



# National Newsletter

- Salesian Past Pupils (Great Britain)  
- National President: Patrick Morrissey

Issue No 2

August 2002

This, our second issue of a National Newsletter is a compilation of the Reports made by the Local Associations to our last National Council meeting, which took place at Battersea. We have added some colour to the report by introducing colour photographs throughout the Newsletter - you may spot some people you know. We hope you like this issue and find it interesting.

If you have any small or large Salesian Past Pupil events that you would like included in our Newsletter, if you Email me a short description together with colour photos I will happily include them in future issues.

## **BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION**

*President: Nicholas Potter  
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*Mass Before National Council Meeting with Fr Sean Murray SDB- National Delegate, Fr Des O'Riordan SDB - Rector Battersea, Fr Peter Quinn SDB - National Delegate (Emeritus) and Fr Jim Pilling SDB*

## **Report to National Council**

My report for today consists of providing the results of the first ever Pupil survey conducted with our Year 11, who are of course about to take their exams and leave. The following points arise:

1) Having thought about the best method of retrieving the forms following distribution there was no doubt it would be a waste of time



*Late lunch in The Castle in Battersea High Street, after the meeting. Battersea Old Boys will know it well!!!*

asking for them to be posted back so I enlisted the help of the staff in the College and I could not have carried out this exercise without the full co-operation of the Headmaster and the Head of Year 11, Kevin Regan, who happily is a past pupil. Our sincere thanks to them.

2) It was timed to coincide with the departure of the pupils for study leave so that they were given the forms on Friday and brought them back on Monday the day before they left.

3) We gave them the option of anonymity, which only about a dozen or so took up. The remainder-over 100- chose to ask to be added to the database.

4) As the information only came to hand on Friday we have not had a chance to analyse it but a quick survey reveals very positive, informative and sometimes amusing feedback with many e-mail addresses.

5) It is our intention to incorporate the names and addresses on to the Battersea records and follow up with a letter formally welcoming them into the Association together with an invitation to the reunion in October in the day the exam results come out in August. I also hope to provide each one with a copy of the Millennium Newsletter at the same time.

6) After further study of the forms I hope to be able to find a few new recruits for our committee in particular I have in mind the post of Internet officer from this group.

7) Perhaps National Council members might consider it worthwhile using this data as the start of an over all UK database to be held centrally.

8) We will produce a summary of the results to go towards our goal of identifying exactly what our youngest members feel they want and perhaps also fine tuning the form itself.

## **POSTER IN SALESIAN SOCIAL CLUB AT EWELL ↓**

**Welcome to Old Salesians FC**  
1st XI Champions 2001/2  
Southern Amateur League Division 2  
Manager - JOHN McDONNELL  
Captain - MICHAEL AYRES  
Spiritual Advisor - DON BOSCO

## **Old Salesians Football Club: Review of Season 2001/2002**

### 1st XI Champions and promotion to SAL First Division

The Football Club 1st XI will play its 80th season (since formation in 1923) in the top Division of the Southern Amateur League. After a wonderful campaign over 22 games in season 2001/2, the team lost only one match, scoring 69 goals against only 21 conceded, and won the Championship with 53 points.

In a very young side, James Ayres was voted 'Player of the Year' for his outstanding performances at the heart of the defence. The team was also losing finalists in the Old Boys Invitation Senior Cup.

Both James and Michael Ayres were regularly selected for the AFA

Representative XI throughout the season.

The 2nd and 3rd XI's had less success but managed to avoid relegation. The 4th and 5th XI's were made up primarily of boys from the school, and despite playing the better football, were often overwhelmed by superior physical strength of their opponents. Both teams were relegated, but never lost their enthusiasm. We hope they will continue to play for the Club now that they have left school.

The Veterans XI continued to play Sunday morning 'friendlies', with stalwarts such as Terry Pearton, John O'Brien, Nick Potter and Pat Morrissey, joined this year by some younger players. Unfortunately this did not improve the results!

The Annual Dinner seating 65 people in the Ewell clubhouse was a hugely enjoyable occasion. Guests included the Rector, Fr Des O'Riordan, the Chairman of the AFA [John Wilson] and his wife, and 6 members of the PPA National Council.

The highlights were:

- a wonderful meal prepared by Mary Ayres and Chris Hayes
- the presentation of the Brother Herbert Memorial Trophy to 'Salesian of the Year' Michael Ayres, Captain of the 1st XI.
- the presentation of individual trophies to the 1st XI, [together with handbags bought for them by the ladies, to show their displeasure at the teams disciplinary record during the season.]
- a tribute to Pat Morrissey who was standing down from the Chairmanship of the Club, a position he had held for most years since 1965.
- a stirring rendition of the School Song led by the 'Old Gits'.

Financially the Club made a loss of around £1000, largely due to the payments to the School for hire of pitches [£2500], and the schoolboy teams requiring a heavy subsidy [covering their kit, footballs, pitches, referees and food]. This deficit was largely offset by the continued generosity of members of the Football club and Main Association via donations and participation in the 100 Club.

The Club's continuing success still relies on a limited number of volunteers

to provide leadership, administration and facilities at Ewell- and occasionally people remember to thank Mary and Mick Ayres, Kevin Lawler, John Doe, Chris Hayes, Doug Leach, Brian Malins, and the team captains, for making it all happen.

And now the Football Club starts its 80th season under the Chairmanship of Kevin Lawler, with Mick Ayres taking over as Chairman of the Social Club. Both look forward with optimism to a season playing against the best teams in the Southern Amateur League.

We would welcome supporters on Saturday afternoons at Ewell, where you can watch good football, have a drink, and are guaranteed to see some friendly faces.



*Ewell on Boxing Day 2001. Know any of them?*

*Pat Morrissey  
President OSFC*

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### **BLAISDON ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Charles Springett  
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### **President's Report**

Greetings Everyone  
Another great meeting of the Blaisdon P.P. over the weekend of 6/7th April. The Ruby Celebrations for Fr Sean Murray and Fr Aidan Murray at St Peter's in Gloucester was attended by over 200, including Old Boys, Families, Salesians, Ex Staff and Teachers and Blaisdon Friends. Fr Sean's Sister, Sister Bosco, and who had worked in the Vatican in Rome for many years, made the trip over to be at the celebrations. Among those attending were; Frs. Jim Pilling, Jim McGuire, John Gilheney, Damien Sturdy, Michael Fitzpatrick, Donal Daly, Garry Brassington, Pascal Dillon, Deacon Luis Navarro, Deacon Colm Robinson, and the Abbott of Prinknash Abbey. Among the Old Boys attending were; Len Carter 45/48, Kevin Cummins 49/50, Liam Duggan 48/50, Barnie Grace 45/46, Gerry Hines 43/45, Peter Landsborough 48/50, David Metcalf

46/48, Eric Nutter 41/43, Mike O'Brien 42/44, Terry O'Neill 50/53, John Plevy 45/47, Vincent Shaw 44/46, Norman Taylor 42/44, John Ward 46/48, Donald Whelehan 45/48, Lionel Wilkinson 39/40, Roger Alan 52/57, Chris McGrath 78/84, Tony Quinn, and some of their wives and families. We were pleased that the National President of Salesian Past Pupils Pat Morrissey and his wife was able to attend and witness the Blaisdon feeling, Also good to see John Lydon attend as well. Please forgive me for any names that I have left out.



*Blaisdon Annual Reunion. Sadly Edna Calder in Wheelchair recently passed away.*



*Reception for Frs. Sean and Aidan Murrays' Ruby Jubilee*



*Father Sean Murray SDB saying Ruby Jubilee Mass in St Peters, Gloucester.*

Over the past few months I have been traveling around including Chertsey, Battersea and Blaisdon and Gloucester in connection with Blaisdon Past Pupils, and visited family and friends in Northampton, Basildon and Tilbury in Essex, Brighton and Grimsby, and Alicante in Spain. I took a trip over to Athens for a few days flying out of Luton by Easy jet. The flight out cost me £9.50 + airport charges, and the



return flight cost £15 plus airport charges, Good value?? My next trip was to Alicante flying out from Stanstead with Go Airline, that cost me £25 each way + charges, again good value, booking via the web. Now looking forward to finding a cut-price trip to Rome when I can find one, any ideas??

Whilst I was in Alicante I met up with Danny Hayes 48/50 who is awaiting a bypass operation, however he is still hoping to make it to the next reunion. When I was in Brighton I met up with Derry Maher who had an oil painting of Blaisdon Hall and wished to give to Fr Sean this I brought back and it was handed over to Fr Sean at the Ruby Celebration, he being very pleased to receive it.

Some more names of Old Boys who have made contact again are, Michael McKenna 38/40, Lionel Wilkinson 39/40, Mike O'Brien 42/44, Frank Smith 49/50, Peter Lynch 50/52, Derry Maher 53/57, David Mansbridge 59/64, Robert Higham 72/76. Ray Hampton {O'Donnell} 60/61, Ron Fields 55/58, Alistair Bourne 46/48, Ian Murray 45/47 from Australia. Tony Diston 44/46, Jim Townley 48/50, Gerald Lenagan 42/44. Alistair is coming over from New Zealand for the reunion in August.

There are more names of Blaisdon Past Pupils on [www.friendsreunited.com](http://www.friendsreunited.com) web site, among them are; Paul Davonport 38/39, Eric Nutter 40/41, Michael O'Brien 41/42, John William O'Reilly 44/45, Peter Lynch 50/51, Paddy Swords 55/56, Ray Hampton [O'Donnell] 63/64, Rodney Nash 57/58, Ronald Coleman 58/59, John O'Driscoll 59/60, Michael Nugent 62/63, Michael Fitzpatrick 64/65, David Mansbridge 64/65, Richard Pieckielon 64/65, David Husband 68/69, Peter Murray 70/71, Stephen Gibbons 71/72, Patrick Yates 73/74, Robert Higham 75/76, Kim Watts 75/76, Kevin Connor 81/82, Tommy Clarke 83/84, Gez Gaughan 83/84, Joe Short 83/84, Alan Lacasse 90/91.

We have booked Blaisdon Village Hall for the evening on Saturday 24th August hoping for support and interest and a good turnout, for our chats, drinks and even a sing-a-long as we did at our last meeting, Everyone who attended enjoyed it so we decided to book this venue again for the Saturday

evening. An attraction at Waldron Farm B+B is being able to have a day's rod licence from the owners of the private lake with Rainbow Trout.

Terry is still awaiting for more Memories of Past Pupils times in Blaisdon to put with the rest, then he will be able to see about getting the book published, which will all take time. We suggest that all other Past Pupil's Associations think about doing the same and make a combined book of memories. It should make a great Salesian Publication.

In keeping up with the Don Bosco spirit we look forward to receiving news by letter or phone to keep in touch, and will pass on any information that you may wish others to know, providing permission is given.

We are looking forward to the reunion on 25th August in Blaisdon Village Hall.

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### **BOOTLE ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Terry Rimmer*  
*Tel: 0151 802 3000 (Office Hours)*  
*Email: not yet*

There are plans to tap into the 'Friends Reunited' website - delayed by computer problems! There are over 300 former Bootle Pupils registered on the 'Friends Reunited' website who can be contacted for our Reunion on 22.9.2002.



*Terry Rimmer with members of Football enthusiasts. Where's the football?*

The Salesian Past Pupil questionnaire was distributed in school by some of my contacts in Year 11, with the consent of the Head of Year and the Head Teacher. I have had over 30 forms returned so far and expect more.

I have spoken to my contact at Merseyside Police and he has agreed to put an ad in the 'Police Gazette' for our Reunion in September. My contact at Radio Merseyside has been onto me

regarding another matter, and he has agreed to give our day a plug.

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### **BURWASH ASSOCIATION**

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*Not yet established. Any takers?*

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### **CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Sue Gregson?*  
*Tel: ? Email: ?*

Well after much deliberating and some helpful (and some not so helpful!) suggestions from the Past Pupils, we have finally decided what to do with the proceeds from the inaugural reunion do. £100 will go to the school P.E. department, £100 will be kept in the bank to help fund future functions, and £300 will go to the Sean Devereux Children's fund. The following brief history is taken from the web site <http://www.seandevereux.org.uk> where further information is available:

Sean Devereux was a pupil at the Salesian College in Farnborough between 1975 and 1982, when he was living in Yateley, near Camberley in Surrey. In his last year he was a very popular school captain and after graduating at Birmingham with combined honours in Geography and Sports Studies in 1985, he continued his studies, completing the PGCE at Exeter.

He then began teaching at the Salesian School in Chertsey, Surrey in 1986. During these years, Sean was a very active and enthusiastic member of the Salesian Cooperators and the Salesian Past Pupils' Association. Sean took part in a wide range of activities with and for young people not only in England but also abroad, attending a number of European and international events. On one of these, he met Pope John Paul II in Rome.

In February 1989, Sean went to Liberia as a Lay Volunteer working with the Salesian community at St. Francis School in Tappita. When the school closed in 1990 as a result of the Civil War, Sean stayed to work with the United Nations in relief operations. After numerous adventures, he finally left Liberia in 1992 to begin working with UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) in Somalia in September 1992.

Sean was shot dead on January 2nd 1993.

Sean, who was 28 when he was murdered, had spent nearly five years helping the poorest of Africa's youths. He had worked first in the West African republic of Liberia, then briefly in Sierra Leone and for the last half year of his life, in famine-stricken and turbulent Somalia.

We hope this may be the first of many donations we can make as an organisation to this fund - thanks to everyone who attended the reunion. Thanks also for your feedback, and we take on board the comments of a few of you who said they would prefer year group specific reunions organised. We'll let you know when the next event is going to be.

In the meantime - still looking for one or two volunteers to make up the numbers on the committee. ????

ALSO, Chertsey Old Salesian F.C. held their annual 6-a-side football competition over the weekend of 3rd / 4th August. The 3rd was a Ladies tournament - the first time we have done this, and the 4th the usual men's tournament. It's a fun event and raises money to enable the club to remain at Imber Court where the facilities are superb, but a little more expensive than the local park!

For those who don't know, the club is run for the benefit of Chertsey Past Pupils, and this coming season we hope to increase to four sides with the introduction of a number of current 5th and 6th formers joining.

If you would like more information please e-mail or call me on 07816 515415

Cheers!

*Mike Quinlan*

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## **COWLEY ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Richard Blake  
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The 2001 Reunion and AGM was held at The Randolph Hotel, Oxford on Sunday 16 September 2001, it being the

10th such gathering since the re-formation of the Association. 64 persons attended including 7 Priests, 3 wives, 1 child and 12 new members. About 30 sent their apologies, many of whom would have attended but for the late decision to advance the day by one week. As in previous years invitations extended to other Salesian Associations, one object being to widen the memberships' understanding of the extent of the Salesian Family, another to perhaps realise how fortunate we were at Cowley and they were nothing to do with us (other than to thrash them regularly at sports!). Those who graciously accepted were from Blaisdon, Battersea and Farnborough Associations.



*Visiting Team: Nick Potter - Battersea, Len Carter - Blaisdon, John Ward - Blaisdon, Fr Sean - National Delegate*

The day commenced with Mass in the Parish Church of Mary Help of Christians, Cowley, Fr Austin Molloy, Fr Francis Preston, his brother Fr Hugh, Fr Patrick McGrath Fr Sean Murray, Fr James Walsh and Fr Charles Archer were the concelebrants. Fr Archer gave a humorous and well-received homily. We all then retired to the Randolph for the AGM, preceded by a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in the United States. The excellent Reunion lunch followed.



*The Cowley AGM Lunch - Were you on Table 4? Fr Archer was.*

We are continuing our programme of financial assistance to Fr Tom Donaghy in Samara, the Salesian Sisters and to Fr Joe Merriman's sister's untiring

work in Uganda. In addition this year, we are supporting the Salesian Youth Centres 'Annunciation' in Runia, Poland, with a £500 contribution from one member. The Centre specifically helps the poorest and neglected children and youths from families affected by alcohol, a massive problem in post-communist countries.



*Who was on Table 2?*

The project started when four children were left by their families with Father Marek Baranski SDB. The aim is to establish a Trade school with professional subjects and practical training to assist the most needy to learn and make something of their lives. The centres include a boarding school with small swimming bath. There are at present three Centres with 80 children ranging from age 4 to late teenage.

Last year Father Francis Preston brought to the Reunion two original pencil sketches by a Robert L Kennard (?) of the main building of Cowley. Patrick Heenan again generously offered to reproduce prints at his own cost to raise funds. One of the drawings proved impractical to reproduce. However, a very fine print has resulted of the quadrangle façade, including the Chapel. It proved popular to many members at £5 per copy. It will be interesting to source its original dating from the Battersea era of the College. Both the prints hung outside the Headmaster's office and are familiar to those pupils summoned to be 'advised' of their lack of progress. I have vivid memories of them, indeed every line and feature; so frequent were my attendances over five years. We are most grateful to Patrick, a great stalwart of the Association, who also printed our short history of Cowley, at his own cost

Two motions to change the name of the Association to 'Boys of Salesian College Oxford' (BOSCO), and another to drop 'Cowley' in favour of 'Oxford',



were unanimously defeated. In each case only one member voted in favour.

The lunch received universal acclaim; I hesitate to speak for some of our guests due to previous misfortunes when the gatherings were held at Cowley and their sensitivities "affronted". A hearty rendering of the Salesian School Song sealed what was generally regarded as a successful event. It proved to be an excellent choice as expressed in the number of messages I have received.

We look forward to the 2002 AGM and Reunion scheduled for 22 September at the same venue. It is hoped that Mass will be celebrated at the Dominican church of Blackfriars a few minutes from the Randolph and thus avoid the trek from Cowley.

Membership of the Association is gradually increasing as a result of our site on 'Friendsreunited'; one of my classmates, now resident in Thailand, contacted me. Others have done so from the US. Personal contacts have unearthed some in Australia. A peculiar twist is the number of females who are appearing on the site; it may be that they are former pupils of Notre Dame Convent, which joined with the sixth form in the late sixties.

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### **FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION**

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*President: John Clenshaw  
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No Email*

The onset of spring 2002 brought our Association's March Newsletter, which we despatched to more than 350 Past Pupils. The Newsletter included an invitation to our Annual Reunion in April, plus an 'advert' on the OSA National Web site.



*Farnborough AGM group*

The Reunion took place at the College on Sunday the 14 April 2002 when 30

Past Pupils attended. The programme starting with Mass at 10.30 was followed by the Association's AGM and then lunch. There followed an afternoon photograph and then a video showing last year's College Centenary events compiled and edited by a Past pupil, John Milner under his 'Renlim' production title. The day's programme finished with tea prepared and served by some wives of Past Pupils.



*The Head, Patrick Wilson addressing the AGM*

We were pleased to welcome to the Reunion Day Fr Joe Brown SDB in addition to our Rector's representative Fr Francis Sutherland SDB and also, not least, Richard Blake, President of the Cowley Association. Some of our Past Pupils who regularly support this annual event could not come this year but we were pleased to welcome several Old Boys who had not returned to the College at Farnborough for many years. This was no doubt due to the publicity surrounding last year's Centenary. In addition our guests at lunch included our new Rector to the Salesian Community at Farnborough, Fr Hugh Preston SDB.

At the AGM on Reunion Day, Fr Joe Brown gave a short presentation of his work in Liberia and outlined his new undertaking back in the UK in the forming of a 'Mission office' at Battersea to establish a link with Salesian Missions both here and overseas. He made the point that he wished liase and link with the Past Pupils Associations in this venture. In this regard and in view of his strong links with Farnborough during his years on the teaching staff, Fr Brown has joined our OSA Committee.

We trust our Committee has been given further fresh impetus by the election of 3 new committee members including a recent member of the College staff, and may help our efforts to improve links with younger school leavers. We hope to hand to School leavers a copy of the presentation leaflet prior to their 'Farewell Evening' during May.

The Association is still endeavouring to assist the College in the Sales of the Centenary Book compiled and edited by our Rector's OSA representative, Fr Francis Sutherland. The book is entitled 'Many Lives Through Many Eyes', and with the help of Fr Sutherland and the College an order form was included with the spring Newsletter. This helped in a small way to provided a response to the receipt of our current newsletter.

This year has seen some growth either in 'Year Group' Reunions, or at least with individual efforts to promote such events. We have to thank our National Vice-President, John Ward for his help and support in the showing of such events and possible venues on the National web site.

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### **SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Joe Lomax  
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Feb 23rd saw a good Shrigley presence at St Gregory's Bollington, the Parish served by the Salesians from Savio House. A Mass was celebrated in prayerful remembrance of Tony Booth who had been a faithful organist at both Shrigley and for the Parish choir and liturgy. The church was quite crowded with his friends who were vastly impressed with the spirit of the occasion, led so devoutly by Father Bob Coupe and during which, Father Bill Bergin recalled the life and achievements of Tony. The assembly then accompanied Anita to Shrigley where his ashes were placed with those of his mother and father and then everyone proceeded to Savio House where they were refreshed with the goodies so kindly and amply provided. We thank the brave and resilient Anita and everyone who contributed to the tribute to our friend.

We are so grateful for the Salesian welcome given to us once more at Savio House where we were received, during the weekend March 2nd and 3rd, with warmth and great courtesy for professor Peter Roebuck's talk on the "First ten years of Shrigley and the building of the Tilden Chapel". I mentioned how Savio House has improved recently, it just seems to get better each time we go but this time there was even more room and freedom than ever. The cook is really a gem and excelled himself finishing up with a selection of cakes on the late Sunday

afternoon that would really have made Shrigley boys dream about them for many nights afterwards. Eric Baggaley's exhibition of prints in the new section of the hall was absolutely superb and half the profits were donated by him to the Salesians. This is to be repeated at the Reunion. Many people have already said that they are coming to this as they enjoyed the weekend so much. 41 people attended the weekend - Thanks for that.

How really can we thank Peter Roebuck adequately for the trouble he took in researching his chosen topic, coming over to Savio and then the lecture itself? We all were in admiration at his delivery, the way in which he held everyone's attention for an hour and a quarter and fully expressed the spirit and extent of the achievement of establishing Shrigley. What a mammoth accomplishment it was! I have received several appreciations of the wonderful exposition from those who attended. We offer Peter once again our very grateful thanks.

David Murphy, who appealed on behalf of the Savio House finances, rounded off the afternoon. We could repay our gratitude to our life at Shrigley, he said, by trying to make sure that Savio never folds, by each doing our bit to help. One way he suggested was if 250 of us each contributed just £5 per month that would pay for the VOLUNTEERS who keep the House functioning. Unfortunately, to date, this idea has only attracted 4 offers.

How do we follow this next year? It seemed to be a one-off last year, was extended to include the talk. Do we try to have something like it next year? We would love to see those who live quite near to Shrigley visit us next time. That is not meant to be a complaint but a sincere wish to meet them.

Nineteen of us returned from a week's holiday Malta on Easter Tuesday, Hugh Walton, that indefatigable traveller, of course going back to his home in Kansas, after an absolutely wonderful holiday on a most friendly island experiencing mainly good weather, always delicious food, considerate and very efficient caring service in the most excellent New Dolmen Hotel in Bugibba where we all had sea-view rooms. We thank Alex and Arthur Pace for their great generosity and their staff

for their share in this memorable week. Pauline and I thank our companions for their cooperation and cheerfulness, which made it such a joy.

We were joined in our visit to Gozo by Mike Egan and Charles Sultana, his wife Dorothea and two daughters enjoyed the two dinners with us, one at St Patrick's, the other at the New Dolmen. This was classed as a banquet and that it certainly turned out to be.

It was made even more enjoyable by the delightful harp playing of Cecilia Sultana whose photograph appeared in last week's Universe. An ex-Shrigley pupil on holiday was directed to the banquet by Fr Joe Cini SDB (to whom we are most grateful for organizing the two dinners) and that is how Paul Molyneux and his wife made the acquaintance of the Shrigley association. We also had the pleasure of the company of Alfie Gatt, Arthur Pace, John Sapiano and Albert Manche.

In all we had a tremendous experience and there is already talk of a return visit to Malta or a trip to Valencia and Martin Caine.

A booklet arrived from Savio House detailing the activities in this Golden Jubilee year and was very impressive. We have previously appealed for "Memory Lane" experiences through these 50 years for Fr Denis Parkes and a few have been sent to him but he could still do with many more.

In Late April Fr George Robson and Fr Peter Dooley were assaulted at "Knife Point" in Liverpool. They also will need our prayers and we hope they recover swiftly from this sad experience.

We have not enrolled many new members this year but perhaps the most interesting was George Ford from Australia who got in touch through his sister living in Rossendale. He attended Thornleigh 1929-31, Shrigley 1931-34 then passed to Cowley

Finally, looking forward to our Reunion, bookings are starting to come in and we look forward to a full house this year and the pleasure of the company of many members of the Association once again. A round of golf has been booked for Friday August 30th at Shrigley, teeing off at 1.45 p.m. As previously stated Peter Roebuck

will be repeating his talk on the Saturday and this is an extra attraction.



The beautiful Plaque now in the Shrigley Hotel

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## THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION

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### ACTING SECRETARY'S REPORT

In this report no criticism is intended of anyone at any time but it is merely a statement of facts and an honest attempt to find out what is wanted by the members of our Association. Much work has gone into the formation and build up of the new infant Association with apparently mixed results.

We could be thought of as being successful in the following ways: - Since June 20th last year exactly 201 have enrolled and some have asked to be put on the mailing list without completing the enrolment form and so can't be sent the directory because of the Data Protection Act. There are currently 151 in the email distribution group.

Past Pupils attended the joint Memorial Mass with the Catenians on November 11th and with the Shrigley association in Honour of Don Bosco on February 3rd. The Catenians and the Shrigley association were very generous with their refreshments.

Vincent Collins has done a tremendous amount of work on the Past Pupils Who appear on the Roll of Honour at the back of Chapel and the results will be available at our next Memorial Mass in November.

Paul Fernhead organized a rugby team, which was successful in beating the Old Boltonians team by 12 points to nil. We hope that this will be repeated. Five members of our Association have offered to give talks for the Thornleigh

Careers Department. In this area, work experience is urgently required.

The Association has its own website devised by Mark Higson who has made his format available to the other Salesian Past Pupil Associations in the English Province and for which the National Council are extremely grateful.

Mark Higson and Joe Lomax attended the National Council of Salesian Past Pupils held at Thornleigh on February 17th as the Thornleigh representatives and will be attending the next one at Battersea on May 19th.

Anne Marie Ginty has managed to get us publicity on Tower Radio and ClassicFM for which the Association was rewarded with a digital camera.

Before Easter a presentation was given to the Sixth Form at their assembly in the Chapel by Peter Hunter, the Eurogex Representative, on Salesian Past Pupils in general and then I spoke about the Thornleigh branch. During their next registration, the Sixth form filled in a questionnaire and a card and this resulted in 80 giving their permission for their names to be retained in a database and a further 47 asked to be kept informed of the activities of the Association.

Our reception by the Head, Mr. Muga, the Deputy, Mr. Holland and the Head of Sixth Form, Fr Martin Coyle SDB could not have been more helpful and cordial. We are greatly indebted to them also for the use of the Sixth Form Unit for our meetings and Fr Martin has provided us with the tea and coffee.



*Thornleigh Past Pupils Rugby Team*

Several members were very generous in their donations to the funds and we are very grateful to them.

The Christmas Dinner had to be cancelled because only 11 booked. We were very lucky to get our £50 deposit back from the Old Links. Without

saying that our members HAVE to attend our Masses there was a low turnout at both of them which could have been due to many causes.

An evening in the Victoria Inn - Fanny Moss's - in the form of a simple get-together for a drink and flatter was a complete fiasco - no one turned up

No members have come forward to bolster the committee despite many email appeals. There are not many meetings as they are only held before an event and we don't have that many events. The committee meetings have been quite badly attended, March 20th attracting only 2 but 2 apologies, and its repeat, April 3rd, no one, one apology and one mistaken date.

We have established no contact yet with the Soccer Club. Many members have not contributed to cover costs even though they have received circulars.

We must ask, "What sort of an Association do we want?" Is it just a postal! Email type with members donating to the funds occasionally to defray postage, printing, computing costs? Members are perfectly entitled to want this. On the other hand, there would be those who would wish to take part in activities. We have asked for suggestions and have tried to implement these but we do need some other people to organize these activities. It cannot be done by just three or four people all the time. In the past, there have been dinners, our attempt failed. Masses are not really well - attended but this may improve in the coming year.

May I make a suggestion? Would it be possible for us to staff a stall at one of the Savio House events this year as so many of our Past Pupils have enjoyed a visit there and they do need help especially as this is the Jubilee Year. They are having a Family Day on July 13th. Could we bond together and help Thornleigh in their bid to attain Sports College status? Would several join together to help organize this?

It would seem a good thing to get some of the Sixth Form on to the committee to allay the fear expressed by some of them that the association is more for the senior past pupils. Staff members could be encouraged to membership of the committee.

It is urgent that we do get more members on the committee. It is not an onerous duty if there are enough members as there are not many meetings and too much is being left to too few. Please help us but many thanks to those who have already helped in any way. Presentation Mrs Helen Grundy and Miss Helen McGahan gave an excellent presentation at the AGM on Thornleigh as a Sports College

The school must write a bid to submit to the Government and raise £50,000 by October 2002. This being successful, the Government would automatically give £100,000 towards a capital project, this to Thornleigh would be a floodlit astro turf pitch for a range of sports e.g. hockey, football, tennis and athletics. Extra finding would also be received for four years to put towards projects planned in the bid.

For those not interested in sport the students would also benefit in Science, Food technology, Citizenship, Art, Mathematics and ICT lessons.

The school would have the use of the floodlit pitch until 5.00 p.m. After this it would be used by the local community including local primary schools, local sports clubs (Thornleigh Soccer Club?) for a general improvement in extra-curricular opportunities in Sport and Recreation. In other words the improved facilities would be for the benefit of Thornleigh would their use would extend into the wider community.

There are many ways in which help can be given to Thornleigh in achieving this status.

- (a) Pay for Pitch - decide on the number of square metres to sponsor at £10 each (names entered into a special commemorative book displayed at school).
- (b) Name a room or Facility.
- (c) Gift-aid scheme.
- (d) Donations et alia.

#### **BENEFITS of being a sponsor**

- (a) Putting something back into the community, investing in a well-motivated workforce.
- (b) Publicity through this Specialist School Status for your Company.
- (c) Possible tax aid benefits through the gift aid scheme.
- (d) A NAMED room or facility.



- (e) The opportunity of a continued relationship with the school through the co-option of a sponsor governor.
- (f) The satisfaction gained from knowing that you are supporting a forward looking and high achieving school full of motivated and hard working students.

**Our help for Thornleigh's bid**

- (a) Mark Higson was to see if there was an electronic version of the bid literature
- (b) Literature was to be sent out, with the minutes, in the circular to those without emails
- (c) In the above ways all members would be informed and asked to help.
- (d) Simon Talbot would contact Stu Flinders and Paul Mason to see if they could help.
- (e) Joe Egan was getting together a group to organize a dinner at the Reebok in support.

Next year's officers.

- President: Mark Higson.
- Acting Secretary: Joe Lomax.
- Treasurer: Simon Talbot.
- Publicity: Anne Marie Ginty.

Committee for 2002-3 Mark Higson, Simon Talbot, Joe Egan, Anne Marie

Ginty, Glyn Hartshorne, Peter Hull, Joe Lomax.

**Next Year's Events**

- (a) Black Tie Dinner at the Reebok - Date to be announced. The Upper Sixth Form would be invited.
- (b) Memorial Mass at Thornleigh - Sunday November 10th at 11.00 a.m. Vincent Collins to present the results of his research.
- (c) Don Bosco Mass at Thornleigh - Sunday February 2~' at 11.00 am.

These were the only ones fixed because of lack of success so far with the others. Individual members were still encouraged to get groups, large or small, of any kind at all together. and we would let others know by email or by other means of publicity. We would all be very grateful for any efforts in this direction.

Peter Hull kindly offered to send both Ray Riley, the outgoing President and Mark Froes, cards thanking them for the hard work they had done for Thornleigh Past Pupils over the years. We add the grateful thanks of all the Members of the Association to both these gentlemen for their great efforts.

Information about Past Pupils activities throughout the world is also available and continually refreshed on the Internet and is created by Alex Dockers, World Vice President. This can be found under [www.donbosco-pp.info](http://www.donbosco-pp.info) There is a direct link to this website from our Links page under "Follow Don Bosco"



*Alex Dockers, World Vice President, hard at work! at one of the many meetings all over the World that he attends throughout the year.*

For information of future Events and News of past events for all GB Local Associations; see our Website:  
[www.donbosco.co.uk/pp](http://www.donbosco.co.uk/pp)

(Note change to Website address)

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