



British - Bulgarian Friendship Society



Membership Form

Pocket History and Aims of the Society:

- ✚ The BBFS was founded in 1952 with the aim of promoting **cultural understanding** between the two countries, as well as providing **information and advice** to British nationals about Bulgaria and Bulgarian nationals, now resident in the UK;
- ✚ Since 1970, the Society has been organizing **special interest tours** to Bulgaria to explore a vast number of species, including birds, butterflies, flora and fauna, landscapes and cultural monuments. BBFS also offers painting and folklore tours. The tours give you the opportunity to enjoy Bulgaria's wonderful mountain scenery, fine food and wine, long history, lively music and folklore scene and many sites, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The tours are organized in partnership with **Balkania Travel Ltd.**
- ✚ The profits from the tours allow the BBFS to support **charitable causes** and other relevant initiatives in Bulgaria, as well as Bulgarian students in Britain;
- ✚ The society provides **financial help for Bulgarian students** at British Universities;
- ✚ **It also provides support, contact and co-operation** with other persons and organizations, interested in Bulgaria.

Recent Examples of Charitable work:

- ✚ Since the year 2000, BBFS has produced £15,000 in donations for the **Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds**;
- ✚ Since 2005, the Society has donated over £4,500 to the **Seed Bank in Dobrinishte**. The seed bank is a garden, where medicinal plants are grown, seed collected and the stocks of plants built up. Local people are taught how to grow medicinal plants, rather than picking them in the wild;
- ✚ Since 2004, the BBFS has awarded **grants** to the amount of £12,500 to **Bulgarian students**, studying in the UK;
- ✚ Impressed by their conservation projects, the society donated the necessary funds for the provision of an information board in the small new **Green Balkans** reserve in Belozem;
- ✚ Previous projects have included repairing water supplies and wells in Bulgaria as well as organizing exhibitions and displays.

We offer to members:

- ✚ Three issues of the **BBFS Newsletter** per year, containing feature articles, book and film reviews, articles on recent and past social, political, cultural and environmental developments, discussions on art, history, culture, ecology and economic news;
- ✚ Various **events** for members, including talks, social events, cultural events, distinguished lectures, etc.
- ✚ **Information** on a variety of issues and events taking place in the UK and Bulgaria.
- ✚ **Individual response** to particular questions, raised by British or Bulgarian nationals.

Examples of events organized by the society (autumn 2010):

- ✚ On the 30th of October the AGM and a Social Event will take place, with Bulgarian Folk Music, the dancing group *Tanec*, Bulgarian Food and wine;
- ✚ On the 18th November our distinguished guest will be the Bulgarian writer **Emil Andreev**, who will deliver a lecture on “*The Problems, Encountered by Present-day Bulgarian Writers*” in the Bulgarian embassy.

Look forward to the *spring events* in 2011, which will include a Post Christmas meal and a traditional **Martenitza Social Party** on the 12th of March with Bulgarian dancing and music, wine and food.

To book and get information on tours, please contact: Annie Kay on annie.kay@btinternet.com or ring 020 72377616.

The subscription rates for the BBFS for the calendar year currently are as follows:

<i>London – travel zones 1 - 6</i>		<i>The rest of the UK</i>	
Individual subscription	£12	Individual subscription	£9
Joint subscription (living at the same address)	£17	Joint subscription (living at the same address)	£12
Individual - student, unwaged, O.A.P.	£6	Individual - student, unwaged, O.A.P.	£5
Joint - student, unwaged, O.A.P.	£8	Joint - student, unwaged, O.A.P.	£7
Local organizations	£20	Local organizations (national)	£30

Please tick the category to which you belong and attach a cheque, made to BBFS to the application form. Send to: **Keith Crees, Membership Secretary, 178 Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 9RN; Tel 01268 – 781843; e-mail: creesk@noranda.fsnet.co.uk**

Name:

Address: (in block letters, please?)

Home Telephone:

Mobile:

E-mail address:

I would like to serve on the BBFS Committee (please tick)

I am interested in:

My link with Bulgaria:

I am enclosing a **donation** of £..... For further information, visit our website: www.bbfs.org.uk