



The British Benevolent Fund

British citizens in Spain in need

Cared for with benevolence



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Before slipping away for your summer break I thought you might like to know about some of the developments and activities in the British Benevolent Fund (BBF) since the Annual General Meeting held in March 2017. The record of the AGM can be found on our website www.britishbenevolentfund.org as well as details of our new partner charities and recent testimonials from British citizens that we have helped.

In summary, since the beginning of 2016 we have broadened the work of the BBF in attempt to reach more British citizens in need throughout Spain. There are less demands being placed on the Fund from the Madrid community but rather more from areas of Spain where there are higher concentrations of British citizens such as coastal areas and the islands.

The financial resources of the BBF remain healthy thanks to continued voluntary donations from those receiving this newsletter and particularly to those that have donated this year in 2017. As we now operate on a calendar year basis this Newsletter will act as a reminder to those of you who have so far not contributed to please do so.

It is anticipated that in the future the BBF may experience a higher demand on its funds as the realities of Brexit finally impact British citizens living in Spain. So far this has not occurred but it is considered that the reserves of the BBF are sufficient to meet this challenge. In fact, so far to date in 2017 the BBF is dealing with less cases than in 2016 when we helped more than 40 people and distributed more than €35,000 by way of grants.



In the Spring of 2017, the BBF held its second fundraising concert in London. A superb concert involving classical musicians trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London was held at St. Philip's Church in Earls Court. The audience was however rather less than anticipated and

it is not planned to attempt this again. Fortunately, support from the Willian Allen Young Charitable Trust for this event resulted in a positive financial result.



Also in May, with the support of a group of islanders in Majorca the BBF held a charitable auction chaired by local resident Lord Archer. A very entertaining evening produced a significant contribution towards our funds.

It is timely to remind everybody of the planned English Speaking Community Fair to be held on 21st September, 2017 in St. George's Church. An opportunity to meet other community groups and to promote local activities, it is also a chance to meet likeminded people.

Our flagship fundraising event will be held this year at the British Embassy Residence on 25th October, 2017, thanks to the generosity of Simon Manley CMG, HM Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, who has agreed to the use of his residence for a concert and reception. Entrance tickets will shortly be available on the BBF website, on a first come first served basis due to seat restrictions. Entitled "Classic Showstoppers" you can hear your favourite songs from opera, stage and film with professional musicians supported by the choir of Runnymede College.



The BBF continues to seek out new partner charities around Spain in order to reach more people in need. Led by the various British Consulates and supported by various charities, the BBF met recently with local charities in Barcelona in order to make more people aware of what the BBF can offer and how to access the funds. Previously a similar exercise had taken place in Alicante and it is planned to hold a similar event in Palma de Mallorca later in the year.

Various members of the Executive Committee have attended events in Madrid seeking additional volunteers. Summer fetes and bazaars as well as business groups have been addressed looking for skills to help in marketing and publicity as well as event management. The BBF needs these skills in order to make people more aware of what we do and reach more people in need. If you, or if you know somebody who wishes to contribute a small amount of time to help us please contact us at the email address below.

TO DONATE

Pay by PayPal or Credit Card: www.britishbenevolentfund.org

OR

By transfer to British Benevolent Fund IBAN: ES18 0081 2185 3100 0125 7232

OR

Send a cheque to: Treasurer BBF, C/Ayala 61, 28001 Madrid

TO VOLUNTEER: info@britishbenevolentfund.org



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