



# National Newsletter

## Salesian Past Pupils (Great Britain)

### National President: Patrick Morrissey



This our tenth issue of a National Newsletter, as usual, is a compilation of the Reports given by Local Associations and other officers on the National Council at our last meeting, which took place at the Salesian Retreat Centre, Savio House, Bollington on 19 March 2006. Happily this meeting coincided with a gathering of Shrigley Past Pupils who were holding a short weekend get-together at Bollington over the same weekend. Latest updates on our very successful Mission projects are also included.

Father Sean Murray SDB, National Delegate, opened the meeting with a short prayer. Patrick Morrissey, National President thanked all those attending for their presence.

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## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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National President was delighted to report that the SMILE 2005/6 Mission appeal for a target of £12,000 to fund medicines for Malaria and HIV/AIDS was largely met. This was as a result of the generous contributions from Local Association members and Salesian Family and Patrick and his wife Diane who pledged the outstanding balance.

Discussion of our 2006/7 Mission Appeal was initiated. National President had previously discussed possibilities with Father Joe Brown SDB, Missions' Director, and had received, so far, the following suggested possibilities:

**Option 1:** Continue with support for the fight against Malaria, still the largest killer of children in Liberia, and support for the children whose parents had died of HIV/AIDS.

**Option 2:** Support 200 needy young, gifted and talented people by paying their school fees. (Project details were submitted)

**Option 3:** Support to build five homes for poor families.

Patrick Morrissey will consult with officers and members of National Council and will Email a conclusion to all in three months.

**New Constitution:** National President stated that the National Council needed to adopt a formal Constitution. This process was set in motion.

**Succession Planning:** National President also stressed that succession planning needs to be urgently worked on, with an emphasis on how to get more young people involved. He requested each member to send him proposals on how we might achieve this, on a single sheet of paper.

**National Football Competition:** National President proposed a competition for "The Salesian National Cup" initially hosted by Battersea, and including Past Pupil teams from Battersea, Chertsey, Farnborough (plus Blaisdon, Cowley and Shrigley if available) and the Scholl First XI from Bootle. The proposed date was Sunday May 28th 2006. Patrick was also able to report that he had exploratory discussion with Alex Dockers with a view to a European Competition in 2007.

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## NATIONAL DELEGATE'S REPORT

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Father Sean reported on discussions he had with Father Michael Winstanley SDB, Fr Provincial, regarding the relationship between Salesians, Salesian Schools and the Past Pupil Associations. He suggested an advert should be sought in the Salesian Bulletin to promote the next SMILE Mission Project.

Thanks were extended to Father Sean for his thoughtful distribution to the members present of a book entitled “**Youthful Holiness at the school of Don Bosco**” profiling 28 young people following the path of Don Bosco. This included our own **Sean Devereux** (RIP) a Farnborough Past Pupil and a past Teacher at Chertsey., sadly murdered in Monrovia whilst on UN Relief work.

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## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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John Ward reported that the PowerPoint presentation had been updated to include the three Mission Projects covering the years 2003/4, 2004/5 and 2005/6.

John also pointed out that he had had discussion on the National Council acquiring a Video Projector for use in better presenting the National Council presentations. It was agreed that John should research costs and models to purchase. It was also agreed that we look into the cost of professionally upgrading the Presentation, to make it more attractive, especially for a younger audience.

John was able to report that he was in the process of designing a Website for the Blaisdon Local Association a National Council objective for all Local Associations.

John suggested the use of BLOGS might be a means of drawing attention to **late breaking news** on our National Website. It was agreed that John should find out more and discuss the idea with Father Pat Sherlock SDB, Provincial Secretary, who manages our National Website for us.

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## VOCATIONS TEAM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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Peter Hunter reported that the Provincial Vocational Team is producing between ten and fifteen thousand family vocational leaflets for distribution throughout the Salesian network.

Peter also invited any National Council member who could make it, to attend his religious wedding that would take place in Poland his wife's homeland.

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## BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION

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



The Battersea Association held a well-attended Family Mass on Remembrance Day at the College. Mass was concelebrated in the Chapel and we were particularly pleased to welcome Fr Vincent Brady, a past pupil who is now Secretary to the Papal Nuncio, together with his brother Kieran, also a past pupil, who were there in particular memory of their parents who had both passed away during the previous twelve months. Their father Jim had worked in the College for many years and had been a leading light in the PA when his sons were at the school. He was a true devotee of Don Bosco. Mass was followed by the ceremony at the memorial for the fallen past pupils of the two wars and refreshments were then taken in the College and at The Castle! It was particularly pleasing to see a group of young past pupils attending from the last five years or so. Our school vice captain George Christmas did some of the readings.

The AGM & Re-Union were held on Feb 5th and again were well attended with some 90 people sitting down to lunch. If the other ten who had paid but failed to arrive had also turned up we would have hit the hundred mark. Our National President Pat Morrissey presented the 2005/6 Malaria/HIV Mission Appeal and the meeting agreed to support the cause. It was left to the Committee to decide the amount to come from the Association in the light of the funds available once expenditure in respect of a new Quark publishing system had been finalised. It was also agreed that an appeal letter would go out with the next edition of Maroon & Gold. Donations were also invited on the day.

With technical assistance from John Ward and the Head I was able to make the Past Pupils PowerPoint presentation and feedback was invited particularly from the current and immediate Past Pupils attending. Pat was able to get opinion from them on the day. It was great to have with us not just the present school captain and his deputy but captains going back over the past five years or so. These young men are all at University and it is most encouraging to see them want to return to their Alma Mater—some have been back each year since they left. It would be good to think they might be running the GSA one day.

As an update on the Mission Appeal it has now become clear that the Newsletter will not be ready to go to print until the month end so we will be mailing out the letter in the near future. This will of course give us two bites at the cherry.

I am awaiting a recommendation from the Treasurer with regard to the donation from the Association funds but an early indicator would be that we will make up the difference between the amount already subscribed by Battersea members and the target of £2000. I hope to be able to confirm this prior to the meeting.

*Nick Potter*

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## BLAISDON ASSOCIATION

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



Our last Reunion held in St Peter's Social Centre in Gloucester was a great success with over 160 attendees. A large number of these however were ex staff, guests etc. Although we had more Past Pupils attend than usual it seem a pity that more of the younger Past Pupils do not respond.

Our funds like those of other Associations are maintained at the generosity of the few and it is rather unfair to those that do contribute to carry those that do not. This situation cannot continue year after year so I see no option but to stop sending out the Blaisdon Newsletters to those Past Pupils who do not bother to reply or keep in contact. As this takes up so much time and costs I have sounded out the feelings about this with Blaisdon Old Boy's and they all agree that after the next Reunion we cut out the Newsletter to those that do not keep in contact with the Association, or help with its funds. Again we have lost members and families as they and we get older, and our numbers will decline, but we hope that many of us will still be around for a long time yet. The 'Blaisdon Brotherhood' lives on.

Our next informal get-together will be in Blaisdon over the w/e 22nd/23rd April with our Reunion on Sunday 27th August. We await names and numbers from all who will be attending.

We have a mailing list of over 200 Past Pupil with about 30 that respond, and a mailing list of Family, Friends, ex staff and Salesians who keep in contact.

Our expected layout costs for the informal get— together in April will be for the hire of the Village Hall for a short while our expected costs for the August reunion will be around ?? for the hire of the Hall for Saturday and Sunday and there will be the costs of the Buffet ?? on the Sunday depending on numbers attending.

We still await confirmation and receipts of the exact amounts contributed and received from the Blaisdon Past Pupils and connections over the past two years towards the Past Pupils UK projects, in order to show and display them to our members at our next Reunion. We cannot hope to ask for more donations from our members until we can show the results so far.

I am not able to attend the National council meeting on Sunday 19th March owing to health and family commitments.

The Blaisdon Website has since been completed and is on the Worldwide Web as: [www.blaisdonbrotherhood.info](http://www.blaisdonbrotherhood.info)

*Charles W Springett*

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## BOOTLE ASSOCIATION

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Awaiting a volunteer to take up the position vacated by Terry Rimmer.

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## BURWASH ASSOCIATION

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Vacant  
 Still not yet established

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## CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION

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Vacant. No report to National Council, but known to be one of the Associations that will take part in the National Football event.

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## COWLEY ASSOCIATION

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

The Cowley Old Boys Association held its 2005 Reunion & AGM at the Four Seasons Hotel Oxford, on Sunday 16 October 2005. Some 35 attended including 3 SDBs; a further 30 or so OBs sent apologies. We were fortunate in having Dr John Clubb, for many years the school doctor and a governor, and his wife Dr Elizabeth as our guests. He spoke humorously and affectionately of his many years of service at Cowley. The attendees expressed their appreciation for the continued life of the Association

Our financial contributions to Salesian-connected organisations and Hospice Africa will continue in 2006.

The 2006 AGM & Reunion will be on Sunday 15 October 2006 with Mass in the Cowley Parish Church followed by lunch at the Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxon. It is hoped that other Salesian Associations will join us.

*Richard Blake*

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## FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION

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*President: John Clenshaw*  
*Tel: 01276 65690*



**Contact with past pupils:** since our September 2005 report we have been able to maintain such links. Both via the college website and email acknowledgements to enquires from Past Pupils to the college with the help of the Headmaster's Assistant, Mrs. Carole Byrne, and the data base of Farnborough Past Pupils that our Salesian Delegate, Fr Joe Brown, is regularly updating and enlarging.

**Contact with the School:** in November we gave our support to the College Prize Day Fund and on the 4th November we were present at the Annual Distribution of Prizes when prizes were presented by Fr Pat Angelucci, SDB., Director of the Salesian High, New Rochelle, New York. The evening saw the return of last year's sixth formers to celebrate further academic success by many students in the year's A Level, AS Level and GCSE exams.

**Remembrance:** on Armistice Day 2005, namely Friday the 11th of November, several Past Pupils together with some relatives attended the school 'Mass of Remembrance'. Those present included relatives of Farnborough Old Boys who died in the Battle of Britain during the Second World War. Since 2003 our original annual Remembrance Sunday Mass for Deceased Past Pupils and the reading of the Roll of Honour has been combined with that of the students of the

college.

**Reunion:** At present we are planning to hold our Annual AGM & Reunion on Sunday 30th April at the college and we are endeavouring to dispatch a Newsletter by the end of March to Past Pupils, particularly to current & recently subscribed members, with an invitation to support the event. Suffice to say annual Reunions have not recently been successful in numbers attending, but we do have more successful year group reunions.

**Website:** We should acknowledge our thanks of our OSA National Vice-President, John Ward for recording & editing Farnborough's events and news of our old boys in the National Newsletter and on the OSA website.

**OSA National Mission Appeal:** SMILE 2005/2006 Our apologies to our National President, Patrick Morrissey, for our delayed response to the appeal but we do hope to make amends with further requests to friends and members within our Newsletter. However, in the meantime we have already dispatched to our National Treasurer a cheque for £500 from OSA Farnborough.

Since the last National Council meeting another Local Association Website has been created for Farnborough as: [www.oldsalesiansfarnborough.org](http://www.oldsalesiansfarnborough.org).

*John Clenshaw*

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## SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION

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*President: Joe Lomax Tel: 01204 843874  
Email: [joe@lomax.cc](mailto:joe@lomax.cc)*



This year has not seen the activity of previous years. The Annual Reunion did not attract the attendance of 60+, our usual number but rather 40+.

Council meetings have not been called as there did not appear to be an urgent need — possibly this would appear to be a mistake, in hindsight, as it would at least get that small group to meet socially. Because no Scottish member attended the 2005 Reunion to correct us the dates arranged for the 2006 Reunion clash with the Scottish Glasgow holidays so we are unlikely to get many Scots again this year (July 21st, the date arranged, was in fact the only date available)

Because of clashes of dates the Don Bosco Mass at Thornleigh only attracted about 15 members although there was a good turnout the previous Sunday in Glasgow.

As our Secretary was Catenian President (for the 4th time) several of our members attended his Circle's Clergy Dinner. His Circle now boasts three Shrigley Past Pupils. His charity for the year was HCPT and he was pleased to present the local branch of HCPT with sufficient funds to take three young pilgrims to Lourdes at Easter. The Chairman of the local Association of HCPT is another Shriglesian.

All the Salesian Schools in England have been informed of the Catenian Bursary Fund and a Thornleigh pupil has been awarded £750 to help with travel and living expenses for his work in Malawi.

The Association Secretary is now the custodian of a first class relic of Don Bosco given to an ex Thornleigh pupil years ago and passed on by his wife. It has been loaned to one Past Pupil's wife and has been a great consolation to both wife and husband. It is currently with another Past Pupil who has only a very short time left but it was of great significance to him.

No meeting of Council means that nothing has been done to further the National Association

appeal.

Despite some Past Pupils having been deceased we still have a paper membership of 420 but an active membership of 50?

The Local Association Website for Shrigley is: [www.salesians.co.uk/shrigley](http://www.salesians.co.uk/shrigley)

Here are the instructions for the downloading of the Catenian Bursary Fund application forms. There are a few points to note but please spread the information so that more young Catholics can be encouraged to do more - not that we wrinklies are perfect!

**Notes**

EACH applicant is to complete a form

Age 16-25

Complete form BEFORE undertaking project

Practising Catholics

Trustee meeting dates are not "In stone"

Short cut meetings are held if the help is needed urgently = quickly.

**Method**

Website: <http://www.thecatenianassociation.org/>

Click on MEMBER'S SITE (second line down in categories shown)

Password: o'malley PLEASE DON'T MISUSE THIS

Click on Bursary Fund application form - left click

Open OK

If a blank page appears CANCEL - top right

File

Print

*Joe Lomax*

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## THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION

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Vacant



Once again the only thing to report of Association Activities is that half a dozen "Members" attended

The joint Thornleigh / Catenian Memorial Mass in November

The joint Shrigley / Thornleigh Don Bosco Mass on February 5th.

The Head of RE at Thornleigh, Tonino Pasarello, expressed interest when asked to attend the meeting of National Council when informed of the intention to invite Salesian

Schools to help in the Salesian attempts for the Liberian needs. Unfortunately his father is now seriously ill and he feels that he cannot leave his mother to attend the meeting.

*Joe Lomax*

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## LIBERIA UPDATE

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The past Pupils Mission project for 2004/5 has been successfully completed with the delivery of the second Electricity Generator, the first one having been installed earlier after purchase in the Lebanon. Below are some before and after photos of this completed project.



**Before:** what was left after the previous equipment was looted



**After:** Arrival from the UK of the second Generator at the Salesian Polytechnic in Monrovia



The poster reads:

**SMILE 2004-5  
Salesian Past Pupils  
(Great Britain)  
£12,032  
for our electricity supply.  
THANKYOU**

**A Big Thankyou to all  
who helped in this  
project!**

Fr Joe Brown on hand to witness the arrival of the Generator and to receive the heartfelt "Thank you" from the beneficiaries.

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## **CONFEDERAL MEMBER FOR NORTH EUROPE, MALTA AND AFRICA**

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The long established information about Past Pupils throughout the world continues to be updated by Alex Dockers and can be found by following the "Follow Don Bosco" link from this website [www.donbosco.co.uk/pp](http://www.donbosco.co.uk/pp). GB Federation thanks Alex for this work.

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## **APPEAL**

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We are always looking to promote information of interest to Past Pupils. We just need you to send us articles for publication. Just Email text and photos to [j.ward@virgin.net](mailto:j.ward@virgin.net) for inclusion in the National Newsletter.

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

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*Designed by:*

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