



National Newsletter

Salesian Past Pupils (Great Britain)

National President: Patrick Morrissey



This, our ninth issue of a National Newsletter, is a compilation of the Reports given by the Local Associations and other officers on the National Council at our last National Council meeting, which took place at Battersea on 25 September 2005. It also has news of how our Mission Project for 2004/5 is progressing and also of how our 2005/6 fund raising for Malaria and HIV/Aids is progressing.

Our next National Council meeting is planned for 19 March 2006 at the Salesian House in Bootle.

National President, Patrick Morrissey, thanked all those who had come to the meeting, with a special welcome to Kevin Lawler for attending this meeting. He also thanked Fr Des O'Riordan, Rector, for his welcome and hospitality and for standing in at short notice for Father Sean Murray, National Delegate, who had been delayed, to say Mass for us.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Patrick Morrissey was able and delighted to report that the funds for the "SMILE" Mission appeal for 2004/5, to raise £12,000 for new electricity generators for Liberia, had been achieved and that National Treasurer would immediately transfer the funds to Fr Mervyn Williams SDB. For the latest on this see under the Liberia section.

On behalf of the people in Liberia, National President and National Council wishes to thank its Local Associations and their members and friends and all who have so generously contributed again, thereby making this second National Mission project realisable.

WE CAN AGAIN ASSURE READERS THAT EVERY POUND THAT WAS CONTRIBUTED WILL BE TAKEN TO LIBERIA TO BENEFIT THE PROJECT. THIS WILL BE THE CASE WITH THE FUND RAISING FOR ALL NATIONAL COUNCIL MISSION PROJECTS.

Patrick Morrissey reported that, sadly, little practical interest seems to have been shown in the ideas put forward by the English delegation at recent Eurobosco and World congresses in Rome, particularly the lack of interest in issues related to world poverty and the UN Millennium Goals. We concluded therefore, for the time being, to concentrate our own efforts on improving our own internal performance, whilst contributing financially to international projects and political campaigns of our own choosing.

Patrick Morrissey briefly reviewed National Council's progress towards our 5-year Objectives. Whilst we had made excellent progress in our National Appeals in support of National Mission projects, launched a National Website, and launched a National Newsletter we had made little progress in Associations at Bottle, Chertsey and Thornleigh (Bolton). We had also failed to take advantage of the excellent PowerPoint presentation for use in schools, and it was no surprise therefore that our Objectives on membership and new young leaders were not being met.

It was agreed that starting with Battersea, presentations would be made, first on a trial basis to a small group of senior pupils and staff, and then to all school leavers at each current Salesian school. This could be combined with the SMILE 2005/6 Appeal. We also needed a staff member at each school who would be the Past Pupil contact, maintain a notice board and supply a database of school leavers. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation would be sent to Kevin Lawler.

It was also noted that football appeared as a common theme in a number of the reports and it was agreed that a National Competition between Associations would be investigated. This could be extended to Europe and National President agreed to investigate this with Alex Dockers, Confederal Member, who has responsibilities for Northern Europe and some other territories.

National President also reported that he had learned that Rome had issued a strategy document outlining a systematic approach to Communications. Patrick had been in correspondence with our own Provincial on this subject. It had been hoped to arrange a meeting with Fr Tarcisio Scaramusa, Head of Social Communications in Rome, who was on a English course in England over the summer, but unfortunately this turned out not to be possible.

HONOURS FOR BATTERSEA PAST PUPIL



The second week in June was very special for Augustine ('Gus') O'Donnell, a pupil at Salesian College Battersea in the late sixties and a Governor at the College. He also plays football for the Battersea Old Salesians Football club!

On Saturday 11th June 2005 he was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Then, on 15th June he was made Cabinet Secretary, and head of the UK Civil Service.

'Gus' O'Donnell is currently Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, working with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Formerly he worked as press secretary to Nigel Lawson and John Major. His listing in 'Who's Who' states his club (as in Gentlemen's) as Old Salesians FC - an example of how he is a million miles away from the traditional "Sir Humphrey" type of civil service mandarin.

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Ward was concerned that the Past Pupils' Website needed to generate more traffic, and it was suggested that creating a "LATEST NEWS" page could help with this. However John would need to be fed with items for this page on a regular frequency. John agreed to discuss this concept with Fr Pat Sherlock, SDB, who manages our Website for us.

NATIONAL DELEGATE'S REPORT

Fr Sean Murray advised that there are two Memorial meetings planned for the late Father Pat Kenna SDB (RIP). One would be at Bootle at 15.00 on 3rd October 2005; the other would be at Sandra Meadows' House in Gloucester on 15th Oct 2005.



Fr Gerry O'Shaughnessy attended the graduation ceremony at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, to collect a Post Graduate Diploma in Chaplaincy Studies on behalf of Fr Patrick Kenna RIP, who died on the 8th of July, 2005, aged 49.

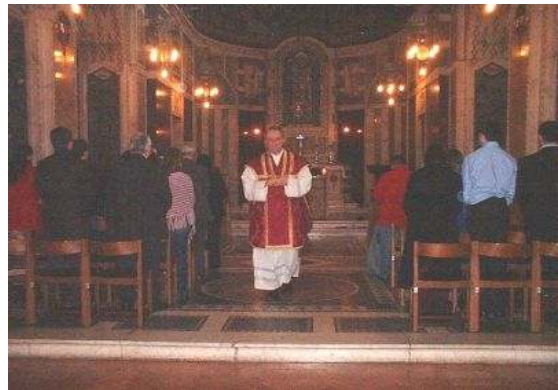
The award was made by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Surrey, Professor Christopher Snowden. Dr John Lydon was also on the platform in his role of Education Tutor at the University.

Fr Kenna was taking part in the Master of Arts course and Fr O'Shaughnessy was able to meet several of his fellow students who were graduating today, and share their reminiscences. He also spoke to the Principal of St Mary's College, Dr Arthur Naylor and thanked him for making possible the posthumous award.

Memorial Mass for Fr Pat Kenna SDB (RIP)

On Saturday, 12th November, at 2pm there was a Mass in memory of Fr Pat Kenna RIP in Westminster Cathedral arranged by the Pelliccia family. The Mass took place in the Lady Chapel.

The celebrant was Fr Michael O'Boy, one of the College of Chaplains at the Cathedral, Prefect of the Sacristy and responsible for Cathedral Liturgy and Liaison with Ministers of the Eucharist. John Ward was among those present and his granddaughter, Paige, took this photograph as Fr O'Boy was leaving the Lady Chapel.



Fr Sean also reported on his meeting with Jamie Carragher, the Liverpool and England footballer whose is a Past Pupil of the Salesian School in Bootle.



BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION

President: Nicholas Potter
Tel 0208 679 0126



It should be noted that since my report in March 2005 no activities have taken place. We do however continue to add to our membership list, which now stands at circa 200 in addition to the Football Club by way of affiliation.

The new recruits have come almost entirely through the medium of our re-modelled newsletter, "MAROON AND GOLD". This has proved to be a resounding success. Finances permitting we are trying to ensure at least one edition per year.

In case you haven't already seen a copy - the Battersea Old Salesians Newsletter now has a new look. Its new editor and designer is Anthony Doran, a Battersea Past Pupil who is a distinguished journalist and now lists 'newsletter editor' among his many other achievements.



To obtain a printed copy of the full magazine, please contact Nick Potter.

The next event will be our Remembrance Day Family Mass on November 13th 2005 at the College and the AGM will take place early in the New Year [Now set at 5th February 2006]

BLAISDON ASSOCIATION



President: Charles Springett
Tel: 01782 767931



Despite the loss of some more 'Old Boys' since our last meeting, our August 2005 reunion was a great success. This year we celebrated, even though the School closed over 12 years ago, the 70th anniversary of Blaisdon opening as a trade school for boys. Mass was held in St Peter's in Gloucester with the meeting and lunch in St Peter's Social Club with over 170 attending. There were Salesians, Old Boys, Ex Teachers and Staff, Families and friends, many of whom had not met up for a number of years, also Blaisdon Village guests and representatives of the Catholic Children's Society. The letters and phone calls received since, both to me and Fr Sean, all point to everyone having had a truly great day, with most stating "the best reunion ever". This makes all the hard work and time etc. worth the effort, with the cream on the top being Fr Gilheney's homily and the attendance of Bro Alan Garman SDB.

As every one knows I was looking for a younger person to take over as President of the Blaisdon Association this year, but, there are no takers so I agreed to carry on for the next year or so, all being well.

The downside of the Association, I find, is the lack of interest of the younger generation of our Past Pupils. After sending out over 280 Newsletters and including a STAMPED ADDRESSED return envelope to all Blaisdon Past Pupils in Britain, we received less than 50 replies, very disappointing, why bother sending out newsletters to those who did not bother to reply or send back the SAE, (what happened to the stamps?).

Thanks to those who sent in donations for the Association funds we are able to keep going with the newsletters etc. After paying out all costs for the reunion etc. we should have enough monies left towards next years Easter get-together, together with a donation towards the National Past Pupils Mission Project 2005/6.

Over the Weekend 17/18 Sept 2005 I was invited to attend, with Fr Sean Murray, the Copsewood Past Pupils reunion in Pallaskenry, Ireland. This was my first visit to Ireland and it was a great weekend. I was made most welcome and invited to say a few words after lunch. I was glad to be able to thank everyone and to point out I noticed their love for their Salesian school just as we of Blaisdon do. The next day Fr Sean showed me over many of the areas where he was as a child and we finished up in Kinsale for the finest fish meal I have ever known. A weekend never I will never forget.

As many of us from Blaisdon have pointed out before, it is not just the Past Pupils that help keep the Association successful but the brotherhood of Old Boys and their families, the Salesians, friends and Ex staff that make up the Blaisdon Salesian Family.



The number of Brass Plaques with the Salesians and Old Boys names fitted to the Benches outside the local Church and Village Hall shows the pride and feeling the Salesian Past Pupils of Blaisdon hold dear. Needless to say we expect to find more to be fitted every time we visit there.

I expect to be busy as usual over the Xmas period carrying out Father Christmas duties for the children on the local Preserved Steam Railway, all being well, and I wish you all the best for the Season and for 2006.

As a means of raising funds, any Past Pupil who would like to have a brass plaque added to the bench (above) which is outside the Village Hall, can have this for a fee of £10.

Blaisdon Reunion

On 28th August 2005, we held a magnificent and appropriate 70th Anniversary reunion at St Peter's Church and Church Hall, in Gloucester. At the Mass a most moving homily was preached by Father John Gilheney SDB, one time Head of the Blaisdon school.

Thanks to the super human efforts of Charles Springett, Blaisdon President, a very large number sat down to a wonderful meal. This group included many Past Pupils, including Alastair Bourne all the way from New Zealand, Blaisdon Salesians, Blaisdon Care Staff, Enfield Old Boys and former Crusade of Rescue ladies from the Feltham Home, and we were privileged to have Jim Richards, Director of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) and his wife and another Lady to represent what was previously "The Crusade of Rescue" and many wives and children of Blaisdon Past Pupils.

Our heartfelt thanks to the St Peter's family for giving us such a great welcome and use of their beautiful church and other amenities.

A recent Email received by our President, shows just how much Blaisdon means to so many of its Past Pupils.

"Hello Charles

Firstly, I hope I find you well. I am not quite sure where to start other than to introduce myself. My name is Mark Heckman - an old boy of Blaisdon Hall from the mid 60's. Following receipt this morning of the News Letter, I was prompted, once again, to actually get in contact rather than just think about doing so.

My time at Blaisdon, although relatively short, has had an enormous effect on my life and the person I am today. Although there are some sad memories, it is true they are far outweighed by the happy times spent with both the priests, brothers and my peers.

After 40 years it is uncanny how I can still see Blaisdon in my minds eye - as clear as though I was standing in the grounds today. The classrooms, dormitories, playground, dining room, chapel - even the tuck shop that I used to visit most weekends when funds were available. The farm held very many happy memories for me - I still can see myself helping Bro Allen in the hen house preparing chickens that would be consumed the following day - not the sort of thing one expects to be doing at school - but all part of what made my time at Blaisdon so special. I was extremely sad to find out that Blaisdon Hall was to leave Salesians' ownership and move into private hands. Luckily however, approximately 10 years ago, I was able to visit the school and show my wife and parents-in-law around Blaisdon with the kind permission and assistance of Fr Sean Murray - I will always be grateful for that opportunity.

I must at this point apologise for not attending the Past Pupil Reunions. The problem I have is trying to remember names of other pupils and friends at the school during my time there. Obviously, the longer I have left attending a reunion the worse it has become to the point of 'who will I know and who will know me'. Silly I know, so I am going to make a concerted effort to attend the forthcoming 2005 Annual Reunion in August - better late than never.

Finally, if when you are next in communication with Fr Murray, could you forward my very best wishes in the hope he is keeping well. All that remains for me to say at this point is THANK YOU - for all your time and effort spent in organising both the News Letter and Reunions. Certainly, in my case, the news letter is an absolute Godsend.

With kind regards Mark "



BOOTLE ASSOCIATION

Our previous Bootle President, Terry Rimmer, has resigned in order to devote his time over the next three years to becoming a Deacon. National President's reply below:

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September, and my apologies for not replying sooner. I am very sorry that you have decided to leave the National Council, and I know that feeling is shared by all the Council. We have enjoyed your company and your contribution, representing the Bootle PPA.

Getting something going in Bootle has proved difficult, but we are not going to give up. At the recent National Council Meeting, we discussed a National Football Competition for past pupil teams, leading on to a European Championship once every 4 years to coincide with EuroBosco meetings. We feel this may prove of interest to young people leaving all our schools. We can now also tell them about the success of our National Appeals which have funded water supplies and new electricity generators for the Salesian Polytechnic in Liberia.

This year's Appeal is to treat 10,000 children against Malaria, and to help victims of HIV/AIDS. We are also hopeful that Fr Gerry Briody as the new Headmaster will start the process of edu-

cating existing pupils and parents about the benefits of the Past Pupil Association - for the School, the wider Salesian Mission, and for the past pupils in their own personal development in the outside world.

The National Council has asked me to thank you for all you have done, to wish you well in your course of study to become a Deacon in the Diocese, and to assure you of our prayers. We hope to see you on our visits to Bootle in the future.

Best wishes

Yours in Don Bosco

Patrick Morrissey

We would dearly like to welcome a young man or woman, or anyone who would be prepared to join us on National Council, to represent this large and important Salesian School.

BURWASH ASSOCIATION

Not yet established. Any takers?

CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION

President: Vacant

Contact: Mike Quinlan

The governors at the Salesian School, Chertsey, have appointed a new Headteacher. He is Mr James Kibble, 34 years of age, and currently Deputy Head at St John the Baptist School, Woking.

National President, Patrick Morrissey, and all on National Council, congratulate Mr James Kibble and wish him much success in his vital role. We offer our support, particularly in respect of those leaving the Salesian School and look to welcome them into the Past Pupils Association/Federation.

We know that the Football Club continues to be a very valuable facility for the Chertsey Past Pupils. Some photos of matches and their results would be interesting for our readers.



COWLEY ASSOCIATION



President: Richard Blake

Tel: 01753 863568

Email: blake@rblake.freeseve.co.uk

John Ward describes the Cowley Reunion held on 16th October 2005.

I am just back from the Cowley AGM. It was a most enjoyable day at the Four Pillars Hotel at Sandford on Thames. Mass was celebrated at the Cowley Salesian Parish Church by Father Peter Quinn SDB with

Father Joe Merriman SDB concelebrating. Among the special guests were the former Doctor to

the Cowley School and his wife, also a Doctor. The Doctor's parting joke after lunch was his mimicking a visiting Italian Priest who asked to speak to the boarding boys after night prayers. He asked a rhetorical question of the boys and went on to answer the question with his Italian accent, "It is to shave your souls". This brought a great laugh from those at the luncheon.



FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION



*President: John Clenshaw
Tel: 01276 65690 (Home)*

As foreseen in our March report we held our Annual Reunion at the College on Sunday 10th April, when 25 past pupils attended. The day started with Mass in the College Chapel concelebrated by Fr Francis Sutherland and Fr Brendan McGuinness, followed by our AGM in the college library, and then lunch in the college dining hall. Our afternoon programme comprised a re-

visit to the Farnborough Air Sciences Museum, with its latest aircraft exhibits. We are indebted to our committee member, Richard Gardner, as Chairman of the 'FAST' Trustees, who arranged for our visit.

Prior to our Reunion we dispatched our spring Newsletter to over 300 Past Pupils and with the help of National Vice-President John Ward, also a notice of Reunion on the OSA National Website. We were disappointed with the response to the Reunion invitation nevertheless we endeavour to respond to those Past Pupils, particularly recent school leavers, who contact the College via Email. Thanks to our Salesian Delegate, Fr Joe Brown SDB (based at the Salesian Missions Office at Battersea), our OSA database at a recent count contains 5600 names, addresses & Email addresses. We shall have to review our newsletter printing to include an Email format.

On Saturday the 25th June 2005, thanks to Father Sutherland we had our usual OSA stall, which included publicity for the OSA, plus a display of photos of the College past years.

On the same day we held our Old Salesians Annual 6-A-Side soccer Tournament at the College Playing Fields, when thanks to one of our younger members of our Committee, Greg Sudell, 15 teams of Past Pupils, ranging from the 70's to recent school leavers & from the current 6th form took part in the competition. The day started at 10.30 and the tournament finished, at about 3 pm., with a trophy presentation. As Greg mentioned in his updated issue of the Spring newsletter it was a

'fun and sociable event' with some serious football. The day also presented an opportunity to view & use the New Sports Pavilion named after Fr Peter Boyle SDB.

In August we were sad to hear of the loss of one of our Past Pupils, Douglas McLaurin aged 84. Douglas had been over many years Secretary to our Association. He is remembered not only for his support to the Association but also for the work he gave to the OSA and the Friends of the College and the PTA's during the post-war era, at fund raising events for development of the college.



We should perhaps include in our report that in August a unique service was held in the College chapel as a memorial to Mr. C J Honsinger, a popular lay master at the college in the late 1940's & early 1950's and to mark especially the 50 years since his death in July 1955. This event was arranged by his son, John, a Past Pupil of the 1960's. John was supported by his son, daughter and several members of CJ's family. I, together with a fellow Past Pupil of the late forties, had the honour of representing the OSA. John has since written to express his debt to Fr Joe Brown for conducting this special service.

SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION



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

After the euphoria of our 75th Anniversary Reunion it was inevitable that there would be a lull this year. A dozen or so of our most faithful members apologised for their absence from our main activity so that there were only 43 present at Savio House for our August Bank Holiday Reunion. This did

however include two new attendees. The April weekend was a re-treading of PART of our old annual walk from Shrigley to Buxton. We visited the lovely little chapel of St Joseph and then serving mammon, we visited the Cat and Fiddle Inn for a welcome revive. The weekend was attended by 21 members and wives.

After the inevitable passing of a few members we have still managed to recruit some new "Old" ones. For this we rely on personal contacts or someone ringing up having come upon a website. Although we have just over 400 contact addresses and 120 members attending last year's event, the number of active members defined by attending activities is still a maximum of 40/50. We have others who are couch members who appreciate circular contacts.

At this year's AGM the Council was asked to vote on how much to donate to Savio House and the National Salesian Past Pupil health project in Liberia. After consideration by the Council and Email cooperation from other members it was decided that each would be given £500, that personal losses after an over ordering of photographic memoirs 1929-2005 would be recompensed, the excess books then becoming the property of the Association. (These books were selling extremely well at the Shrigley Hall Hotel who have asked for another print) Any other productions needing financing would be considered as they came along.

Regarding our 2006 activities, the Don Bosco Masses will take place on January 29th in Glasgow and February 5th in Thornleigh. The first weekend is booked for March 19th to 21st and is to feature a St Patrick's night on the Saturday preceded by a talk in the afternoon by a Salesian on the real state of our Salesians worldwide. The summer Reunion will not take place during the August Bank Holiday as August is really needed for the refurbishments needed at Savio House. It will be held July 21st to 23rd. An added advantage is that this will not now conflict with the Blaisdon weekend.

The work of SALVE in giving the Volunteers a much-needed rest flourishes with help also being given during the week. This is so necessary as for the coming year there are only three volunteers. It is to be hoped that in future prospective Volunteers will make use of the finance offered by the Catenian Bursary Fund set up to aid young Catholics aged 16-25 in projects they are taking upon which will help others. We informed all the Bolton Parishes of this and all the Salesian and FMA Colleges.

At this year's AGM we were pleased to welcome Father Albert Carette as our new President for 2005-6.

SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES

Last year's 75th Anniversary Reunion brought much to the Association Archive. This report lists what was acquired at and since the reunion.

Photographs given to the archive:

1. Fr George Robson SDB (Shrigley 1948-51): 12 colour photographs showing Shrigley shortly before its sale.
2. Fr Laurence Essery SDB (Shrigley 1948-56): a collection of 103 black and white photographs, most taken during his years at Shrigley.
3. Tom McCormick (Shrigley 1960-65): a colour photograph of his year group.

Earlier donors include Fr Bill Boyd SDB (Shrigley 1932-37), Fr Albert Carette SDB (Shrigley 1932-37), Ray Mongan (Shrigley 1948-54), Fr Ivo Pisacane SDB (Shrigley 1943-47), John Burke (Shrigley 1948-55), Peter Taylor (Shrigley 1957-63), Fr Bill Bergin (Shrigley 1963-68).

Photographs loaned for scanning by members:

1. Michael McManus (Shrigley 1960-65): 13 photographs, 4 annotated.
2. Tony Galcius (Shrigley 1941-47): 10 photographs from his album with a page of annotations.
3. George Holley (Shrigley 1952-55): 2 photographs, 1 ordination card and 4 Shrigley Chronicles from 1953-54, a vocations leaflet and a concert programme for the Rector Major's visit in 1954.
4. Terry Devine (Shrigley 1964-69): 9 photographs.
5. Charles Sultana (Shrigley 1962-63): 6 photographs.
6. Frank Boyle (Shrigley 1962-65): 13 photographs.

7. Tony Quinn (Shrigley 1965-70): 12 pages of photocopied images from his album.

Earlier loans include those from Eric Baggaley (Shrigley 1946-53), Joe Lomax (Shrigley 1946-52), Peter Roebuck (Shrigley 1953-59), Mike Kilduff (Shrigley 1953-59), Tom Bushell (Shrigley 1943-49).

Photographs from the Salesian Archive in Stockport: Loaned for scanning by Fr Patrick Sherlock SDB and Bro Donald MacDonald SDB:

1. 600 photographs dating from 1929-79.
2. 150 negatives from 1958-59.

Earlier loans by the Salesian Archive come to over 600 items.

Artifacts presented to the association:

1. The Fisher, More, Ogilvie & Plunkett House Shields from the Refectory at Shrigley were given by Fr Bill Bergin (Shrigley 1963-68), who had them previously in The Church of The Holy Name, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.²

2 Sports trophies awarded to Martin Flynn (Shrigley 1971-75), one inscribed Victor Ludorum 1975, the other not inscribed or dated.

3. Plaque presented to the association by Fr Bregolin SDB to commemorate the Beatification of Alberto Marvelli at Loreto 5th September 2004.

The archive also now holds the book signed at the 75th Anniversary Celebrations by members attending, and a copy of Programme for the 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

The Archive also holds a copy of the 2005 January-March edition of the Irish Salesian Bulletin which contains an article by Fr Dan Lyons SDB (Shrigley 1929-33), "Down Memory Lane", giving an account of the celebrations.

All these items are now listed in the updated Catalogue of The Shrigley Association Archives.

Mike Kilduff



This may be the earliest picture of the laying of the foundations for the chapel

Some sad news

We are sad to have to report that Big Al (Alan Brooks) has died. He collapsed while playing football in Toronto Canada where he had lived for many years.

Many of you will know that Alan finally took the plunge and got married a few years ago. There is a fabulous picture of him getting hitched on our web site on a boat in the Carribean. His wife had a baby shortly after and is currently 6 months pregnant with his second. Only 2 months ago he did the official wedding in a Catholic church at which all his family attended.

Alan was genuinely lovely guy who we all admired for his pure skill on the football pitch. No offence to the rest of you but he was one of the most skilful players I ever played with. I have been lucky enough to have met up with John and Paul in the last few years but missed the opportunity to meet up with Alan. I understand John is already in Toronto and Paul will be there shortly. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both all our most sincere condolences, best wishes and love at this very difficult time.

Sender: Michael F Cox of Cox Costello & Horne Limited

THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION

President: Vacant

We thank Mark for his time as President of the Thornleigh Association and wish him and his family well for the future.

Mark Higson has now moved with his family to Ireland and his new contact data are:

Phone: 00353 909 688 867

Email: mark@higson.co.uk

New address: Clonshee, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Galway, Ireland

LIBERIA - UPDATE



There has not been a handing over of a monster cheque, partly because some of the money was used over here for Sr Barbara's Generator which is in a 40 foot container on its way now and should arrive in Liberia when Mrs Devereux and myself will be there (from January 27th to Feb 10th). The container also has football strips from the Amateur FA, along with 11,000 BIC biros, 3,000 exercise books, 12 reconditioned computers, two pallets of tinned food... and many other things from supermarkets, and shops etc. I have attached a small handing over ceremony to Sr. Laurene by Fr O'Brien of £8,000 (see photo) I hope to find time to get another few photos when I'm there. Fr Joe Brown SDB.

Reception at the Cabinet Office



Sir Gus O'Donnell, our newest (if not our only) Salesian Knight of the Realm, held a reception for family and friends in the Cabinet Office in Whitehall on Friday 25 November. Guests included academic and sporting colleagues from his wide range of interests and many of the Old Salesians FC Veterans team for whom he plays most Sundays. In his informal review of how he came to be standing on a desk overlooking Horse Guards Parade, Sir Gus was kind enough to commend to all his guests this year's Salesian Past Pupil National Appeal to combat child malaria. The Appeal poster

was even displayed on the Cabinet Office door. There might be one or two people with money or influence who see it! The guests were then treated to a rousing rendition of the Salesian School song (definitely a first!)

SMILE APPEAL

For Readers who are not involved with a Local Association of Salesian Past Pupils but who would like to help in the 2005/6 Mission project to save children from dying from Malaria: Please send your donation made payable to "SMILE 2005/6" to:

Richard Blake
National Treasurer
Salesian Past Pupils' Federation
Glade House
40 Winkfield Road
Windsor SL4 4AF

EUROGEX

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

Please, Please - ANY TAKERS?

FROM PETER HUNTER

Now Vocations Representative on National Council

I am very pleased to announce the arrival of Ioene Sabina Anne Hunter. She was born on the 24th July 2005 weighing 2.910kg. Ewelina and I are the happiest parents in the world as God has rewarded us with the most beautiful daughter. Thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes people have sent to us. Greetings to you all, Pete



Peter and family



GLOBAL PAST PUPILS ACTIVITIES

The Salesian Tsunami Appeal has produced over £1.5M of support for the victims. The message below appears on the web site of the Salesian Generalate in Rome: <http://www.sdb.org/>

(ANS Rome: 27 January 2005) - As the figures rise, so far 2,500,000euro have been sent to those affected by the tsunami. The Salesian Family was among the first to be mobilised to send help to Sri Lanka, to southern India, to Thailand and Indonesia, areas where the Salesian Congregation of Don Bosco have 92 works. Funds have been collected from all kinds of Salesian centres: oratories, youth centres, parishes, vocational training centres, schools, Mission Offices and also through the Don Bosco Network. Work groups with volunteers from Italy and Belgium are already coordinating 50 reconstruction projects with local partners. In the meeting of Don Bosco Network (the network of Mission Offices and Salesian NGO) held last week, the Councillor for the Missions, Fr Francis Alencherry, arranged for an increase in the number of medium and long term projects at a cost of 10,000,000 euro.

The amount sent from our province, through Provincial House, now amounts £25,311.60p, including gift aid. Keep visiting the Generalate web site for the latest updates.

Papal Encyclicals online

This site was voted one of the best resources on the internet in 2005 by the American Library Association. You can find any papal document from the Middle Ages to Benedict XVI. Looking at the homepage today (www.papalencyclicals.net), amongst documents listed they have one by Benedict XIV! It is not an error. They call it a 'relevant document from the past'. The site is maintained by a Catholic layman at his own cost. He explains its story, and how there were once several sites, between Vatican City, Australia and the US all hosting documents of this kind. Some of them have gone off line but he has gained permission to host the lot, clearly has no intention of going off line and runs an attractive as well as an easily navigable site. It would be worth a Sunday 'stroll' through what is on offer, including a few photographs of historical documents.

GOLD MEDAL AWARD TO SALESIAN SISTERS

Sr. Mary Treacy FMA has sent the following good news:

'Last December the Mayor and Municipal Council of the city of Adwa (Ethiopia) conferred citizenship on our missionary Sisters Sr. Marjorie Lavery and Sr. Laura Giroto. The citation accompanying the Gold Medal they received gives the motivation behind the award: their service and dedication to the poorest, especially the women and children; their option to share the life of the people of Adwa through their active presence during the recent conflict; their medical assistance especially to pregnant women; their commitment to giving a quality education to the children, young people and their families'.

Sr. Marjorie Lavery, from Tyneside, spent most of her life in GBR until she was asked to spearhead the FMA mission in Adwa about ten or twelve years ago. Sr. Laura was also a member of GBR for a few years in the 1970s.



Confederal Member for North Europe, Malta and Africa

The long established information about Past Pupils activities throughout the world is also available and continually refreshed, on the Internet and is created and updated by Alex Dockers. 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 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 Confederal Presidency.

APPEAL

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