



British Citizens in Spain in need cared for with benevolence

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BBF Quarterly Newsletter – Summer 2018

Hello and welcome to the second BBF newsletter of 2018. In the space of three months we've been invited to the Ambassador's official residence, we have raised our profile and recruited a number of new volunteers through making ourselves visible at key events, as well as successfully supporting 9 cases across Spain and developing partnerships with like-minded charities in Torrevieja.

We would be delighted to receive your feedback, comments and encouragement. Most of all, don't forget to share this bulletin with others. Thank you for caring!

News

The second quarter of 2018 has seen some changes in the Executive Committee. After more than five years as the Case Support Officer at the BBF, Kim Stollard has stepped down (see feature, below) with her role being assumed by Chris Neill (see feature, below).



On 18th of April we attended a meeting with Vice Consuls of Spain. Accompanied by the Treasurer, Charlie Wilson and Case Support member Sarah Hughes, Stewart Cusden, Chairman of the British Benevolent Fund spoke in front of all the Consuls and Vice Consuls of Spain at the British Embassy in Madrid in order to communicate the availability of funds for British citizens in need.

To celebrate the marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, held a Garden Party at his official residence in Madrid. The British Benevolent Fund was invited, along with many other charities, to watch live on TV the wedding ceremony on Saturday 19th May 2019.



During the course of the day His Excellency Mr. Simon Manley CMG presented a certificate to the BBF Chairman, Stewart Cusden in recognition of the outstanding contribution that the BBF makes to the local community in Spain. In his comments the Ambassador said that he has always been impressed at how the British people living in Spain volunteer their time to look after others.

Stewart said, "I was this award on behalf of Executive Committee who devote their time other British people ourselves. It was also meet many of our all over Spain who by the British Embassy work they do.



very pleased to receive all those on the and our volunteers and skills in helping less fortunate than a great opportunity to partner charities from were also recognized for the outstanding

On the 25th of May we attended a CARE bi-monthly meeting in Torrevieja. CARE is a loosely affiliated umbrella organization that serves as a platform to give voice to various charities in the Torrevieja region, allowing for a coordinated collaboration between organisations. Stewart and Chris were met at the Alicante train station by Vice Consulates Sarah Munsterhjelm who drove them to the meeting that took place in the Quirónsalud hospital. Stewart presented the BBF, although many already knew of our existence, and explained how we are looking to expand our list of Partner Charities and that we are keen to collaborate.



We took a table at the highly successful Summer Bazaar at St George's Church on 9th of June where we handed out our beautiful brand new flyers, designed by BBF marketing team volunteer Victoria Silva Mora, and made many new contacts. Callie and Jenny were tireless in recruiting new volunteers. The more, the merrier!



Farewell Kim Stollard

Members of the Executive Committee of the BBF gathered at the Geographic Club, Calle Alcalá, Madrid to say farewell to Kim Stollard after a Committee meeting on 30th May.

After more than five years as the Case Support Officer at the BBF, Kim has been instrumental in developing a network of BBF partner charities throughout Spain and for providing a service to support many British citizens in need throughout Spain. Kim commented that it was time to move on to pastures new and thanked all those other members of the Case Support Committee who had supported her during this time.



She was presented with an inscribed silver plaque by the Executive Committee which recognized the valuable contribution she had made to the development of the BBF since registering as a national association in 2015.

Chris Neill profile

Chris Neill was previously a case support sub- committee member. He was born in Luton but considers Bristol to be his home. He has been in Madrid for over 20 years and has a BSc in Psychology with post graduate training in Gestalt Therapy and Cognitive behavioural Therapy.

Chris has worked in the drug treatment network of the Madrid Town hall since 2006.

“I’m very enthusiastic to be taking over the case support committee and working closely with the Consulates and our partner charities around Spain. Kim has done such a wonderful job over the last few years and has made the transition a smooth one. She will be greatly missed, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavours”.

“My main objectives in this new phase of the BBF will be to increase BBF visibility and to streamline the application process whilst strengthening working relationships with the Consulate FCO and with our Partners.

Although I could never fill Kim’s shoes, I am very much looking forward to the challenge”

Top Testimonial

Mr. AM came to Spain around three months ago with his mother who was long-term ill and needed care. It was intended to be a long-term holiday staying in a rented flat, however soon after arrival his mother was taken to hospital and died on 1 May.

AM had spent all his money on caring for her and visiting her in hospital.

AM was referred to the BBF by the Alicante consulate after he tried to get back to the UK on his own, but unfortunately ended up stuck in a service station on the AP7 with no money or petrol.

After liaising with the Consulate and with a very generous petrol station manager the BBF were able to get him a ticket for the Caen- Portsmouth ferry and transferred money to his account for petrol, food and drink for him and his faithful dog.

“Thanks ever so much. I am in England now Thanks for everything and all your concern and Kindness. I would not have survived without you.... thanks a million for being there when I needed your help”

Forthcoming Events

Make sure you save the following dates in your diaries:

- ✚ Thursday 13th September 2018 from 7pm onwards – **Fresh Madrid** fair at St. George’s Church for all English-speaking associations, clubs, charities and organizations based in Madrid. Hosted by the British Benevolent Fund, this event is key to raising awareness of our work among our peers.
- ✚ Thursday 4th October 2018 – 7:45- 10:30pm - Annual BBF Fundraising Concert at HM Ambassador’s Residence. Now in its 5th year, this concert is our most important fundraising event of the year. Last year’s concert raised over €4,000 for the BBF, thanks to the hard work, effort and generosity of all those involved. Tickets are limited! Put the date in your diary and register your interest for tickets by contacting Olaf Clayton at events@britishbenevolentfund.org