

SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE NEWS

Circle No. 12 in Province No. 11

President: Michael Ingram



The Catenians
Strengthening family life
through friendship and faith

OCTOBER 2020

JOHN FARRAN JOINS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER



Congratulations to John Farran whose sterling work as Circle Membership Officer has earned him a place on Provincial Council as its Provincial Membership Officer. John was co-opted onto Council on Saturday - quite an honour as Council members usually serve a term as Circle President before joining Council.

John agreed to take on the office following the sad loss of Mike Walsh who was acting as caretaker in the meantime. John is seen above with the PMO regalia. There was a last minute car park meeting on Friday night between John and Harry Harrison so that John could receive the regalia in time for his co-option the next day! We wish John all the best in his new role.

"On Saturday 10th October, Provincial Council held their 250th meeting: a milestone occasion, that in normal circumstances perhaps would have been marked by a special lunch or other suitable celebration, but due to the current restrictions it was obviously not possible. However, it was indeed marked by a special event as, at the start of the meeting, I had the immense pleasure to install Brother John Farran as our new Provincial Membership Officer, a position that has not had its own dedicated officer for some time now. I know he is the right man for the job. He has already shown his dedication and enthusiasm by hitting the ground running. I don't remember another instance of a new Officer preparing and producing a report BEFORE he was installed!! Bro. John has some excellent ideas and is even in contact with a fellow PMO from Province 19 to get to know more about his new role. I know John is going to make an excellent Provincial Membership Officer and will be an asset to our Province and the Association."

Adrian Holloway

Provincial President, Province 11

"As a member of Provincial Council, I would like to thank John for taking on this new role. Provincial Membership Officer is a key position in the Province and John was an obvious choice. At Southampton Circle, John has proved that he has a natural talent as Membership Officer, actively promoting the recruitment of new members, and maintaining the retention of existing members. He has continued these activities despite the restrictions imposed by Lockdown. John will be a terrific addition to Provincial Council and I personally look forward to working closer with him in the future."

Harry Harrison

Southampton Provincial Councillor

October

Council Meeting

7.30 pm
Tuesday
27 October 2020
By Zoom



November

Circle Meeting

JOINT CIRCLE MEETING
WITH
ASCOT & SUNNINGDALE

7.30 pm
Monday
2 November 2020
By Zoom

Dress: Casual
Glass of wine optional



Welfare activity replaced
by a Council ring-around



October President's Lottery

1st: Jane Ingram
2nd: Felicity Singleton



October Meeting

Statistics

Circle Strength:	40
Present:	23
Apologies:	17
No Apologies:	0
Visitors:	3
Visiting Gentlemen:	0



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS by Michael Ingram



In September, we made a tentative start to meeting face-to-face again. We began with a Lunch Club meeting at the White Horse in Ampfield with the intrepid three. It was actually very good to see another Catenian and a real reminder of what we are missing. Later in the month, we had a meal at Kuti's restaurant in Southampton, where five of us had an excellent meal. The quality at Kuti's remains unchanged in spite of COVID. Both venues were characterised by their compliance with all the current restrictions. All the requisite precautions were in place and tables were well spaced.

This month, the Lunch Club will be at the Empress Blandings in Copythorne. This is a large venue with plenty of space to accommodate tables well separated from each other. We will also have an evening meal at a yet to be decided venue. The current guidelines allow up to six people at each table from any number of households. No mixing between tables is permitted. If you have already been out to a pub or restaurant, you will be aware that venues rely on complying with the restrictions to stay open. If you are happy to venture out, please do consider joining us at either the Lunch Club or the evening meal – or both.



This month, we will be having our third quiz night. As usual there is a bottle of wine for the winner. I hope to provide at least one round which is a little bit different from the norm. Questions are designed to be fairly straightforward so everyone has a chance. I hope you will be able to join us on Friday, 16 October at 7pm.

To conclude, I am grateful to Mayfield Nurseries, a project of the charity MIND and one of my charities this year, for providing a speaker at very short notice for our October Circle meeting. Rebecca Smith gave us a good overview of what the charity provides and the services available to those suffering

from mental health issues and dementia. If you have not had the opportunity to make a donation to the charity and would like to do so then please click this [link](#). Thank you to all those who have already done so.

I hope you are all well and coping with our changed world.

MAYFIELD NURSERIES

Following Rebecca Smith's talk after the Circle meeting, Michael and Jane visited the nurseries in Weston Lane, Southampton at the weekend. As well as being involved in helping people with mental health issues, Mayfield sells a variety of plants to the public. Their displays certainly brought a bit of colour to a very chilly autumn day!





50 YEARS OF WEDDED BLISS!

“50 years of wedded bliss” is how Helen Matteucci responded when asked what anniversary she and Daverio were celebrating last week. Where else would this lovely couple celebrate the occasion than at the place where they have spent so many years as successful restauranteurs of Keats.

The couple first met when Daverio came to England to further his culinary experience, having worked in restaurants around Europe. (Many of us prefer the myth that Daverio perpetuates: that he got on the wrong train, found himself at Calais and mistakenly boarded a ferry for England!) Helen meanwhile had spent time at a school in Bergamo, becoming proficient in Italian. It was her love of the Italian language that led her to the love of her life. Back in England, her friend Guiliana asked her to join him and a group of Italians on a cultural experience at The Prospect of Whitby historic pub on the River Thames. Among their number was a young Italian chef! Daverio says that their first date was a ‘baptism of fire’ when Helen

took him home to meet her parents. But all went well and the rest is history! To mark that first beginning, their children and grandchildren gave them a special anniversary gift - a painting of the pub where they first met.

This year has witnessed a double celebration for the couple as they finally hung up his chef’s apron and her manager’s robes for a life of retirement. Daverio and Helen took their first steps as restaurant owners in 1973 when they opened Stairway in Chandlers Ford. Just seven years later, Stairway’s rapid success propelled them to greater culinary acclaim at Keats in Ampfield. It was with great sadness that Keats patrons learned of the end of this great establishment which has been a favourite with Southampton and City of Winchester Catenians for 30 years - as well as with most of Hampshire!

Daverio and Helen were joined by their daughter Daniela, son Andrea and their families for a ‘socially distancing’ celebratory brunch. Once the current restrictions lessen, eldest son Paolo and his family will travel down from Yorkshire to celebrate with the family.

Congratulations, Daverio and Helen, from all at Southampton Circle!



NOT SOUTHAMPTON BUT WINCHESTER ACTUALLY!

‘Winchester Actually’ is the latest book by Maggie Farran and her co-authors Sally Howard and Catherine Griffin. This is the third publication by the Chandlers Ford authors who met on a local writing course. They certainly put Chandlers Ford on the map as a hotbed of cloak-and-dagger activities with their first two books - ‘Secret Lives of Chandlers Ford’ and ‘More Secret Lives of Chandlers Ford’. Winchester residents will be relieved to know that this new collection of 12 short stories gives a rather different perspective, ranging from vivid recreations of the city’s past to touching moments in modern lives.

The book is for sale at P&G Wells in Winchester. It is also available on Amazon UK in either paperback or Kindle and is an ideal gift for Christmas. One reviewer said: “I was particularly moved by Maggie Farran’s story about the diver, William Walker, and his

near-death experience as he worked underground shoring up the foundations of the ancient Cathedral.” Maggie was among those who attended a Circle tour of Winchester Cathedral a few years ago when the guide spoke about William Walker so perhaps the idea for that story started then!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) by Philip Crook

Philip shares his experiences as a member of this lay Catholic organisation.



After retiring from the army, it came a practice for me and the family to attend the Sunday 8.30 a.m. Mass at St Boniface Church. After a short period in the Parish, the priest, Father (later Canon) MacDermot-Cormack-Roe whispered to me as he handed the Blessed Host to me that he would like to see me after Mass. I did as he directed and he said that, should I want to help in the Parish, I should join the St. Vincent de Paul Society and that I should contact a Bert Woodling, the President of the local society. I contacted Bert who, as I found out later, he was also a Catenian, and he invited me to the next meeting.

On the evening of the meeting, I was a little late and, as I entered the meeting room, I was taken aback by seeing about 10 grown men kneeling around a large table saying prayers. This had an immediate effect on me and I am not ashamed that I inwardly cried as I had never seen men so earnestly praying before except in the war when we crowded around a jeep for a rare Mass or a when person was dying. I had no hesitation and joined them. To those who do not know, the St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded by Blessed Frederick Ozanam in 1833 and adopted St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), a French priest, as their patron. Today, in this country alone, many churches have a SVP Conference as the men and women who join with the purpose of helping the poor.

In St. Boniface Church, we had men's and ladies' separate Conferences of about 10 or so in each. We men would meet every Thursday evening, say prayers and report on the cases we had visited in the past week so that we were all fully aware of all the poor people in our care. Then the President would give us the names of people we should visit the next week. At the end of the meeting, most of us would go to the local pub and put the world to right! The ladies would follow a similar procedure. In addition to the weekly visits, the Conference would take the poor and sick on car journeys and afternoon tea in the New Forest and provide a cooked meal twice a year. Before the men's meeting, some 6 men or so would line up outside the meeting room for five shillings which we would give them until we found out that several would spend it on drink. We then stopped and gave them a voucher for to buy fish and chips which we arranged with a local shop.

During my time in our Conference, I experienced poverty, filth, unhappiness, faith and love. I remember three cases in particular. Once when Bert Woodling and I had to deliver some furniture to a flat in a high-rise storey block in Woolston and we found out later that the lift failed to stop on the proper floor, with poor Bert going from floor to floor hoping the lift would stop! Then on another occasion when travelling on a lorry with furniture, unknown to us the furniture kept falling off the back of the lorry to the annoyance to the motorist behind. Despite the happy times, there was one occasion which upset me badly. One morning I had to take communion to a dying man. He was a big man and a nuclear scientist and, after giving him communion, he asked me to hold his hand as he said it gave him strength. I did as he asked and, within a few minutes he died.

Our Conference continued and, as well as from Bert Woodling who later died, I remember other Catenians who were members at the time, such as Peter O'Connor, John Guly, Ron Smith and Paul Barber. Some years later when I was President, someone suggested that we should form a joint Conference with the ladies. The Conference voted to amalgamate, without my support I should add, and within a year members slowly failed to attend and the Conference closed and still it remains closed.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NOVEMBER CIRCLE MEETING!

On 2 November, Southampton Circle will be the lead Circle at a joint meeting with Ascot & Sunningdale. It will be a special occasion in more ways than one as the joint meeting will include both GB National President Elect, David Arundale (A&S) and GB National Vice President Elect, Roger Lillie.

Brother President requests the support of the Southampton Circle Brothers on this prestigious occasion; as lead Circle we need to field a good presence in front of our Ascot & Sunningdale Brothers and visitors. So please put 7.30 pm on Monday 2 November in your diaries and put your Zoom faces on!

OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE by Michael Ingram



Sister Dede Byrne of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary recently spoke of the Rosary as her 'weapon of choice'. St. Padre Pio used similar sentiments when he said "*The Rosary is the weapon for these times.*" Going back a few years Pope Pius XI stressed the importance of the Rosary saying:

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin... Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labours."

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Brother Malcolm Forster produced an excellent item in his 'Saints for the Week' for the feast day of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary on 7 October. As Malcolm notes, it was originally given to St. Dominic as a prayer to overcome the Albigensian heresy.

The Rosary is present in several Marian apparitions. Saint Bernadette Soubirous stated that in the first apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes in 1858, the Virgin Mary had a Rosary with her and that Bernadette prayed the Rosary in her presence then and during subsequent apparitions. The Rosary Basilica was built in Lourdes in 1899.

At Fatima in 1917, Our Lady placed strong emphasis on the Rosary. According to Lucia Santos, in one of the apparitions the Virgin Mary had a Rosary in one hand and a Brown scapular in the other hand. The Fatima apparitions helped spread rosary devotions and the Fatima prayer is said at the end of each decade. The Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima was built in 1953 and has fifteen altars, one for each mystery of the rosary.

In these uncertain times, whatever our concerns, we can always seek the intercession of Our Lady through the Rosary.

THANK YOU CATENIANS!

Hi there! My name is Mark Ingram. My Dad is Michael Ingram and is currently Circle President. I would like to start off by saying thank you for all your prayers whilst I have been going through a difficult time. They have helped me. It is nice to know that God is working alongside your prayers and that he listens. I am feeling much better now.

If I can briefly explain my situation and how it came to be, then it might be clear for all to see why I am thankful. I was on holiday in Miami, Florida at a music festival when I started experiencing a psychotic episode. Everything I knew suddenly came to a point and my world flipped around. I made it home with the help of my brother and praying the rosary but I was in a bad way. Once home, my psychotic experience lasted a few weeks and my parents contacted the Early Intervention in Psychosis team (EIP). I have been unwell for the past 4 years and it has involved psychotic episodes, delusions and hearing voices. I have also had spells in a mental hospital, not the nicest of places. However, with your prayers and over a period of time I have been getting better, to the point where I am now living at home again with my parents and getting back into daily living, going to the gym, playing music etc. I am very grateful that I am where I am now and I just want to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you. Here's hoping everything stays on the right track from now on!

Thank you!

Mark Ingram

CIRCLE WELFARE

Please pray for our Brothers & ladies who are unwell:

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

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,
Mark Owen, Bournemouth Circle.



IN MEMORIAM

October anniversaries:

Edward Wuytack
Edward Callaghan
Dan Bannon
Liam D'Arcy
Joe Gobbi
Laurence Crawley
Frank McDonald
Katie Smith



CIRCLE & PROVINCE DIARY 2020

Friday 16 October	QUIZ NIGHT	7.00 pm: By Zoom <i>Contact: Brother President</i>
Tuesday 20 October	LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: Empress of Blandings, Copythorne SO40 2PF. <i>Contact: Brother President</i>
Tuesday 27 October	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Thursday 29 October	DINNER	Details to be confirmed - suggestions welcome!
Monday 2 November	CIRCLE MEETING (BROTHERS)	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Tuesday 17 November	LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: Venue to be confirmed
Tuesday 24 November	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom

BROTHER PRESIDENT'S ZOOM CIRCLE VISITS

To be advised.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations to Brothers & Ladies who celebrate birthdays in October:

Myra Philpott (4)

Pat O'Neill (5)

Patrick Dobell (5)

Derrick Austin (30)

Maureen Bannon (31)

CIRCLE OFFICERS 2020-21

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Circle website: www.southamptoncatenians.org / Charity websites: twosaints.org.uk & mayfieldnurseries.org.uk