



# National Newsletter

## Salesian Past Pupils (Great Britain)

### National President: Patrick Morrissey

Issue 7

February 2005

This, our seventh 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 Battersea on 27 June 2004. My apologies that this is late and with no colour photos. Our next National Council meeting will be in March 2005 at the Salesian House in Bootle.

National President, Patrick Morrissey, thanked Fr Des O'Riordan, Rector, for hosting the meeting and providing overnight accommodation for attendees from the North. He also thanked Fathers Des O'Riordan, John Gilheney and Peter Burns for Concelebrating Mass for the National Council at 10am.

#### **BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION**

*President: Nicholas Potter*  
*Tel: 0208 679 0126*

Latest membership numbers show a small increase on last time.

Our recruitment initiative has been largely through the medium of the Newsletter, which was very well received and generated a number of 'new' subs.

We are circulating copies free of charge to our recent leavers in the hope of keeping their interest for the future. I am glad to say we have built up a group from the last three or four years who are all in touch and who have been attending the AGM/Re-Union on a regular basis.

We have a further edition of the Newsletter in the pipeline in which we will be promoting the 2004 Mission Project. If there is any delay on that we will send it out as separate item.

#### **BLAISDON ASSOCIATION**

*President: Charles Springett*  
*Tel: 01782 767931*

I am pleased to report that once again we had a very successful, well attended and interesting get together at Blaisdon over the weekend after Easter. We joined with the local parish community for Mass, celebrated by Fr Aidan Murray SDB, and we gathered at the Salesian graveside for prayers for our departed friends. After which we enjoyed a buffet in the Village Hall laid on as usual by Carol Tilling. Many thanks to everyone who helped in the many ways needed to lay out the tables, decorations, tea making washing up and all the other tasks that make the day such a success. This has become a regular event after Easter over the last number of years and it is complimentary to our annual August reunion, as many of us do wonder how much longer we will be able to attend these events.

We missed Father Sean Murray SDB who was not with us on this occasion as he was with the Salesians in Malta. However we raised a glass to his good health, as we knew he would be doing the same

for us in Malta. A few new faces were to be seen, always welcome, and some were boys from the ex Crusade of Rescue Homes formally from Enfield and Mill Hill, many of whom were not lucky enough to find themselves attending the Salesian School at Blaisdon Hall. It is easy to see that, in every case, the boys are always glad to meet in Blaisdon. The next Blaisdon Reunion will be on Sunday 29th August. We are again looking forward to it and to even more ex Crusade of Rescue boys and girls attending. We are becoming an ever-increasing Family, as Don Bosco would have wanted and blessed.

Terry O'Neill is still having problems with his legs, but always looking on the bright side. His wife, Pat, is making progress, as is Pat Murphy and Fr. Sean's sister, Sister Bosco, in Rome. Mike Turnbull is much more like his old self, and now is even driving his new car.

We are hoping to send out our next Newsletter by Email, to as many as possible, to cut down on printing and postage costs. A number of mailings are returned each time we mail them out, marked "moved away" "not here now" etc. and as many do not reply, or contact us, we do not know if they want to receive the newsletter, disheartening and in some cases a waste of time, effort and costs.

The combined meeting/reunion which took place at St Vincent's, Carlisle Place, Victoria on Sunday 13th June between the Athonian's Association- (St Anthony's) Feltham ex Crusade of Rescue girls - and St Joseph's Enfield, St Vincent's Mill Hill, Ex Crusade of Rescue boys, was a great success. Many of the boys and girls had not seen each other for many years, in some cases up to 60 years. Some were brothers and sisters who had been split up and

placed in the separate Homes. I attach a write up by Norman Taylor, which I believe shows the strong bond still holding many of these boys and girls together over so many years. It would be good to hear from anyone who has read the stories, by Norman, on Enfield and Blaisdon which are on the Catholic Children Society (Westminster) Section, over the link from this Past Pupils' website. I believe Don Bosco would have found them interesting and enjoyed them.

### **BURWASH ASSOCIATION**

*Not yet established. Any takers?*

### **CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION**

*President: Sue Gregson*

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. Please contact - Mike Quinlan

### **COWLEY ASSOCIATION**

*President: Richard Blake*

*Tel: 01753 863568*

*Email: blake@rblake.freeserve.co.uk*

No News to report!

### **FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION**

*President: John Clenshaw*

*Tel: 01276 65690 (Home) 01252 783574 (Bus)*

## SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION

*President: Joe Lomax*

*Tel: 01204 843874*

*Email: joe@lomax.cc*

Our Socialising Weekend took place from Saturday March 6th to Sunday March 7th at Savio House and was attended by 14 people, which makes one wonder if it is really viable. We were nevertheless treated to an excellent talk by Fr John Dickson who gave an informative presentation on "The Salesians in England/In 2004". One of his encouraging thoughts was that despite the diminution in Salesian numbers he had full Faith in the future, whatever form that may take.

Our next event is the Summer Fair at Savio House which is always enjoyable, and to which we make a practical contribution by helping to staff the stalls and games.

The sales of Mike Kilduff's excellent "Shrigley 1929 to 2004" continue to grow with a second printing on the way. Peter Roebuck's "The Foundation Decade at Shrigley" has just been published and is on sale at £6.50 with £1.00 postage and packing.

Naturally this year our main preoccupation has been with preparation for the 75th Anniversary celebrations. Already 150 are booked in for the Mass and dinner. The Mass will be concelebrated by the then Provincial Fr Michael Winstanley and about 20 other priests and three permanent deacons, one of whom, Tony Kerrigan was ordained at Liverpool Cathedral by Archbishop Kelly on Sunday June 13th. It will take place in the upper suite of our old Tilden designed Chapel.

The weekend begins on the Friday with golf in the afternoon then a buffet at

Savio House for 80 but those unable to have booked will still be very welcome for the socialising before and after. On the Saturday Mass starts at 10.00 followed by the AGM, coffee, visit to the cemetery which has been given a rigorous spring clean, group photographs then the dinner at 3.30. In the evening we have the entertainment and buffet during which there will be a grand raffle in support of Savio House and in which the first prize is a weekend at Lourdes donated by Mancunia Travel. On the Sunday we have another Mass then a farewell lunch at 1.00.

During the weekend, Association t-shirts and ties, copies of the 1953 Broadcast, Mike Kilduff's Shrigley 1929-2004 and Peter Roebuck's book will be on sale. An up to date Association Directory is being prepared published and donated by Giles Hunter. This will contain 396 names and an email list of 242. Those without email will be contacted by phone by their email minder. Already the Universe has taken up an advertising slot in this at £50 a time and we hope for more advertisers. We have already had goodwill messages from our present Provincial and Rector Major. There is also a blessing from an even higher authority. We can only state what our finances are when the dust finally settles in September.

[Order forms for the DVD of the 75th Anniversary, for photographs and for the books by Mike Kilduff and Peter Roebuck are available on the Shrigley Association Web Site [www.salesians.org.uk/shrigley](http://www.salesians.org.uk/shrigley)]

### Some news items and requests

Can anyone help with the email addresses for Anthony Whitehead, Tom Reilly and Bernard Brown?

Fr Peter Quinn has recently moved to Chertsey (address of Chertsey in directory).

Frank McGreal is now  
*frank80a@forestlyn.wanadoo.co.uk*  
 Sean Simpson is now  
*simpsonsp@hotmail.com* and  
 John Wood's email is now  
*johnandeileen@ntlworld.com*

Will you please amend these in your directory?

Bro Donald is in Liberia until Nov 25th helping to prepare for the visit of the Rector Major but can be contacted on his usual email address.

Don Treadwell has cancer of the bladder and the pancreas. Please remember him in your prayers. He has worked so hard for the Association in the past.

Today (27th June 2004) sees the first of the SHRIGLEY LADIES off to Savio to help for the weekend so that the volunteers get some time off. This goes on for the time being until the last weekend in November and then the next slot will be filled.

## **THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION**

*President: Mark Higson*  
*Tel: 01204 796255*  
*Email: Mark.Higson@e-thinktank.co.uk*

I may have mentioned it already but the new Head for Thornleigh from September will be Fr Martin Coyle SDB and the Head of Six form replacing him is to be Fr Andrew Waller SDB. We offer them both our congratulations, prayers and every good wish for success in their new posts. They are taking the places filled by many great Salesians and laity that have been in those posts before them.

Fr Michael Cunningham SDB, Rector at Thornleigh is to move to Bootle for September.

Adelaide will be deserted and Bolton crowded from June to July as Andy Parsons will be here from June 8th to sometime in July and also Trevor Brogden around the same time as he is attending the wedding of my daughter, Anne Lomax, herself a Past Pupil and first girl in Fr John McGovern's famous brass band. Bill Bradbury, from the same era as Trevor is anxious for Trevor to get in touch then they can have a "Jar" together. Trevor is also to meet Kevin Hardman.

"To mark the International Year of the Family, a symposium will take place at the end of June in the Lateran University organised by the Pontifical Council for the Family. The theme for the Symposium is "Family in Europe" and John Lydon, an Assistant Head teacher at the Salesian School, Chertsey will join a delegation of three lecturers from St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill representing the Catholic School Leadership Programme which is currently thriving as a result of the College's commitment to the Church's Educational mission. John, alongside Mr. Alan Murphy, the programme Director and Fr Michael Hayes, Head of the school of Theology, Philosophy and History, will present a paper highlighting the way the programme contributes to the formation of future school leaders and de facto supports the family in the Faith development of young people. Apart from a series of papers outlining themes and perspectives on the family, the three days of the symposium will also include a Eucharistic Celebration in St Peter's at which the Principal celebrant will be Cardinal Trujillo, the president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. This will be followed by an

audience with the Holy Father. 300 University Lecturers are expected to be at the Symposium from 41 European countries.”

Congratulations to John.

Other good news is that the four Thornleigh year 9 girls injured when the bus mounted the pavement on May 1st continue to make progress. One has been allowed home, the other three are still in hospital, one in a high dependency unit. Please remember them in your prayers.

### **EUROGEX**

The European youth part of the Past Pupils Federation

We are still looking for a new Eurogex representative, a Past Pupil male or female who would be prepared to undertake this stimulating role. *ANY TAKERS???*

### **GLOBAL PAST PUPILS**

A new official website for the World Confederation of Past Pupils, created by the World Council has recently been established and can be found by linking to [www.sdb.org](http://www.sdb.org) and selecting Past Pupils.

The long established 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 valuable work as a member of the new Presidency.

### **LIBERIA**

Encouraged by the success of our 2003 effort, 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 SL4 4AF, England

### **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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