



National Newsletter

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

Issue No 4

August 2003

This, our fourth issue of a National Newsletter, is a compilation of the Reports made by the Local Associations at our last two National Council meetings, which took place at Battersea February 2003 and Bootle June 2003. My apologies for the delay which has resulted in this Newsletter covering two National Council meetings, as I would normally intend to try to publish an Issue after each National Council meeting. Our next National Council meeting will be on 16 November 2003 at one of the Salesian establishments in the South.



At the February Battersea meeting, National President welcomed on National Council behalf and that of our Provincial, Fr. Francis Preston SDB, the new World Delegate Father Jeronimo Monteiro SDB who had honoured us by coming from Rome to attend our meeting on a fact finding and linking mission to Britain with the Salesian World HQ in Rome.

Fr Jeronimo made a colourful and animated PowerPoint presentation, in English, on his thoughts and plans for his role as the Rector Major's Delegate to the Past Pupils throughout the world. This was warmly received by the meeting and fit very closely to our own ambitions.



At the June Bootle meeting, National President, Patrick Morrissey gave two short presentations on Events he had attended. One was on the visit of our

Rector Major, Father Pascual Chavez SDB, who is the ninth successor of Don Bosco.

The other was of the plans for the next Eurobosco Congress, which will take place in Rome from 18 OCT 2003 to 1 NOV 2003)

National President also tabled four possible projects from which the GB Federation could choose to be our first Nationally supported project in support of the world wide Salesian Mission. As required by the meeting, the project subsequently selected is to provide £5,000 to pay for a clean water project at the Salesian Polytechnic in Liberia. To achieve this objective each Local Association agreed to provide £500 towards this amount, using whatever method of raising the money that suits their own Association best.

APPEAL - If you have any small or large Salesian Past Pupil events that you would like included in our newsletter, if you email me (j.ward@virgin.net) a short description together with colour photos, I will happily include them in future issues, to give news of your events wider distribution and hopefully result in greater interest and involvement in your efforts.

BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION



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FEB 2003

We held an extremely successful AGM & Reunion in October at which our 'guests of honour' were the school

Captain & Vice Captain together with their counterparts from the previous two years. A good quality debate took place during the AGM. By way of innovation we invited Miles Bailey the school vice captain from last year to make a speech which turned out to be the highlight of the luncheon and made a great impression on all who attended from the oldest at 93 to the youngest at just 15. Some members of National Council were indeed present to hear his wise words.

It is hoped that we can encourage our group of young Salesians to provide input as to the future of the OSA and take an active role in so doing.

We enjoyed a successful event on Remembrance Day on Nov10th when Mass was concelebrated in the Chapel and prayers were offered not just for those who gave their lives in two world wars but for all deceased members of the Salesian Community. This was followed by a short ceremony at the Memorial to the fallen on the lawn in front of Surrey House. Refreshments were taken afterwards of both kinds!

JUN 2003

To all attending Bootle on June 1st greetings and good wishes – especially to Peter on his safe return.

Due to unfortunate recent ill health of our Newsletter Editor, Mike Kirby, my priority at Battersea has been to source a new production Director for our Newsletter so that we can communicate regularly with the membership and I am hopeful that will be the case very shortly. Once that is in place we can continue with our campaign to recruit and retain a group from our most recent school leavers to take us forward.

In view of the Eurobosco Congress in October it is likely that we will postpone our AGM & Re-Union until afterwards so that we could incorporate a full report of the gathering into our

meeting to give it some publicity. Can you let me know if we are willing to sponsor one of our young men is there room for such delegate and if so what is the cost?

BLAISDON ASSOCIATION



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FEB 2003

Since the September report and sending out our Christmas Newsletter another small number of Past Pupils have moved without informing us of their new address. It is unfortunate that our numbers decrease each time we send out the newsletters. On the other hand it seems that as Past Pupils get older they feel they would like to meet up and see their old friends and teachers once again, as the Email and phone call from another old Boy from the 45/47 years, received in November shows.

It is with regret that another Old Boy, Kevin Cummins passed away on the 6th January, and as he was thought of so much by his old Blaisdon friends, nine Old Boys and two of their wives traveled to North Wales for his funeral service from many different parts of the country, having to travel long distances, with an overnight stay at the nearest Travelodge in Wales. Others wanted to attend but were too ill or infirm to travel. This is where the real Blaisdon Salesian Old Boy Brotherhood of Don Bosco shows itself. Mike O'Brien 42/44 composed a poem to Kevin's memory, with others adding some of their memories to paper,

A number of Old Boys propose to repair the old Cricket Pavilion in the Village as a memorial to the Salesian Past Pupils and carry out the repairs themselves. Here's hoping for further news on the subject in the summer as to any progress.

Whilst on my last visit to Rome, Fr Sean Murray had arranged for me to visit the room where Don Bosco stayed and said Mass, and where there are a

number of Relics and items used by him. It was truly amazing and a moving experience, a memory to savor. We also again had the privilege to visit the excavations below St Peter's and St. Peter's Grave, wonderful to see.

We are arranging our usual mini get together over the weekend of 26/27th April in Blaisdon. On the Sunday we will pay our respects to passed Salesians and Past Pupils at the Salesian Grave in Blaisdon Churchyard.

After Mass we will make our way to the Kings Head, Birdwood, where we will use their function room for our reception. Our main reunion will be over the August Bank Holiday 23/24/25th August with our usual arrangements in the Village Hall and St. Michael's Church. Any Past Pupil is always welcome to join us. We hope for our usual response to our celebrations.

As usual our funds are not over healthy but we manage with our donations to keep going.

JUN 2003

Since our last Council meeting we have had our usual after Easter mini reunion with a Number of Old Boys, Families and Friends. A number stayed in B+B in the area over the whole weekend. For those staying over Saturday night we make a point of meeting up for an enjoyable evening. This time meeting at the Kings Head Hotel, (which was fully booked with our crowd) and where we had our meeting on Sunday after visiting the Salesian Grave in Blaisdon for prayers and then joining the local community for Mass.

We had two Old Boys attend who had not been back to Blaisdon for many years. Michael McKenna had not been there for sixty years, it was great to meet him and see him there. He sent Email to me on his return which I believe shows the feeling that the Blaisdon Old Boys have for the Brotherhood and the Salesians that helped them in their days at Blaisdon Hall. We also invited some Ex Boys from Enfield and Mill Hill who were not fortunate enough to go on to Blaisdon, three attended and were delighted to see some of their old school friends from those early days in the orphanage. I am sure we will see more of them in the future.

It was good to see many old friends once again, but there were those who were missed through ill health or otherwise indisposed, we think of you all. The meeting went very well and was enjoyed by all, and we now look forward to our next reunion over the Bank Holiday weekend of 24th/25th August 2003.

It was suggested that some of the Ex Enfield /Mill Hill boys that went on to Blaisdon may like to meet up with some of the Ex Girls from Feltham who had brothers at these establishments, and now arrangements are in hand for all those wishing to do so to contact us in order for the Ladies to send out invitations to join them at their reunion in Victoria in London on 13th June 2004. Notification of this event is on our Website www.donbosco.co.uk/pp, under Events, and a good response is hoped for.

Last month three of us paid a visit to Bolton to see the Ex Blaisdon Salesian Brothers there. It was good to see them again and they were so pleased to see their pupils from so many years ago, it is good to keep in touch this way. We were made so welcome as usual, but time goes so fast and soon it was time that we were on our way again.

I received a lovely Email tribute to Kevin Cummins from the current owners of Blaisdon Hall, and with their kind permission obtained by John Ward, I add it to this Newsletter.

“Dear Charles,

Please accept our deepest condolences in respect to Kevin and his family. It was a great shock to hear such sad news. I met Kevin when he presented us with the beautiful bench here at the Hall. I will always think of him when I look at that bench, as it was built with love, you can feel it as you sit there overlooking the estuary. As Kevin must have done on many occasions. I wouldn't mind betting that he sits there on the bench too. We will be giving the bench a gentle rub down and re-varnishing when the weather warms a little, so next time that you talk to Kevin let him know.

With deepest respect,

Vivien and Tony Haynes”

BOOTLE ASSOCIATION



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FEB 2003

No report at the February meeting but some photos of the stalwarts who are doing their best to get the Association off the ground.



Clearly, from the photo below, there is plenty of scope at the premises available. We look forward to busier photographs in the not too distant future.



JUN 2003

Fr Sean Murray, Terry Rimmer and John Power met to discuss the situation of the Past Pupils movement in Bootle. They discussed links with the school and how these can be progressed. Fr. Sean had informally spoken to Fr. Mageean (Head Master) and Fr. O'Shaugnessey regarding the influence of the Past Pupil in the school, however people have so much on this is not a priority. The situation will be monitored.

Terry Rimmer distributed the Past Pupil questionnaires and passed these to John Power who entered them into the database and emailed to Mark Higson for evaluation.

Terry Rimmer will again try to arrange the annual football match, date to be advised.

John Power had put a general message on the Friends Reunited Website regarding the formation of a Past Pupil Association in Bootle. No responses were received, despite there being about 400 members for Salesian High School/Savio High School on the website. There has been lots of activity on the site from Past Pupils from Bootle, loading up school photos, reports etc.

John Power attended the day with Fr. Pascual Chavez, Rector Major and ninth successor of Don Bosco, at Bolton.

BURWASH ASSOCIATION

Not yet established. Any takers?

CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION

President: Sue Gregson?
Tel: ? Email: ?

The football club continues to be a very valuable facility for the Chertsey Past Pupils. Some photos of matches and results would be interesting for our readers.

Contact - Mike Quinlan

COWLEY ASSOCIATION



President: Richard Blake
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FEB 2003

The Cowley Old Boys Association held its 2002 Reunion at the Randolph Hotel Oxford, on Sunday 22 September 2002. Some 50 attended including 6 Priests, 5SDBs and a Diocesan Old Boy; a further 38 Old Boys sent apologies.

Of particular delight was the attendance of two wives and an Old Boy's Mother, herself in her 80s. Five new members also joined us.

The AGM preceded Mass, concelebrated in the Dominican Church of Black Friars. We remembered three Old Boys who have died since the 2001

Reunion, Peter Rhodes, John Corrigan and Peter Davenport. May they Rest in Peace.

We were delighted to welcome back Fr. Joe Merriman from Africa and Fr. Peter Quinn from Japan, both of whom spoke of their missions to far away places. Fr. Provincial, his brother Fr. Hugh Preston attended, together with Fr. Austen Molloy who once again made the supreme effort to travel from the North, and Fr. Robert Plourde, a Cowley Old Boy Diocesan Priest working in a West London Parish. We were fortunate once again to have Fr. Tom Donaghy with us and to hear of the excellent work he is doing in Russia. Fr. Charles Archer was not able to attend but sent his warm regards.

Our financial contributions to Salesian connected organisations and Hospice Africa will continue in 2003. At the request of Fr. Malloy, a donation of funds will be made to Liberia.

The 2003 AGM and Reunion will return to Cowley 19 October 2003 with Mass in the Cowley Parish Church and lunch at the Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxon. It is hoped that other Salesians will join us.

JUNE 2003

Richard reported that there were no major developments since the last meeting in February 2003.

FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION



President: John Clenshaw
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No Email

FEB 2003

Since our September 2002 report we have tried to sustain our ties with the College by responding to Emails, letters & visits from Past Pupils when they express a wish to renew their bonds with their Alma Mater.

In November we continued our support to the College Prize Day Fund and we

were able to join the annual distribution of prizes by Sister Elizabeth McCormack RCE, on the 15th of November. During the evening event a number of the prizewinners received prizes donated by the OSA Farnborough. The evening saw the return of last year's Sixth Formers to celebrate their wonderful results in the 'A Level' public examinations.

On the previous Sunday, Remembrance Day, we held our annual Mass for the Deceased Old Boys in the College Chapel. This was followed by the **Ceremony of Remembrance** in the College Assembly Hall including the established ceremony of reading the Roll of Honour of the many Farnborough Past Pupils who gave their lives in the Second World War. Our thanks to Fr. Francis Sutherland SDB who concelebrated Mass with members of Farnborough's Salesian Community and for his help with the Ceremony of Remembrance.

From small beginnings last summer and thereafter with an immense amount of work by Fr. Joe Brown we now have a large database of Farnborough Old Boys and a printed Spreadsheet of names and addresses. This should enable our committee to improve its efforts to link with our Past Pupils. Thus with the assistance of the new members of our committee we hope to stimulate our OSA efforts and spread the tasks of keeping in contact with Past Pupils.

We are continuing to have Past Pupils organising 'Year Group' Reunions. On the 4th of October the group known as the 'Forty-niners' held their annual dinner at the Queens Hotel with 18 Past Pupils present accompanied by their wives. We have to thank our National Vice-President, John Ward, for his continuing help in the listing of such events and possible venues on the National Website www.donbosco.co.uk/pp.

We end on a sad note – by recording the death on 9 November 2002 of Evelyn Wallace, the wife of our former President and National Vice President, John Wallace. Evelyn not only supported John's work for the OSA but took an active part over many years in the catering work for our Annual Reunions and other social events such as our annual New Year's Eve grand

dance (in days of yore!). **May She Rest in Peace.**

JUN 2003 Post Meeting submission

Following our February report we were able to publish our Spring Newsletter and this was sent out in early April to 400 past Pupils on our mailing list together with invitations to our Reunion day at the College on the 4th of May.

It was heartening that many of our Old Salesians did respond by acknowledging receipt of the Newsletter and some renewed their annual subscription to our Association. However acceptance of the invitation to the Reunion was limited, probably due to the late date for Easter this year causing our Reunion to be held in May and not April and several of our 'regulars' were unable to come.

The Reunion took place at the College on Sunday the 4th of May when 25 Past Pupils attended, with the programme following its usual pattern starting with Mass at 10.30 followed by our AGM and then lunch with 2 residents of St. John Bosco House present, Fr Brendan McGuinness SDB, & Fr Francis Sutherland SDB. We are indebted to Fr Sutherland for acting as our Rector's representative for the Farnborough OSA over many years, and although as he indicated at the AGM he will be taking a less active role now that Fr Joe Brown SDB has joined our Committee, nevertheless we do hope that he can provide a link for the OSA to the Salesian Community at Farnborough and on occasions with the College itself. The afternoon of Reunion day included the usual group photo followed this year by a new item, namely an organ recital by Dr Anthony Noble, the College Music Master, on the recently acquired and installed College organ. We were treated to a short but excellent and absorbing programme particularly of Bach compositions, which was much appreciated.

Although from the 1st paragraph above our mailing list would appear to be limited in scope we should report that through the immense efforts of Fr Joe Brown his Farnborough OSA data base

of names of past pupils, their addresses & their years at the College has grown to over 4,000, and this will be valuable in considering how we make future contacts with Past Pupils, as many are including their email address in their response to Fr Joe. Mention should also be made of Fr Joe's work in trailing past pupil contacts thro' the 'Friends Reunited' web site. Of course some of these relate to a nostalgic interest in Farnborough but nevertheless can become a useful link with Farnborough's Past Pupils - notwithstanding mailing costs!

Earlier in the year, following our last report, we were honoured to have present at a Farnborough committee meeting the SDB World Delegate, Fr Jeronimo Monteiro, who gave us a shortened PowerPoint presentation (to that given at Battersea on 9.2.2003) of the message that the worldwide Salesian objective is to include its wider family in a more united role. We are indebted to Fr Joe Brown for bringing Fr Jeronimo to Farnborough.

We are now hoping to have an USA presence at the College Fete day on Saturday 14th of June and to show some of the College 2001 Centenary year photographs & memorabilia to parents,

SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION



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FEB 2003

We are pleased to be able to report that the members of the Association are excelling themselves with their cooperation and generosity so that the organisers are themselves encouraged in what would otherwise be a very frustrating and arduous task. Three committee meetings have taken place with the object of organising the 75th Anniversary celebrations. Each time eight members have attended, travelling from Leeds, Liverpool, Blackburn,

Chorlton, Atherton, Warrington, Middleton, etc. Members have willingly taken on jobs with a photographic commemoration being planned, a commemorative booklet, a commemorative medal/clock and a concert. Members have pledged over £2000 in sponsorship with another £500 coming from our Scots lads to pay for Salesians to attend the dinner to be held on the Saturday of the Celebratory weekend.

On January 26th we had a Don Bosco Mass in the home of Jim Hughes just outside Glasgow at which there were twenty members, three having travelled up from England. Then occasion was a great success, due mainly to the generosity of Jim and his wife, Helen who provided a sumptuous buffet. It was at this meeting that the lads offered the £500. We thank Tony Quinn for his work in organising the event. Fr Michael O'Meara, who celebrated the Mass, assisted by Fr Charles Garrick, had earlier suffered the trauma of a burglary at his Church at Easterhouse when the wooden tabernacle and a ciborium were stolen. The tabernacle was recovered smashed but the ciborium is still missing.

On February 2nd we had a Don Bosco Mass at Thornleigh on an absolutely appalling day with the rain beating down incessantly. The attendance (joint with Thornleigh) was down to forty from sixty, last year. One of those present was Michael Campbell who missed the Scottish Mass and travelled down to England to be with us. Again everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided. Fr Martin Coyle, as usual, made us very welcome in the Sixth Form Unit. Fr Michael Cunningham celebrated the Mass assisted by four other Salesian priests. We are grateful to the community at Thornleigh.

We look forward to the Summer Fair to be held at Savio House and hope for the same support from our members as last year.

The subscribers to Friends Reunited who were not already members were emailed and this resulted in about twenty new members joining the Association. Our membership stands at 385. Unfortunately three of our members went to join our heavenly Association, one of them having a profound effect on his year group. When Philip Marshall passed away,

Mike Cox began to Email his contemporaries suggesting that it would be an idea to meet "before it was too late". Martin Flynn has received eighty Emails on the subject and a Reunion is being planned. It is thought that they will focus on the 2004 celebrations at Shrigley Hall.

JUN 2003

Arriving back from Paris we looked forward with interest to the messages that we would find on the answer machine and by Email. We were sad however to find news of the passing of two of our members, Fr Pierce Kearns in Ireland and Fr Martin Daly in South Africa. Fr Martin had spent three years from 1948-51 at Shrigley and was very popular with the students. These had come so soon after the death of George Atherton, a contemporary of Eddie Fox, Arthur Pace and Joe Blenkinsopp. Not that anyone can ever replace any of these men, but we were pleased to contact a contemporary of George's in JAMES SHIELDS from Glasgow. He is very welcome.

Fr Sean O'Loughlin continues to improve following his spell in hospital but still needs our prayers as do Fr Eric Darwell, who has undergone major surgery, and also Fr James Conway. I have just received the news that Fr Michael McGovern has had a recurrence of his cancer, so he also needs our prayers.

We had yet another successful Socialising weekend at Savio House in March. Fr John Dickson unfortunately had to withdraw from his proposed talk because of a crisis at Chertsey but this was the signal for Mike Kilduff to step forward and give us a sneak preview of the work he has been doing on his pictorial representation of life at Shrigley. It was so good that Fr Albert Carette who saw it later Emailed me the other day to ask if Mike was a professional and had his own business. This will be available for purchase at next year's Socialising weekend but Mike would still welcome photographs, especially but not only, from the later days of Shrigley. Mementos of any kind and information of any kind would be gratefully received. During the weekend we all signed a card, which was then sent out to Fr Bill Bergin serving in the Gulf. I have since had a card from him expressing his thanks and expecting to be home again soon.

Those of us who met the Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez SDB, at Thornleigh in March were impressed by his sincerity and his simplicity. We obtained the modern equivalent of his autograph by asking him for his Email address, which is, by the way, pchavez@sdb.org

At Easter four of us visited Turin and Lake Maggiore. We were so impressed by "Don Bosco's Little Rooms"-which can also be seen on CD- and also by our visit to the Church of St Francis of Assisi where Don Bosco met Bartolomeo Garelli as the Sacristan was trying to throw the little ragamuffin out. In connection with Turin it would now seem that Fr Gerry O'Shaughnessy is now leading the Salesian Pilgrimage to all things Don Bosco, Dominic Savio, etc in September, details of which can be seen on the Salesian website.

June 21st sees another FUN DAY which if it is anything like last year's event will be a social and financial success to be long remembered. Shrigley Past Pupils came in numbers to man stalls and had a great day in the sunshine in the process. We look forward again to their help this year.

The members have been circularised with the news that St Augustine's School in Billington is to give its four-yearly musical production in support of Cafod on July 10th, 11th and 12th at the St George's Halls in Blackburn. This year's greatly anticipated title is "Yanomanamo" and will be well worth seeing.

This year's Reunion takes place from August 29th to 31st, as usual at Savio House. On sale will be Mike Kilduff's calendar for 2004 showing scenes of Shrigley. Again we begin with the round of golf, kept at £26, supper at 7.00 followed by a Race Nite in support of Savio House. On the Saturday we will be having a talk by Fr Albert Carette on "Shrigley Matters". The weekend finishes with lunch on the Sunday.

On September 8th four of us are embarking on a tour organised by Mancunia Travel and will be visiting Lourdes, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Avila and Segovia. (Anyone wishing to join us will be welcome www.mancunia.com)

Peter Roebuck is aiming to have his work based on the first ten years of life at Shrigley, but containing more than that, available for the 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2004.

Finally, we fully support National Council's view that we should be seen to be supporting the missions as this was close to Don Bosco's heart and after all our title was Salesian MISSIONARY College. To this end we will send President Patrick's appeal by Email to those who have Email and by post with our next circular, to those without. This will enable those who are able to support the "Water Tank" appeal as well as the extra burden of our adoption of Savio House in response to Fr Provincial's appeal.

There are some more pictures of the Savio House Family Fun Day on the Savio House website
www.saviohouse.org.uk

I have been informed of the passing of JIMMY JONES at the ripe old age of 86. He was born in 1917 and entered Thornleigh in 1928. His elder brother had been the second boy ever to enter Thornleigh.

75th Anniversary Celebrations August 27th - 29th 2004

To avoid disappointment and also to give us a better idea of how many will be coming to celebrate, to meet old friends and make new friends, all of whom shared the same experiences at Shrigley, I offer the following points:

1. The present reservation of rooms, at the prices quoted on the order forms for Shrigley hall is 20 double/family, 10 twin/family and 10 single. We need to know VERY SOON if we need to get the contract extended further.
2. Instead of the terms for EACH night, when booked late on, the terms will become for TWO nights and not for just a one night's accommodation.
3. Much later on there may not be rooms available.
4. A THIRD night at the same terms will be available if BOOKED EARLY.
5. Please send your SHRIGLEY booking to TONY KERRIGAN.
6. Shrigley is donating the Saturday evening buffet for 100. If there are more than 100 present and we would like that very much, we will have to levy a SMALL charge.
7. The figure to be aimed for at Savio House is 64 but this can be extended

slightly by putting tables in another adjoining room.

8. The figure for the Sunday lunch however is a definite maximum of 64 so please get your booking in early. (SAVIO BOOKINGS to JOE LOMAX)
9. Reunion Timetable now reads:

Friday Golf in the afternoon as usual
7.00 Evening Buffet and socialising at Savio House

Saturday 10.00 Thanksgiving Mass in the Tilden Suite
11.00 AGM
12.30 Coffee and biscuits (provided by Association)
13.30 Cemetery
15.30 Dinner (cost about £20)
19.30 Buffet and concert (room until 24.00)

Sunday 11.00 Mass at Savio
13.0 Lunch at Savio
10. Please let me know if you would like a round of golf on the Friday

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO RING IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

WE HAVE TRIED TO THINK OF ALL POSSIBILITIES BUT WE ARE NOT INFALLIBLE.

THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION



President: Mark Higson
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Acting Secretary's report

FEB 2003

Despite attempts to get the Association moving we do not seem to be making much progress and must consider the time available to the organisers, the time invested and the results obtained.

Mark Froes reappeared and tried to organize a dinner at the Reebok Stadium on the last Saturday of the Autumn Term mid term. Many factors were against this, the timing in the break, large groups of musicians having an engagement on that evening, etc.

The dinner had to be cancelled as only 30 had booked. A similar dinner is planned for March 8th and to date, after one week's advertising, 14 have booked. Some have said that a dinner is too expensive (currently £25). Does this mean that a buffet style Reunion is the thing?

The Memorial Mass on November 10th, held jointly with the Catenians brought about seven Past Pupils who were not Catenians. The Don Bosco Mass, held jointly with the Shrigley Association brought fourteen members who were not associated with Shrigley.

Members slowly get in contact and we are now up to 260 and have small funds.

The only people to attend "Committee Meetings" are Mark Higson and Joe Lomax for normal business and Mark Froes and Joe Egan when there is a dinner being organised. Joe Egan had sponsored the dinner which was aborted.

The consequence of all this is that Mark and I feel that we will just keep the Association ticking over with the members being informed by Email of the two Masses, those not on Email being informed by a member given the job as contact for a non-Emailer, i.e., the hotline the members have been provided with but which I have serious doubts is actually used.

JUN 2003

Although now and then an entry in the "Old Pals" section of the Bolton Evening News carries a suggestion/plea for a year group meeting, nothing is done about any such meeting even when the correspondent is contacted and their message is passed on to others.

The members have been circulated and the point made to them that there has not been much response to all the effort put in since June 20th 2001 when it was agreed to restart the Association. A few Past Pupils have offered assistance in particular instances. Some have offered help with careers talk – whether or not this has been taken up or by the Careers department in the school, I don't know. Tom Holden supplied the school Rugby 15 with a set of Rugby shirts. Last Autumn we again had a successful rugby fixture with the ex

students of Bolton School. The Roll of Honour in the Chapel has been researched and the results published in an excellent form by another of the Past Pupils. Seven Past Pupils turned up at the joint Memorial Mass with the Catenians in November, fourteen appeared at the Don Bosco Mass held also at Thornleigh with the Shrigley Association. One or two enquired as to where donations were to be sent when Thornleigh were making their bid for Sports College status last summer. Thornleigh were successful in their bid and were grateful for the publicity, which we gave to it.

As a result of this lack of response but mainly because there are many other activities which demand our attention, the members were informed that the organisation of anything in the name of Thornleigh would be welcome, that "we" would publicise the meeting or event etc but that we must, of necessity, limit ourselves to informing by Email of the Memorial Mass and the Don Bosco Mass together with any item of information of interest or importance such as Fr Eric Darwell's illness.

Some do get in touch asking to enrol. The latest was from a Past Pupil in Somerset who also brought with him Geoff Shovelton, now an established opera singer who was enquiring about Fr John McGovern who was his music master.

The present membership is 274 with 242 on Email but many of these Emails were from those who enrolled from school, gave their school Email address and have since left.

Well we have had our first Dinner and a good one too.

In some people's estimation it was going to be overpriced and possibly they were correct. It was however a good night to remember.

The meal itself was delicious and the company excellent. Thirty-two attended and gave a good spread over the years, despite the fact that it was a thin spread. Nine of the assembly were enrolled -- NOT BY FORCE - on the night and two promised to get their years together as they could see that there was something worthwhile here. If they do get anything going would they please let us know. The one who had travelled the furthest was Andy Parsons from

Adelaide but that is cheating as he was over here to see family. He did say, that if he was over here, HE would help to run the Past Pupils as he longed to be back at Thornleigh when he was at his school in Australia! On the night Bernard Broderick had travelled furthest having come from Dorset. Others had come from Cheshire, Leeds and of course Bolton.

As regards another more economical event, the Mount are having a dinner this very evening at Deane Golf club. It is costing £14 and that includes the hire of the room. NINETYSIX are booked. If anyone would like to organise an event please don't hesitate and go ahead.

Finally, once again if anyone would like to take over the running of the Association, they would be VERY welcome and would receive our blessing - in the absence of any pecuniary reward.

Time is hard to come by for me just now.

THORNLEIGH PAST PUPILS
FAIRLY GET ABOUT - HOW
ABOUT BERNARD GROGAN
THEN?

Fr Julian Fox, of the Australian Province, has sent this item in his newsletter:

Salesian among recipients of "Ecclesia in Europa" Vatican City 28 June 2003 - Among the representatives to whom the Holy Father personally presented copies of his Apostolic Exhortation "Ecclesia in Europa" this evening was the English Salesian Fr Bernard Grogan, since 1996 member of the Casa Generalizia community in Rome.

In the context of the celebration of the First Vespers of the Solemnity of SS Peter and Paul held in St Peter's Basilica, the Holy Father signed and promulgated his Apostolic Exhortation "Ecclesia in Europa" following the Continental Synod of Bishops for Europe, held in the Vatican in 1999.

Then, in a simple ceremony, he gave copies of the new document to 11 representatives of the Church in Europe who had taken part, in various capacities, in the Synod of Bishops in 1999. These included seven members of the Synod of Bishops: four Cardinals

and three Bishops; two female religious and a young layman who had been observers at the Synod; and Fr Grogan who as a priest and religious had been an "expert" at the Synod.

Fr Grogan, who since 1996 has been the Secretary of the General Councillor for Formation and responsible for some of the translation work at the Pisana, had in fact been privileged not only to be present at the Synod, but also to have worked as part of the team that beforehand prepared the working document for the Synod, and afterwards helped draft the document that was given to the Holy Father so that he might prepare his Apostolic Exhortation.

Bro Michael Delmer has sent this report:

Fr Terry Aylward being presented with his Service Medals by Fr Michael Cunningham, Rector, with Fr Tony Bailey in attendance, at Thornleigh House on Wednesday, October 31st 2002.

The occasion also marked a 'House Warming' to celebrate the conclusion of the work of refurbishment at Thornleigh House.

Fr Terry was very moved by the messages of congratulation and wishes to thank everyone who took the time to send these good wishes.

EUROGEX - The European youth part of the Past Pupils Federation



Hi to everyone!

It's hard to believe that I have now been home 3 weeks and beginning to settle back to normal life here in the UK. My life has not changed but the experience I have had over the last eight months has empowered me to make everyday a good day.

I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to share my journey with so many - and I told everyone I spoke to, that they had now become part of my

journey: the young people in the schools, colleges, and universities; the many people I travelled with on buses, trains and aeroplanes; the family and friends I met on the way; the readers of many newspapers in so many countries that followed my story; the listeners of local and national radio stations around the world; and you! Yes, those of you that have followed my journey every step of the way through the Internet.

I have enjoyed writing my journal and sharing a part of my journey with so many people, and I have also found so much pleasure reading the messages in the Guestbook - they have given me support and comfort when I felt lonely and frustrated. After 222 days and 92,225kms - I visited 42 countries and travelled through 33 time zones. The whole trip included 31 planes, 25 trains, 24 buses, 9 boats and 7 cars - a total journey time of 659 hours. I had my passport stamped 68 times, slept in 63 hotels and confused myself with 37 currencies!

With the support of the Salesians of Don Bosco I had the opportunity of visiting so many projects in underdeveloped countries and gave talks in over 45 community and educational establishments.

So, at last I am home and can enjoy my 'creature comforts'! I will never do this again but I will always have the memories, experiences and impressions of a global community in my mind - maybe it will make a 'best-seller' one day.

Thank you everyone for your help and support over the last eight months - many of you I will see here back home

but many of you will be long distance friends for life!

Don't forget - you can still visit my web site (and leave a message in the guest book!)

<http://www.huntersjourney.net>

Peter Hunter

Global Past Pupils Activities

EUROBOSCO PREPARATIONS

The dates for the Eurobosco to take place in Rome have now been established. The Congress will take place from 28OCT2003 to 01NOV2003. A full Registration form, pricing and program, in English language can be found on the World-wide Website www.donbosco-pp.info.

Past Pupils activity all over the world, compiled by Alex Dockers, World Vice President.



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 There is a direct link to this website from our Links page under "Follow Don Bosco".

National Council (GB) records its grateful thanks to Alex for his tireless work to keep the worldwide PP-Info up to date and topical.

LIBERIA

We are extremely saddened and worried for our Salesians in Liberia, which is part of the Great Britain Province. The war is so very close to our Salesian works in Monrovia and you can read some examples of how bad it is in our Guestbook. We need to pray earnestly for the Salesians and the people in Liberia. You have read above of our first international project to be funded by National Council - a clean water facility for the Salesian Polytechnic in Monrovia. Such a small but nevertheless valuable contribution to these terrified people.

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

(Note change to Website address)



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