA

Saturday, 29 July, 7:30pm - Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Parish

324 Meeting House Rd.

East Sandwich, MA

The choir is also performing at Sunday morning services at Holy Spirit and at St Mary's in Barnstable. They will sing a commissioned work at an invitation only Evensong service commemorating the 100th anniversary of St Andrews by the Sea in Hyannis Port on Sunday July 30th. For other information or questions please contact Bruce Johnson 508-775-0349 e mail: brucew.johnson@comcast.net

HIGHLAND GAMES: New Hampshire Highland Games

The games will be held at Loon Mountain in Lincoln New Hampshire. The NH Highland Games are one of the largest Scottish Games in North America and

they have been held at Loon Mountain for twenty-seven of the past thirty years. The Games are known for their artistic, cultural and athletic signature and have often attracted over 20,000 spectators in a single day.

22-24 September 2006

The New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans is a not-for-profit New Hampshire Corporation dedicated to the furtherance of the dance, music, athletics and customs of the Scottish people - and to the continuance of the Gaelic culture. The organization's headquarters will remain in Concord.

For more information about NHGSC and the Highland Games visit

www.NHSCOT.org.

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 Art
1080 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06520
203-432-2800 ycba.info@yale.edu
<http://ycba.yale.edu/index.asp>

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