

SOUTHAMPTON CIRCLE NEWS

Circle No. 12 in Province No. 11

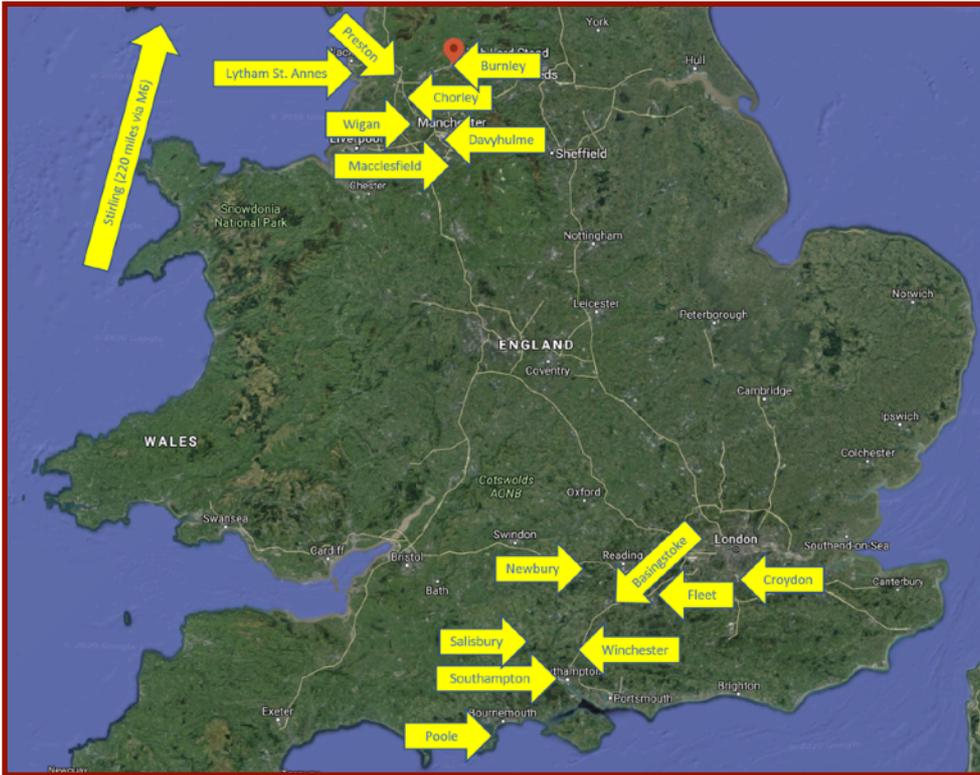
President: Michael Ingram



The Catenians
Friendship Family Faith

JANUARY 2021

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH BURNLEY CIRCLE JOINT MEETING



Southampton and Burnley's joint Circle meeting was a great success with a large turn-out from both Circles. They were joined by National and Past National Presidents, Eddie O'Donnell and Phil Brown (in red), past Grand President Mike O'Malley and Brothers from 14 other Circles (see above).



January Council Meeting

7.30 pm
Tuesday
26 January 2021
By Zoom



February Circle Meeting

7.30 pm
Monday
1 February 2021
By Zoom

Ladies to join
post-Meeting



Welfare activity replaced
by a Council ring-around



There was no lottery in
January.



January Meeting

Statistics

Circle Strength:	39
Present:	21
Apologies:	16
Burnley:	12
Visitors inc. Burnley's Province 10:	21





PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

by Michael Ingram

Let me begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! After facing unprecedented times in 2020, we at least have the prospect of getting back to normal in 2021. Two vaccines are now available for COVID-19, Brexit is done and dusted, Saints are in the top six of the Premiership and, for the very small number of us that are interested in Flight Simulator, MSFS now supports VR!!

Our first Circle meeting of the year was certainly a night to remember. With over 50 Brothers attending from all over the country, we were privileged to welcome once again our GBNP, Eddie O'Donnell, this time to a joint meeting with Burnley Circle. I would like to thank Southampton Brothers for the big turnout as we joined with Burnley Circle to welcome twenty-one visitors. Sixteen Catenian Circles were represented at the meeting. A special thanks goes to our registrar, Brother Malcolm, for dealing calmly with the large number of Brothers and also for keeping us up-to-date with the score of the Southampton v. Liverpool game!

One other item of news we had during the meeting was the latest announcement about the lockdown. It looks like we are back to where we were in March/April last year, although I understand that we are still allowed to attend communal worship. In my search for Catenian 'things to do during lockdown', I came across a Microsoft site with [free multi-player games](#). The site has a wide range of different types of games and, if anyone is interested, I will demonstrate how we can play cards together online at our next Coffee Morning (11am on Tuesday, 19th January 2021). This gives us something to do while we drink our coffee rather than just sit and look at each other, trying to think of something to say. Playing online games with friends is more like going down to the pub for a drink while playing dominoes or cribbage.

I cannot end my missive without saying an enormous thanks to everyone who provided prizes and bought tickets for the Christmas raffle and who attended the Christmas Party. A special thanks to Brother Simon Grummitt for providing the quiz questions. We raised over £600 for the President's Charities which I know will be very well received by both charities in the current climate.

Let's look forward to a year when we can meet up again face-to-face, hopefully sometime soon but realistically probably not before April. Jane and I wish you and your families all the best for the New Year.

COFFEE MORNING!

A new year but the coffee morning tradition continues. Brother President will be hosting our monthly get-together and, this month, he will be introducing a card game for those who are interested. This is a great opportunity for Brothers and ladies to keep in touch on a regular basis during Lockdown.



11.00 am on Tuesday 19 January
By Zoom

Venue - Your personal Coffee House

Order - Coffee and Cake

Chief Barista - Michael Ingram

Plus online card game



LADIES NIGHT

The February Circle meeting is a Ladies evening and we will have a talk by Rob Trent about mouth painting. Rob is a neighbour of Mike & Jane Ingram, a few houses up the street from them. He was born with arthrogyriposis, a condition affecting the joints and muscular development (which means he can't walk or use his arms). He recently retired from the Ordnance Survey where he worked in IT.

Rob has kindly agreed to talk about his experiences and about his mouth painting. You can read his biography and other details here: <https://www.mfpa.uk/the-artists/robert-trent/>



After the talk the gentlemen will leave the meeting so that the ladies can have a chat.



MEMORIES OF THE PEACETIME ARMY by Philip Crook

It was my great pleasure to be able to offer the late Philip Crook an opportunity to share his incredible life stories, told in his no-nonsense style. His articles are now all the more cherished as they were written during the last 9 months of his life. I looked forward each month to receiving the next composition and, just as I was lamenting the last of such articles for the November issue, another one arrived in the post from Pat a few weeks after Philip's passing. She had found it in his study and is very happy for it to be printed posthumously. So these are finally the last words from Brother Philip which appropriately end on his life as a soldier, a profession that he greatly enjoyed. We have another soldier to look over us from Heaven.

Dawn Harrison

This is a short collection of my memories of a peacetime service some 40 years ago in the Royal Engineers. Many Brothers will have served their National Service or had a career in the armed services so this article might bring back memories. For those Brothers who have not served, I hope it will give an idea of what army life was like.

The Corps of Royal Engineers is made up of a number of regiments, each containing a Regimental Headquarters. There are three squadrons of which each comprise three troops and a Store Troop. Each regiment is commanded by a Lt. Col. called the Chief Royal Engineer; each squadron is commanded by a Major; the troops are commanded by a Captain or Lieutenant or 2nd Lieutenant. Alongside the regiments, there are many more specialist units.

For the squadrons, the day would begin with a roll call when the Commanding Officer would give orders for the day. These orders may contain training in mines, explosives, water supply, field defences or bridging etc. Each squadron has specialist equipment to carry out technical jobs. The Stores Troop carries the heavier tools. Every so often a regiment would go out on a field exercise in the field and, at least once a year, the whole Regiment would accompany the Infantry Corps to practice roles that would be carried out during war. The Army Catering Corps, who are separately trained but attached to a regiment, always provide good food for the field exercises. In barracks, an Officer is always on dinner duty to make sure that everything is in order.

Apart from meals at regular hours, the Officers would have a dining night once a month at which the table would be laid with the regimental silver and the Officers would be dressed in their best uniform. After dinner, they invariably played nine indoor rigger in their uniform with a cushion as a ball.

When one moves into an army quarter, the Quartermaster checks an inventory of all the items there. The same procedure is followed when one leaves the quarter, except one has to pay for any deficiencies including holes in the walls where pictures have been. Quarters were free in my day but I believe that one has to pay rent now.

The wives formed a wives' club for all ranks. Some regiments had a chaplain who would hold a service in local churches. We once had a Catholic priest who travelled about 60 miles to say Mass. When Catholic babies were born, special arrangements had to be made for them to be baptised.

Not long after the war, I was posted as Adjutant to a technical unit a few miles out of Kiel in northern Germany. Every Saturday night, some of us would go with our wives to the Yacht Club which had been taken over as a military club. I always remember one young officer being spread over the top of a Humber Box car while we sped onto the Club. I also remember a German naval memorial located below ground, alongside the canal. At the entrance, the lighting was very dim and there was a very distinctive smell.

Every year, everyone had to have a medical check which included a five mile march to be completed under an hour and to swim the length of a swimming pool dressed with a full pack. When I was on staff with the British Corps in Bielefeld, everyone, including the General, would stand outside their office door before lunch and carry out 'Canadian PT' exercises for ten minutes.

Undoubtedly all those in the Services live in a world of their own. Everyone lives by military law, as well as civilian law. Soldiers make lifetime friends and, above all else, there is a comradeship which is second to none.

SOUTHAMPTON LADIES GET-TOGETHER IN LOCKDOWN



WhatsApp

Since March, Southampton ladies have been keeping in daily contact via the 'Ladies of Soton Catenians' WhatsApp group. There are now 15 ladies in the group, including a friend from Winchester Circle. Any lady wishing to join this group, please contact one of the group administrators, Felicity Singleton or Dawn Harrison.

Margaret Lillie organised a very successful Zoom social evening last week for Southampton ladies. It went so well with at least 11 participants that this will become a monthly affair. Two future Southampton Ladies Zooms are scheduled for:

- Friday 5 February at 8.00 pm
- Friday 5 March at 8.00 pm



Could ladies please let Margaret Lillie know if they are interested to join all or any of the monthly Zooms and she will add them to the email circulation list from which she sends out the invitation.

CIRCLE WELFARE

Please pray for our Brothers & ladies who are unwell:

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



Please also pray for:



Luke Andrews, nephew of Paul & Jackie Andrews
Mark Ingram, son of Mike & Jane Ingram
Mark Owen, Bournemouth Circle
Antonella, daughter of Alma Phillips
Paul Singleton, brother of John & Felicity Singleton

Prayers are needed for Frs. Raffaele, Luca and Matteo of St. Edwards Church, Chandlers Ford, who have contracted Covid-19. Please also pray from Fr. Marco who has so far tested negative.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Mary Berridge (13)
Jackie Andrews (15)
Peter Clapham (15)

IN MEMORIAM

November anniversaries:

Charles Riddle, Charles Hall, John
Morgan, Charles Wills, Richard Havard,
Eddie Bonnar & Michael Hamilton.

The Circle is sorry to hear of the passing of Brother Liam Campbell (Bournemouth) at the beginning of this month. Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Brother Liam and also pray for the Campbell family. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

BURSARY AND BENEVOLENT FUNDS APPEAL

Only one in three of us make a donation to the Bursary Fund or Benevolent Fund despite giving the commitment when we join to give support to them. I therefore ask if you can look at your current finances and, if you do not already give, then could you please see if you can help, no matter how modest the amount.

The Benevolent Fund is being approached by a greater number of Brothers at the moment due to the pandemic. We also expect greater demands on the Fund this year once project involvement and Lourdes pilgrimages resume. I am told that Portsmouth Diocese are considering a pilgrimage later in the summer. Any support and help you can give will be greatly appreciated. You can obtain the relevant forms from me.

Roger Lillie, Charity Officer

Don't forget that you can support the Catenian Bursary Fund each time you make an Amazon purchase by going to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and registering for donations to the fund. If you have any problems trying to do this, please contact Roger Lillie or Harry Harrison who can guide you through the process.

CATENIAN DIARY 2021

Tuesday 19 January	COFFEE MORNING	11.00 am: By Zoom <i>Contact: Brother President</i>
Tuesday 26 January	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Monday 1 February	CIRCLE MEETINGS (LADIES NIGHT)	7.00 pm: By Zoom Following meeting: Talk by Rob Trent. Ladies will be invited to join and have their own social afterwards
Friday 5 February	SOTON LADIES ZOOM	8.00 pm: By Zoom. <i>Contact: Margaret Lillie.</i>
Tuesday 16 February	COFFEE MORNING	11.00 am: By Zoom <i>Contact: Brother President</i>
Tuesday 23 February	COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Monday 1 March	CIRCLE MEETINGS (BROTHERS NIGHT)	7.30 pm: By Zoom
Friday 5 March	SOTON LADIES ZOOM	8.00 pm: By Zoom. <i>Contact: Margaret Lillie.</i>
Tuesday 16 March	COFFEE MORNING	11.00 am: By Zoom <i>Contact: Brother President</i>
Friday 21- Sunday 23 May 2021	GB VIRTUAL CONFERENCE	Details of this exciting project will be revealed in due course.

BROTHER PRESIDENT'S ZOOM CIRCLE VISITS

Portsmouth Circle: Monday 25 January at 7.30pm
Salisbury Circle: Thursday 25 February at 7.30 pm

**CIRCLE OFFICERS 2020-21**

President	Michael Ingram	01489 799 992	wbcfns@hotmail.com
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Secretary	Folkert van Galen	023 8073 6551	fvangalen@aol.com
Treasurer	Paul Andrews	023 8025 3233	p.andrews@fastlizard.co.u
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Chamberlain	Bob Millar	07811 388 273	millar.bob@gmail.com
Marshall	Andy Philpott	023 8086 9853	andrew.philpott@virginmedia.com
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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: www.southamptoncatenians.org / Charity websites: twosaints.org.uk & mayfieldnurseries.org.uk