



SALESIAN COOPERATORS

U K PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2004

Designed by Huyton Cooperators

"Try to walk in the companionship of family and friends gently, peacefully and with loving kindness"

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IMPROVING YOUR MEMORY **with Brian Barnes in Streatham**

On a Saturday afternoon last February 2004 the Streatham Co-operators organised an interesting event at St Bartholomew's Church Hall.

Some of you may have heard or even met Brian. He's one of a handful of experts who know how our memories work, better still, how to improve them. Do you ever forget why you went upstairs, people's names, or to post a letter? Hand on your heart, can ANYONE say they never forget anything?

Brian had a number of fascinating tricks up his sleeve in his humorous and entertaining way. For instance: he gave us 20 random words and asked us to write down the ones we remembered. How comforting to learn that the graph he traced from our result was very similar to those of other groups he had talked to. I still remember what was in each room of the path I walked through my house after the exercise using his method! I'm amazed!

Brian does not charge instead asks for donations to be made to a chosen Salesian Mission. We collected £225 for Cambodia!! Sr Esther displayed attractive items from her time in Ethiopia and gave us all an intricately carved stone cross from Africa.

It was an afternoon with a difference; service to the local community with opportunity for socialising over a cup of tea, great benefit for the salesian mission and best of all: improved memories all round!!

Brian can be contacted on 01932 563335

Ruth T Kamalaghara (Streatham)

UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN

It was lovely to hear Marlene was in Oxford at the time of this publication. Her visit was to attend the wedding of her niece and not an official visit. I took the opportunity to speak to her over the phone and welcome her. Although she had just arrived the previous day she had seen some of the Oxford sights which she thought were beautiful.

She was also looking forward to Thursday evening when her and her husband would be meeting Fr Parkes and a number of other cooperators. We hope they both have a wonderful stay and the weather is fine for the wedding.

We look forward to Marlene's next official visit.

June Sharrock, (Huyton Cooperators)

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Thank You to Fr A Carette SDB

I am sure many of you will be aware of the artistic talent of Fr Carette. At St Dominic's Huyton we would like to thank him for the beautiful picture of St Dominic which he painted for us.

It has been put up in the Library of the Junior School and is much appreciated by the staff and pupils there.

**TOM FOTHERGILL (RIP) - Kendal Cooperator
(1924-2004)**



Tom was enrolled as a Cooperator at Brettargh Holt twenty-seven years ago. He was an indefatigable worker, full of enthusiasm, full of love for his Salesianity which came over in a very practical way. His enthusiasm and love of life shone through in the way he worked with the Salesian Sisters at Brettargh. He worked with youngsters from the parish, was the leading light in organising fete days and numerous other events at Brettargh and was a major contributor to the success of many community projects in his local area.

Tom was the life and soul of every event and celebration we had, he enriched our lives with his cheerfulness, his kindness and his love. Any cooperator who came into contact with Tom was assured of a warm and genuine welcome.

Tom was an integral member of a number of choirs, he had a unique singing voice and was always ready to entertain or organise an event to benefit the Salesian community or any other charity in which he had an interest - of which there were many.

In the last year, Tom and his wife Betty, received a civic award for their efforts to establish and help flourish their local Over 60's club in Kendal.

We are certain that together with Don Bosco he is now singing God's praises in Heaven.

Jean Birch (Kendal Cooperators)



**SALESIAN COOPERATORS
Regulations of Apostolic Life (RAL)**



On 12 July, 1876, Don Bosco wrote to his Salesian Cooperators with the Regulations, approved by the Holy Father, which he hoped would be a basis and a bond of unity among all his helpers. He acknowledged the important part played by his lay helpers from the beginning of the Oratory in 1841.

Our present RAL was promulgated in 1986 following a process of renewal that had taken place in all religious families after the second Vatican Council.

The World Consulting Body of the Cooperators has been undertaking a new revision of the RAL to make sure it is in keeping with our present age as well as being true to Don Bosco's inspiration. A draft version has been circulated for comment

Here in the UK we have prepared a comparison between the present RAL and the suggested draft translation. It is hoped that this will make it easier for our members to give some thought to the proposals and make suggestions. We are conscious that the English of the present translation will need a lot of work to produce a final version that is acceptable to all parts of the English Speaking World.

One comment made by Fr Chavez seemed very apt. He suggested that the Regulations should be more inspirational in tone so that they could form a basis of prayer and reflection.

In our Huyton Centre it has been our practice to use one or two paragraphs of the RAL as part of our prayer and we have felt the need expressed by Fr Chavez for a more inspirational form of words. We certainly hope that advice is heeded in the final formulation of the RAL.

The RAL should be a guide and help to all Cooperators in trying to stay faithful to their promise to follow Jesus in the style of Don Bosco. It is really important that we all share in this time of discernment about the best way of expressing these ideals in today's world.

Fr George Robson SDB (Huyton Delegate)

CELEBRATING THREE 'SPECIAL' LIVES



WINNIE PRESTON (RIP) - Cowley Cooperator

Winnie was one of the original founder members of the Cowley Cooperators. Along with her husband Vincent and several others she was enrolled by Fr Walter Fairclough SDB in 1979. Sr Teresa FMA was present as Delegate for the Group.

It is to be commended that until later years when Winnie became frail, she had never missed a Cooperators meeting. She was an extremely active member and fundraiser, holding coffee mornings in her own home and as part of a sewing group in the Convent. Her and Vincent were great followers of John Bosco. And the proud parents of Francis and Hugh who both became Salesian priests. This is no surprise given the Salesian influence in their upbringing. As a family they attended mass at Newman Hall, Littlemore run by the Salesians and the twins attended Our Ladys Primary School, where the Headteacher was Sr Charlotte FMA - followed by the Salesian College.

Winnie went on several pilgrimages to Aylesford and Our Lady of Walsingham during her lifetime. She was a loyal member of the Cooperators, retaining a great interest in the group when she could no longer attend the meetings.

Fr Graham Forristalle remembers the great hospitality he received in Winnie's house.

Kathleen Pill, Cowley Cooperators

GEORGE ROBINSON (RIP) - Cooperator



George died peacefully at his home in Colne, Lancashire on 27 April 2004. He was age 77 and had been a cooperator for over 35 years. George was the first cooperator enrolled in the Group gathered by the Salesian Sisters when they lived in Foulridge, Nr Colne. His dear friends Hilda and the late Leo Naylor was also part of that Group. As four friends they made a pilgrimage to Turin to visit the special places of St John Bosco and Mary Mazzarello on several occasions including the Centenary of Don Bosco.

George was a committed and active parishioner and delighted in his work with young people in the Youth Club of his area and in his involvement with the Salesian Holiday Scheme. George and Kathleen, Hilda and Leo catered for and entertained children on the Lake's holidays based at the Laura Vicuna Centre, Brettargh Holt. George and Leo could lay fair claim to being a high class comedy double act, and could improvise with song and dance to the delight of the children they worked with. George's home was the meeting place for the Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Colne Cooperators Group for some years after the FMA moved from the area. Following Leo's death George loyally marked his dear friends work as a lay salesian. He joined Hilda when she was presented with the Don Bosco Gold Medal to honour Leo in a Ceremony at Brettargh Holt. Sr Eileen McGarry and Fr Robert Coupe were the delegates present at that event.

George was a cricket enthusiast, following both the leagues and LCC at Old Trafford. He was a devoted postman in his area and blessed with a great sense of humour and sensitive powers of observation, especially for the young. As a parent, grandparent and friend his passing was honoured in a Requiem at Sacred Heart Church Colne led by Fr John Ashton SDB.

May George rest in peace.

Fr Graham Forristalle SDB