

SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE 12

Inaugurated 9th April 1913

NEWSLETTER

President: Graham Palethorpe

DECEMBER



Southampton Circle Christmas Edition



Bro. President Graham Palethorpe and wife Christine wish all the Brothers and wives of the Southampton Circle a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

It has been another year of interesting Circle events organised by Bro. President and Christine, the most memorable of which was the President's Weekend in Swanage; a great opportunity for the Circle Brothers and wives to come together for a couple of days in a lovely venue. There have also been visits to a garden, a cathedral and a museum, and a slightly more energetic day was spent at the clay pigeon shoot. For those who prefer to combine good company with good fare, there were the very successful afternoon tea in the New Forest and the Thai evening. To round off the year was the Christmas Party which was well attended and great fun!

There is more to come in 2017, starting with two annual events; New Age Kurling and Italian Night at Keats. In March, Bro. President will host a Circle Retreat on the Isle of Wight and a special Ladies Night Circle dinner to celebrate Philip Crook's 95th birthday with the Grand President and his wife in attendance. A great way to end a Circle Presidential year!



JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING 2017

7.30 pm, Tuesday 31 January 2017, Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. (There is no Council meeting in December.)

JANUARY MEETING 2017

- **Time:** 7.30 pm on Monday 9 January 2017 (Brothers only)
- **Venue:** Mercure Dolphin Hotel, 34-35 High Street, Southampton SO14 2HN.
- **Dress code:** Jacket and tie
- **January Welfare Officer:** Bob Millar
- **January whisky donor:** Roger Lillie

There are no meeting statistics this month as there was no Circle meeting in December.



Thai Night's the Night!

19 Circle brothers and wives gathered together in Southampton on a cold November evening for a night of aromatic and fragrant cuisine. Kuti's Royal Thai Pier was the venue for this gastronomic event and the food did not disappoint. Kuti staff were kept busy throughout the meal, bringing fresh bowls of red chicken curry, sliced duck and steamed vegetables and it was noted that one Bro. Lillie enjoyed more than his fair share of red curry! As always, the evening afforded an opportunity to catch up on news and, at this particular time of the year, to share plans for Christmas. That the meal lasted for over three hours was a testament to its success and thanks must go to Bro. David Palmer for organising the event.



BROTHER SECRETARY'S IRRELEVANT RAMBLINGS!

Tabor beat your little drum;
things are looking decidedly rum.

To poor Mr. Merrythought, dancing apart;
bells on his trousers, Hell in his heart.

Since round the Maypole frolics Miss Prism,
plainly not knowing its symbolism.

Anon

THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY LOTTERY: There is no announcement of winners in this newsletter as the President's Draw is deferred until January 2017.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Congratulations to those who celebrate birthdays in December.

Andy Philpott (2), Donald Kumarajeewa (6), Sheila Feighery (12), Chris Barber (19), Jackie Barber (22), Ellen Gobbi (23), Rita Forster (28) and Maggie Farran (31).



CIRCLE EVENTS 2016/17

Thursday 15 December	HOOIGANS CHRISTMAS LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: Keats Restaurant, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ.
Thursday 5 January 2017	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	Winchester Circle. <i>Please contact Bro. Secretary if you wish to accompany Bro. President.</i>
Monday 9 January 2017	CIRCLE MEETING	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. Brothers only.
Wednesday 18 January 2017	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	Isle of Wight Circle. <i>Please contact Bro. Secretary if you wish to accompany Bro. President.</i>
Friday 20 January 2017	NEW AGE KURLING	7.00 pm: Banister Park Bowling Club. The Southampton Rockers v. The Winchester Wobblers followed by the Catenians v. Catenihens. <i>Please contact Bro. Peter Clapham if you wish to attend.</i>
Thursday 26 January 2017	VISIT TO THE BALLET	2.00 pm: The Mayflower. 'Cinderella' performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet. <i>Please contact Meg Clapham if you wish to attend.</i>
Monday 6 February 2017	CIRCLE MEETING	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. Ladies night.
February (TBC)	ITALIAN NIGHT AT KEATS	Details to be confirmed.
Saturday 4 March 2017	CIRCLE RETREAT	Isle of Wight. Further details to be advised by Bro. President.
Monday 6 March 2017	MARCH MEETING & SPECIAL CELEBRATION!	7.30 pm: Special Ladies Night with Grand President and his wife to celebrate Philip Crook's 95th birthday. Dress code is Black Tie and Posh Frocks.

JANUARY DINNER MENU

Roasted tomato & balsamic vinegar soup

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Slow braised beef steak with herb-crushed  
new potatoes, carrots & broccoli in rosemary  
and red wine gravy

*or*

Traditional fish pie with cheesy mash, carrots  
& broccoli

*or*

Roasted vegetable pie with cheesy mash,  
carrots & broccoli

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Orange & cinnamon Spotted Dick
served with custard

or

Cheese platter

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*Please advise Bro. David Palmer  
of your choice of meal if you intend to dine.*

## **DEREK GEORGE BARBER (DICK), RIP**

*Southampton Circle were sad to learn of the death of Brother Dick Barber. Dick joined Southampton Circle on 7 December 1987 and his two sons are also members. Our prayers to his widow Sheila, sons Paul and Chris together with Jane and Jackie and all the Barber family. The Requiem Mass for Dick will be celebrated at St. Boniface Church, Shirley Road at 11.00 am on Tuesday 13 December.*



Dick was born on 12 December 1926 in Southampton; he attended Shirley School and, on leaving school, he worked for a while as a telegram delivery boy before serving an apprenticeship as a carpenter & joiner with R W Whittington Limited. During the war, Dick acted as a fire warden, close by the family home in Dale Road, Shirley where he lived with his parents and older brother, Brian. The family took many of their summer holidays in Teignmouth & Dawlish in South Devon and it was in Teignmouth, that Dick met his beloved wife Jo and converted to Catholicism; they married in Our Lady & St Patrick's Church, Teignmouth on 23 April 1949 and set up home in Southampton, initially living with Dick's parents in Dale Road.

Dick and Jo moved to Janson Road in 1966 where Dick carried out considerable improvements to the house and extensive landscaping work to the garden, whilst at the same time continuing to look after and maintain the family home in Dale Road. Dick was always industrious and loyal; a man of few words, but whose words could be utterly relied upon; he did not suffer either knaves or fools gladly. In the mid-1960s, Dick went into business with local entrepreneur, Ken Tolfree, establishing Tolbar Builders Limited. They operated the business for a number of years, specialising in building high quality one off residences. Dick also acquired self-taught skills at that time as a draughtsman, preparing detailed building plans and dealing with applications for planning permission and building regulation approvals.

Dick and Jo eventually obtained a licence to build a new house on a war damaged site in Alexandra Road, Shirley. They chose that location because it was so close to Springhill School, where they were keen for Chris & Paul to be educated. Dick contracted polio in the early 1950s and suffered some of the after-effects for a long period. Dick had by then moved on from Whittingtons, and was working for J R Brown & Son Limited, a small building contractor located in Graham Road, and specialising in the construction of very large chicken broiler houses. He worked on farm sites across southern England and was promoted to be overall manager in the firm. The work was heavy and physical and Dick, who was always a hard worker, often cut multiple sheets of asbestos board, by hand without thought at the time as to the dangers.

In 1971 the family moved to Bassett and Dick launched upon a new career in local government, where he worked initially for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, and then for Southampton City Council, in housing and valuers departments – in the latter, working with Peter O'Connor. Dick & Jo always promised themselves they would one day build their own dream bungalow; in October 1980 they took the plunge, having found and successfully negotiated the purchase of a plot in Boldrewood Road, Bassett, adjoining the Sports Centre. Dick, industrious as ever, virtually single handed, cleared the large site of overgrowth and some of the smaller trees and project managed and directed the construction work, to his own designs, inevitably also doing much of the work himself, including most of the roof timbering.



Sadly it was at this time that Jo contracted cancer, but on her release from hospital in February 1981, Dick had the new bungalow all ready for her. Dick and Jo enjoyed several years in the bungalow and Dick laid out and skilfully landscaped the large contoured rear garden. Jo died in 1986. Dick had cared for her unsparingly and unremittingly through her long and recurring periods of illness.

Dick took comfort in his later years in spending time with his family, including grandchildren Tim, Robert, Josie, and Simon, Dominic and Peter. In 1987, Dick joined the Southampton Circle of the Catenian Association where I was already a member and he served in a number of offices, including as President in the early 1990s. Dick would attend Catenian meetings and functions regularly until only much later on when ill health overcame him. Dick eventually retired but kept busy, always being willing to help with family building work or projects and, for example, constructing a new chimney and raised decking for Paul & Jane, and preparing plans for Chris & Jackie. He joined the St Boniface walking group and was always happy to assist with any practical work needing to be done at St Boniface, including pew repairs and producing an illuminated cabinet to display fragments of stained glass window saved from the old "tin" church of St Boniface in Foundry Lane, which is still in the current church building, today.

In the early 2000s, Dick met Sheila and they enjoyed many happy times and car trips together visiting places such as Stourhead, where they enjoyed the gardens and each other's company. Dick and Sheila then married and they lived at Treeside Road, Dick having disposed of his apartment in Albany Park Court. Dick & Sheila shared good times together, enjoying several cruises and holidays. Sadly, Dick suffered in later years from considerable immobility and eventually from Alzheimer's disease. Dick will be greatly missed; a hardworking and loyal, gentle giant of a man.

*Paul Barber, 25 November 2016*

**CIRCLE WELFARE** *Please pray for our Brothers and wives who are currently unwell.*

Myra Andrade, Tony Brady, Roger Carter, Bill Eales, Rita Forster, Joe Gleeson, Christine Grummitt, Bernadette Lucas (daughter of John and Felicity Singleton), Louise O'Shea, Kathleen Parker, Alma Philips, Jean Reese, Katie Smith and Valerie Summerton.

**IN MEMORIAM** *Please pray for those Brothers whose anniversaries occur in December.*

Alfred Erueut, Jim Hanly, Owen Mawson, William O'Keefe and Bob Tanner.



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

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