

# SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE NEWS

Circle No. 12 in Province No. 11

President: Michael Ingram



*The Catenians*  
Strengthening family life  
through friendship and faith

**AUGUST 2020**

## **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS!**

Trying to predict the future at the moment is like trying to 'find a black cat in a dark room, especially if there is no cat' (apologies to Confucius). We see spikes in the Coronavirus all around the world and there are cities in the UK where the easing of lockdown has been suspended or reversed.



As the weeks roll by, our planned social events are being cancelled one by one and it is particularly frustrating to have to cancel our visit to Lulworth Castle (left). Lulworth shuts during the winter months so we cannot postpone to later in my Presidential year; maybe it is something a future President would consider.

The Hilton hotel has informed us that they are unable to accommodate us until sometime in 2021. Although they have not mentioned any dates, I imagine the earliest would be February or March. This does not prevent us from making alternative arrangements but similar restrictions are likely to apply to other venues.

The latest guidelines restrict social gatherings to a maximum of six households and this has to be in an outdoors space. Perhaps this is a start for those who feel comfortable doing so and we will monitor the situation as new guidelines are published. In the meantime, we will try to have some different types of Zoom meetings with ideas for talks and race nights, interspersed with a few quizzes. Please let me know if you have any other ideas. Don't forget the monthly Lunch Club where everyone is welcome.

In the meantime, I hope you and your families continue to stay well and that the easing of restrictions will soon mean our lives returning to some semblance of normality.

*Mike Ingram*

## **DINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The DoubleTree Hilton Hotel has thankfully survived Lockdown and is now open to the public. However, government regulations have severely restricted their ability to accommodate gatherings. As Brother President has mentioned above, Angela Lawrence has regretfully informed us that they will be unable to accommodate us for monthly meetings and dinners in 2020.

The hotel is keen to maintain our business and the dates booked for 2021 remain in their calendar although the first possible month for a meeting at the venue is unknown. In the meantime, Angela has asked me to pass on her regards to the Circle and says that the staff are looking forward to seeing us again in the future.

With regard to seeking alternative venues for 2020, the Circle Council has agreed a 'wait and see' policy due to current events continuing to change at a moment's notice.

Should you wish to donate the cost of the monthly dinner to the President's two charities, please do so via the Circle Treasurer.

*Harry Harrison*

## **August Council**

### **Meeting**

7.30 pm

Tuesday 25 August 2020

By Zoom



## **September Circle Meeting**

7.30 pm

Monday 7 September  
2020

By Zoom

Dress: Casual

Glass of wine optional



Welfare activity replaced  
by a Council ring-around.



## **July President's Lottery**

1st: Helen Matteucci

2nd: Maureen Bannon

## **August President's Lottery**

1st: Harry Harrison

2nd: Harry Harrison



## **August Meeting**

### **Statistics**

Circle Strength:	40
Present:	26
Apologies:	14
No Apologies:	0
Visitors:	2
Visiting Gentlemen:	0



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

by Michael Ingram



Our Lady has many titles and I wondered recently which title would be appropriate during this time of uncertainty and lockdown, when many people need help. I turned to the internet and the first result I came across was Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (sometimes now called Our Lady of Perpetual Help). I must confess to knowing very little about Our Lady under this title.

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour is represented in a celebrated 15th-century Byzantine icon. The image, painted on wood and measuring 17" x 21" inches, seems to have originated around the thirteenth century. It has an interesting history, apparently being acquired from a monastery in Crete and being held in private hands until 1499. The image today is displayed in the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome.

In the image, St. Michael (in the left corner) holds the spear, the wine-soaked sponge, and the crown of thorns while St. Gabriel (in the right corner) holds the cross and the nails. The artist appears to be portraying the Child Jesus contemplating the vision of His future Passion. The anguish He feels is shown by the loss of one of His sandals. The Child Jesus grasps the hand of the Blessed Mother. He seeks comfort from His mother as He sees the instruments of His passion.

Our Lady intercedes for us with her Son. Maybe in these uncertain times we can turn to Mary as Our Lady of Perpetual Help to find help and comfort for ourselves and for those we know are in experiencing difficulties.

If you would like to know more about the history of the icon, then click [here](#).

## OUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Roger Lillie has recently received two appeals for help. Your generosity is kindly sought regarding these two projects.



### **Across Charity - Providing Jumbalances:**

Many of us will be familiar with Across Charity which organises pilgrimages to Lourdes for those needing special care, taking them to France in jumbalances, accompanied by medical staff and clergy. Across have recently launched a fundraising campaign called 'Help Keep The Jumbalance On The Road'. Its aim is to raise £150,000 through 1000 gifts of £150. Although this

year's pilgrimages are cancelled, they still face significant costs and government schemes have not been sufficient. The Council have agreed to send a gift of £150 from Southampton Circle if that amount can be raised. If you would like to make a donation, please contact our Treasurer, Paul Andrews, and send any money in the usual way. We are hoping to raise the £150 by the end of August. The charity website is <https://www.across.org.uk>.



### **Holy Family Holiday Club**

For the past few years, Southampton Circle Brothers & Ladies have supported the annual holiday club that is run by Holy Family Church in Milbrook the last week in August by donating funds and volunteering to cook and serve barbeque on one of the club days. Holy Family will be holding the club again on 25 - 28 August this year and, following these difficult months of financial challenges, the holiday club is even more important to some families this year. Volunteer help for cooking food is too difficult to organise this year so

the children will be given packed lunches and our help is needed with funding these lunches. A financial contribution can be made via Paul Andrews. An update on this vital support for families in need will be given by Roger next week.

## THE FALCON AERO CLUB

by John Berridge

*John Berridge shares with us the achievement of a dream when, in his younger days, he had the opportunity to part-own his very own aircraft.*

When I arrived in Bulawayo in 1957, I didn't know that I was at the start of some of the most exciting years of my life. The weather there was almost perfect for twelve months of the year; I would have an opportunity of driving and exploring much of southern Africa, and I would become the Champion Rally Driver of Matabeleland. On top of all this I would become part-owner of a Tiger Moth aircraft.

I had always been keen on flying and, when an advertisement appeared in the local paper early in 1958 asking if anyone would be interested in joining a syndicate as a part-owner of a Tiger Moth, I was hooked. During the war, Bulawayo had been an RAF training centre and, when the centre closed, there was a large surplus of Tiger Moths in various stages of non-airworthiness and a good supply of spares left behind.



Of the members of the syndicate, we were lucky to have a garage owner and a cattle farmer out in the bush, together with a qualified ex-RAF aero-mechanic. Between them, we were able to obtain most of what was needed to operate a private aircraft at minimum costs. The farmer provided the land for the airstrip and hangar; the garage-owner the road transport of the aircraft to and from our workshop and much else. The work for obtaining a C of A (Certificate of Airworthiness) was carried out by the aero-mechanic assisted by the members. And so the Falcon Aero Club was born.



All the part-owners were involved in the physical work of building the airstrip (removing ant hills, bushes etc) and building the hangar out of old sheets of corrugated iron, wood and hessian (above left). Most of our spare time was devoted to this work. I well remember being on the roof of the hangar nailing corrugated sheets to wooden trusses in the heat of the afternoon sun.

Eventually the Certificate of Airworthiness was obtained and the aircraft, VP-YKB, arrived at the airstrip (right). As any Tiger Moth owner will tell you:- *'For every hour in the air, there are fifty on the ground as there is always something that needs to be repaired or replaced'*. However, we did get to fly it many times and, although I never obtained my Private Pilot's Licence, it was all a great deal of fun. Eventually, time and money were needed for more important matters than a Tiger Moth and I withdrew from the syndicate.

VP-YKB kept flying. One evening, when I was listening to the national news, I heard a report that a Tiger Moth was overdue. I could guess which one! Happily, the pilot (the garage-owner) had landed on a dirt road out in the bush due to failing light and he was able to continue his flight the following morning.



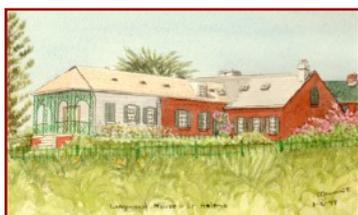
## COVIDE SECURE 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WHILE SHIELDING by Simon Grummitt

Christine and I first met 54 years ago, while training to be teachers, at a Valentine's Dance at my college. In those days our Catholic colleges were unisex but we were allowed to meet for dances. My main advantage over the other people Christine danced with (apart from my good looks naturally) was that I knew where Gibraltar was, that it was a peninsula not an island and that it was British. I also impressed by escorting her back to the train station. It nearly ended then because, when we next met, she nearly did not recognise me as I was now wearing my spectacles.

When Christine qualified, she had to return to Gibraltar to teach for 3 years as part of the requirement of her government contract. We corresponded by letter (no emails in those days) once or twice a week. Post Office profits must have risen during this period! We got engaged in December 1968 and married on 27 July at St Chad's Church, Croydon. Christine didn't want a Mediterranean honeymoon as most of her summers had been spent in the sun. We decided on Iceland since it would provide first hand knowledge to help me as a geography teacher and also because Christine had just seen the film 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'.



We moved to Croydon in 1972 where we remained for over 35 years. In 1974 Deborah was born, followed by Peter 18 months later. When the children were older, Christine taught Spanish at evening classes. My teaching career was all in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Southwark. I progressed from a geography teacher to a Head of Department, to a Senior Teacher and then Deputy Head. In 1988 I was appointed Headteacher of a Catholic comprehensive.



I had always wanted to teach abroad. In 1997, I took early retirement to take up a post with DFID as Headteacher/Adviser of the Secondary school in St. Helena, South Atlantic Ocean. Unlike Napoleon, we were able to return alive! As the only way to reach the island was by ship it meant that one had to get used to delays in goods and



Simon and Christine Grummitt, Norwood Circle, (backing?) St. Helena AMM in St. Helena, where Simon and Christine have spent the last year and a half years.

post arriving. We stayed for nearly three years. (Left: Napoleon's residence painted by Christine).

I first joined the Association in 1992 when I enrolled in Norwood Circle. This was mainly due to Christine who encouraged me, after a pulpit presentation, to see what it was like. She felt that I needed to find a way of relaxation from the stress of being a Headteacher. I will always be grateful to her for this. In 2006 our granddaughter was born but, due to medical difficulties, she was in the intensive care unit in Princess Anne's Hospital. On our visits to her, there were opportunities to visit Southampton Circle and ask Brothers to pray for her recovery. These prayers worked as she is now a healthy teenager. In 2009 we moved to Hedge End to be near our daughter and granddaughter and our son who was also living in the area. We have never regretted the move due in a big part to the welcome and help we received from the Circle Brothers and Ladies.

When planning for our Golden Anniversary for our extended families, we realised that all might not go well. The original venue went into administration in January! Then the pandemic arrived; I was classified as extremely vulnerable and started shielding. We rebooked for July next year. We still had to celebrate our 50th this year but shielding rules meant that we could only meet outside in the garden with no more than 8 persons from up to 2 households which fortunately accommodated our extended family. Heavy rain was forecasted for the day so we had to change from an outside barbeque to a roast inside instead (defying shielding rules to avoid soaking!). A quick phone call to our butcher secured a wonderful beef rib roast. It was a good thing we had already bought a few decorations before the pandemic! Thus a Covid secure while shielding celebration took place. It was an enjoyable time and a 50th Wedding Anniversary we will never forget.



People have asked how have we been able to reach this mile stone with never a cross word!!!! Early in our marriage I was given a statuette of a couple sitting on a sofa, woman talking, man listening with the following inscription: "The opinions expressed by the husband of this house....are not necessarily those of the Management." That's how!

N.B. This article has been approved by the management.



## 65 YEARS OF WEDDED BLISS FOR PAT & ANN O'NEILL



Congratulations to Pat and Ann O'Neill who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 28 July. It was a day of double celebration as it was Ann's birthday on the same day.

Pat and Ann first met nearly 70 years ago when Pat moved to north-west England to take up a teaching post in The Wirral. On his first day, he was invited with another teacher to the headmaster's study for a talk on the curriculum and left having not heard a word of what the headmaster has said. His attention had been directed solely on the lovely music teacher next to him and he felt heartily glad that he had accepted a position at that particular school! Two years later, Pat and Ann were engaged and, another two years later, they married. Pat taught general subjects for a while whilst Ann continued teaching music. Then Pat made a decision which was to change their lives: he joined the Royal Navy where he remained for many years. Upon retirement from the Navy, Pat finally settled with Ann in Southampton and took up a position as Bursar at a university college in the city where he remained until his retirement.

Pat has been a Catenian Brother for 44 years. He joined Southampton Circle in 1976. Both Pat and Ann are sadly unable to join with us in Circle activities due to mobility issues but Pat continues to take an interest in Circle news and enjoys catching up on the phone. Congratulations Pat and Ann from all your friends at Southampton Circle!

## A TALE OF THREE DOGS!

by Philip Crook

Not long after the 1939-1946 War, I found myself in Hannover and, although there were other Officers in the Mess, I felt lonely. So, having brought up most of my life with dogs, for a packet of cigarettes from a German I acquired a Boxer puppy of three months old. One should remember that Hannover was practically demolished due to bombing by the RAF so I had to limit my walks with the puppy to a rather restricted area. During the day, the puppy was left in my room with only the German servants having access for cleaning. One day, after I had the puppy for about a month, the puppy was not there and despite searches it could not be found. The conclusion all came up with was that the puppy had been taken by a hungry family and sold for money for food.

Several months after the war, I was posted to Plon in Schweich Holstein, which was only a few miles from the Danish border, and my family was able to join me. After a short time, I had the urge for another dog and, this time, for a few packets of cigarettes I acquired a three year old German Shepherd dog. After a week or so, the dog disappeared and, the next day, the previous German owner brought the dog back to me. Of course I thanked him with several packets of cigarettes. This procedure went on for two or three weeks until I realised that the dog had been trained to get cigarettes for his master!

In the 1950's, I was in Singapore with my family and we provided a home for a medium-sized mongrel dog, which was extremely affection to the family, but could not tolerate other nationalities. After several months with us, the mongrel disappeared for a few weeks and then suddenly the family saw him in the middle of the road proudly passing the house and leading a family of seven puppies!



Circle Zoom visits continue to be a popular evening pastime with Catenian Brothers. Brother President joined West Surrey & Bracknell Forest Joint Circle Meeting last week.

Brothers Harrison, Lillie and Millar joined Oxford & Chiltern's Joint Circle Meeting this Monday (left).

If you are able, please join Brother President in visiting Andover at the end of this month and Weymouth at the beginning of September.

**CHARLTON HOUSE SCHOOL**

*Following the demise of St. Mary's Independent School, Tony Murray told us about an exciting new project to establish a new Prep school on the site. Here Tony updates us on the progress of Charlton House School.*

We have appointed teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff ready for our opening in September. Our enthusiastic teaching staff have been busy, clearing the communal areas and classrooms. They have also been developing a curriculum which will best meet the needs of the children.

Around 40 pupils are now signed up with deposits paid. All our children from years 0-11 will be on the original Charlton House site and we will be part of the Menaïsson family. The reason that we will be able to accommodate children from years 0-11 is that we will be working with a partner pre-school provider called Early Starts Childcare. The Nursery provider has also been on site for over a week and feel like part of the Charlton House School family (read more about them at <https://www.earlystartschildcare.co.uk/>).

Last week we received our registration and company number from Companies House and we are expecting confirmation of our charitable status imminently.

We are almost there. Thank you all for your support and kind words and for all the encouragement and prayers, which we ask you continue. We look forward to opening for the children and their families and to be being able to offer a Catholic education based on the principles and teachings of Jean De La Mennais.

*Tony Murray*

**HOOLIGANS LUNCH CLUB**

Resident and wannabe hooligans continue to meet by Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Pub landlord, Michael Ingram, will be pulling the virtual pints and, in the absence of the usual lunch, he will be serving discourse!

It's not just for the retired among us: workers are also invited to join in a welcome lunch break from the home office!

**12.00 noon  
Tuesday 18 August  
In your own saloon**

**STARGAZER OF THE MONTH!**



Circle amateur astronomer, Folkert van Galen, certainly had stars in his eyes during July, spending several nights in a row searching our skies for Comet Neowise. For those Brothers and ladies who were unable to witness this unique event, Folkert kindly provided daily updates accompanied by his own photographs of the comet. Rumour has it that Wilma had to borrow a brace from work to correct an unfortunate crick in the neck that subsequently developed. All in a good cause!

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Birthday wishes go to:*

- John Thompson (1)
- Mike Lund Yates (8)
- Jenny Thompson (12)
- Elizabeth Counihan (14)
- Sally Murray (15)
- Meg Clapham (20)
- Stephen Whelan (20)
- Derek Phillips (23)
- Alison Dobell (27)
- Pat Crook (29)

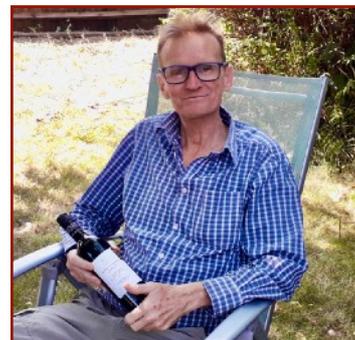


**QUIZ NIGHT**

Congratulations to Tony & Sally Murray who won July's Quiz Night, with Simon & Christine Grummitt also doing well - thus upholding the reputation of the teaching profession! As you can see right, Lockdown did not prevent the prize of a bottle of wine making its way to the Murray household!

Brother President was a superb host and provided an assortment of topics, including audio and video clips, with which to test our knowledge. The general high scoring is a testament to a quiz that suited everyone.

There was stiff competition, particularly from visiting Brothers and ladies, below l-r: Douglas Manning (Andover), Martyn Flanagan (Fleet), Michael & Ann Mitchell (Fleet) and Peter & Ann Schefer (Winchester).





### LOCAL CHURCH IN LOCKDOWN by Deacon Andy Philpott

*Deacon Andy gives us an insight on how St Edmund's Church in Southampton is coping with the challenges brought about by the pandemic.*

Many years ago I worked in a large institution and Bernard, a Nursing Officer colleague, used to like to say, "If things don't change, they will stay as they are". Our task in many respects was to avert institutionalisation. Oh halcyon days! Almost nothing happens now exactly as it was less than 6 months ago.

Live streaming of Mass was unheard of for many, and now it is a matter of almost routine. The real challenge, however, is not the live streaming over the web, but keeping in contact with those parishioners who have no internet and no mobile phone. What is strikingly uplifting is the creativity of neighbours and friends. One parishioner has been phoning a neighbour with no internet, playing the Mass on her tablet so that her neighbour can listen over the phone. As lockdown eases, that neighbour is now able to visit and they watch Mass together.

In City Centre Parish we were part-way through a First Holy Communion (FHC) programme for 84 children, part-way through Alpha and part-way through Baptism Preparation classes. All stopped. Gradually we have resumed. We have completed Alpha by Zoom and regularly prepare parents for their child's (still awaited) Baptism by Zoom. We have advised parents that we will restart FHC classes ready for 2021 and henceforth all FHC will centre on year 4 children (currently year 3) across the entire city. Probably a better age, but a change that would not have been possible to approach in other circumstances.

Clergy have had to acquire skills in technology and, more significantly, find their way in ministering to people in their sickness, in their distress, in their times of joy and exhilaration, very often without face to face contact and certainly without that all important sense of touch and presence. It is really hard. The pandemic is hard for us all. Zoom fatigue may soon feature as an industrial disease!

Nothing it seems is the same anymore and yet it all has to continue. Families gathering at the graveside have been sent a condolence card with an image of the Paschal Candle lit as their loved one entered their place of rest; the dying have been anointed with Oil of the Sick using a cotton bud to prevent contamination of the stock; rotas of stewards have been created to ensure those entering Mass with a 'ticket' have their hands cleansed.

In a previous life, I had grown weary of passing up and down Paynes and Howard Road on my way to and from the Parish. Oh what a delight that tedium would be right now!

### CIRCLE WELFARE

*Please pray for our Brothers & ladies who are unwell:*

Myra & Bosco Andrade, Derrick Austin, Paul Barber, Ann & Tony Brady, Roger Carter, Henri Kemhadjian, Claire Lund Yates, Peter O'Connor, Pat O'Neill, George Wysocki.



Prayers are particularly needed for Jane Barber following recent surgery.

Also Jackie Andrews & Ann O'Neill who both have had falls in the past week.



*Please also pray for:*

Luke Andrews, nephew of Paul & Jackie Andrews, Mark Ingram, son of Mike & Jane Ingram

Paul Singleton, brother of John & Felicity Singleton and Mark Owen, Bournemouth Circle.

Please continue to pray for those who are working on the frontline of Covid-19.

### IN MEMORIAM



*Please pray for the Circle Brothers whose anniversaries occur in September:*

John Bannon, Douglas Newton, Martin McGarry, William McCabe, Bert Woodling,

Pat Dunworth, David Reese, Anthony Whelan and Rita Forster



The thoughts and prayers of Southampton Circle are with Jenny Walsh and family following the sudden passing of our good friend, Mike Walsh. Mike was currently serving as Province 11 Provincial Secretary and Provincial Membership Officer and he has always been a very active Catenian. He will be greatly missed by Winchester Circle and by us all. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

## CIRCLE &amp; PROVINCE DIARY 2020

Tuesday 18 August	ZOOM LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: By Zoom. Please see email from Brother President for meeting ID and password.
Tuesday 25 August	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Monday 7 September	CIRCLE MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom.
Sunday 20 September	LULWORTH EVENT	Unfortunately this event has had to be cancelled due to the current restrictions.

## BROTHER PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE VISITS

Wednesday 26 August at 7.00 pm	Andover Circle
Thursday 3 September at 7.30 pm	Weymouth Circle
Please let Brother President know if you are intending to join him at any of the above.	

## CIRCLE OFFICERS 2020-21

President	Michael Ingram	01489 799 992	wbcfns@hotmail.com
Vice President	Tony Murray	023 8094 3357	tonycfc@hotmail.co.uk
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Treasurer	Paul Andrews	023 8025 3233	p.andrews@fastlizard.co.u
Membership Officer	John Farran	023 8026 8184	jfarran1@aol.com
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Dining Officer	Harry Harrison	01794 388 418	d.harrison9.dh@gmail.com
Charity Officer	Roger Lillie	01794 501058	roger.lillie@gmail.com
Benevolent Board Chairman	Martin Counihan	023 8184 6918	mjc@gmx.ie
Youth Officer	Harry Harrison	01794 388 418	d.harrison9.dh@gmail.com
Careers & Employment Officer	Harry Harrison	01794 388 418	d.harrison9.dh@gmail.com
Circle website: <a href="http://www.southamptoncatenians.org">www.southamptoncatenians.org</a> / Charity websites: <a href="http://twosaints.org.uk">twosaints.org.uk</a> & <a href="http://mayfieldnurseries.org.uk">mayfieldnurseries.org.uk</a>			