

PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO
(Salesian School Blaisdon Hall 1935-1995)



www.blaisdonbrotherhood.info

Easter Reunion— April 10/11 2010

Dear Blaisdon Past Pupils & Friends of Blaisdon,

Once again, a small band of stalwarts made the pilgrimage to Blaisdon and its surroundings. Blaisdon has an immense pull on the Blaisdon Old Boys. This writer was only there on the Sunday, but from what I gathered those who made a weekend of it were very happy they did this.

It was good to hear that our former President Charlie Springett, made it down on the Friday, I believe, through the kindness of Carol, daughter of our dear departed friend, Barney Grace (RIP). Carol collected Charlie from Gloucester Station and provided Charlie hospitality for a Night. Then after the visit took Charlie back to the Station to enable Charlie to take the train home. Those who met up with Charlie were delighted to see that he had managed to get down. Charlie needed to get back for his carer treatments and I believe he returned on the Saturday, so sadly I was unable to meet him. Sadly Barney's wife (RIP), has also died, just a week or so ago. Fr. Sean was able to be with the family for a funeral service.



I was able to meet Terry O'Neill, now our famous author, as he was at the Village Hall when I and my party arrived on the Sunday morning. It was really great to see him amongst us again.



Terry was being collected by his family before the Mass on Sunday morning, so I took the opportunity of getting him to autograph the copies of his Book **“Someone To Love Us”** that I have purchased. I had with me my granddaughter, Paige, and her Foster Father, Doug, and Simon, also in Doug’s care. Indeed it was Doug who drove us all to Blaisdon. They also brought their two copies of the books I had presented to them and Terry kindly autographed these also. Thanks for doing this Terry. You must have been getting on for writers cramp, I guess, with all the autographs you must have given.

As we arrived at Blaisdon Village Hall the Publican of the Red Hart had an enormous Tractor tearing down the hedging opposite the Village Hall so that he could extend the fencing in front of the Parking area. As we arrived we met up with the new High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Ceri, and were able to greet him and congratulate him in person on his new high office. Ceri was standing there watching the activity. He spoke very warmly of the new owners of the Hall, which is encouraging, I believe. It was great to meet you, Ceri, and we wish you well for your current year’s service.

What’s the saying? **“Every Silver Lining has a cloud”**? Poor Len had his car break down—with no clutch. He got it back on Sunday, with Martin and Nora’s very kind help, from Ledbury, but at some considerable cost!



As we moved into the Hall for the Mass the wonderful band was ready to provide the vigorous Music throughout our Mass. Many thanks to the band for this support.



Father Aidan, looking very sun tanned, in this photo at least, Presided at the Mass, which he Concelebrated with Father Sean, our Old Boys Chaplain.

Father Sean read the gospel and Fr Aidan, preached the Sermon on the gospel, leaving us in no doubt as to what the gospel message was.



Here we can see Len Carter, Vincent Shaw and Liam Duggan getting settled in for the Mass with John Ward's party in front of them.

Here is Irene Robertson Standing, with Nora Cummins seated in the corner just behind her, alongside Len Carter



At this point John decided it might be better if someone with a steadier hand used his camera. Before he could make another move his granddaughter, Paige, took over control of the camera, with significantly better results.

AT THE GRAVE

After Mass we moved up to the Graveyard outside St. Michael's church, for our usual visit to lost friends. Martin Cummins kindly took these pictures. John Ward's family group.



Here Vincent Shaw joined John's group.

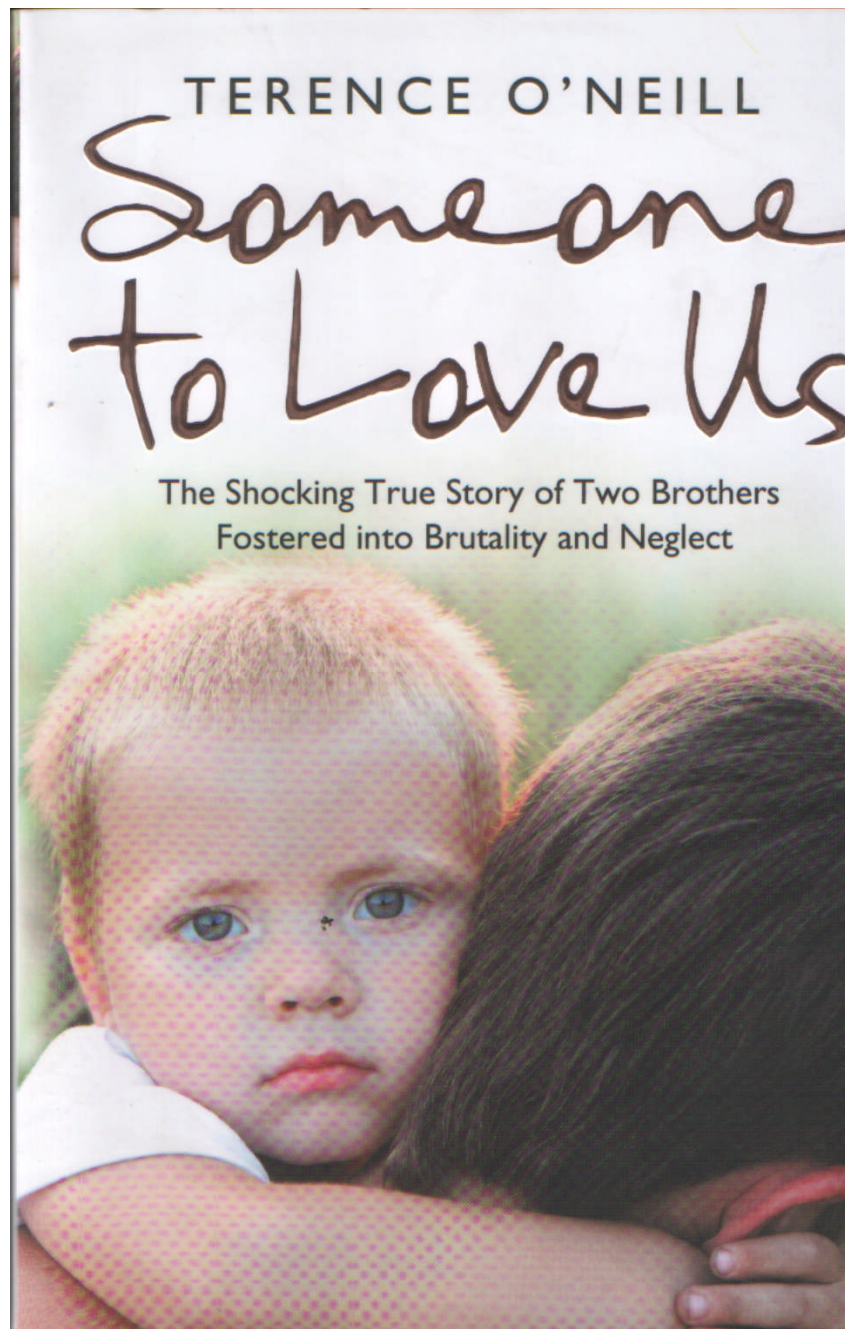
Here Nora Cummins, Vincent Shaw, Irene Robertson and Martin Cummins.



John Ward with Pat Young and Liam Duggan.

Towards the end of Mass, just before the final Blessing, Father Sean took the opportunity to promote the recently published book below. He did a great selling job, especially when he told the Congregation that it was at number four in the **Sunday Times Bestseller List** a week or two ago. Well done Father Sean.

The Father Aidan mentioned a super booklet on the history of the Newent Parish. Well worth a read for Blaisdon Old Boys, a number get a mention, as does Blaisdon Hall.





Father Sean Nora, Irene and Martin admiring the arrangement of the flowers on the Salesian grave.

Always an emotional moment for Irene, whose husband lies here and Nora, whose husband is commemorated on the Bench outside, built by her

husband and Son Martin.

Len Carter and others entering at the cemetery gates on a beautiful sunny Sunday.



THE REPAST



John took this picture, perhaps the wine steadied his hand somewhat.

John and his party having lunch in the Red Hart. A great meal was enjoyed by all.

John Ward, Web Mgr - APRIL 2010