

Grand President celebrates with the Circle at Philip Crook's 95th birthday dinner!

Turning 95 is a very special event so the Southampton Circle were honoured that Bro. Philip and wife Pat chose to celebrate his special occasion with them. Southampton Brothers and wives attended the dinner along with those from the Basingstoke, Bournemouth and City of Winchester Circles. His two younger sons and wives were also there. The occasion was made all the more noteworthy by the presence of Bro. Grand President David Rowley and his wife Eileen.



At the Circle meeting, Bro. Philip was presented with a decanter by Bro. President Graham Palethorpe - a gift of appreciation and thanks



because it is the hard work of

Brothers like Philip that ensures Southampton remains a thriving Circle today. Further tributes were made by Bro. President and Grand President during the dinner.

Bro. Philip passes on his grateful thanks to the Circle for the engraved decanter and for the wonderful reception and best wishes given to him for his 95th birthday.

Born 95 years ago, Bro. Philip Crook has been a member of the Southampton Circle for nearly 40 years. During this time, Bro. Philip served two separate terms as a Circle President. Remarkably, he was Circle Secretary for 19 consecutive years! Together with the late Bro. Joe Gobbi, he founded the Circle Luncheon Club which was subsequently taken up by nearly all the Circles in the Province. The Luncheon Club exists to this day and its very first venue, The Bear & Ragged Staff in Michelmersh, is still on the dining list! Few Catenians can rival Bro. Philip's record as an active and devoted Catenian. He has rarely missed either a Circle or a Council meeting and just recently he put forward proposals for updating Circle meetings which are to be discussed at Provincial Council. He joined the Southampton Circle on 3 April 1978 so his fellow brothers are looking forward to celebrating his 40th anniversary at the Installation dinner next year!

Bro. David Palmer

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday 28 March 2017, Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton.

APRIL MEETING DETAILS

- **Circle meeting:** 7.30 pm on Monday 3 April 2017. Installation of the new Circle President and Vice President. Ladies night.
- **Venue:** Mercure Dolphin Hotel, High Street, Southampton SO14 2HN.
- **Dress code:** Black tie.
- **April Welfare Officer:** Andy Philpott
- **April Whisky donor:** Bob Millar

MARCH Meeting Statistics

Circle Strength:	47
Present:	31 (66%)
Apologies:	16
Visitors:	7
Visiting Gentlemen:	0

Bro. Philip Crook gave an excellent speech at the Circle dinner in which he told his fellow Brothers and wives of a very interesting life. His speech is included here so that all those who were unable to attend the dinner can share in his story.

Bro. President, Bro. Grand President, distinguished guests, Brothers.

It is very kind of you, Brothers of Southampton Circle, to have this dinner in celebration of my 95th birthday and I thank you all for coming. And a special thank you, Bro. Grand President, for visiting the Circle at this special time for me. I also thank you, Bro. President, Roger Lillie and David Palmer as I am sure you did much to arrange matters. And congratulations to you, Valerie, on sharing the same birthday as me!

You may well wonder how I have spent the last 95 years of my life. Well, in the next few minutes, I will try and tell you. I was born in Southampton in 1922 and, after a happy childhood, I joined the Army as a cadet at about the age of 16. At the outbreak of World War II, I was assigned to the Corps of Royal Engineers where I had the honour and job to serve for just over 30 years. And I will tell you now, there is no better soldier than the Sapper of the Royal Engineers! I married at an early age and a daughter and four sons were born of that marriage. Two of my youngest sons and their wives are here tonight.

During my career in the Army, I served in World War II, the emergency in Malaya and the Campaign in Borneo. I had the honour to command several units of the Royal Engineers, served on the General Staff, attended the Staff College at Camberley, the Royal Military College of Science and the Royal School of Military Engineering. With my family most of the time, I lived in Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand, Germany and, of course, the UK. One of my lasting memories is taking part in the atomic tests as a Trials Officer in Australia in the early 1950s.

I retired from the Army in 1970, mainly on account of my wife's ill-health, and took up employment with a large, friendly society as the Investment and Property Manager. After six years from leaving the Army my wife, Jean, died. Later, in 1978, my dear friends, the late Peter Woodling and Peter O'Connor introduced me to the Catenians - and here I am still. I had the good fortune to meet Pat through the Catenians and we were married later.

Then in retirement from civilian work, I was kept busy doing the usual things about the house and garden until I gradually realised that I could no longer do so many as I used to. Now, in old age, I find myself being more involved in computing, writing and reading, and being more critical in such matters as politics, religion, the Church and, yes, the Catenian Association.

Well, as you may have gathered, I have had a wonderful life and, with the grace of God, I may have the privilege of addressing you again on my 100th birthday!

Bless you all and thank you again.

Philip Crook



ANOTHER FIRST FOR SOUTHAMPTON!

After several years of a close alliance between Southampton Circle and Southampton University CathSoc, we formalised this special relationship by a joint signing of a Memorandum of Affiliation at last Sunday's Mass in the presence of Southampton Brothers, wives and students. This is the first time that our Association has allied itself with another Catholic organisation. We are being watched by other Circles, including Manchester 1 who are proposing to follow our lead. The affiliation confirms the relationship whereby we will provide support for each other whenever possible. The Uni students will bring a youthful outlook for us and, indeed,



they were active in assisting with last weekend's retreat. In turn we will help with fundraising for their pilgrimages and projects such as 10/10. We can also impart our expertise and experience with composing CVs and learning interview techniques. CathSoc have also shown an interest in holding joint social events and are keen to challenge us at events such as walking football and New Age Kurling.

This new and exciting affiliation will no doubt bring rewards to both sides. Our Catholic youth have already proven that they are great evangelists which is something Pope Francis encourages us to support. They are the future of the Church and also the Association.

CathSoc President Stefano Cinti says: "We are honoured to be in a close relationship with the Catenian Association. They have helped us in the past; now we can start to help too. It is experienced Catholics from whom we can learn much about Christianity and life in general".



by Roger Lillie

Above: Bro. President Graham Palethorpe and CathSoc President Stefano Cinti signing the Affiliation Agreement.



GRAND PRESIDENT VISITS CATHSOC

Bro. Grand President David Rowley took the opportunity during his visit to the Southampton Circle to meet with CathSoc just days after the signing of the Affiliation Agreement. Accompanied by Bros. Roger Lillie, John Farran and Andy Philpott, he was introduced to Stefano Cinti and other student members. Fr. James Bradley was also present, having just participated in the Circle retreat a few days before. It was a good opportunity for Grand President to witness firsthand the close connection that exists between the Southampton Circle and CathSoc, and for the students to meet with our most senior Brother in the Catenian Association.



BRO. PRESIDENT HOSTS A CIRCLE ISLAND RETREAT

Bro. President Graham Palethorpe had a very busy end to his President's year, presiding over three events in as many days!

The busy weekend started on the Saturday with the final President's event of Bro. Graham's year. He and Christine had invited the Circle members to

join them on the Isle of Wight for a Circle retreat. As Bro. President wrote in his email to the Circle: "Lent is a time of delving deeper into our faith by rediscovering and using traditional Christian tools of Lent to better understand ourselves and God." The day began with an early start at the ferry terminal where the Brothers and wives met up with the CathSoc students to whom they were giving lifts. From East Cowes, the convoy of cars made its way to the Verbum Dei Centre in Newport.



Sr. Valentina is well-known to the Circle as the Chaplain of CathSoc and she kindly devised and led the retreat itinerary. The theme was 'Lent: Time of Making Time'. Much of the day was spent listening to talks and in reflection. As with all Circle events, time was most definitely made for food and thanks must go not only to Sr. Valentina for arranging the event but also to Sr. Margarida who provided a delightful lunch and refreshments. The day included Mass celebrated by Fr. James Bradley with Bro. Andy Philpott serving as Deacon.

Bro. Folkert Van Galen, who organised this lovely group photo above, says: "It was a perfect day, quiet, well-organised on an Isle of Wight beauty spot." Although not all the Brothers and wives who attended the retreat are in the photo, it does include the Verbum Dei novices who were present and who hail from many different parts of the world. Thank you to Bro. President Graham and Christine for a truly spiritual day.

The Circle Island Retreat was the last occasion in Bro. Graham's calendar of events. It was a very special way in which to end his year as President which began with a most enjoyable President's weekend in Swanage. This was a new departure from the traditional President's Sunday and was a most popular event. Other trips have included a cream tea in the New Forest, a laser clay pigeon shoot and a visit to a refinery, although the New Age Kurling match against the Winchester Circle may be the one event that Bro. President may wish to forget! The year has ended on a high for Bro. President with the two very unique occasions that took place this past week.



The Southampton Circle thanks Bro. Graham and Christine for all they have done throughout his President's year and wishes them all the best in finally putting their feet up for the rest of 2017!

Thank you, Bro. John Farran!

The Circle newsletter team are very grateful to Bro. John Farran who has provided such superb photos for this March edition. He acted as photographer on three consecutive days, providing us all with such clear images of the CathSoc signing, Bro. Philip's celebrations and the Grand President's visit to CathSoc. It has been a very special few days for the Southampton Circle and Bro. John's contribution has been invaluable.

Help needed! Are you familiar with Sage accounting software?



Sr. Michelle of the Dominican Sisters in Sway is asking for someone to familiarise her with the Sage accounting software. If you have a good understanding of this particular software and are willing to share your knowledge with Sr. Michelle, please contact John Farran on jfarran1@aol.com.

BROTHER SECRETARY'S RAMBLINGS FOR MARCH

'Memory of a night on the Guinness'

'Twas an evening in November, as I very well remember, I was strolling down the street in drunken pride.
But my knees were all a'flutter, so I landed in the gutter and a pig came up and lay down by my side.

Yes, I lay there in the gutter thinking thoughts I could not utter, when a Colleen passing by did softly say,
"Ye can tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses" - at that, the pig got up and walked away!

Anon (Dublin)

• MARCH PRESIDENT'S CHARITY LOTTERY WINNERS:

There was no lottery draw at the March dinner as John Thompson is away.

• MARCH WHISKY DRAW WINNER:

Peter Clapham

• MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Frank McKeever (4), Myra Andrade (4), Ilda Ourique (5), Philip Crook (6), Valerie Summerton (6), Pat Feighery (10), Paul Andrews (10), Christine Grummitt (12) and Bill Day (19).



CIRCLE WELFARE

Your prayers for these Brothers and wives who are currently unwell would be much appreciated.

Myra Andrade, Tony Brady, Roger Carter, Rita Forster, Joe Gleeson, Margaret Kemhadjian, Kathleen Parker, Alma Phillips, Katie Smith. Also Harry Harrison Snr. (father of Harry Harrison, former Guildford and Woking Brother), Pip Coan (City of Winchester) and Ken Eastham (Bournemouth).



IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for Circle Brothers whose anniversaries occur this month:

George Campbell, Frank Ellen, Margaret Gleeson, Peter Hatcher, Moira O'Connor, Freddie Tindall and Andrew Wilson.



Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Erlinda Cruz RIP (mother of Myra Philpott). Also Lucy Broughton (wife of Bro. Tony, Salisbury), Bros. Gerrard Goodhind (Blackheath & Chislehurst), Alan Taylor (Salisbury) and Bob Taylor (Fleet) who all recently passed away. Please pray for Myra, Andy, and the Cruz family and also the Broughton and Goodhind families and the two Taylor families.

CIRCLE EVENTS 2017

Monday 20 March	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	Basingstoke Circle. <i>Please advise Brother Secretary if you wish to accompany Brother President.</i>
Tuesday 21 March	HOOLIGANS LUNCH CLUB	7.30 pm: The Dolphin, Hursley, SO21 2JY. <i>Please advise Bro. Secretary if you wish to attend.</i>
Monday 3 April	CIRCLE INAUGURATION NIGHT	Installation of Bro. Pat Feighery as Circle President and Bro. Harry Harrison as Circle Vice-President. Ladies Night. Black tie. <i>Please advise Brother Secretary if you wish to attend.</i>
Tuesday 25 April	HOOLIGANS LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: The Bear & Ragged Staff, Michelmersh, SO51 0LB. <i>Please advise Brother Secretary if you wish to attend.</i>
Friday 6 - 9 October	JERSEY WEEKEND	In the presence of National President, Bro. Peter Rogers. Pomme d'Or Hotel: £280 pp (double room). <i>Please advise Ron Satchell (Jersey Circle) if you wish to attend.</i>

APRIL CIRCLE DINNER MENU

Carrot & coriander soup
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Cottage pie, peas and carrots  
*or*  
Cod loin, crushed new potatoes, carrots  
and a pea, cherry tomato & red onion concasse  
*or*  
Aubergine stuffed with steamed cauliflower  
and topped with a cheese sauce  
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Milk chocolate mousse
with Chantilly cream
or
Cheese platter
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*Please advise Bro. David Palmer  
of your choice of meal  
if you intend to dine.*

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | <b>Graham Palethorpe</b> | <b>01489 780 910</b> | <b>grahampalethorpe@gmail.com</b>      |
| <b>Vice President</b>          | <b>Pat Feighery</b>      | <b>023 8076 0255</b> | <b>pfeighery245@btinternet.com</b>     |
| <b>Provincial Councillor</b>   | <b>Daverio Matteucci</b> | <b>023 8025 2744</b> | <b>daveriomatteucci@googlemail.com</b> |
| <b>Secretary</b>               | <b>David Palmer</b>      | <b>023 8063 0008</b> | <b>drtpalmer@hotmail.com</b>           |
| <b>Dining Officer</b>          | <b>David Palmer</b>      | <b>023 8063 0008</b> | <b>drtpalmer@hotmail.com</b>           |
| <b>Treasurer</b>               | <b>Patrick Dobell</b>    | <b>023 8077 3631</b> | <b>pj.dobell@btinternet.com</b>        |
| <b>Membership Officer</b>      | <b>John Farran</b>       | <b>023 8026 8184</b> | <b>jfarran1@aol.com</b>                |
| <b>Benevolent Fund Officer</b> | <b>Tony Wilson</b>       | <b>023 8026 6617</b> | <b>tonypaulwil@gmail.com</b>           |

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

President's Charity website: <http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>