



# National Newsletter

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



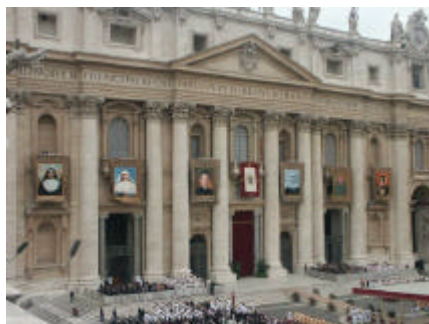
Issue No 6

June 2004

This, our sixth issue of a National Newsletter, is a compilation of the Reports made by the Local Associations at our last National Council meeting, which took place at Bootle on 22 February 2004. Our next National Council meeting will be on 27 June 2004 at the Salesian House in Battersea.

National President, Patrick Morrissey, reminded the meeting of the forthcoming World Assembly to take place in Rome in April 2004 at which a new World President will be elected and a revision of the World Statutes will be voted on. Due to unforeseen difficulties with other aspects of the Assembly the latter point did not happen.

As the World Assembly coincided with the Beatification of six people, three of whom were members of the Salesian Family, a Salesian Priest, a Salesian Sister and a young female Salesian Cooperator, the first day the whole World Assembly were transported to the Vatican for this wonderful event for the Salesian Family. Some photos cover aspects of this.



St Peters with banners of the Beati



Pope John Paul arrives

National President thanked again complimented the Local Associations for their fine response to the first National Mission project, to fund a water project in Liberia. He then advised that from their personal charity account he and his wife Diane had decided to match the contributions made. This magnificent gesture the final result was a cheque for £11,000 being presented as described in the photo below.



Fr Jim McGarry presents the 'cheque' to Sr Laurene outside the Polytechnic

## National Council Meeting at Bootle

National President, Patrick Morrissey, welcomed all those who come to the meeting, which was somewhat fewer than usual. However a very useful meeting ensued. After the meeting Fr Sean hosted the Council members to an excellent lunch with the Bootle, St. James' Community.



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## BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION

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*President: Nicholas Potter  
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Email potterpef@hotmail.com*

I am pleased to report that we had a good attendance for our Remembrance Day Mass last November, the most encouraging thing being the attendance of a number of immediate past pupils. Mass was followed by prayers and the laying of a wreath at the War Memorial, refreshments in the Hall and further refreshments in The Castle!

The AGM and Reunion held on Jan 25th was the most successful since the Centenary. Mass was well attended in the Chapel with fond remembrance of Fr Tom Carroll, for so many years a Battersea stalwart, who had been buried the previous day on the Feast of St Francis de Sales. The AGM which



The Swiss guards were on duty

followed was both constructive and enjoyable. Following a splendid photo-slide presentation and talk by the Salesian Mission Director Fr Joe Brown showing the work of the Salesians in Liberia, the meeting voted the sum of £800 to SMILE to bring the grand total collected by the respective UK associations for the water project to £5000.

Around 100 then sat down to lunch, including guests from Cowley, Farnborough and Blaisdon, the Battersea community and Head together with the Captain of the OSFC 1st XI who carried off the SAL Div 1 trophy last season. The age range was from 15 to ninety four – and he said grace in a fine firm voice.

Speakers included Peter Hunter (flogging his book), the school Captain Jean Shakya, who attended the National Council November meeting, and James Harris reading some of his own poetry. The best feature of the day was not only the attendance of members of the current school council but immediate past pupils who are either at Sixth Form College or University. I was delighted to see the school captains and some of their deputies for the past three years coming back to be with us. If we can keep on growing this group then hopefully, with guidance, they could be persuaded to help form the nucleus of the Committee in the future.

Through the efforts of our Newsletter Editorial team we have started to compile an e-mail address list which again is an excellent medium for keeping in contact with the younger generations as they are pretty well all on the internet. We see this as very much the way forward.



**An excellent AGM and Annual Reunion Luncheon was held in the school dining room with invited guests from the SDB community, National Council and others. See photos of top table (above) and general tables (below).**




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## **BLAISDON ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Charles Springett  
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Our next get together/meeting is over the w/e 17/18th April in Blaisdon. Mass will be at 1100hrs celebrated by Fr Aidan Murray SDB, followed later by a buffet in the Village Hall. We hope for our usual good attendance.



**In Blaisdon Village Hall**

Since sending out our latest newsletter, and thanks to some great Past Pupils and friends, we have received many replies with fees and donation's, amounting to over £500 towards our funds, expenses and costs This will help us keep our Association going.

Terry O'Neill and his wife Pat are still attending hospital for checks and treatment, but still look on the bright side. Pat Murphy has been taken back into hospital with breathing difficulties with his illness, his wife Rita is very worried. Doreen Robertson, wife of John, is awaiting major surgery for her walking problems. Mike O'Brien is suffering badly with the arthritis to his hands. Please remember all of them in your prayers, also Fr Sean's sister who is now recovering after her major operation in Cork, and has now

returned to Rome in the hope that she will be able to carry on with her studies and good work there.

The combined meeting / reunion between the ex Crusade of Rescue, (now the Catholic Children's Society,) Girls of St Anthony's Feltham and the ex C o R boys from Enfield, Mill Hill and Blaisdon, is to take place at St Vincents, Carlisle Place, Victoria. London on 13th June 2004. This will be a first after many left these establishments well over 50/60 years ago.

What memories and stories will be exchanged I wonder?

Attached were copies of a letter from Norman Taylor, Ex C o R and Blaisdon Old Boy, to the B.B.C. These referred to the forthcoming programme on the 26th Feb on BBC 1 at 9pm. I would like to suggest that you might wish to see it. I myself wonder if the BBC will reply to Norman's letter? It will be interesting to see!



**The Salesian Grave at St Michael's Blaisdon**

Our trip to Rome was a great success. Many are now asking when and where the next trip? We are hoping that this will be to the Holy Land, when it is safe to do so.

### **A Visit To Father Paul Golding**

On Wednesday 19th May four Blaisdon Old Boys visited Father Paul Golding at his home in Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London.

The four Old Boys were all farm boys were worked under Paul's supervision at Blaisdon's Stud Farm. They were Charlie Springett 1945-47, Eric Natcher 1941-43, Mike O'Brien 1942-44, and Norman Taylor 1942-44. We were joined by Father James McGuire. Fr. James is now Chaplain to Nazareth House.

The talk naturally turned to life at Blaisdon and especially our time with Paul at Stud Farm. Father McGuire

told us how the Theologians had to spend their spare time working on the farm to help the war effort. We laughed as we told and retold the stories of our adventures during haymaking, harvesting, threshing, and field work. We wondered what would be the reaction of a Factory Inspector today visiting Stud farm, and seeing the boys working on the top of the threshing machine feeding the corn into the rotating blades of the thresher. He would probably issue a Prohibition Order with immediate effect.

Along with Brother Alan Garman, Brother Flynn and Brother Holloway, Father Paul's job was to supervise the boys working in the fields and the other routine tasks. From my own experience as probably one of the most reluctant and disobedient boys ever to work on the farm, I still marvel at Father Paul's patience as he manfully tried to direct me towards learning the basics of farm work. I have since learned that mine and other boys' failures to arrive up at the Hall on time for further education, had on several occasions resulted in Father Paul being reprimanded by his Superiors.

The most striking feature to me of our visit to Father Paul was how Blaisdon has been etched into the lives of so many of the Salesian Staff who worked so hard in teaching us the value of hard work and good citizenship. The majority of the boys who went to Blaisdon in its early years had come from Homes run by the Crusade of Rescue, and similar organisations whose management was not as farsighted as the Salesians into the effects that poor childcare policies would have on the future lives of their young charges. In England, Blaisdon Hall in its early years was the place where the true work of Don Bosco was done. Thank you Father Paul Golding and all the staff at Blaisdon Hall who helped us in our formative years.




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## **BOOTLE ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Terry Rimmer  
Tel: 0151 802 3000 (Office Hours)  
rimmers@giddygate.freemove.co.uk*

The Annual Reunion and Annual Football Match was held on Saturday 20th September 2004 at Bootle. Deputy Head Tony Brookman, usually organises this event.

Tony retired from the school in July 2003 after giving 37 loyal and wonderful years of service to the school and so many young people.

Over 40 Past Pupils turned up this year to watch or to play. A great time was had by all at the reception afterwards.

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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: ?*

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.

Good to see some Chertsey people are using the Guestbook in our Website, especially as some are the ladies trying to meet up.

Contact - Mike Quinlan

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## **COWLEY ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Richard Blake  
Tel: 01753 863568  
Email: blake@rblake.freemove.co.uk*

No Changes to report!

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## **FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION**

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*President: John Clenshaw  
Tel: 01276 65690 (Home)  
01252 783574 (Bus)  
No Email*

1. We participated at the (Salesian College Farnborough) Fete Day in June by holding our usual OSA 'small tent' to give publicity to OSA and to provide a 'glass' of refreshment to visiting Past Pupils (although few in number) and to parents & friends of the College.

2. In September, at the beginning of the School year, several recent Past pupils were present at the opening and dedication to Sean Devereux of the new Sixth Form Centre.

3. On Remembrance Sunday in November we held our OSA Remembrance Sunday Mass in the College Chapel which was celebrated by Fr. Francis Sutherland SDB (who is our OSA link to the Salesian Community at St. John Bosco House Farnborough) followed by the reading of the Roll of Honour at the memorial plaque in the College Assembly Hall to Farnborough's Past Pupils who died in the Second World War particularly those who were killed serving as pilots in the Battle of Britain.

As Fr Sutherland explained afterwards during coffee this memorial service will, unfortunately, be the last in this format owing to supply commitments for the Priests at Don Bosco House & ageing relatives of those Farnborough Old Boys who are being remembered, nevertheless the remembrance will be continued by including the OSA in the College students annual Armistice Day service in the College Hall.

3. Later in November the OSA was able to participate in the Annual College Prize Giving which includes some prizes donated by Farnborough OSA as awards to last year's Students gaining high merits in the public examinations.

4. Thanks to our Salesian Delegate, Fr. Joe Brown SDB, we are steadily building a new data base giving us an

improved 'directory' of Farnborough Past Pupils from recent to distant times. It has now reached approx 4,500 names which poses for us a question for maintaining the links with our Old Boys.

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## **SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION**

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*President: Joe Lomax  
Tel: 01204 843874  
Email: joe@lomax.cc*

### Report to National council

This year the activity of the Association has been taken up by preparations for the 75th Anniversary of the opening of Shrigley. The Association's life continues all the time because of the large number of email connections, not only news items from the centre but in contacts made between members for whom it has been a huge success. Certain email addresses continue to give trouble even though checked and counterchecked.

This year we have had three Don Bosco Masses: -

The first took place in Glasgow on January 25th in the home of John Clarke, attended by about 16 members. At this our Scots lads assured us of £400 of financial support for the 75th.

The second was at Farnborough on January 31st by kind invitation of Fr Hugh Preston. It was attended by about 20 Past Pupils and wives and was celebrated at the lovely church of Our Lady Help of Christians. Kevin Dean was the organist and it is worth mentioning that after his excellent playing, Edward de Rivera went up to try the organ and enthralled everyone with his playing. Edward is an orchestral conductor, trained in Prague amongst other places. He is now at the Oxford Oratory. We then adjourned to the Squirrel for a meal. This was followed by a tour of the school.

The third mass was at Thornleigh on Feb 8th where Fr Albert Carette reminded us of the beginnings of the Salesians, inspired by the gentle spirit

of St Francis de Sales. This was a little disappointing as only 27 were present and some of these were Thornleighans. It had been a dreadfully windy night and David Murphy had had two cars written off by falling tiles and Kevin Dean had had to saw up and remove part of a fallen tree before he had set out.

Two other Masses were extremely well attended. The first was at St Gregory's, Bollington for Fr Tom Carroll, and the second at Weybridge for Fr Eric Darwell. Previous to these we had had requiems for John Slack and Fr Carmello Zammit in Malta. Since these, Peter Tohill has also passed away.

Despite these losses, the number on Roll is 390 and we have had enquiries from another five or so but these have not been taken further just yet.

The arrangements for the 75th are progressing very well. We have reserved 68 rooms at Shrigley and of these 56 have been booked for 106 people. 106 will so far be at the Dinner and 108 at the evening buffet provided by Shrigley themselves. 11 people have also booked to stay at Savio House and of the 80 places available for the Friday evening buffet, 71 have gone already and all the places for the Sunday lunch are taken with a waiting list in operation. The most pleasing part will be the concelebrated Mass to be held in our old Chapel using the old Shrigley vestments. Invitation cards are to be sent to all Salesians who have a connection with Shrigley. They are to be entertained to the Dinner by the Association. For those who cannot attend the weekend (Aug 27th -29th) there will be a dinner and overnight stay at Savio on August 25th.

Apart from the £400 from our generous Scots lads and the Shrigley buffet, we have managed to raise £3000 in sponsorship. We are so grateful to all our members for their generosity and cooperation. This is seen in many ways. About 9 travel every so often to my house for committee meetings and these come from quite a distance, Leeds, Warrington, Chorlton, Chorley, and Liverpool. Recently in response to my request to see how many were receiving my emails after difficulties in transferring to a new computer, 120 out of a possible 220 replied. It is hoped to get a new and up to date directory out

soon. A special Anniversary Calendar was produced by Mike Kilduff who also has compiled a superb photographic impression of life at Shrigley and afterwards, "Shrigley 1929 -2004". Going on for 100 copies have already been reserved. Peter Roebuck is also hoping to have his book on the first ten years of Shrigley available by August. Ties, T-shirts and CD copies of the 1953 broadcast will also be on sale.

### **Shrigley News**

We must start by offering congratulations to Fr Pat Sherlock SDB, ex Shrigley staff, who celebrates the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood on Monday May 24th, a very fitting day. He has always worked unceasingly in his office as Provincial Secretary and we thank him for all the work he has done for us in establishing our Association website and giving us publicity and encouragement.

James Burleigh rang the other day and reminded me that the Vocations Pilgrimage to Walsingham on JUNE 19th will have an unusually special significance for our Association. Fr Eric Darwell did such a lot of work for the Pilgrimage in the past - he started it 28 years ago - that the Mass at 4.00 will be dedicated to his memory. The mile walk starts at 1.30 to the chapel where there will then be the Holy Hour followed by the 4.00 Mass.

Tony Kerrigan will be ordained Deacon in Liverpool Cathedral at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday June 13th.

I rang Bill McAreavey yesterday only to find that he was recovering from a heart attack that he had suffered 10 days ago. Remember him in your prayers. He would like anyone from his years to contact him at billmac@tiscali.co.uk

Bill O'Connor emailed to say that he would be at Hosannah House, Lourdes, June 18th to 25th, which coincides with the trip that Pauline and I are doing. John Foley emailed on janet.foley@wanadoo.fr to offer his help as he lives just a two hours drive from Lourdes. He also offers a night(s) accommodation to any ex Shrigleyite in return for a diminution in the European wine lake.

Lastly, a new directory will be available to all members of the Association at the Reunion. A new feature will be a hot line in which anyone without an email will be contacted by phone by a nearby E-mailer for any important news. The names of the non E-mailers are at the side of the appropriate E-mailer. Tel Nos are in the directory.

That will have to do. We are off to the Catenian Conference in Liverpool this weekend and it would be good to see some Shrigley Catenians there. There will be a special Mass at 11.00 in the Cathedral. We are hoping to fill it.

### REUNION TIMETABLE

Friday August 27th to Sunday August 29th

**Friday:** GOLF in the afternoon as usual

18.0 Registration – Directory and Brochure for members only

19.00 Evening Buffet and socializing at Savio House

**Saturday:** ALL AT SHRIGLEY

9.30 Registration for those who did not register last night – Directory and Brochure for these

9.45 Assemble for Mass

10.00 Thanksgiving Mass in the Tilden Suite

11.0 AGM in the Tilden Suite

12.30 Coffee and biscuits (provided by the Association)

13.30 Visit to the Shrigley Cemetery Group photograph, men followed by ALL together

15.30 Dinner cost about £20

1930 Buffet and impromptu entertainment (room until 24.00)

**Sunday:** AT SAVIO HOUSE

11.00 Mass

13.00 Lunch

### Peter Tohill (RIP)

I went to a lovely Memorial Service for the late Peter John Tohill (RIP) (AKA PJ) at which a fellow Salesian, Mike Costello, gave an informative and amusing talk on the "Shrigley years", as part of the presentation of the short, but full, life circle of PJ.



The cover of the beautiful Service Booklet

### THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION



President: Mark Higson

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Sunday November 9th saw five Thornleigh Past Pupils join the twelve who were members of the Bolton Catenian Circle making a total of nineteen attending the memorial Mass in the Chapel at Thornleigh.

On Sunday February 8th, this pattern was repeated with the total of Thornleigh Past pupils present at the Shrigley Mass being nine. At this Mass we remembered two who had passed away. These were John Flanagan and Fr Eric Darwell.

These deaths brought our number on roll down to 272. HOWEVER we have had an enquiry from a possible new member. He has not unfortunately returned the enrolment form as yet.

Joe Lomax, Acting Secretary

### EUROGEX – The European youth part of the Past Pupils Federation



Peter has now passed the age at which he can strictly remain our Eurogex representative on National Council and at European and World Congresses. He will of course remain a member of National Council.

So we are still looking for a new Eurogex representative, a Past Pupil male or female who would be prepared to undertake this stimulating role.

See the Beatles photo below and you will see how much we need you

???ANY TAKERS???

### Global Past Pupils Activities

#### 3rd World Assembly

A new World President for the Salesian Past Pupils Confederation was elected at the Assembly. He is Francesco Muceo of the Italian Federation. Francesco has been on the World Confederal Council for many years, originally as a Gex representative. Many of the other Officers stood down and were also replaced with a considerably younger age representation.

We thank the outgoing Presidency for all the work they have done for the worldwide movement of Salesian Past Pupils over the six years of their tenure. We wish them much success in whatever activities they may be involved with in the future. We also wish the new Confederal Presidency much success in their role of animating the Past Pupils throughout the world and assure them of our support in this work.

Below is a photo of Francesco Muceo and his wife Maria taken at the Assembly and some other photos. After taking this photo I don't think I will get the job of official photographer for the Confederation!



Francesco and Maria Muceo



With Mgr Luc Van Looy, Bishop of Ghent, who happened to be visiting.



Some of us at the Pisana, the HQ of the Salesian Family

As part of the socializing evening, where each National Federation puts on some sort of entertainment, by popular request the GB representatives, who were Patrick Morrissey and his wife Diane, Peter Hunter, Fr Sean Murray and John Ward were prevailed upon to give another performance of Beatles songs. In case you missed it last time here are the new GB Beatles crew, as listed above. Some of the audience became a little excited, as you can see. Isn't it great that I haven't added a sound track? Don't answer that.



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*Past Pupils activity all over the world, will still be compiled by Alex Dockers, a member of the new Confederal Presidency.*

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Information about Past Pupils activities throughout the world is also available and continually refreshed on the Internet and is created by Alex Dockers. 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".

National Council (GB) records its grateful thanks to Alex for his tireless and continuous work to keep the worldwide PP-Info up to date and topical. We look forward to his continued work as a member of the new Presidency.

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### **LIBERIA**

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*Thanks to the generosity of the Salesian Past Pupils of Great Britain, we collected over £11,000 for our 'SMILE' 2003 Appeal, against a target of £4000. The money will be used to install three 1000-gallon tanks with electric pump, associated building works and improved security at the Don Bosco Polytechnic in Monrovia, Liberia. We will provide regular updates on the installation.*

*Encouraged by this success, our 2004 National Past Pupil Mission project is to replace at least one of the 4 electricity generators lost to looting in the recent fighting. Without these, the Polytechnic is operating a very restricted syllabus, and mainstream courses in electronics, surveying and computer studies cannot be offered to students.*

*We are committed to raising £12,000 in 2004. If you could give £10 or £20, you will transform the study and work prospects of thousands of Salesian students for years to come.*

*Please send your donation to: -*

*'SMILE 2004' c/o Richard Blake  
National Treasurer : Salesian  
Past Pupils Federation  
Glade House  
40 Winkfield Road  
Windsor, Berks. England SL4  
4AF*

*Yours sincerely  
Patrick Morrissey : National  
President*

**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](mailto: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.**

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



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