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Words from the Presidential Chair!

At the Installation Night, Bro. Folkert Van Galen handed over the President's role to Bro. Peter Clapham. Here, the new Southampton President writes about his forthcoming presidential year.



Brothers and ladies, I feel very proud to have been installed as President of the 12th Circle of the Catenian Association for the Presidential year 2015-2016 and I would like to thank you all for your kind advice and offers of support.

Our social programme for this coming year aims to be both varied and more accommodating for those brothers and wives who still work for a living. With the latter in mind, wherever possible, events have been arranged for the weekends.

Sadly, our first event has had to be postponed until later this year. It was to be an historic walk in Southampton Old Cemetery, to hear from Geoff Watts about 'Wellington's Men', the soldiers who survived Waterloo and the Peninsula Wars. For those of you who do not know Geoff, he is a Green Badge Tour Guide and an excellent speaker. We will have another opportunity to hear from him in July when he will lead us on the Jane Austen walk around Southampton. In Circle tradition, both walks will end with a tasty lunch at a nearby venue.

So the first event of my year as President will be the Mother's Ruin Day in June which will be a trip to Laverstoke Gin Distillery. This event is an exception to the weekend rule as it will be on a Monday. This is simply to avoid being crushed by the large number of weekend visitors to the distillery and has nothing to do with the fact that the less visitors there are, the more tasters for us!

My President's Sunday will be held at Bartley Lodge Hotel, Cadnam in June and will be bucking the trend of recent years in that it will actually be on Sunday! Canon Peter Wilkie will lead us in Mass at the hotel and this will be followed by lunch. Bring your outdoor shoes and swimming costumes as the Bartley Lodge Hotel have kindly offered us the use of their grounds, swimming pool and other facilities for the afternoon. It promises to be a relaxing day when we can all come together to enjoy our Catenian friendship.

The summer programme will continue in August with a South African braai. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a braai is Afrikaans for 'grilled meat' or 'barbeque'. It is a popular social custom in many African countries and one with which Meg and I are very familiar, having a daughter who lives in South Africa.

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SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE MEETING

The 1,161st meeting of the Southampton Circle will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 1 June. It will be a ladies night. Dress code: black tie. Venue: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, 34-35 High Street, Southampton SO14 2HN.

CIRCLE DUTIES

May Welfare Officer: John Singleton (report at June meeting). Whisky donor: John Thompson (June meeting).

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 27 May 2015.

May Meeting Statistics

Circle Strength	46
Present	25 (54%)
Apologies	21
No apologies	0
Visitors	4
Visiting gentlemen	0

As we go into the autumn, I will be inviting you to join me at Gilbert's Dahlia Farm in Sherfield English where we can stroll among the beds of this very popular flower and partake in a sedate afternoon tea (no bun fights please!). This will take place in September and, during that month, we will also be putting on our walking shoes for our yearly New Forest trek; this time it will be in unfamiliar territory of the Brownhills enclosure, so regular walkers beware!

As the winter draws near, the Southampton Circle will be braving the cold evenings to attend a variety of interesting events. There will be a West End theatre trip in October and, as a Lancashire man with an eye on a good bargain, I have arranged this for mid-week to take advantage of the lower price tickets! Then it will be cheers of "go on, my son!" in November with all the thrills and spills of a Race Night at the Dolphin, followed by the Christmas party in December - the entertainment of which is still under discussion but I can promise that it will be MEMORABLE!

The winter events will continue with a hotly contested curling match against the Winchester Wobblers in January; it will be a chance to right the wrongs of this year's contest. As always, we will be opening up our hospitality to the members of the clergy as well as the ladies in February and, during the same month, the delights of northern cuisine will be on offer for 'Lancashire Night' at Keats Restaurant (another weekday event).

As spring draws near, my Presidential year will come to a close with one last event, 'Put your money where your mouth is' at the Dolphin in March. Now you may be wondering what this is and I can reveal that it is an antique valuation evening, something that has become very popular these days but if antiques are not your thing, there will be an excellent buffet meal to whet your appetite. My only other comment on this event is that when the 'antique' valuations are in progress, many of us may well be advised not to keep still for very long!

Alongside these events will be the two annual Masses: the Vocations Mass will take place later this month and the Mass for Deceased Brothers will be held in November, both on Fridays. As a Circle, we are especially keen to forge closer links with the youth of the region through the schools and universities and we will be joining the CathSoc students at various Masses throughout the year, currently May and February are in the diary.

The Saturday lunchtime Circle meeting was very successful and I will be repeating this in March 2016. Also, throughout this year, it is my wish that as many brothers as possible will accompany me to Circle visits in our province.

My charity for this year is 'Faith and Light', an ecumenical charity that works with the disabled. The local branch is at my own church, St. Edward's in Chandler's Ford.

Meg and I are hoping for an enjoyable Presidential year that will be in keeping with our Catenian pledge to strengthen family life through our friendship and faith.

Bro. President Peter Clapham

CIRCLE BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those whose birthdays are in May.

Harry Harrison (3), Tony Brady (5), Peter O'Connor (6), John Singleton (8), Maire Whelan (20), Anne Brady (21), Jim Shine (28) and Kathleen Parker (28).

LOTTERY WINNERS



1st prize: Claire Lund Yates
2nd prize: John Singleton
Whisky winner: Tony Murray

PRAYERS Your prayers are requested for those who are unwell: Bosco and Myra Andrade, Dick Barber, Roger Carter, Rita Forster and Joe Gleeson. Also Margaret Smith (Christine Palethorpe's mother), Alan Bailey (Dawn Harrison's father), Alan McEwan (Poole) and David Morgan (Winchester).

IN MEMORIAM Please pray for the May anniversaries: Fergus Holland, Joe McGarry, Mick Pettitt, Bill Stowe, Dick Thompson and Maureen Tomlins. Please also remember in your prayers Chris Langham (New Forest) who recently passed away and for the Langham family.



CIRCLE EVENTS

Saturday 16 May	WELLINGTON'S MEN	Postponed to a later date!
Tuesday 19 May	LUNCHEON CLUB 	12.00 noon: Empress of Blandings, Copythorne, SO40 2PF, 023 8081 2321. <i>Please confirm your attendance to drtpalmer@hotmail.com.</i>
Wednesday 20 May	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	Andover Circle. <i>Please confirm your attendance to Bro. Vice President at GrahamPalethorpe@gmail.com.</i>
Friday 22 May	MASS FOR VOCATIONS	7.00 pm: St. Edward's, Chandler's Ford. Light refreshments after Mass. <i>Please confirm your attendance to GrahamPalethorpe@gmail.com.</i>
Sunday 31 May	CATHSOC BARBEQUE	Mass followed by a barbeque to say farewell to some of the CathSoc students. <i>Please confirm your attendance to roger.lillie@gmail.com.</i>
Tuesday 26 May	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	New Forest Circle. <i>Please confirm your attendance to GrahamPalethorpe@gmail.com.</i>
Monday 8 June	MOTHER'S RUIN DAY	10.00 am: A visit to Laverstoke Gin Distillery, followed by lunch. <i>Please confirm your attendance to GrahamPalethorpe@gmail.com.</i>
Tuesday 16 June	LUNCHEON CLUB 	12.00 noon: La Pergola, Lyndhurst, SO43 7BQ, 023 8028 4184. <i>Please confirm your attendance to drtpalmer@hotmail.com.</i>
Sunday 28 June	PRESIDENT'S SUNDAY	11.00 am: Mass at Bartley Lodge, Cadnam followed by lunch and an afternoon using the hotel's facilities.

AROUND THE PROVINCE AND BEYOND 2015

15-17 May 2015	AGM	Durham
3 June 2015	ARUNDEL (New Forest Circle event)	A day visit to the Cathedral and the Castle (to include lunch). <i>Please confirm your attendance to jwjl@btinternet.com.</i>
24 October 2015	TRAFALGAR NIGHT (Portsmouth Circle event)	6.30 pm: Brookfield Hotel, Emsworth. Ladies night/black tie. £30. per head. <i>Please confirm your attendance to GrahamPalethorpe@gmail.com.</i>

June Menu

Trio of melon with a raspberry coulis
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Apple & sage filled pork loin steak with cider sauce
OR
Spinach rolled fillet of haddock with a red pepper sauce
(both served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables)
OR
Greek salad with garlic bread
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Choice of Desserts:

Classic Tiramisu
OR
Cheese Platter
(to be confirmed)
~ ~ ~

Please advise the Dining Officer of your selection
Jim Shine at jimandsiobhanshine@btinternet.com

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Southampton Catenian website: <http://www.southamptoncatenians.org>

President's Charity website: www.faihandlight.org.uk