

# SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE NEWS

Circle No. 12 in Province No. 11

President: Michael Ingram



*The Catenians*  
Friendship Family Faith

NOVEMBER 2020

## SOUTHAMPTON JOINT MEETING WITH ASCOT & SUNNINGDALE



**Shown above: (A) Mike Roycroft, Pres. Ascot & Sunningdale, (B) Mike Ingram, Pres. Southampton, (C) David Arundale, National V-P, (D) Eddie O'Donnell, National Pres., (E) Roger Lillie, V-P Elect.**

The joint November Circle meeting between the two Circles was a great success and congratulations go to Presidents Michael Ingram and Mike Roycroft and Registrar Malcom Forster for such smooth running. Both Circles were well represented so thank you to all those who were able to attend the zoom get-together. Thanks also goes to the 17 visitors who joined the meeting from around the UK. It was great to see familiar faces as well as many new faces from around the UK. The meeting also welcomed Director of Province 10 Mark Conroy (Burnley); Provincial Presidents Adrian Holloway (11) and Richard Mills (19); Circle Presidents Jim Livesley (Burnley), Charles Hyatt (Reigate) and Brian Towler (Kingston). And everyone appreciated the opportunity to 'meet up' with National President, Eddie O'Donnell, National Vice-President, David Arundale, and National Vice-President Elect, Roger Lillie.



Screenshots provided by Harry Harrison

## November Council Meeting

7.30 pm  
Tuesday  
24 November 2020  
By Zoom



## December Circle Meeting

There will be no meeting in December



Welfare activity replaced by a Council ring-around



There was no lottery in November.



## November Meeting Statistics

Circle Strength:	39
Present:	23
Apologies:	16
No Apologies:	0
Ascot & Sunningdale:	21
Visitors:	17



## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS - LOCKDOWN 2

by Michael Ingram



Just when things seemed to be getting back to normal, at least as far as the traffic is concerned, we find ourselves back in lockdown with church services suspended once again. Bishop Philip has written to the Prime Minister asking why collective worship is forbidden when there is no compelling evidence for doing so. Some MPs have raised the issue in parliament so it is worth adding your voice to the Bishop's message by emailing your MP.

The new lockdown affects three activities planned for November, namely the Lunch Club, the Italian Night at Regginas and the Mass for Deceased Brothers.

This month's Lunch Club will be held by Zoom *at midday on Tuesday 17 November* so please try to connect if you can.

The Mass for Deceased Brothers will be held online on *Friday 20 November at 7pm*. Unfortunately, we will not be able to assist with the readings but the priest will read out the names of our deceased Brothers.

As for the Italian Night at Regginas, I sent an email to reschedule to *Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 7pm*. Whether or not the event goes ahead will depend on restrictions in place at the time.

November is celebrated as the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. As I reflect on family members, friends, colleagues, Catenian brothers and their wives who have passed away, I am reminded that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins". Let us pray for all those who have died that they may be soon united with our Saviour in heaven.

## GETTING TO KNOW NEW FACES AT CATHSOC

by Harry Harrison (Youth Officer)



Last month, Roger Lillie and I met up with the new Priest Chaplain of Southampton University. Many of you may already know Fr. Benjamin Theobald as the Parish Priest of Millbrook. He has recently taken over the position at the university from Fr. Jaya who often attended our Circle dinners. We were delighted to discover that Fr. Benjamin is familiar with the Catenians from his time as Assistant Priest in Jersey where he came to know the Brothers of Jersey Circle. He is a great supporter of the Association and of our aims and is grateful for the support that we give to the Millbrook Children's Holiday Club. He looks forward to working more closely with Southampton Circle through CathSoc and hopes to be able to attend our Circle dinners when life returns to normal.

Sister Valentina hosted the meeting and the new CathSoc President, Toby Longhurst, took this opportunity to come along and introduce himself to Roger and me.

The meeting with Toby was very productive. The students and Fr. Benjamin requested that they be included in the circulation list for Malcolm Forster's weekly publication about Saints and they are very impressed with Malcolm's approach to this vast subject.

The students are very enthusiastic about a possible University Challenge event with CathSoc and the Circle. This is likely to take place next year and details will be made available as soon as possible.

Toby has agreed to write an article for Catena, talking about the struggles that students have faced during this difficult year; the difficulties with continuing their studies and the loneliness during lockdown.

In order to help the Catholic students connect during the current restrictions, every Tuesday night they come together via Zoom for an hour of faith and reflection. The gathering always includes a guest speaker with a question and answer session afterwards. Toby has asked if the Circle could provide a speaker, particularly someone who is a scientist and could discuss with the students how he combined his faith with every day working life. Roger and I are grateful to Martin Counihan (Ph.D.) who has kindly agreed to give a talk about his work as a physicist. He will be an ideal speaker for the students' Tuesday night gathering.

## IN MEMORIAM: PHILIP CROOK 1922-2020

by Michael Ingram

It has come us great shock to us all that Brother Philip Crook is no longer with us. Having fallen and hit his head, his condition quickly deteriorated in hospital until he passed away peacefully on the morning of All Saints Day. As he tested positive for COVID-19 on admission to hospital, his family were unable to visit and had to self-isolate. There is some degree of comfort that his family were able to have a video conference so they could see and speak to Philip while he was in his hospital bed.



Philip was the embodiment of Catenian values. He was a loving and dedicated husband and father so this is a difficult time for his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Pat and his family. May the Lord comfort and console them in their loss with the sure knowledge that he is in the presence of his loving Father in heaven.



Philip was a committed Catenian and a stalwart of the Circle. He joined Southampton Catenians 42 years ago on 3 April 1978 and was President twice (in consecutive years) from 1982-1983 and 1983-1984. He was also Secretary for nineteen years and, when David Palmer had to suddenly step down, Philip offered to take over the role if no one else would. Philip was always willing to help and provide encouragement. His commitment was an inspiration to me personally and was the reason I volunteered to take on the role of President this year. Many of my predecessors cite Philip as a source of encouragement to them during their terms of office. It may not be widely known, but Philip was the co-founder of the monthly Luncheon Club in 1983, since which some

400 pubs or restaurants have been visited. He remained the organiser for many years and temporarily resumed the role again in 2018 until someone could be found to take over from David. Philip had a great love for photography and had his own studio. For many years, it was a tradition for the incoming President and his lady to have their photograph taken by Philip. His commitment to the Circle knew no bounds.

Philip was very active in the church. Years ago, when I was in the parish of St. Boniface, I remember seeing him listed on the Parish Council where he served for many years. His article in last month's newsletter is a moving description of his involvement in the SVP. In recognition of his work in the parish, he received the Benemerenti medal.

Philip's commitment to Southampton Circle was not dampened by COVID-19. His determination to get to grips with technology allowed him to continue taking part in Circle meetings and he regularly joined me on visits to other Circles. We all got to know him a bit better through his regular contributions to the monthly newsletter. His articles on 'The Atomic Trial at Emu Field', 'The Longhouse in Sarawak', his retirement from the army, his involvement with the SVP and his 'Tale of Three Dogs' all testify to a rich, varied and well-lived life. He was a man with a strong faith in God who lived the life God gave him to the full.

Philip was a well-respected and well-loved brother and is greatly missed by us all, not just in this Circle, but across the Province. We pray that God receives Philip into the joy of His kingdom and that He provides comfort and consolation to Pat and his family.

May he rest in peace.

*(Right: the Circle celebrating Philip's 97th birthday in 2019)*



*Foreword by Michael Ingram*

*Brother Philip Crook was a regular contributor to the newsletter over the past several months. He was a great example of commitment to the Catenian organisation and to our Circle in particular. Even at the age of 98, he was concerned about the future and how we could best attract new members.*

*His final article was penned shortly before his fall and Pat Crook gave her kind permission for it to be included in this newsletter. It is always healthy to have an open and frank discussion about the way forward and I am grateful to Brother Philip for sharing his views. As we read the article, maybe we can reflect on the fact that Brother Philip took the time to sit down and set out his well-considered approach. As he says "every member should regard themselves as a recruiter".*

### **SPREADING THE WORD by Philip Crook**

We are often informed that the Association requires to increase the membership and attract younger people in particular amid the growing concern that some members are leaving the Association. Therefore, I list below my thoughts on how we might improve matters.

I believe that all of us should accept that we are an Association of middle-aged gentlemen of about 45 years or older and, should we able to recruit younger gentlemen under that age, it will be a bonus. Every member should regard themselves as a recruiter and he should not think that the Membership Officer only is responsible for recruiting.



To encourage younger gentlemen, we should allow baptised Catholics who do not go to Mass and, those that do attend Mass with their wife or girlfriend, to become members. providing that they attend meetings and social functions and, when they join, should pay a reduced membership fee until they reach the age of 45. To entice members over the age of 75 from resigning, consideration should be should be given that they pay a reduced annual subscription. Extra funds for this may be to reduce the quality of the excellent monthly glossy magazine and raising the annual subscription.

The procedure for Circle meetings should be examined as, in its present form, it would not appeal to younger people.

It will be noted that on several occasions I have referred to gentlemen. This is because some members are in favour of ladies becoming members. I firmly believe that the Association is for gentlemen only and that the ladies already play a significant role.

I wonder how many have ever heard of the Catenian Association and what they do? I believe that publicity will not only help us as recruiters but will advertise who the Catenians are and what they do to the church-going population. I list below how publicity can help:-

- a. The appointment of a Publicity Member on Council. I think publicity is so important that it requires a very active member. Such a Council Member should be in touch with and provide Informative articles to suitable newspapers, magazines, armed forces resettlement literature and all schools etc.
- b. Try to spread the Association to the USA in particular. Surely some of our brothers could provide a relative or friend who resides there so that contact may be made by the Council Member.
- c. An informative poster in every church and church hall, with the Priest's permission, stating how to join and what the Association does.
- d. A periodic talk after Mass with the Priest's permission. Talks should be short and informative and, again, about what the Association does.
- e. Short articles in the local newspaper concerning Catenian activity.
- f. Regular talks and giving help to Catholic Schools with the Head Teacher's permission
- g. Liaison with universities and sixth form schools. I believe that, by liaison, the seed will be sown and, in due course, students may remember the Catenians and want to join.

Many of my suggestions cannot be implemented because of the present virus but where they can I suggest they be at least considered and, in particular, the funding of the suggestions examined.

### HOOLIGANS UNITE FOR A LUNCH CLUB GATHERING!



That Hooligans Lunch Club favourite, The Empress of Blandings in Copythorne, was the venue for a convivial gathering of Hooligans in October. This was the second consecutive month in which the club was able to take a trip down memory lane to a time when club meetings were across tables rather than computer screens.

Unfortunately, as Brother President advises above, the Lunch Club will have to revert to a Zoom meeting once again this month on Tuesday 17 November at midday. It would be the perfect occasion for all Hooligans to get together and raise a glass to Philip who began the Southampton Lunch Club with Joe Gleeson in 1983.

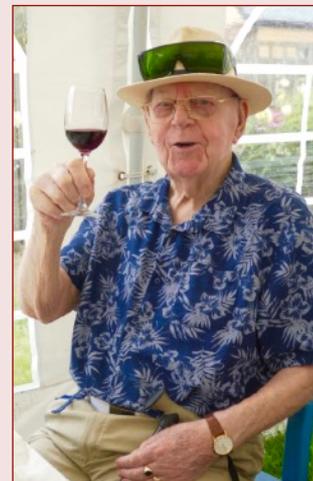
The Lunch Club will revert to an outing on 15 December at The White Hart, Cadnam (restrictions permitting).

### MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO DERRICK!

Derrick Austin's 96th birthday was timed just right this year. A week before Lockdown, he was able to enjoy a celebratory lunch out with his family. Derrick says that he is coping fine with all the challenges that this year has brought and, now that his annual holidays to Ibiza are a thing of the past, he does not mind having to stay in the UK! Fortunately, he is not on his own in Lockdown as he now lives with his son who is now retired.

Unfortunately, Derrick has not been able to get to grips with Zoom, but he enjoys keeping in touch with his fellow Brothers on the phone and is always happy to have a chat. Derrick is also a fan of the Circle newsletter which helps to keep him informed about Circle matters but he says he has to read it with the use of a magnifying glass.

Congratulations Derrick from the Circle!



### PETER & LONIA CLEAN UP AT THE QUIZ

It is always lovely when Brothers and ladies from other Circles join us for the monthly quiz but we don't expect them to have the temerity to win. But that's exactly what Peter and Lonia Daniels did from their home in Guernsey at the October quiz night. It's the first time that the Southampton quizzers have been beaten at their own game so well done to the Daniels. Brother President says that he hopes they win again in December as these magnanimous winners donated their prize of a bottle of wine back to the quizmaster!

Peter and Lonia were familiar faces around Province 11 a few years ago when Peter was Provincial President and they frequently travelled from Guernsey to attend Circle dinners and events. At the end of Peter's year, they hosted a wonderful Provincial conference on the island.

Peter and Lonia take the opportunity to explore the picturesque walks on the island as a way to keep fit during current restrictions. They were kind enough to take this photo for the newsletter whilst enjoying an autumnal stroll.

## COMMEMORATING ALL SAINTS' DAY AROUND THE WORLD

*"We celebrate today the solemnity of All Saints.  
This invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those  
who have already reached the blessed land,  
and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination."*

**Pope John Paul II on All Saints' Day 2003**



Remembering saints and martyrs has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD, but it was Pope Gregory IV who formally extended the festival to the Feast of All Saints on 1 November for the western church. The remembrance of the deceased had been held on various dates since the tradition of All Souls' Day began, until the 11th century when Saint Odilo of Cluny chose 2 November as the date that his monasteries should commemorate the faithful departed and this November date spread to other monasteries and to the Western church. Thus the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls became a day apart.

Whilst we commemorate the saints and the deceased on their individual feast days, in those countries where All Saints' Day is a national holiday, All Soul's Day is often commemorated on 1 November as well because the next day, 2 November, is an ordinary working one. In many countries such as Belgium, France and Spain, the first day of November is when chrysanthemums or wreaths are placed on the graves of deceased relatives. Polish families often gather together that day to tend family graves, light candles and leave flowers before joining together for an evening meal. The lighting of candles on graves is also traditional in Sweden. In Portugal, *Did de Todos os Santos* is the day when families remember their dead with religious observances. The Guatemalans make a meal of cold meats and vegetables called *fiambre* which they leave at the gravesides and tombs.

Sharing its feast day with All Souls' Day does not mean that All Saints' Day traditions are forgotten. In Austria and Bavaria, godfathers give their godchildren a braided yeast pastry. Portuguese children go door-to-door, receiving gifts of cakes, nuts, pomegranates and sweets. The Guatemalans also hold festivals where giant colourful kites are flown as a spiritual connection between those in Heaven and those on earth. The Spanish traditionally perform the play 'Don Juan Tenorio' whereas some German States regard All Saint's Day as a silent day and apply restrictions to concerts and dance events.

However countries choose to celebrate All Saint's Day, it remains a day to honour those who have passed on to the kingdom of Heaven and, as Pope John II said in 2003, a time to reflect on our journeys along our own spiritual paths.

**Dawn Harrison**



### 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 and Ron Satchell, Jersey Circle.



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Roger Carter (7)  
Martin Counihan (11)  
Dawn Harrison (13)  
Siobhan Shine (20)  
Jane Barber (24)



### IN MEMORIAM

*November anniversaries:*

Frank McGarry, Ted Rayment, Olive Austin, Dick Barber, Ellen Gobbi.

The Circle is very sad at the loss of dear Brother Philip Crook who passed away at the age of 98 years following a fall. We pray for the repose of his soul, and for Pat and the Crook family. We will miss Philip dearly.

We were sorry to hear about the death of Colin Morrell (Poole) who also died from injuries received in a fall. Brother Colin had attended the Provincial Meeting just the day before so it was a sudden shock to the Provincial Council as well as the Poole Circle. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for his daughter Charlotte and the Morrell family.

May they both Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.



**CATENIAN DIARY 2020**

Tuesday 17 November	HOOLIGANS LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: By Zoom
Friday 20 November	MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS	7.00 pm: By Zoom
Tuesday 24 November	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Tuesday 8 December	EVENING MEAL	7.00 pm: Regginas Italian, 13-15 High Street, The Square, Botley SO30 2EA (subject to restrictions)
Tuesday 15 December	HOOLIGANS LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: The White Hart, Old Romsey Road, Cadnam SO40 2NP (subject to restrictions)
Friday 18 December	CHRISTMAS QUIZ, RAFFLE & LOTTO EVENING	7.00 pm: By Zoom. With Christmas theme. To include a raffle, Lotto and Christmas chat using breakout rooms.
Friday 21- Sunday 23 May 2021	GB VIRTUAL CONFERENCE	GBNC have unanimously endorsed a plan for the first ever GB Virtual Conference. Details of this exciting project will be revealed in due course.

**BROTHER PRESIDENT'S ZOOM CIRCLE VISITS**

16 November at 7.30 pm : Basingstoke Circle

**CIRCLE OFFICERS 2020-21**

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Circle website: [www.southamptoncatenians.org](http://www.southamptoncatenians.org) / Charity websites: [twosaints.org.uk](http://twosaints.org.uk) & [mayfieldnurseries.org.uk](http://mayfieldnurseries.org.uk)