

OLD

SALVATORIANI  **ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER JULY 2005

Dear fellow Old Salvatorians,

I am still here but only just! Sadly, no one has volunteered to become treasurer of the Association/editor of the Newsletter. I have soldiered on for a while in the hope that someone will come forward. It has not happened so this is my last newsletter, I promise you (*Des*).

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT – MIKE NEVILLE

In November 2004, I had great pleasure in presenting The Don Burton Cup for outstanding achievement to year 11 pupil, James Roberts.

The College production of Scrooge's Christmas Carol was unavoidably put back from December to January 2005 but was well worth waiting for. The boys were joined by pupils from the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's and the quality of the performances was extremely high. Produced and directed by Colin Tufnell, the set, special effects, costumes and make-up were all to a very high standard and everyone involved are to be congratulated. (*See College News for more regarding Colin.*)

We are advised that the College has become the first winner of a major architectural award.

The Open House Key was presented to the College in recognition of the school's creative educational visits and building design projects. Catherine Smith of Open House said "*the award is not a competition. It is recognition of outstanding, innovative work which does not just open doors, but opens eyes and minds as well*".

Andrew Graham, head-teacher, said at the presentation ceremony, "*I am delighted that the school has been honoured in this way. It is a tribute to the pupils who have worked so hard and to the staff's creative teaching methods*".

The College's design and technology department used visits to the Sir John Soames Museum and Beavis Marks Synagogue during its annual architectural walk in the City of London for research in the design of pop-up displays and advertising. In February, pupils Kieran Peters, Kevin McFadden and Anthony Majek Soetan, and teacher Colin Tufnell, the College's former head of DT, attended the Open House awards ceremony. Award winner Kieran said: "*We are the first school ever to have been awarded the Key to London and it is great that Junior Open House encourages school-kids to become aware of architecture and design*".

As this looks as though it will be the last Newsletter for some time, unless we have a volunteer to take over its preparation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Des on behalf of everyone within the OSA for all the excellent work he has put into the job over the past six years. His cheery input will be missed by all those who came into fairly regular contact with him and those who took the trouble to write in with snippets for the newsletters. I know that Des does not look forward to leaving the job as treasurer and newsletter editor without a successor, so please, please, someone volunteer to keep up the excellent work.

FR ALBAN ANDERTON SDS

Fr Alban who taught in the Prep School in the 1940s has recently celebrated three exceptional milestones, namely he was 92 on 15th June, has been a Salvatorian for 70 years and very recently celebrated 65 years of his ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations to Fr Alban from all in the OSA.

[Editor's note: I remember Fr Alban teaching me! It is interesting that Fr Alban (Anderton) hailed from Atherton in Lancashire.]

Secretary: RB Lawrie (Bob)
11 Christchurch House,
Western Road, Tring, Herts HP23 4AW
Tel: 01442 825849 Fax: 01442 382025

President: MJ Neville (Mike)
1 Ross Way,
Northwood, Middx HA6 3HU
01923 821465

Treasurer: DP Mulvany (Des)
82 Manygate Lane
Shepperton, Middx TW17 9EE
Tel: 01932 229278

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Brian Milnes (195?) died suddenly on 29th March. The funeral service was conducted by Fr Peter at the Breakspear Crematorium. Our thoughts are with Margaret and the family.

Bernard (Barney) Keefe (1938) died on 20th March 2005. His brother, Kevin, reminds us that Barney spent most of the war years in the Fleet Air Arm and subsequently, along with **Don Burton** and others, taught him (Kevin) to play hockey. Barney married Lorna Williams (ex Sacred Heart) and there is a daughter, Berenice and her husband along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA TSUNAMI DISASTER APPEAL

Members donated an additional £220, which added to the contribution made by the Association makes a total of £470. We received a “thank you” from **Sr Rani Fernando SDS** in Rome. We quote from her letter of 3rd February:

“ I have just returned from Sri Lanka having had incredible experiences seeing, being with and listening to the people who have lost their dear and near ones and about the disaster that has taken their houses and all their belongings. Our Sisters and lay SDS at home are on the move being with the people helping them to overcome trauma, and with financial help that we have received from people like you. . . . ”

CORRESPONDENCE

This is the part of the Newsletter that I really enjoy. I do hope someone comes forward to continue the work of keeping people in touch.

MICHAEL TIGHE (1949) has been a regular contributor over the years and emailed us in mid-January. Anticipating your editor’s resignation, Mike writes to say “thank you” for the newsletter and adds “to all of us passive members, and in particular those overseas who cannot make the occasional get-together your work is appreciated. The newsletter is also much looked forward to as a means of keeping in touch”. He continues, “in the past twelve months we have been fortunate to visit family and friends in England with a short stay with the Benedictines at Ampleforth. Leaving England we had four weeks in France equally spent in the Dordogne and Provence before returning home via a short stay in Dubai. We spent Christmas/New Year with our daughters in Perth where we also visited **LAURIE SHERVINGTON (1939)** and his wife Cecilia. Both were in hospital as Cecilia had had a fall at Christmas and Laurie, who had not been too well, was sharing a room with her. [Editors Note: we understand both are now home]. Mike finishes his note, “I am aware that a number of the OSA are Catenians. In this regard, I have recently become a member with the Sydney Circle, which was the first to be installed in Australia back in 1971”.

DONALD INGRAM (1936) another regular correspondent wrote to confirm that our piece about him in the January newsletter was correct! He tells us that Fr Cuthbert was his godfather, that he remembers **BOB QUIN (1935)** and believes he should remember **DEREK ANTHONY TEMPLE (1939)** as he thinks Derek was “second division footballer of the team I was captain of. If so, he was a forward player, fast and a great dribbler - a master player for his young age”. Donald closed by saying that he wishes to be remembered to **DONALD MONTEITH (1938)**, **DON BURTON (1936)**, **ARTHUR PICKNELL (1937)**, and **ROBERT BEEDLE (1937)**.

JAMES WELCH (1940) also wrote to us in January starting his letter, “my name is mentioned in the January newsletter; it is nice to be remembered and since CVs are ‘in’ at present here is a summary of mine” [Editor’s Note: thank you for writing to us. We do wish more members would do so.] James writes:

“I left the College in the summer of 1940, before I was 15, and worked in the Foreign Office Library – a deadly boring job but the people were interesting, and I joined the Home Guard Unit in Westminster. At that time, we Old Boys used to run dances either at the King’s Head Hotel on Harrow Hill or the Rest Hotel in Kenton. From 1943-1947, I was in the RASC and served with HQ 21 Army Group in NW Europe. With an ex-service grant, I read Modern Languages at King’s College, London, where I met my wife, Marjorie. I took part in Catholic student life and the first Student Cross Pilgrimage to Walsingham in 1948. I worked in local government, obtained a law degree by evening study, and became a solicitor. When I took early retirement at age 57, I had been Assistant Chief Executive of Hillingdon Borough Council for a number of years. I have been active in parish life for over 40 years; at St Margaret’s, Twickenham, and now in Steyning, West Sussex. Here we became close friends with the late Cedric Baring-Gould [a teacher at the College in the late 1940s] and, like him, our principal commitment is working for Justice and Peace. I am very grateful to you and others who work to keep the Association going”

BOB QUIN (1935) responded to our request in the January newsletter to write a piece on the late Mr McCue, a teacher at the College at the time Bob was a pupil. Bob writes:

“These are the memories of the best schoolteacher I have ever known. Mr McCue was little more than five feet tall, a big ‘tum’, short legs and a mop of curly fair hair, brushed back to try and increase his height.

When he came to the school, it was to take over the third form. To say the boys were out of hand is a total understatement. Little or no work done – no respect for any teacher and brazenly leaving class without permission to ‘have a smoke’. They were all well beyond the age at which they should have moved up a class but had been kept down since they had all failed the annual exams – twice!

‘Fatty’, as he was known in his early days, (but not in his hearing), started three days before half term and blithely – or so it seemed – set them half term homework. It was of course the laugh of the century – since they never did homework and anyway to think they would do any at half term was ludicrous. After half term, when no one had done the work, Mr McCue left the class and returned a few minutes later with two luggage straps, each rolled up and placed them on his desk where all could see them. Without ever referring to the straps, he continued the lesson. The uneasy eyes of all the boys seemed to be drawn inexorably to the two straps.

At about half past three he set homework for the night and for the first time mentioned the straps, saying regretfully, if the work was not done AND the holiday work, he would be compelled to use the straps on his desk. The following morning, of the eighteen boys, only two had made some attempt at the homework. The other sixteen received six of the best on their backsides and more homework was set. The following morning only two received the treatment. At the end of the term, all the boys passed the Junior Oxford exam, and all took part in a deputation to the headmaster – Father Cuthbert Smith – to ask that Mr McCue could move with them to the fourth form. He did and again the following year he moved with them to the fifth. He never again in my time used the straps or any other form of corporal punishment.

*The man naturally commanded respect but there were two other factors, which increased his popularity. On one occasion, he was watching the boys play football at the lunch break. The ball hit the wall just behind him and bounced down. Unbelievably, he looked round, flicked the ball over his shoulder and drop kicked it back into play. There was mild consternation and the game came to an abrupt halt. A crowd of boys surrounded him – after all, he was so unathletic – so fat – that no one could believe what they had seen. Eventually he admitted the truth. His fatness was an illness – not over eating – and he had been a Scottish schoolboy international footballer. The second factor was that immediately prior to his appointment at the school he had been a theatre producer in Scotland. He automatically took charge of the school plays and they had never before been so successful. As a matter of interest, I have two photos of some of the cast of *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Sheridan’s The Rivals*, which were his first two productions. In place of the normal one-night stand, the first ran for two nights and the second, *The Rivals*, for three nights and the local Kodak Hall (500 capacity) was hired since the school could not accommodate all who wanted to come. Of course, the girl’s parts were taken by the boys, but I doubt if many old boys would recognise myself as Lydia Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer* or as Lydia Languish in *The Rivals*, and Laurie Richards (as Tony Lumpkin). Keate (I cannot remember his Christian name) some years later became parish priest of the church attached to the school – regretfully, I am told, he has since died.*

I hope this article may be of interest and amuse readers. It contains some memories of a man who in spite of his disability, one that could have made him a butt for amusement, earned the respect of his pupils. Yes, he was strict but was scrupulously fair, and I can only repeat that he was the best teacher I have ever known.”

[Editor’s Note: Bob, thank you so much for your memories. They were so powerful that we have produced your article in full. If only corporal punishment was available today! Would we have so much loutish behaviour in the classroom? I doubt it. But this is a “grumpy old man” talking aloud and perhaps he shouldn’t]

PATRICK (Paddy) HETHERMAN (1952) responded with a lovely long email following one we sent to him following the funeral of BRIAN MILNES. At the funeral, Moira [Editor’s wife] met Brian’s cousin, Jean, who mentioned that she was going to see a friend in Harrow later. Moira asked “who” and it turned out to be Paddy’s Sister, Mary. That is how contacts are made! We repeat some of the contents of Paddy’s email.

“What a surprise to have contact from the Old Boys of Salvatorian College. I have often wondered what has happened to the people. I have read the last Newsletter [on the web] and noted the bit from an Old Salvo in Brisbane selling cars. I will try and track him down. [Editor’s Note: Paddy, have you made contact with Laurie Hill?] Whilst it is great to establish contact again with our foundations, it is sad that Brian Milnes was the catalyst for it happening. Jean Milnes came out here a few years back and we caught up.

I think I left the College in 1952, not sure of the actual day. This inability to recall dates is probably 'Old Timers Disease'. I never had much further contact with the Old Boys network after that. The following year I joined the Royal Navy (maybe Fr Peter Brennan's influence or his wild stories). I remained in the service for 13 years, in aviation electronics. Had a ball! Spent four and a half years in full time study, training and playing sport. Spent time in Fleet Air Arm Squadrons in Sussex, Scotland, the West Country, on board H M S Ark Royal, Bulwark, Centaur. Saw active service in Suez Crisis, East Africa, Malaya, Borneo and Aden. By the end, I had a wife and three children and thought this job can be dangerous at times and being away from family is not really good.

A pivotal year was 1966. Together with the family I flew out on the first QUANTAS flight after England's World Cup win. I had obtained a 3-year contract in Australia to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on experimental space flight systems for communication spacecraft at a ground station located near a delightful place called Toowoomba. It was extremely interesting and, along the way, Apollo 11 needed our involvement. My original idea was to see Australia for three years and then go onto the USA. Having worked for the Americans for 3 years, the thought of being with 150 million of them had lost its appeal and, truly, Australia is a great place to be; well, South East Queensland is special.

From there, I made a move, which was influenced by the College. At Wealdstone I was in Becket. I think that back then I won my House colours in the field of dramatic art, possibly the first ever to do so. I played Mark Anthony in Julius Caesar. Now Art was my forte. Fr Ignatius helped a lot and it has stuck to this day. When the NASA contract had finished, we moved to Sydney and joined the TV industry at Channel 0. Sydney was too much like London so we moved back to Queensland. I got into marketing of major Shopping Centres, and had fun and a lot of success. I moved into management for economic reasons and remained in that industry for something like 25 years. Whilst working for Westfield Ltd, one of the biggest in the world, I scored a trip to USA to study at the University of San Hose in California. There I verified that our decision to stay in Australia had been the correct one. This whole period I call my Arty Phase. To design and decorate Christmas decorations together with Santa's fantasy grotto for a major complex is truly a buzz. Having afternoon tea with the King of Tonga is fun also.

Now, for the last 10 years I have had my own Biological Company, which treats liquid trade waste using biological processes and machines that I have designed. It is a family affair with my son running it now and even our grandchildren working for us.

Sportwise! Over the last 30 years, Motorsport has been a major interest. I have competed in Rally and Off Road up to international level. Too old now, I am an official with licences to organise events to a national level.

And yes, I still paint and draw, mostly portraits these days.

I have had a very varied and exciting life, hopefully there are many more years to come, but when you hear and go to funerals of your peers then one realises that the inevitable will happen one day. Just live your life to the fullest whilst you can. Stay healthy and thank God for what we have had".

[Editor's Note: Paddy, thanks so much for this. We certainly agree with your very last sentiment.]

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

The college produces a termly "Salvatorian College News" summarising achievements and giving notice of upcoming events. The following extracts reflect the broad-range of opportunities which contribute to the education of today's pupils.

ACADEMIC

The continuing and developing high academic standards achieved by the staff and pupils can be appreciated by the comments of HM Inspectors when visiting the Maths Dept:

"The boys are polite and friendly and work very hard and the Whole School Community knows why it is here in terms of its focus on education and identity as a community.

Achievement in Maths at KS3 and KS4 is outstanding. It is highly unusual for a Maths Dept. to do better at GCSE than the whole school average. It is also unusual for every pupil to get a GCSE grade in Maths. The department has moved from where it was at the Ofsted inspection. There is pace, control, structure and good planning together with a wide range of teaching styles. There are high expectations and very positive attitudes. Teachers work well together and focus on pupil's progress. The quality of teaching ranged from good to excellent."

Learning opportunities are not confined just to school premises or the immediate area and the Wider Horizons Week in 2004 included a Language Dept. stay in Paris, a water sports trip to the South of France and a week of outdoor activities in Westward Ho!. A whole range of day activities included Circus Skills, film making, photography, sketching and DIY. A highlight was a visit to the BBC including being interviewed for Newsround and appearing in a national newspaper alongside a Dalek! The National Space Centre, the London Eye, Madame Tussauds and museums also featured and 9 outdoor events were available at the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre. Earlier in the term, there were Geography and Science Field trips to Wales. In July 2005, Wider Horizon residential trips will be made to Germany, South of France and Shropshire and daily activities will include cooking at the Thames Valley University (from where top chefs have graduated).

The English Dept. organised quizzes for National Book Week. Currently, the Year 9 debating team are preparing for the 1st round of the English Speaking Union's London Challenge and the Year 8 team are about to embark on the Harrow Schools "Balloon Debate". An Edexcel moderator observed Year 11 English pupils participate in a challenging oral task. The purpose was to establish that internal GCSE marking was accurate, which was confirmed but the moderator was also "impressed by the boy's skills, co-operation and politeness".

Apart from the trip to Paris, the Foreign Language Dept. held a "French Week" which included workshops by Education Business Links and a presentation from Dr Anderson of University of London. Mrs Jones, Head of School Catering, produced a french menu in a bistro atmosphere.

School clubs take in Drama, Languages, Films, Homework, a Maths Clinic, War Hammer Club (?), Spelling and Reading Clubs (+ PE clubs – see below).

Design & Technology: in addition to the Open House Award, a team were runners up in the Saracen's "Design a Stadium" competition having competed against 35 other schools from Hertfordshire and London. Also, a team of Year 9 students were awarded the Mentor badge, for the first time, having shown outstanding ability in using the school's new (Computer Aided Design) program.

DRAMA & MUSIC:

The successful production of Shakespeare's "Comedy of errors" production, was followed by the seasonal production of "A Christmas Carol" mentioned above by our president. Apart from the school's own productions, Year 9 pupils attended a production of Shakespeare's Macbeth as part of their SAT's preparation. The play was performed by the Globe Players and focused on key themes, players and language.

On the music front, one particular pupil recently gained 98% in his grade 5 theory exam. The strength of the Music Dept. is such that some 50 Year 7 pupils have requested tuition in 2005/6. The department has contributed to Music for the Mass, concerts and social gatherings – one such gathering, of course, being the OSA Annual Reunion when we have enjoyed a wide range of music performed to the highest standard.

Unusually, since beer-making was out of the question, Domestic Science returned to the curriculum for Year 10 in the form of bread-making and yoghurt production. With the help of Mrs Jones and Mrs Dowling of the Catering Dept., the pupils were able to explore the microbiology of yeast fermentation. Baking trays and cookers replaced test tubes and Bunsen burners to produce high quality and edible loaves and rolls!

Fr. Peter Preston, who has been College Chaplain for nearly three years, is often asked, "what do you do as a Chaplain?". The answer is, of course: Fr Peter supports the work of the RE Dept. but, in not having a teaching position, there is no timetable to observe so he is able to talk and listen to pupils as the occasion arises. There are also opportunities made for pupils to chat or whatever when appropriate help and advice can be given.

Liturgies and assemblies are shared and a weekly Mass for staff and pupils is celebrated along with a Mass for the whole school on Holy Days of Obligation.

The founder of the Salvatorians, Fr Francis Jordan, urged that all people, especially the young, be taught "about the love of God" and the primary reason for the existence of any Catholic school must be that the faith be shared, taught and caught by those who form its community. As Chaplain, Fr Peter considers himself fortunate to enjoy the challenging and demanding role of sharing his faith with the pupils and staff of the College.

The Diocese of Westminster renewal programme, "**At Your Word Lord**" has been in existence now for more than 2 years and Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended the 3rd and 4th sessions in October 2004 and February 2005 when Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor asked those attending to reflect on their School's and their own faith commitment and what it means to be a Catholic in our world. The Salvatorian students who attended found the days surprising, interesting and challenging. They found the talks inspiring and welcomed the opportunity to hear and share the views of other young people. The sessions demonstrated strong Catholic values in schools and the willingness of students like themselves to share and discuss their faith.

SPORT

The college continues to participate in a wide range of sporting activities:

Football – good results were achieved in the Middlesex Cup but there were mixed results in the Harrow League. Inter-form football competitions take place after school. Two Year 11 pupils have been selected for the Middlesex County Football team.

Most recently, the college won the U16's Harrow Cup, beating Nower Hill in extra time and Year 8 and Year 11 teams were victorious in the respective Harrow Cup finals. Year 9 and Year 10 were narrowly beaten finalists.

Rugby (played on Saturdays): Year 10 team did well initially in the Daily Mail Cup competition beating Vyners but went down to Haberdashers but they continued in the Plate Competition. In March 2005, the year 10 team won the Isleworth and Syon Trophy in the Rugby 7's. there was success at the U15 level when the year 10 team beat Latymer School to win the Middlesex Cup at Old Millhillians RFC.

Again two pupils were selected for the Middlesex County team.

The athletic team finished second overall in both the junior and intermediate codes of the Harrow Championship and several pupils qualified for the Middlesex Schools Finals.

A large number of boys entered cross-country events at the Harrow Athletics Club Challenge.

Currently, The school is hopeful of repeating recent successes in the Harrow Secondary Schools Swimming Gala and is taking part in the Harrow Schools Cricket competition.

The PE Dept continues to run breakfast clubs, lunchtime clubs for table tennis and basketball and after-school inter-form football competitions.

OTHER MATTERS

There is a School Council, and a Buddy system to ease the concerns of new pupils joining the college. Work experience is arranged for Year 10 students. Taster Days are arranged for both incoming pupils and those moving on to St Dominic's 6th Form College.

Each year a number of boys from Year 9 are selected to be "Peer Workers" and undergo training by Relate counsellors in Key Listening Skills. All participants who complete the course receive a certificate and are then available to assist in various ways throughout Year 10.

"In general terms, "peer support" is a form of student help. It builds on students' natural willingness and ability to turn to their peers to discuss concerns, worries and problems. Setting up a peer support service involves recruiting and training students in basic communication skills so that they may support their peers with confidence and skill. Trained students or 'peer supporters' can then listen to and support their peers, enabling them to reach a solution to whatever problem has caused them difficulty."

In March 2005, the college hosted a very successful **Relate Peer Listening Conference** and, along with five other schools, led a series of workshops attended by 16 other schools from five boroughs. Those attending ranged from primary school pupils to sixth-formers, who all worked together discussing and sharing ideas to find solutions to problems encountered during the time spent as peer workers.

The above comments are just a few selected items culled from the College newsletter but serve to illustrate the wide range of activities contributing to the education of the pupils not just academically but as future members of the wider community.

Finally, "*Jamie Oliver comes to the Salvatorian*" – in the 6 years since Mrs Jones and her staff brought the school's catering "in-house", the main meal has always healthy. Now, however, **all** food and drink consumed at the college will be as healthy as possible. Initially, chips will only be served on 4 days per week and, from September 2005, will only be available on Fridays – healthier alternatives will be available. All sugar-added drinks have been replaced by non-sugar drinks in vending machines and a water vending machine replaces one of the chocolate vending machine. It is intended that a ban on all sugar-added drinks, including those brought in with packed lunches, will be introduced.

~~~ STOP PRESS ~~~

Mr Colin Tufnell, MBE - We have been advised by Head-teacher, Andrew Graham, that Colin Tufnell, a teacher at the College, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He received his award for services to education, which Andrew writes "is richly deserved, and we are all thoroughly pleased for him" The OSA sends its heartiest congratulations to Colin.

Very best wishes,

Des & Bob