

Southampton Circle newsletter

CIRCLE NO. 12 IN PROVINCE 11

FEBRUARY 2026

Circle President: Daverio Matteucci



February Circle meeting: Brothers only and distinguished guests

Our 2 February circle meeting was attended by 18 Southampton brothers and two distinguished guests: Sir Mark Johnson-Ferguson, member of Andover circle and Professor Francis Davies, who were visiting the circle.

The dinner following the meeting was had with lively discussions among our members and guests.



Our past members who are remembered each year

In the Catenian archives that I hold as secretary there are only a few obituaries of past members.

The most extensive obituaries we do have were researched by Br Simon Grummitt are of two Catenian brothers from Southampton who signed up as a soldier in the Great War (1914-1919).

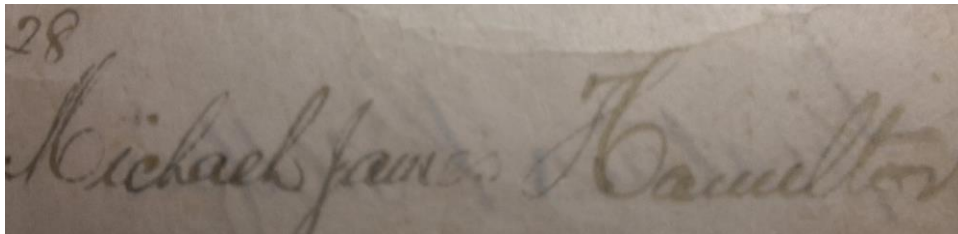
Brother **Michael James Hamilton** was born to John and Margaret Hamilton in Liverpool on 14th July 1886. In 1901 he came with his family to Southampton. His father was a dock labourer and lived in York Street, St. Mary's. Both his parents died in 1910 and in 1911. He was a clerk in the fruit trade boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Morris at 12 Avenue Road.

In September 1911 he married Norah Isabella Fry at St. Edmund's Church on The Avenue. They had four children, Margaret Isabella, born 1912, Monica born 1914, Brian George born 1915 and Michael George born in March 1917, all born after his father's death. They were then living at 56 Burlington Road, The Polygon.

He enlisted in Southampton as a Private in the 2nd/6th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

He died on the 26th of January 1917, aged 30, of pneumonia, while serving in France. He is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. He is commemorated on the Southampton Cenotaph and in St. Edmund's Roll of Honour. His wife Norah did not re-marry and died in 1960.

The roll of Southampton Circle (since 9 April 1913) lists him as member nr 28 with his signature, but no date of him joining. There is no surviving photo of Michael.

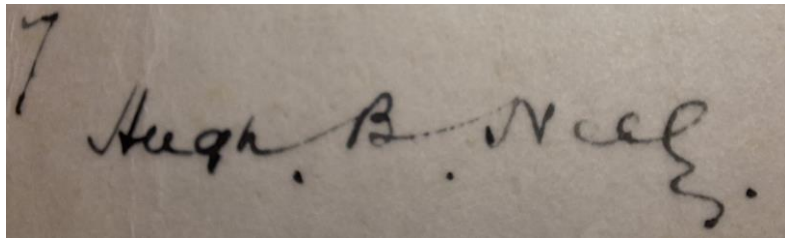


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Michael James Hamilton

Brother **Hugh Bertram Neely** was born on 27th June 1888 in Bromley, Kent, the second son of William and Clare Rebecca Neely (nee Cope). He was educated at Quernmore School and Lancing College. He was a Prefect at the school and a sergeant in the Officer Training Corps.

In October 1908 he entered Guy's Hospital to train as a dentist and passed his final exams in 1912. He was an excellent sportsman and won his full Hospital and United Hospital colours for football and rugby. He worked as an assistant in three posts before establishing his own dental practice at London Road, Southampton in May 1913. He had been received into the Catholic Church in February 1913, and was a parishioner of St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, Southampton. He was an active member of their Dramatic Society and a founder member of Southampton Circle on 9 April 1913, and held the post of Chamberlain.

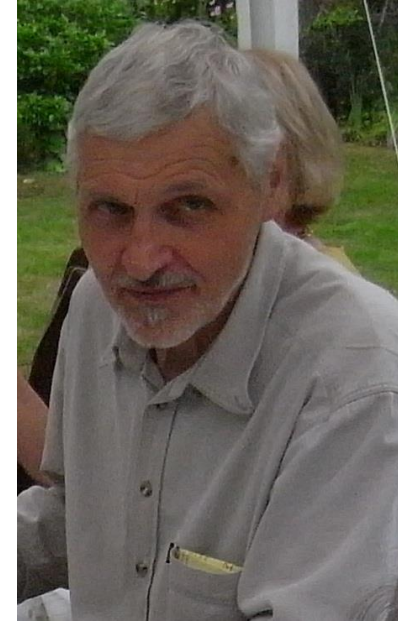
Brother Neely had been a member of the 28th Battalion, London Regiment for many years.. At the outbreak of war in August 1914 he closed his practice and rejoined his old regiment., as a Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment.. He left for France in March 1915. In April 1915 the Germans launched a major offensive at Ypres. Brother Neely was killed in action on 25th April 1915 aged 26. He is buried at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery. West Flanders, Belgium. He is commemorated on the Southampton Cenotaph, in Lancing College, Guy's Hospital War Memorials, in St John's church in Bromley, and on the Bromley war memorial.. His brother Chris William also fell.



Who will be remembered 100 years from now? You could contribute aspects of your life to the circle, either in writing or in the form of an interview with a brother, so that we keep a note for those who come after us.

Congratulations to brother George Wysocki: 50 years Catenian

On 9 February 1976 George Wysocki joined the Catenian Association in Maidstone circle as a young Maths and Physics teacher. According to his Maidstone brothers he was a fit and sporty member, playing squash frequently with brother Bernard. In 2005 George and Margaret moved to Southampton and joined our circle. George has distinguished himself as a very capable long distance runner, and also as a treasurer.



Also congratulations to John Berridge who turns 90 on 23 February

Snooker, but not for the faint hearted...

Our second snooker contest in Basingstoke's Snooker Palace was once more a lesson for the Southampton brothers. The local restaurant provided us with a copious meal, but this did not enhance our game, as we did not win a single game against a competent competition. Even our provincial director Peter Daniels playing for Southampton could not turn the tide.



Circle welfare, those who are unwell and in need of our prayers

Maureen Bannon, John Berridge, Mary Berridge, Anne Brady, Leo Brennan, Elizabeth Counihan, Pat Crook, Simon and Christine Grummitt, Dawn Harrison, Mark Ingram, Clare Lund Yates, Douglas Manning, Jim Moriarty, Siobhan Shine, Tony Wilson, George Wysocki, and Donald and Triesa Kumarajeewa in Sri Lanka. Also: brother Frank Hinds (Andover and Winchester member), Luke Andrews (Paul's nephw), Harry & Judith Harrison, Alison Wilson.

Birthdays in March

Valerie Summerton (6), Steven Hulbert (8), Paul Andrews (10), Christine Grummitt (12), Malcolm Forster (21), Matt Joyce (30), Tony Murray (31).

In memoriam March

George Campbell, Frank Ellen, Freddie Tindall, Peter Hatcher, Bill Day, Andrew Wilson, Margaret Gleeson, Moira O'Connor, Jean Reese.

February circle meeting (1276th circle meeting)

Circle Strength 40 members. Present 18 brothers, one visiting brother from Andover Circle and Mr Francis Davies as visitor.

Lottery winners in February

First prize: Daverio Matteucci Second prize: Jenny Thompson

Social calendar

Catenian Ladies Afternoon Tea

2.00 pm Tuesday 24 February at the White Horse Hotel in Romsey, SO51 8ZJ

Contact: Margaret Lillie

Circle Council meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday 24 February at the Doubletree Hotel

Lunch Club

12 noon Friday 20 February at the Phoenix Inn, Twyford, SO21 1RF

Contact: Malcolm Forster

March Circle meeting and dinner

7:00 pm Monday 2 March Circle meeting and dinner. This is a ladies night with invited guests with a 40 year scroll award to Roger Lillie. Unfortunately, no more late bookings can be accepted.

20-23 March: Provincial weekend in Cricket St Thomas (fully booked)

This annual event is a gathering of members and spouses from Province 11.

Brother President's charities for 2025-26

Brother president Daverio Matteucci expressed his desire to promote these charities and to raise funds to support this local group during his presidential year:

- 1. Poitiers Care** A local foodbank to assist families in need, based in Ashurst
- 2. Jane Scarth House** A charity to assist cancer patients and their family members, based in Romsey
- 3. Diocese of Guntur, India**

If you donate individually to these charities, then please use Gift-Aid and let our circle treasurer know so that we have an idea of the extent of our support for this charity. Alternatively you can donate via our circle bank account. Please contact our treasurer for details.

Southampton Circle officers

President:	Daverio Matteucci	07518 223512	daveriomatteucci@googlemail.com
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Benevolent Fund Chair	Martin Counihan	07816 906688	mjc@gmx.ie

Circle website: <https://southamptoncatenians.org/>