



British Benevolent Society
Benefiting Brits Since 1858

39th Remembrance Day Service



This year, we were honored to partner with the Royal British Legion to coordinate the Remembrance Service at Grace Cathedral. This moving service honors those who have fought and laid down their lives in the service of their country. It is a celebration of peace, recalling the valor of those who experienced the brutality of war and the true costs of peace. A special thank you to The Royal British Legion, The Royal Canadian Legion, The Caledonia Club, Cogers, St. Andrew's Society, and Daughters of the British Empire for their support. Also, thank you to Grace Cathedral, the Salvation Army Band, the Dunvegan Pipe Band, the Maritime Academy Honor Guard, the Sea Cadet Color Guard and British Consul General, Andrew Whittaker, for your continued participation in this Festival of Remembrance.

450 Bike Ride



Charles Cockerton, David Harding and 450 bike ride mates

In the summer of 2015, Board Member Charles Cockerton and former BBS CFO David Harding were discussing ways to celebrate the [Rugby 450 Anniversary](#) here in California. After a beer (or three) they settled on a 450 mile, 7 day bike ride; despite a complete lack of experience organizing such an event or riding anywhere close to that distance! With much assistance from family, friends and folks at the Rugby School, two years later the ride became a reality. On 24 September a dozen riders set off from Charles's house in the North Bay.

Given this was a celebration, not a race, participants were encouraged to ride as many days as work or other commitments allowed. Electric bikes were also permitted, though slightly ridiculed. However, ridicule turned to envy on the second day as the group climbed the 1500 foot Trinity Grade from Glen Ellen over to the Napa Valley. More on the journey [here](#).

Congrats David and Charles. We are thrilled you made it and were able to tell us about it!

Relief Update

Though we attempted to establish contact with Brits impacted by the fires in the North Bay, we received word of only three instances. If you are aware of a Brit impacted by the fires, please [let us know](#) or provide them with our contact details. In the coming weeks, months and years, those who lost their homes will rebuild their lives, and we hope to help wherever we are able. The mission of the BBS is to provide relief to Brits in need. With your help we can continue to get the word out about the organization and how we can assist.

The Relief Committee generally has a few ongoing cases or at least a steady flow of requests for assistance from a number of Brits. Recently, we have been working with a woman, in her 70's, living on her own in Santa Rosa. Luckily her apartment was not harmed by the fires, but she lives a very solitary life and needed a little help in keeping things



Karen with Sheila and her new chest of drawers.

in order. Karen Thomas, President, and Jenn Baker, Executive Director, visited with Sheila a few times over the past couple months. They helped tidy up her apartment, take a number of things to Goodwill, provided her with a new (donated) chest of drawers and helped make her home more inviting and comfortable.

Be sure to keep BBS relief in mind. Should you come across someone who needs a little compassion or help, [let us know about it](#).

BBS Christmas Dinner

When: Wednesday 6 December

Where: [Marines' Memorial Hotel](#)

Time: 6 p.m. hosted beer and wine reception and dinner starts at 7p.m.

The evening includes a raffle and carol singing accompanied by Scales of the City a San Francisco a cappella group.

Tickets are still available, but not many!



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