



# National Newsletter

## Salesian Past Pupils (Great Britain)

### National President: Patrick Morrissey



My apologies for the long delay in getting this newsletter compiled and published. This has been due to a number of personal difficulties, not least of which was a boiler burst in my back-boiler.

This, our eighteenth 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 in Surrey House, Battersea, London, on 14 November 2010 and other news items.

At this meeting, our President, **Patrick Morrissey** retired, as he had indicated at the previous meeting. Patrick leaves an indelible legacy, especially the Mission support projects, one of which resulted in over **one hundred thousand pounds (>£100,000.00)** being raised and sent to Africa. (Details are in the previous issues of this Newsletter on this Website.)

**I would like to record our gratitude, that is National Council and all the Mission Project beneficiaries, to Patrick for his superb leadership of our National Council and for all the wonderful imitatives that he inaugurated during his more than eleven years as our National President. I would also like to offer my personal thanks to Patrick for his always-complimentary support of my efforts as his National Vice President.**

Patrick has kindly agreed to remain a Member on the GB National Council – missed the Salesian Directory deadline.

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT



National President: Patrick Morrissey

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**National Appeal:** National President discussed the Mission project for the 2009/10 year. This was decided to be being a home mission objective, in support of specific projects of our School Chaplaincies. Patrick had visited **Farnborough** and **Chertsey schools** to discuss and develop these.

At Farnborough Patrick met with the School Captain, **Marcus Almeida**, the Head of sixth form, **Richard Maher** and the Headmaster, **Patrick Wilson**, to discuss our support for the School's College **project in Zambia**.

At **Chertsey**, Patrick had meetings with the Head, **James Kibble**, the Rector, **Fr. Andrew Ibrahim SDB**, and Assistant Head, **John Lydon** on their Chaplaincy project – a **re-formation of the Past Pupils' Association**. Patrick has kept **Michael Quinlan**, Secretary of the Old Salesians FC, informed of this progress.

Patrick also mentioned his contact with the **Battersea School Captains** of recent years via the OSA Newsletter, **Maroon and Gold**. He also had some contact with the **newly appointed** Headmaster for the enlarged school, which appointment was for take up in September 2011. However this person has taken up a post in Beijing, China, and at the time of the meeting a new appointment had not yet been made.

Patrick has kept Local Association Presidents aware of the enthusiastic response to our proposed Chaplaincy projects for 2009/10. We await comments from Peter Hunter following his planned visits to Bootle and Thornleigh.

**National Constitution:** Patrick has reviewed the history and suggested we await the results from the Latest World Assembly in their consideration of a draft new World Confederation Constitution.

**National Scholarship Appeal:** After the first Term results, which were published in the previous Newsletters, we are awaiting reports on subsequent Terms. Father **Joe Brown SDB**, Missions Director is chasing up these.

#### **Election of Officers:**

**Patrick Morrissey**, having been National President for over 10 years had agreed to remain so for another year. Consequently Patrick advised of his intention to retire at this meeting. This was accepted with some sadness, but with warm affection and applause for all his work and inspired leadership of our National Council.

There was no one at the meeting who could take up the role. However the meeting suggested that we approach **Peter Hunter, a Shrigley Old Boy**. Patrick did this and Peter kindly agreed to take on the role. Peter was able to do this as his role on World Council had come to an end at the last World Council meeting in Rome. **“WELCOME PETER”**

#### **National Don Bosco Cup 2010**

This had been another very successful day with School and Past Pupil teams from Battersea and Chertsey. Farnborough team, staunch supporters of the event in previous years, was unfortunately unable to participate this year. But Fr Des O'Riordan (Rector at Farnborough) celebrated a well attended Mass in the Ewell Social Club before the tournament.



**The victorious Battersea Old Boys team. Yet again!**

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## **NATIONAL DELEGATE'S REPORT**

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National Delegate: Fr. Sean Murray SDB

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[Email: s.murray62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:s.murray62@yahoo.co.uk)

Fr. Sean reported that although he had not been able to attend this year's Cowley OSA Reunion Day, he did attend last year. He found it well organised and an enjoyable day for all the past pupils attending. He had attended the World Assembly in Rome with Peter Hunter in September. Peter was representing the National President and was himself standing in the World Council elections.

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



National Vice President; John Ward

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John Ward reported on his standard work, especially the regular removal of inappropriate messages from the National Website Guestbook. He also regularly relays information by Email to all on National Council. He reported that he would, as usual, create the next Issue of the National Newsletter following this National Council meeting. This will be the eighteenth issue. **All were planned to be issued during Patrick Morrissey's Presidency. My apologies.**

## VOCATIONS TEAM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



Proposed National President

Delegate: Peter Hunter Tel:

[Email: huntersjourney@hotmail.com](mailto:huntersjourney@hotmail.com)

Peter was unable to attend the meeting. **However, subsequent to the meeting Peter kindly accepted the National Presidency. Thanks and congratulations Peter from National Council Members.**

## BATTERSEA ASSOCIATION



*President: Nicholas Potter*

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### National Council Nov 14th 2010-Report from Battersea

Battersea report as follows:

A highly successful Remembrance Day Mass was held on Nov 7th 2009. Fully reported in Maroon & Gold issue No

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5 Christmas 2009 and distributed to National Council.

In excess of £6000 was raised for our fellow Salesians in Haiti in early 2010. Again fully reported in Maroon & Gold Issue No 6 Autumn 2010 distributed to National Council. **“Very Well Done - Battersea Association”**

Don Bosco Cup Sept 2010 fully reported in M & G

We have not only maintained membership but enrolled a steady number of new members who have been identified either through the internet or M & G which has proved to be a very effective recruiting tool.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Do not include me for lunch as yet.

Regards

**Nick Potter, Chairman**

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## BLAISDON ASSOCIATION



*President: Tony Brady*

*Tel: 0288 954 1928*

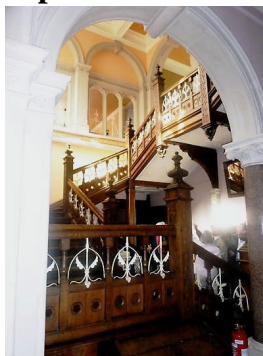
*[tobias@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:tobias@mypostoffice.co.uk)*



**Tony Brady, Blaisdon President**, was unable to attend, as he lives in Northern Ireland.

However, John Ward was in attendance as National Vice President and gave a short account of the amazing **Summer 2010 Reunion**. The new owner of **Blaisdon Hall** made this a **very special day** by inviting us all (about 50 people) to his home **Blaisdon Hall** for drinks and a tour of the magnificently refurbished building and grounds. As we sang a hearty **“For he’s a jolly good fellow”** before we left, his reply was **“I hope to see you all next year”**. This most kind gesture by **Mr. Andrey Zhelamskiy and his family** meant so much to those boys for who this had been their only home for two or three years. As we walked through the Hall and its magnificent grounds the raw emotions were palpable.

John also mentioned the usual Easter mini reunion, which has become an annual event. John showed a copy of the Summer Reunion Newsletter, which was highly complimented on by those present. **See Blaisdon Website, [www.blaisdonbrotherhood.info](http://www.blaisdonbrotherhood.info) for more great photos of the Summer 2010 Reunion.**



## BOOTLEASSOCIATION

Awaiting a volunteer to take up position vacated by Terry Rimmer

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## BURWASH ASSOCIATION

Vacant

A little history that I received from father Pat Sherlock SDB, to satisfy a desire to understand more about Salesian activities at Burwash.

Dear John,

I found this summary in the box for Burwash in our archives. About 1880 the church was built as a private chapel by Madame Murietta of Southover Hall. The porch was added at a much later period by the de Lacey family of Burwash Place. A Father Cooney was installed as chaplain, residing in the small presbytery built on to the church. The Catholic community was very limited in numbers, mostly domestics of Madame. Family financial difficulties led to withdrawal of Madame Murietta.

About 1896: As the church was not even remotely viable as a parochial unit the church and presbytery were offered by Bishop Bourne, then Bishop of Southwark, to the Salesians.

1st Novitiate period: From about 1900, the Salesian Novitiate began and continued until 1921. During this time the Salesians looked after the spiritual interests of the few Catholics of the district.

From 1921 to 1951: The Salesians conducted a boarding school. The church was consecrated in 1929 by Archbishop Amigo and the Salesians continued to look after the spiritual welfare of the people. Most building work was done during this period and land acquired.

2nd Novitiate period: In 1951 St Joseph's reverted to its former status as novitiate. During this period, in about 1963, the church of Mary Help of Christians was built at Hurst Green on land donated by Lord Longford. The Church of Christ the King was begun in Burwash village.

September 1966: Novitiate closed. St Joseph's was confined to parochial activity only. In October 1968 Christ the King opened at Burwash.

### **“A few additions of my own...”**

The school, from 1921 to 1951, was for the 'prep school' age range. Many young Salesians taught there for a couple of years before their final studies and ordination. One of the former pupils was Norman St John Stevas, now Baron St John of Fawsley. Rudyard Kipling lived in Burwash village for much of his life (but didn't go to the Salesian school!).

I hope this helps!

**Fr Patrick Sherlock SDB (GBR Provincial Secretary)** *“Thank you Father Pat for this interesting record.”*

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## **CHERTSEY ASSOCIATION**

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Dear Friends

John Lydon, Assistant Headteacher and Head of RE at Salesian School Chertsey, wrote an article earlier in the year entitled 'Transmission of the Charism: A Major Challenge for Catholic Education' which was published in International Studies in Catholic Education. The case study for the article focused on the Salesian charism and the extent to which it is possible to maintain the charism in Salesian schools in a post-Vatican II context.

It has just been announced by the publishers, Routledge, that the article has been listed in their Class of 2010 in the category Ethics, Religion and the Philosophy of Education. Described as education's very best research, Routledge collated last year's most downloaded articles from each and every one of their Education journals and have made them available for readers to download. The article can be accessed via <http://www.educationarena.com/journalPromotions/mostDownloaded/classof2010/>

You can also go directly to the page containing the article:

**Fr Patrick Sherlock SDB (GBR Provincial Secretary)**

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## COWLEY ASSOCIATION



*President: Bill Harris*

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### REPORT FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2010

The annual general meeting was held at the Mornese Centre in the grounds of the Salesian Sisters' Convent in Cowley on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. There were thirty-one members in attendance including Father Hugh Preston, Father Peter Quinn and Father John Ashton, who was attending for the first time. Fourteen apologies were received from members unable to attend.

The meeting endorsed the Salesian Past Pupils National Appeal for 2010/11, which elicited two generous personal contributions from Wally Thompson and Francis Connolly amounting to over £1000. Remaining funds were disbursed to support other good causes, principally: Teresa Connolly's work in Malawi and; UK Volunteers (Chertsey/India).

After the meeting, Mass was concelebrated with Father Kieran Anderson, SDB, at the new parish centre attached to the parish church of Mary Help of Christians in Holloway, Cowley. The parish centre is an impressive new facility containing a hall and a chapel where the two stained glass windows from the old college chapel have been installed after expert restoration; towards which members and the Association had made substantial contributions.

After mass, an excellent lunch was taken at the Original Swan public house, run by a Cowley old boy. It was a very convivial gathering with wines and drinks most generously funded by Wally Thompson.

The date of next year's meeting was decided to be Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2011, commencing at 1000, again at the Mornese Centre with Mass to follow in the chapel at the parish centre.

**Bill Harris, Chairman, CSOBA**

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## FARNBOROUGH ASSOCIATION



*President; Gregg Sudell*

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**Old Salesians Association Farnborough – News update for National Council Meeting**

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Farnborough held its Annual Reunion at the college. The event was supported by c.25 past pupils who attended mass in the college chapel, the AGM, a 3 course lunch and then had a very good presentation from a local historian Jo Gosney.

The president again arranged the annual 6-a-side football tournament for college students and Past pupils in June, which coincided with the College summer fete day. This event was extremely well supported with 18 teams and over 120 past pupils. It was won by the Year of 2003.

The Old Salesian winter golf day was held on the 5th November at Milford Golf club. A very good turnout was assured with 20+ players competing in the combined singles and pairs competition held over 18 holes. The standard of golf was varied but as they say its not the winning that matters its the taking part. Individual stableford points scored ranged from 40 points down to 16 with the majority posting 27 and above. A similar summer golf day was also played earlier in the year.

The OSFC have had a varied season in which could be described as a transition year with a number of senior players moving on for a number of reasons and a new, younger group of players forming the regular core of the team. Both teams have started this season fairly in mid table form.

The Farnborough past pupil association has again had a visible presence at the college at the college prize giving night. It sponsors a number of awards each year for academic performance as well as Salesian ethos. It also presented the last award for the overall winning house.

**Greg Sudell**

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## SHRIGLEY ASSOCIATION

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*President: Peter Roebuck*

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No one was present from Shrigley. **However, from Shrigley Association Website:**

### 2011 Reunion & Annual General Meeting

**will take place from 16th-18th September at Shrigley Hall Hotel and Savio House. Details to follow in the New Year.**

**In Glasgow**

**at the end of January or beginning of February (dates yet to be decided) there will be a Committee Meeting, Social Event and Don Bosco Mass. Watch this space for details.**

**John Bergin sent the following message 25th Oct, mainly for our Scots Brethren**

**As you are probably aware, The Shrigley Association as it currently constituted will cease to exist next year.**

At the most recent reunion in September I agreed to arrange a meeting for the Scottish members to discuss how we might take the association forward. Fr Brian McGraw has agreed to host a meeting for us in St Benedict's on Thursday 11 November at 7.00 pm to give us the opportunity explore if there is any interest in keeping the association going, what that might look like, what we can reasonably do, etc.

I am happy to prepare a discussion paper for our meeting so I would be happy to receive comments and suggestions, even if it a proposal to end the association.

So, if you have any interest at all in the association's future, and can make the meeting on 11 November, can you let me know.

I look forward to seeing you then.



Enjoy our site, and keep in touch!

[Please send comments and items for inclusion on the website here](#)

Fr. Bernard's death is a great loss also for our China Province, where he arrived, newly-professed, 73 years ago in 1937 and where he spent 51 of his 73 years of Salesian life, being one of its Rectors (1952-1958) and Provincials (1958-1963).

Fr. Bernard's death is a great loss for the whole Salesian Congregation. The 22-year interruption in his stay in our Province (1963-1985) is due to the fact that he was for two years and a half Provincial of the San Francisco Province in the USA and for 19 years a member of the General Council with the Rector Majors Fr. Luigi Ricceri and Fr. Egidio Viganò. He was for 6 years (1965-1971) Regional Superior of the immense English-speaking Region that included the East Asia Provinces. In this Region he had become a Salesian, making his first profession in Beckford,

England, in 1937. Then, for 13 years (1971-1984), he was General Superior of the Salesian Missions, after which he had a year of spiritual renewal in Ireland (1984-1985).

His 73-year missionary service made him, perhaps, the most travelled Salesian in the history of the Congregation. We don't know how many times he travelled by boat, after his first trip by ship to come to China. However, he kept count of all the times he took a plane of some kind or other. They add up to 1538!

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## THORNLEIGH ASSOCIATION

Vacant



Dear Friends

Please remember in your prayers Derrick Langin, a Thornleigh past pupil who died last Saturday at the age of 80. May he rest in peace!

Fr Patrick Sherlock SDB (GBR Provincial Secretary)

Thornleigh Salesian College Bolton has a new website implemented using Joomla, a Content Management System which is Free Open Source software. <http://www.thornleigh.net>. You will find it a lot cleaner in design than their previous site with information, news, and a link to a 'Virtual Learning Environment'. Some sections are for pupils and staff only, but much is available to the public.

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## AFRICA UPDATE

We await one final report on the students who benefited from our final year, for now, of the Educational project in three West African countries. It has been a most worthwhile project. Elsewhere you will see we have decided to support the Chaplaincies in our UK Schools as our, closer to home, Mission Project.

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## OTHER INFORMATION

**A deceased Past Pupil and former GB National Council Member, whom we will always remember and in whom we can all rejoice:**



**Sean Devereux 1964-1993: A life for Africa** ([links](#))

On 2nd January 1993, Sean Devereux was shot dead – assassinated by a hired gunman whilst working for UNICEF in Kismayo, Somalia. Sean died coming to the aid of children.

He gave his life for a new ethos to the world, one that responds to the international community's responsibility for innocent civilians who are trapped and traumatized by terror and conflict.

His mission statement: "While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do, and that is to help those who are less fortunate"

[more>>](#) [photos>>](#) [facebook>>](#) [youtube>>](#)

[His letter from Somalia written two months before he was murdered >>](#)

I plan to retain this memorial in all future Issues, as a most inspirational message for current and future **GB Salesian Past Pupils**.

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## EDITORIAL 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: Fr Pat Sherlock SDB, Provincial Secretary, Salesian Provincial House*