

## QUOTES FROM THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND REUNION (AUGUST 1996)

**FRANK HORAN:** 'My classmates were James Collett, Michael Power, James Gibbons, Gerry and Edward McGuinness, Frank Sutherland - those are some of the names I recall. Like most Old Boys, I feel we were very privileged to go to Shrigley. It was unique. There was always a feeling of joy and happiness, even though we had our little traumas.'

**BRIAN POTTER:** 'If anyone from my year (1961-62) surfaced at your reunion, perhaps you'd let me know. I have some fond memories I'd like to share.'

**KEN GREANEY:** 'I really am sorry I cannot be with you all - if only to defend myself!! If Frank Allen should seek to denigrate my painting and decorating skills: John Burke my acting performances: Kevin Deane my musical genius: Johnny Burnett my football prowess: Paul Barnes my cricketing talents or Lou Hannett my abilities in the world of work - just ignore them all. My mum thinks I'm OK!'

**PETER HINCHEY:** 'Your letter came as a great and welcome surprise! A great reminder of the four very happy years I spent at Shrigley and the welcome news that there is to be a Re-union.'

**ROBERT BROTHERHOOD:** 'I was delighted to hear of the proposed reunion from Terry Prendergast....I will be unable to attend, much to my regret, but do assure you of my best wishes for the success of the event. Any chance of it becoming an annual affair? I do hope so. PS Have you organised chips and tipsy cake for Saturday evening?'

**KEVIN CATHCART:** 'It was quite a pleasant surprise to hear from you. If I was living in England I would certainly try to make it to the Reunion...I haven't seen any Shrigley old boys for at least 30 years, though I have met some of my former teachers...I have many happy memories of Shrigley 1951-57. Kindest regards to all.'

**JOHN GRIMLEY:** 'I'm writing this note for my husband John - an ex Shrigley boy...Over the years John has spoken many times about Shrigley and it was a place I've always wanted to visit.'

**MIKE KILDUFF:** 'The Bulletin article by Eric Baggaley had much in a short space - he taught me at Shrigley...The English teachers he mentioned both taught me - James Collett for O Level and Edward Fox for A Level at Beckford - were certainly memorable for their enthusiasm...Please pass on my best wishes to anyone who remembers me - I would love to hear from anyone who does. If Eric (John) Darwell is there, tell him I still have some of his flute music if he ever wants it back!'

**PETER ROEBUCK:** 'Since speaking to you I have been thinking a lot about those far-off days - Shrigley gave me a great deal that otherwise I am sure I would have lacked - a very extensive knowledge of music, for example, and the ability to sight-read at a very early age. And there is no doubt I was generally better-educated than if I had proceeded to St Bede's Grammar School in Bradford, almost inevitably my alternative fate. I am glad you are going to the cemetery where my good friend Damien Cocksey lies. Remember me to old friends, not least, if he turns up, to Michael Winstanley. Tell him I meet his colleague in Glenridding each Easter; and also that I have been in touch with Terry Gerighty over the years. Finally one person I would like to trace is Mick Flaherty whom I knew well after he had left the order in the 1960s...Does anyone remember Rock Tansey, an excellent deep-lying centre forward for Ogilvie? He is now a leading barrister in London.'

**TONY BOOTH:** 'You may remember me. I was at Shrigley from 1951 to 1956, coming into Lower Elements as you and Eric were in Syntax or Lower Rhetoric. From 1955 until Shrigley closed I was back there as organist, at the instigation of Fr Bob Coupe. From there I went to play at St Gregory's in Bollington, first of all for Fr John Corcoran, then for Fr George Robson and finally again, for Fr Bob. Anita and I had the chance in late 1991 to take the early bath so here we are in France, enjoying our early retirement in the warmth of the Dordogne...Are there any plans to resurrect the SOBA...I would be very happy to see the SOBA going again - we put a fair amount into it the first time round...I could be the French correspondent for the SOBA - what an honour, even if unpaid! Please give my best wishes to anyone you might happen to be talking to. For our part we are always pleased to see old friends here. Please keep me in touch with future events so that we can make our plans accordingly.'

**TOM QUINANE**: 'Wishing you every success with your venture, and a happy reunion with your old friends.'

**TONY CHRISTOPHER**: 'My 3 years at Shrigley will always be very dear to me. I have some wonderful memories - it will always have a special place in my heart. I feel privileged to have been a part of Shrigley life and to have made so many good friends there. Happy, happy days!'

**JIM DONNELLY**: (1940-1945) 'Reading the mention of Bro Francis Rodgers and my contemporaries Eddie Fox and James Collett brought back many memories. I liked the photo of Shrigley as it used to be, in the Bulletin.'

**FR HENRY O'BRIEN SDB**: 'I was passing through on my way to Ireland, when I came across Eric Baggaley's article in the Salesian Bulletin and your plans for a reunion. I just want to wish you all the best for the occasion; I am sure it will be a huge success.'

**JOHN WARD** (National President, Salesian Past Pupils Association - UK): 'I was sorry to have been unable to join you for the wonderful event that you organised. I am sure it went off well and was a great success for you. Kindest regards and best wishes and many thanks for your activity on behalf of Salesian Past Pupils in your area.'

### **SHRIGLEY REMEMBERED**

**VINCENT RAFFERTY (1949-1950)**: 'Significant memories include  
1 My first house football match played in a terrible thunderstorm.  
2 Snowed in for a few days in 1947.  
3 Getting my one and only 'BLACK MARK' off Bro Mannix Hanniffy for not putting a 2 inch margin.  
(Deliberate Disobedience Charge)  
The Salesian stamp on me viz life at Shrigley was very significant in all my future academic success - I owe so much to the Don Bosco philosophy of life and educational system.'

**JOHN BOSCO WHITEHEAD**: 'I loved those feastday Academies and the concerts often being invited to take part. The church services left a great impression on me particularly the Easter Services and I remember the stroll we as choir members used to have down the drive prior to Midnight Mass at Christmas.'

One will never forget the winter of 1947 and the fun we younger ones had in the snow tobogganing and then skating on the lake. We had a great time sliding across the quad and bouncing into the mattress which had been tied to one of the corner posts. None of you may know this but I was responsible for sweeping the loose ice off the slide each night and watering it for your following day's pleasure. There is a great deal one could carry on to say but to those who remember me, thank you for making those days so happy and memorable.'

**MARTIN GRADY (1951 1955)** 'I remember many things - mostly with great pleasure - but I think the highlight of my sojourn there must have been being chosen as one of the twelve apostles for the Mandatum ceremony - although I do recall that I was St Bartholomew - rather it was the invitation into the priests' ref afterwards where I remember Fr Michael Lindsey looked after me right royally!

Eric mentioned spud bashing, which, of course, every old boy will remember with great affection - especially the occasions when the spud machine broke down or the potatoes were too rubbery for it and had to be peeled by hand - but equally memorable were the many hours spent spud-picking when we learned at first hand the real meaning of the slave trade! Fr O'Donovan wielded that tractor like a boomerang - it always came back and always before we were ready for it!

The annual walk to Buxton was a favourite of mine, as indeed were the weekly walks in the more immediate neighbourhood - Bollington, Rainow, Lyme Park, to all of which I remain deeply grateful for the love of the countryside, nature and walking itself which they engendered in me.

You did mention the possibility of arranging one or more further get-togethers and I would be interested in attending one, so please let me know well in advance. Regards to anyone who claims to remember me.'

**BERNARD RODDAM (1948-1954)** 'HAPPINESS: marching across yard after Midnight Mass and going to refectory for bun and cup of cocoa knowing tomorrow was Christmas Day and you would get a parcel from home.

SAYINGS: Fr Poggio shouting from the touchline "Come on the others!" Fr O'Brien: "Tomorrow is the feast of Mary Help of Christians and even the humble potato will appear in its elongated form."

NAUGHTY: Being trusted to 'slice' the butter and making the machine turn out 1/4" discs rather than the statutory 3/16" and guilt, guilt, whacking the priests' butter with the butter pats to make them thinner but look the same...also made really pretty pattern on their butter to divert attention from smaller size!!

BAD POINTS: Seeing all the happy 60 year olds and seeing how we all survived makes us forget the cold water, the numb hands after football (Eric showed me how to run hot water in the boot room over the wrists and bring back the circulation into the fingers, cold feet in bed if you slept by a window). I am convinced the diet was healthy and to this day, I eat porridge every day without added sugar.

The worst memory... having an illegal food parcel confiscated when I had persuaded my mother to 'take a chance' and was certain it would get through.'

**EDWIN ANTHONY CALDWELL (1951-1955)** 'PEOPLE: Fr Patrick McQuaid for his firmness and friendliness. Brother James Brockbank, the infirmarian. Fr Cyril Kennedy, again for his friendly supportive nature. Fr Edwin Slack for his twin passions, French and Cricket. Brothers Neil and Sean for their enthusiasm/competitive approach to soccer. Fr Laurence Martin whose benign appearance also hid a fierce tackle. Fr Michael Lindsay. ACTIVITIES: the monthly exercise for a Happy Death. The lovely silence of the annual retreat. Morning prep before Mass and breakfast. Skating on the lake. Special feastday meals. Maundy meal in the Priests' refectory. Christmas parcels. I also received a bad conduct mark for hypothermia, ie getting lost somewhere in Lyme Park whilst out on a Paper Chase on a windy February Sunday. I arrived back during tea with Peter Williams, not to sympathy and ministrations but to an irate and very unsympathetic clergyman who shall remain anonymous.'

**JOE LOMAX:** 'One afternoon in late summer, 1946, four new boys posed for family photographs in front of the chapel. Ted Black was going into Lower Rhetoric, Eddie Mooney, Tony Welsh and Joe Lomax were going into Upper Elements. All four were from Thornleigh. For me it was the start of six wonderful years at Shrigley. Bro Lawrence Martin, a kindly man, who later taught me Pure Mathematics when I was in Rhetoric and my son Peter, also when he was at Thornleigh later, was our form teacher and told us that one in nineteen got through. There were nineteen in our group! That autumn and winter were very severe with deep snow cutting off the drive so that Rhetoric had to bring provisions up on sledges. We built up snow from quadrangle to the terrace and made a chute down which we came on all types of sledges, even cardboard boxes. A great slide stretched diagonally across the quadrangle with a mattress tied to the wrought iron at the bottom so that no one was injured. We were allowed to wear our overcoats, no wonder because it was so cold that the holy water froze in the fonts.'

**ALBERT EMASSEY:** 'My recollections of Shrigley are many starting with the late Fr Cianter and Peter McCusker who both went to Australia. Then I remember Fr Franco who went to Blaisdon to become the first Rector there....and, not to be forgotten the late Fr Wrantham who made the concrete balustrade in front of Shrigley Hall....One great memory I can recall was in 1934 - the Laying of the Foundation Stone for the church. Hundreds of people stood in torrential rain for this ceremony...All the stone for the building of the church was transported from the quarry on the old drive, carried in an old 2-ton lorry driven by a volunteer from Stockport....The ornamental ironwork for the church was the work of Bro Reginald Wilkinson....I must not forget to mention the late Fr Guy who looked after the fantastic kitchen garden. All lovely memories.'

**MICHAEL MEYER:** 'It was during the flying bomb attacks on London that a contingent of boys were sent to Shrigley to spend their summer holiday in comparative safety....I remember three masters - Bro James Walsh, Albert Carette and John Maguire....Using a stick-string and pad I actually caught a poor unfortunate fish in the lake one day - the first and last!....We were marched into

Bollington one afternoon to see the film 'Hello, Frisco, Hello'. On our return we encountered local miners covered in coal dust coming off shift.'

**LOUIS HANNETT:** 'September 1944 saw most of that 18 now back at Shrigley and into Upper Elements. We had lost a few and gained a few but we were definitely into the mainstream with huge Seniors like Eddie Fox and Frank Sutherland looming over you, you knew your place and it was lowly.....September 1946 and into Syntax; a rather junior sort of Senior and at age 14 and a half, not quite up to it. This was the first year of getting up at 6 for morning study and that was always a killer....1947/8 probably my happiest year at Shrigley in spite of having to get up early for morning study...The Syntax of that year was a select and small band of happy warriors, Mike O'Reilly, big John Drummond, Vince Rafferty, Buffalo Bill (Edward) Cody included....And at age 16 I was beginning to feel like one of the big lads able to hold my own on the football field and a pretty useful spin bowler at cricket. Wladislaw Gurgul will not remember this but he had an effective batting technique based on the Cossack sabre sweep. I'm still peeved at the memory of corkscrewing an offbreak between his middle and off stumps without dislodging the bails.'

### **POST-REUNION AFFIRMATIONS**

**TONY CALDWELL:** 'I enjoyed my brief stay at the recent re-union. Shrigley is a lovely hotel, the graveyard so sad. I would be very interested in any further re-unions etc. Best wishes.'

**KEVIN DEAN:** 'What a weekend! A thousand thanks for organising it. I don't think I've quite recovered yet; thank God class doesn't start for another week. I thought it was great to see how much at home the women felt....What a depth of memories!'

**JOHN BURNETT:** 'We arrived home safely at 9 o'clock this morning having had the most wonderful weekend. Meeting you and our fellow Salesians in the widest sense re-inforced just what our years at Shrigley did for all of us. This weekend has also inspired us to go back into our daily lives with a renewed purpose.'

**JOE LOMAX:** 'Thank you for all the effort that you put into organising the weekend at Shrigley. It brought a lot of happiness to many people meeting old friends from a delightful era of those wonderful days spent in Cheshire.'

**TOM HOLDEN:** 'Margaret and I were delighted to be back at Shrigley. It was at times as if the clock had gone back all those years. The memories, all good, flooded back....We look forward to our next meeting.'

**JOHN BERGIN:** 'Thank you for a tremendous weekend at Shrigley.'

**TERRY PRENDERGAST:** 'Whilst there were obvious highspots, such as the service of remembrance for those buried in the cemetery, the main feature was the obvious warmth and friendship which was so apparent both amongst the 'old boys' and the Salesians who were involved. It is remarkable that after a gap, in my case of 36 years, this atmosphere can return so quickly. My wife, Elsie, now understands why Shrigley played such an important part in my life and was equally affected by the warmth of the welcome she received.'

**FRANK ALLEN:** 'May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your splendid organisation of the Shrigley Reunion in August. It was an experience I shall remember for the rest of my life. I hope there will be another one soon for I am eager to attend. Perhaps this time we could have a bit more Gregorian Chant in Rhetoric.'

**BERNARD BEDFORD**: ' Thanks for a marvellous reunion at Shrigley....It was great to see so many old (in the sense of 'of yore') faces and revive old memories, great particularly to see Ned Fox (quite a scoop to get him) and Vladislav Gurgul...Perhaps another get-together in a few years - at Ingersley?'

**EDDIE FOX**: 'Just a few lines to thank you for making possible the delightful reunion at Shrigley....It was wonderful to meet again so many people from so many different stages of ones life - from Jim Donnelly who was in my form as a boy, right down to those I only met in the later stages of my Salesian career....Incidentally, I thought we all made a pretty good sound when we sang the 'Requiem' together. Put us down for the zimmer convention - and any other encounters!'

(IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN AND HAVE NOT BEEN QUOTED, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THIS ACCIDENTAL OMISSION)