

THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

Provincial Council No. 18

The "BERT PARKINSON" Visitor's Cup.

THIS cup was presented to the Province by Mrs. Horise Parkinson, widow of Brother Albert Edward Parkinson of Chichester Circle and also of Worthing Circle, who died on October 6th 1960, both to perpetuate his memory and to implement the wish he had expressed, shortly before his death, to replace the original cup which he had presented to the Province in 1957.

BROTHER Bert Parkinson was initiated into the Weybridge Circle No. 129 and the Association in 1947, transferring to Worthing Circle No. 133 in 1950. He was Founder Vice President of Chichester Circle No. 158 when that Circle was inaugurated on May 8th 1951. Holding that office for two years he was elevated to the office of Circle President in 1953. Having completed a distinguished year as President he devoted his zeal and work on the Provincial Council. From 1959 to 1960 he was Provincial President and again in 1961 until 1963. He did much towards the foundation of Eastbourne Circle No. 188. The foundation of both Crawley Circle No. 195 and Hove Circle No. 210 were mainly the outcome of his tireless work. It was his inspiration and work which produced the Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of England at Storrington and the Annual Day of Recollection.

He was a constant visitor to Circles throughout his own Province and in others, accompanied frequently by his wife whose support and encouragement were such that Bert and Horie were known and loved by all. In his private life, as in his Catholic Career, he displayed all the virtues lesser men aspire to.

May he rest in Peace.



PRESIDENT OF CHICHESTER CIRCLE (158)

IN THE JUBILEE YEAR 2001 - 2002

PETER SERNA.

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

CmCHESTER CIRCLE NO: 158.

A brief History of the
CmCHESTER CIRCLE.

Researched and compiled from existing
Minutes, letters and Circulars available

By

Michael O'Neill

In the first instance to commemorate

The SOOth meeting of the Circle on 12th January 1993
in the presence of Ron Brown, Grand President,
and updated to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and
600th meeting on Tuesday 14th August, 2001,
in the presence of Dick Jones. MB, ChB, LRCP, MRCS.
GRAND PRESIDENT.



Peter Serna - President.

Dick Jones ~rand President.

CHICHESTER CIRCLE No: 158

ROLL OF PAST PRESIDENTS

1951 - 1953	D.J.O'CONNELL.	RIP
1953 - 1954	A.E.PARKINSON.	RIP
1954 - 1956	C.G.EVANS.	RIP
1956 - 1958	F.O'HARE.	RIP
1958 - 1959	E.J.MILLARD.	RIP
1959 - 1960	D.J.MCKENNA.	RIP
1960 - 1961	W.DARBY.	RIP
1961 - 1962	M.J.HUTCHINGS	RIP
1962 - 1963	J.FARRINGTON.	RIP
1963 - 1964	W.G.HARRIS.	RIP
1964 - 1965	.B.J.TAYLOR.	
1965 - 1966	R.G.JONES	
1966 - 1968	J.L.GEOGHEGAN	RIP
1968 - 1969	H.TREZONA.	RIP
1969 - 1970	M.O'BRIEN.	RIP
1970 - 1971	S.MACARI.	
1971 - 1972	J.MOOR	
1972 - 1973	B.W.MARTIN.	RIP
1973 - 1974	S.A.GAMBRIEL	RIP
1974 - 1975	J.D.HERNIMAN.	
1975 - 1976	R.T.WITHEY	RIP
1976 - 1977	M.D.COOMBS.	
1977 - 1978	R.T.WITHEY	RIP
1978 - 1979	P.R.GUY	
1979 - 1980	K.A.O'KEEFE	
1980 - 1981	S.A.GAMBRIEL	RIP
1981 - 1982	J.LYONS.	
1982 - 1983	A.J.WALSH.	
1983 - 1984	J.LYONS.	
1984 - 1985	A.F.T.MARNER	RIP
1985 - 1986	B.J.TAYLOR.	
1986 - 1987	C.J.DARBY	RIP
1987	R.J.STANLEY	RIP
1987 - 1989	T.COLLIER.	RIP
1989 - 1990	M.P.O'NEILL	
1990 - 1991	T.J.McDONALD	
1991 - 1992	E.F.BEDFORD	
1992 - 1993	R.A.GWYNNE.	
1993 - 1994	A.WATTS.	
1994 - 1995	A.WATTS	
1995 - 1996	P.J.B.TAYLOR	
1996 - 1997	M.A.POLLOCK	
1997 - 1998	M.P.O'NEILL	
1998	D.OWGAN (resigned)	
1998 - 1999	M.P.O'NEILL	
1999 - 2000	V.WESTON	
2000 - 2001	A.J.WALSH	
2001 - 2002	P.A.SERNA	

PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS.

1955 - 1956	D.J.O'CONNELL.	RIP
1959 - 1960	A.E.PARKINSON	RIP
1962 - 1963	A.E.PARKINSON	RIP
1973 - 1974	B.J.TAYLOR	
1984 - 1985	S.GAMBRIEL.	RIP
1997 - 1998	A.J.WALSH	
2001 - 2002	M.P.O'NEILL.	

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION.

CHICHESTER CIRCLE NO 158.

"We, the undersigned, Catholic Professional and Businessmen of West Sussex, are desirous that a Circle be established in CHICHESTER and prey the Grand council to take the necessary steps towards the foundation of such Circle"

This was the formal application to Grand Council requesting that a Circle be established in Chichester.

In the minutes of the third preliminary meeting held on 12th March 1951, the following decision was made:

"That a Circle of The Catenian Association should be formed under the style and heading WEST SUSSEX CIRCLE".

Thus the application was granted, and the inaugural meeting was held at Kimball's Restaurant, North Street, Chichester, (now Marks and Spencer) on Tuesday 8th May 1951.

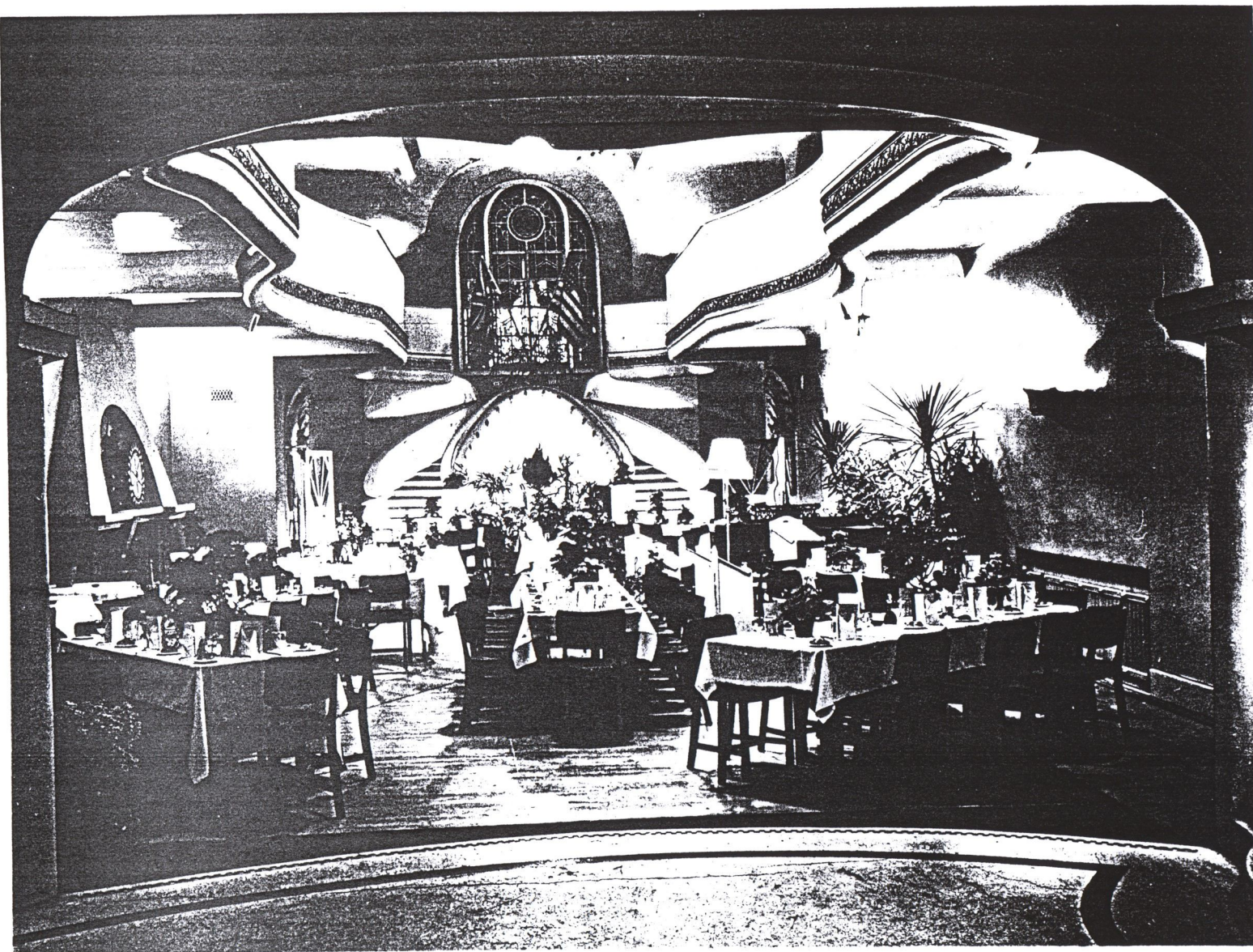
A letter from Frank Rudman, Grand Secretary, dated 2nd May 1951 to founder President Dave O'Connell stated that "we certainly are in trouble in regard to the name of this Circle, and unless you are prepared to agree that the name shall be CHICHESTER, I can do nothing about it until the next meeting of Grand Council, because the Charter was granted for CHICHESTER, and, as a matter of fact, Grand Council is very chary about granting Charters to districts such as West Sussex. After all, as time goes on there may be the need for another Circle in West Sussex, apart from Worthing and yourselves, what are we going to do then? Further, too, I cannot alter the Charter, neither can I do anything with the President's visiting badge." Other correspondence from Head Office referred to a "general slip up in regard to the name of the Circle." In correspondence and discussions with members of the Provisional Council, "only the name CHICHESTER has been spoken of, consequently the Charter, the Register and the visiting badge have been prepared on the basis of CHICHESTER. Incidentally, I notice that there is no name of the Circle at all on the note paper used..."

Grand Secretary in a further letter dated 4th May 1951 refused to accept the responsibility for the mess "that you would desire to plant on me."

West Sussex Circle became the fourth Circle in Province 18, and 25 Brothers signed the Roll at that first meeting, at which there were 47 visitors, including Grand President J.Dermot Walsh, Grand Secretary Frank Rudman, and a future Grand President, Dick Last, together with a good support from Brothers of Worthing and Portsmouth Circles.

It is interesting to note, that without any apparent discussion noted in either Council or Circle minutes, the Circle became the CHICHESTER AND WEST SUSSEX CIRCLE, from the second meeting.

1951 was the year of the Festival of Britain, and founder President Dave O'Connell



The House of Kimball, North Street, Chichester. Venue for the first meeting and inaugural Dinner of the West Sussex Circle No 158, of the Catenian Association, on Tuesday 8th May 1951. The Restaurant and ballroom was owned by Laurie Kimbell, a Chichester founder Brother, and was used for meetings for the first twelve months.

(a member of Blackheath Circle) announced that functions for the first year would be in connection with the Festival, and he also advised that he had attended the Association's Annual General Meeting, which was held in Harrogate, the venue for the 1993 AGM. (This history of Chichester Circle having been compiled for the 40th anniversary in January 1993 – purely coincidence!)

The Korean War was being fought in 1951, and mention is made of the sons of two Brothers, one of whom was missing, and the other listed of prisoner of war.

In Peter Lane's recent history of the Association, there is but one mention of Chichester, which is, indeed significant, as our Founder President, Dave O'Connell, designed the Grand President's chain of office in 1957, currently worn by our current Grand President. (Brother Ron Brown in 1993, and Brother Dick Jones in 2001). Details of the commissioning of this work, and it's crafting are detailed in an article in the October 1992 issue of "Catena." Brother Dave also painted the Altar backdrop and the Stations of the Cross, at St. Richard's Church, in Chichester – a fact commemorated by a plaque donated by Chichester Circle, and found beneath the station on the south wall of the Nave, nearest the Altar.

Brother Dave was followed by Bert Parkinson as President, and his name is remembered each month at the Circle in Province 18, holding the Bert Parkinson Visitors cup, donated to Province by his widow Louie, on 14th November 1966. The Circle with the highest contingent of visiting Brothers at the meeting of the holding Circle, over a total of five, is entitled to take it back to their Circle until it is claimed by the next Circle with sufficient visiting Brothers. It replaces the original, donated by Brother Bert, as apparently space had run out through the engraving of the winning Circle's name each time. The Illuminated scroll accompanying the cup was beautifully created by one of the Nuns of our local Carmelite Convent, at Hunston, to which the dates of the winning Circle are noted. (See frontispiece). We remembered the Carmelite Nuns each year, (until they were dispersed to other convents in the mid 1990s on the sale of the convent) each year on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul with a gift of fish and strawberries and cream, the fish gift first introduced, on the idea of Brother "Pop" Wilson, on their Founder's day, subsequently changing to the end of June, for the strawberry season! The original cost to the Circle of this gift was 26/-!

The first annual Dinner and Dance was held in January 1952 at the House Of Kimball, the cost of a ticket being 21/-, and 15/- for visitors. Brother Treasurer reported at this time that the Circle was nearly broke!

A copy of the menu cover is reproduced elsewhere.

The opening prayers at the February 1952 Circle meeting included one for the late King, George VI, and for the new Queen, for which a Mass was to be arranged.

In June 1952, the venue for Circle meetings was moved to the Dolphin and Anchor Hotel, in West Street, Chichester. Meetings continued there until 1975. when the Circle venue moved to the Chichester Motel, subsequently changed to the Resort Hotel, and currently "The Jarvis Hotel"

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Chichester and West Sussex Circle



FIRST ANNUAL
DINNER *and* DANCE

at

THE HOUSE OF KIMBELL

North Street - Chichester

Wednesday, 23rd January, 1952

President : Bro. D. J. O'CONNELL

The minutes of the December 1952 meeting mentioned that the table cloths were embroidered by Mrs. Street, who was the sister of Brother Don McKenna, of East Wittering. She refused any remuneration for her work other than a Mass be said for her Husband. The Circle, however, sanctioned a gift of £5 value to Mrs. Street.

In February 1953, the Circle agreed to forward a letter of objection to Joynson Hicks, the local M.P., to the proposed State visit of Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. It was reported back that the then Foreign Secretary had already conveyed the views of the Government to the Yugoslavs. (Probably human rights issues)

On April 13th 1954, Ted Bailey was enrolled, sponsored by Don McKenna. Brother Don was always on hand to greet visitors and fellow Brothers alike at Circle meetings, which he rarely missed. He is still remembered by visiting Brothers (possibly by his diminutive stature?). Ted, therefore, is the longest serving Brother of the Circle, a period of 47 years at the time of our 600th meeting in 2001.

Dave O'Connell became our first Provincial President in 1955, and it is noted that Grand President R. Richards paid a visit to the Circle in August 1955.

A report to the A.G.M. in April 1957 mentioned a record amount of visits, despite petrol rationing, and we even took the visitors cup from Portsmouth (?) that year. (There must have been an inter Province cup then).

Brother John Gilbert was elected to the City Council, and later became Mayor of Chichester, whilst a Catenian.

In March 1958, it was estimated that there would be 25 to 26 Brothers in the Circle during the coming year.

Provincial Council in 1958 advised that Brother Dave O'Connell along with two other Brothers, be made permanent members of Provincial Council, in recognition of their past services.

Up to 1958, Worthy Brother President served two years, and it was decided that, in future, this period would be reduced to one year.

The Golden Jubilee of the association took place in Blackpool in 1958, and Brother Dave O'Connell designed the programme for this event.

In 1959 Brother Bert Parkinson became Provincial President, the second Chichester Brother to hold this Office in eight years. He went on to hold the Office again in 1962-3. He was instrumental in the formation of Eastbourne, Crawley and Hove Circles. He also proposed that a Pilgrimage be made to the Shrine of Our Lady of England, at Storrington, which was accepted and was a forerunner of the annual pilgrimage to Storrington, now arranged by Province 18.

In 1960 Grand Secretary Laurie Tanner, wrote to Chichester Circle stating that the name of the Circle should be CHICHESTER (158) and not CHICHESTER AND WEST SUSSEX. It apparently appeared on the original Charter, which he had discovered on reading the correspondence of 1951! The Circle took a vote on this matter, and it was agreed that from November 1960, that the Circle be known as

CHICHESTER, and that a new Charter be drawn up, as the original one had disappeared.

In March 1961 the Circle presented a Catenian Cup to the new Catholic Blessed Philip Howard School at Barnham.

The annual attendance statistic at Chichester Circle meetings in June 1961 was 66.10%. An existing Directory of 1961-2 confirms that there were 28 Brothers on the Circle Roll. Brother Brian Taylor first visited the Chichester Circle from Birmingham in November 1961. By April 1964, he had become President. Another visiting Brother in 1962, was Tony D'Avray from Lusaka Circle, who later transferred to Chichester.

In June 1962, it was proposed that the annual offering of fish to the local Carmelite Convent be made, hereafter, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, which remained until the closing of the Convent, as already mentioned. Brother Bill Harris was thanked by the Circle for having the Charter properly framed, in October 1965.

In 1966, the Circle proposed to make objections to the forthcoming abortion Bill, to the local M.P. Walter Lovys. Correspondence states that whilst he noted our concern, he was unable to support this objection.

The 200th meeting of the Circle was in December 1967, presided over by President J.Leslie Geoghegan.

At this point, regrettably, the records of the Circle, with one or two exceptions, from the 217th meeting in April 1968, to the 416th meeting in April 1986 were lost, when the then Secretary, Dave Lewis, died. He was admitted to hospital for tests, which necessitated surgery, from which he never recovered. Unfortunately, Brother Dave had no living relatives, and his trustees cleared his house of all his possessions before we had time to realise that this was happening, and were unable, therefore, to recover the records.

During the 1970's the period of these missing records, the Chichester Presidents were Martin O'Brien, Saverio Macari, John Moor, Bernard Martin, Sydney Gambriel, John Herniman, Reg Withey on two separate years, Mike Coombs, Peter Guy and Kevin O'Keefe.

It was a period which strengthened and consolidated the Circle, and which produced many outstanding Presidents. Sydney Gambriel will be remembered particularly for re-dedicating the Storrington Pilgrimage to the memory of deceased wives of Catenian Brothers.

John Herniman ran a Christmas stall for the Circle to raise money for the annual Sussex Chaplaincy bazaar at Brighton for a number of years.

Brian Taylor became Chairman of the National Justice and Peace Commission, and in 1973 he became our third Provincial President.

It is noted from the Register that the meeting in October 1971 was held jointly with West Surrey at the Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead – the only opportunity for both Circles to get together, as we both met on the same night.

The 300th Circle Meeting of the Circle was held on 11th May 1976, when Mike Coombs was President.

During the 1970's the Circle welcomed many new Brothers, some joining the Association for the first time, and some transferring in, due to moving to the area. Amongst those signing the Roll were Michael Martin, John Herniman, Reg Withey, Peter Guy, Kevin O'Keefe, John West, Francis Gundry, Clive Buss, Michael O'Neill, Tony Walsh, Jerry Lyons, Max Fox, Doug Dyer, George French, Andrew Marner, Pat Saulet, Bernard Power, Laddie Gannon, Alan Greenwood, Raymond May, Chris Darby, Aidan Curtis, Frank Wickham Smith, Terry McDonald, Terry Molland, Terence Sweeney, and Peter Taylor. (Not necessarily a complete list – Ed)

The enrolment of Chris Darby in November 1981, was a landmark in the Circle's history, as we reached the 50th member, for the first time, shortly followed by another enrolment in January 1982.

The Circle presented a Black Forest Gateau, supplied by the Macari establishment to the Carmelite Convent in October 1982, to mark their centenary at Hunston.

The Brothers of the Circle were deeply saddened in April 1983, by the death in a road accident, of Jeanne Guy, at Shoreham Bridge, wife of recent past President, Peter, and the mother of two children. Ironically, the family were on their way to the funeral of Peter's father, in Brighton. The effect on Peter was devastating, and he left the Association, soon afterwards.

Brother Martin O'Brien received the Bene Merenti from Bishop Cormac in September 1983.

Sydney Gambriel, a much respected and loved Brother of the Association, became our fourth Provincial President of Province 18 in May 1984.

John Stanley transferred to Chichester from Dublin Circle in June 1984. and in July, President Andrew Marner held his Presidential Mass at St Wilfrid's in Selsey, which was followed by an excellent dinner, at The Double Barn Hotel, overlooking the sea. The Circle benefited from the transfer-in of Tom Collier, a stalwart Catenian, from Hull Circle, in December 1984, followed the next month by Denis Savill, transferring in from West Surrey.

An important decision was taken by Circle, after many years of attempts and discussion, to become a dining Circle, achieved by the inspiration and hard work of President Chris Darby, and the first after-Circle dinner was in September 1985. By and large, this proved to be a very beneficial move, especially in giving Brothers and visiting gentlemen more time together, to get to know each other more closely, not only of the Circle, but of visiting Brothers too.

In January 1986 Brother Max Fox, and Julie, his wife, hosted a tea party for children, (and adults!) who had attended the annual pantomime at Bognor. This event continued for a number of years, and the Circle's thanks were always expressed by Brother President.

The Circle's first recorded wedding took place in July 1986, of Brother Iain Martin to Marie, at St. Richard's Church, Chichester, and they were presented with a pair of engraved crystal goblets by the Brothers of Chichester.

The Circle was saddened by the passing of Martin O'Brien in February 1987, followed shortly after by George Evans, both fine Catholics and Catenians. The next sad loss was of Brother President John Stanley, in October 1987, who died suddenly whilst under a medical check-up with his doctor. This was a severe blow not only to his wife Jane and his family, but to the Circle and the Association. John was half way through his Presidency, in what would have been an outstanding year. He had a great fondness and knowledge of trees, and he died on the eve of the great hurricane of 1987, perhaps thankfully missing the enormous destruction of the great woods in the area.

Brother Tom Collier, immediately took on the President's mantle, which he undertook for a period of eighteen months, with great flair and success.

In November 1987, it was learned that Nan O'Connell, widow of founder President Dave, had died, and in February 1988, Brother Secretary Dave Lewis, had passed away whilst undergoing surgery. Dave had spent ten years looking after his elderly Mother, in which time, although remaining a Catenian, had not attended a meeting. Once she had passed away, Dave, a local Solicitor, returned to regular attendance, and soon became Secretary. He will be remembered for his subtle and amusing wit. Sadly he left no relatives. His requiem was attended by many friends and colleagues. Roy Clayton took over the secretarial duties in March of that year.

In May 1988, Brother Frank O'Hare, the last surviving founder Brother of Chichester Circle, and currently a Brother of Worthing, was re-enrolled as a life member of Chichester, by President Tom Collier. That same evening, which was a Ladies night, after dining, Sydney Gambriel was presented with an engraved decanter, in recognition of his sterling services to the Association, both to Chichester, and Province 18. Bouquets of flowers were presented to both Alice O'Hare, and to Lilian Gambriel. It was one of those wonderful spontaneous Catenian evenings. Sadly Brother Frank died in September of that year.

Ron Gwynne transferred-in to Chichester from Runnymede the following month.

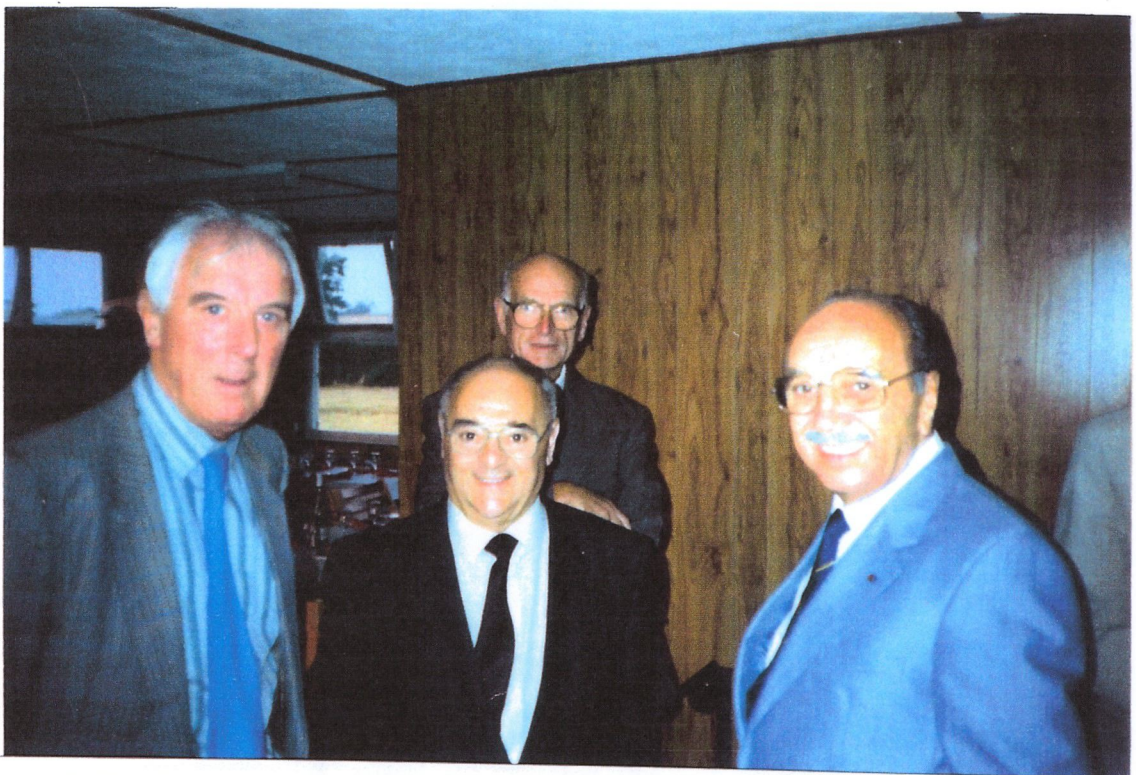
The Circle created a unique occasion in August 1989, by holding the Circle meeting at Brother Freddy Sherman's vineyard at Steyning, and, as this was a special occasion, the Ladies were invited. We were entertained to a buffet in Freddy's "wine appreciation centre", with food mainly prepared by his daughter Monty. As an anti-climax, the Circle purchased its own secondhand typewriter the same month!

Sydney Gambriel entered hospital in September 1989, and after being allowed home after a couple of weeks, continued in ill health, and sadly died at home, in October. He had been a dedicated Catenian in both Norwood and Chichester Circles, and the attendance at his requiem at Storrington testified to the love and affection in which he was held in the Association, and by his friends. He will be sadly missed by his wife Lilian.

1989



**At the unique Circle Meeting and Ladies Night, at
Brother Freddy Sherman's vinyard at Steyning in August 1989
Jerry Lyons - Provincial Councillor, Michael O'Neill - President
and Tom Collier - immediate Past President.**



**In Freddy Sherman's Wine Appreciation Centre at Steyning.
Chichester Brothers Chris Darby and Savario Macari, with
Jim Davies in the background, and Past Grand President
Aldo Bagatti both from Worthing.**

1990 saw extensive rebuilding at our venue, which changed its name to the Chichester Resort Hotel, and meetings were held in mysterious places, amongst the rubble, including a double bedroom (with en-suite of course!) On more than one occasion, we found ourselves outside, either from the meeting, or a dinner (including Clergy Night) due to an over zealous fire alarm system.

Doug Dyer died in April 1990, another Brother who will be sadly missed, Doug had been a great supporter of the Presidential visits to other Circles, and prior to his death had had a part time job as a steward at the local crematorium. One remembers bringing him home from a visit to another Circle on a grim February night, boasting that the Crem only needed another four in the next few days to beat their previous record.

A very sobering thought for the driver - there were four in the car that evening!

Dennis and Joan Merrien were married in August 1990.

The Circle again held the Circle meeting at Freddy Sherman's vinyard at Steyning. There were many visiting Brothers, and a successful Ladies night followed, with a buffet. However the weather was somewhat chilly, as the evening progressed.

In September 1990, the Circle posed for the photographer, who caught a record 31 Brothers of the Circle all together! Brother Terry McDonald, as President inspired and suggested this occasion. Brother Terry and his wife, Ann entertained our widows to lunch and tea during the Christmas period.

Having slumped to 38 members in January 1986, the Circle achieved a membership of 46, with the enrolment of John Evans, in January 1991. Unfortunately, this dropped to 44 with the resignation of Peter Woodward, and the sudden death of Laddie Gannon, in hospital in London during March.

In April 1991, Brother Ted Bedford became President, but was to face a difficult year, in that his employment with the Chichester Works Organisation, and therefore his accommodation, was terminated, on a take-over of the company of which he was managing director. With Francis, his wife, they decided to move back to Hertfordshire, to be near their family. However, he resolved to continue his Presidential duties, from July, and managed to attend all but one Council and one Circle meeting for the rest of his year, for which the circle were most grateful. During the year, the annual Circle meeting at Freddy Sherman's vinyard took place a month earlier, in July, and Freddy laid on the most delicious spit-roast Iamb. Chichester Brothers made use of a mini bus this time, and both visiting Brothers and wives enjoyed a great evening, with excellent weather. Freddy was congratulated on such delicious Iamb, and questioned where he had obtained it, replied "you see that field over there?"

December 1991 saw the first joint Dinner Dance with the newly formed Arundel Circle, and an enjoyable night was had by all those attending. The Dinner dance was held at the New England College, near Arundel.

A few days later, the Circle was devastated to learn that Brother Tom Collier had died at the St.Wilfrid's Hospice, Dormington. Tom had been diagnosed as having

1990



THE CHICHESTER CIRCLE (158) of THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Photograph taken after the Circle meeting in September 1990

Back row left to right:

Aidan Curtis Peter Taylor Kevin McLafferty Robert Crane Graham Hicks George French Roy Clayton David Hannant Terry Molland

Middle row left to right:

Tony Watts Ron Gwynne George Nyland Laddie Gannon Ted Bedford Peter Ash Pat Saulet Freddy Sherman Denis Savill
Dennis Merrien Jerome O'Hea Bernard Power

Front row left to right:

Michael O'Neill Savario Macari Jerry Lyons Andrew Marner Terry McDonald (President) Tony Walsh Chris Darby Tom Collier
John West Brian Taylor

advanced forms of cancer, some two or three weeks previously, after complaining of chest pains during a visit to Hove Circle, after his weekly game of tennis. He was totally unaware of his illness prior to that game. Brother Tom had done so much for, not only Chichester, but in serving as President in other Circles to which he had belonged over many years, and he is sadly missed.

By March 1992 the Circle membership had again dropped to 36. The Brothers were able to congratulate Jerome O'Hea in becoming a KHS, and Terry Molland on his appointment as a J.P.

In May 1992 the Circle was visited by Grand President of three days, Ron Brown, and this being his first Grand Presidential visit in Province 18. This coincided with our first Vocational Mass, conducted by Canon Richard Incledon at the Chichester Resort Hotel, held between the Circle meeting and Ladies night dinner.

In July 1992, the annual Circle meeting at the vinyard had to be changed at the last minute, due to inclement weather, and Brother Freddy managed to arrange for the meeting to be held at Coombs Farm, near Lancing College. The actual meeting was held in a 12th century shepherds Church on the farm, with no electricity!

The meeting was well attended by Province, after a hectic twenty four hours in contacting everyone within the Circle and Province. We again welcomed Brother Grand President, and it was a fitting occasion for President Ron Gwynne to enrol Leon de Brunner and Tony Donnelly. Afterwards, some 90 Brothers, wives and visitors sat down to a buffet supper in the barn, which had been organised by Brother Freddy Sherman, who was thanked by all and sundry for a splendid evening, despite some overloading of the national grid when the kettle was turned on for coffee.

The 1992 Dinner dance was again held at the New England College, jointly with Arundel, attended by some 70 guests.

The Circle is most fortunate in having two glass engravers, one being Tony Watts, and Brian Taylor's wife, Majella, whom we must thank for a number of commissions to mark presentations. Majella recently completed a commission which was presented to the Queen, on the occasion of the opening of the A55 North Wales coast road, and the Conway Tunnel.

The 500th meeting of Chichester Circle, for which this brief history has been prepared, was held on Tuesday 12th January 1993, at the Chichester Resort Hotel, in the presence of Grand President Ron Brown, Grand Director Arthur McKivett, who went on to become Grand President in 1999 – 2000, Provincial President Jerry Daly, The Rev Canon Richard Incledon, The Dean of Chichester, John Threadgold.

Mr Stephen Hogan and Mr Andrew Boyd were duly enrolled into the Association, bringing our membership back to 40. A history of the Circle was presented to "the two Ronnies," Ron Gwynne and Ron Brown, and a colour copy of the illuminated scroll which accompanies the visitors cup was presented to our Mother Circle, Worthing. 29 Chichester Brothers attended and there were 59 visiting Brothers. Freddy Sherman's daughter, Monty, made a ginger cake, and Freddy presented two bottles of his own vinyard's wine for the raffle, which raised £200.

In February, a skittles evening was held at The Gribble Inn between Chichester and Arundel Circles.

Terence and Teresa Sweeney celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on St. Valentine's day.

The new Catenian year started with Tony Watts being installed as President, but there was no Vice President forthcoming. Brother Treasurer (Terry Molland) reported that we now had £2096 in the bank. Subscriptions for under 65s for 1993-4 was £83. and he was happy to hand over a healthy balance to Peter Comrie, the new Treasurer.

George French resigned due to ill health, and in May, we were saddened by the death of John West. In June that year, the circle held the first race night at Goodwood, and the July meeting was a ladies night, again held at Coombs Farm, Lancing.

The first Chichester sponsored Golf match was held in August, at the Goodwood Park Hotel Golf course. This was devised and organised by Brother Tony Walsh.

Leon de Brunner resigned, and a sad occasion in July was the death of Michelle Pieters, daughter of Ron and Nell Gwynne. The Circle had sponsored a trip to Lourds for Michelle, but she did not survive to benefit from this gesture.

During this month the Circle enjoyed a harbour boat trip, followed by supper laid on by Anne and Peter Taylor at their home in Itchenor

Chichester Circle won a team and individual prize at a golf competition, held by Crawley Circle at Cottesmore Golf Club.

In December of 1993, the Circle presented a cheque to Grand President Michael Cusack for £350 for the new Bursary fund, at a function held by Haywards Heath Circle.

In January 1994, Maurice Pollock transferred back to Chichester, from Fleet Circle, and Jerry Lyons presented a new gavel and base, on celebrating his 50 years as a teacher. In February, the Circle meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to the heavy flooding of the City – in fact, the Venue was completely surrounded by water from the overflowing river Lavant, which runs (normally) past the Hotel.

We therefore lost a meeting.

Brothers Benny Pieters and David Owgan were enrolled into the Association in May and June, respectively. In May, a 40 year scroll was presented to Ted Bailey, our oldest serving Brother. Brother Jerry Lyons presented a brooch to Joan Watts, on President's Sunday in the grateful thanks of the Circle to Tony (and Joan) for continuing as President for a second year. The annual Barbecue and Circle meeting were held at the Goodwood Park Hotel for the first time, in July, and in November the Circle held a joint Dinner Dance with Arundel, at the same location. Peter and Anne Taylor held an excellent Christmas party at their home, in December.

Congratulations were conveyed to Elizabeth O'Hea on becoming Dame of the Holy Sepulchre.

In April 1995, Nick Jarman was enrolled, but Jim D'Alton Harrison and Raymond May both resigned. President's Mass was held at East Wittering and afterwards at Brother Peter Taylor's home in Itchenor. The annual Barbecue and meeting, including the Ladies was again held at the Goodwood Park Hotel in July. Stephen Hogan, the Secretary, sent his apologies on this occasion, as he had apparently been told to rest, by his doctor. Brother Michael O'Neill took over again as Secretary in the interim.

Congratulations were conveyed to Jerome O'Hea, on being appointed an O.B.E., in the recent Honours list. Jerry and Sheila Lyons celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in July.

In September the Circle meeting was again held at the Dolphin and Anchor Hotel, which was a ladies night. On this occasion, a cheque was presented to Carol Sleven on behalf of the Christian Care Home, in Hunston.

In August, it was agreed to put up a flyer in the local Church porches advertising our existence, in a drive for recruitment. Our venue changed hands again, and is now known as The Jarvis Hotel. In November, it was confirmed that Stephen Hogan was unemployed, but in actual fact he had been charged with embezzling clients money from his Law firm, he was found guilty, and was sent to Prison for a number of years. Needless to say, he forfeited membership.

In December 1995, another visit to the Bognor Pantomime followed by tea at Max and Julie Fox's house was greatly enjoyed. Ann and Maurice held a Christmas Party at their house in Singleton.

In February 1996, a new letter head with Chichester's historic Market Cross depicted to identify the Circle with our ancient City. Peter Ash resigned and Circle stood at 33.

Tony Walsh became Provincial Vice President and Michael O'Neill took over his old job as Provincial Membership Officer, in April.

In June the President's Mass was held at Singleton Church of England Parish Church, the first time that a Catholic Mass had been held there for a long time. Afterwards, tea was held at Ann and Maurice Pollock's home, The Old Post Office, at Singleton.

In June, Andrew Marner celebrated his 90th Birthday, and Tony Crist was enrolled into the Circle. In July, the annual joint meeting with Arundel was followed by a barbecue, which was also attended by the ladies.

In August, Noel Derrick was enrolled, bringing the number up to 35.

Project 2008 made its first appearance in all Circles.

In September, Chris Dwyer was enrolled – now 36 members. It was followed by the sad news that Jackie Dyer, widow of Doug, had died. Although Jackie was not a Catholic, a strong turn out of Brothers attended her funeral.

October saw another skittles match with Arundel, at The Gribble Inn, in Oving.

In November the Circle was saddened to hear that Audrey D'Avray, wife of Tony, had died. Audrey had been in a coma for six years, and Tony had been to see her every day over this long period, but he did manage to write a book, and get it published in this time.

Another successful Christmas dinner and ladies night was enjoyed at The Inglenook Restaurant, in December.

In January 1997, the Circle was able to congratulate Jerry Lyons on being made a Knight Commander of the KHS.

In February Mike Doran was enrolled bringing the number up to 36.

March saw the installation of Michael O'Neill as President, for the second time, with David Owgan as his Vice President, for 1997-8. Mike Coombs took over as Secretary.

In April Tony Walsh was installed as our 5th Provincial President, with Michael O'Neill continuing as Provincial Membership Officer, and Peter Taylor as Provincial Councillor – three Brothers from Chichester on Provincial Council.

In May an afternoon walk was arranged in the Midhurst area, followed by supper at The Hollist Arms, in Lodsworth, all thoroughly enjoyed by those Brothers and their wives who participated. In June the three Circles of Chichester, Arundel, and Worthing Chanctonbury took full advantage of the special marquee available for the forthcoming Arundel Castle Cricket week, by holding a Summer Ball in the marquee.

This was well attended by some 90 revellers from all over Province, and the dancing was to a steel band, from South London.

In May 1997, the annual Conference was held at Brighton, and a number of Brothers from Chichester assisted as marshals and stewards. Tony and Alice Walsh with Arthur McKivett spearheaded Province 18's involvement in the running of the Conference together with Head Office.

In August 1997, there was a joint meeting again with Arundel at the Goodwood Park Hotel, followed by a barbecue, and also attended by the ladies. On this occasion, Grand President, John Barrie was invited, and prior to the meeting, accompanied Michael O'Neill, President, and Tony Walsh, Provincial President, to the home of Brother Pat Saulet, for the presentation to Pat of a scroll to mark 40 years as a Catenian. This illuminated scroll had been prepared by Alan Pease of Tunbridge Wells Circle. Pat was not well enough to attend the Circle meeting. John and Una Barrie stayed the night at Brian and Majella Taylor's newly established Bed and Breakfast establishment in the centre of Chichester, and the following day the Taylors took them on a guided tour of the area.

After the October meeting, the Circle entertained some 6 visiting gentlemen as guests of the Circle. There was a skittles evening arranged with Arundel at The Maypole Inn, Yapton again in October, but when the teams arrived at the Inn it had contrived a double booking. Having retrieved our deposit, and John Moor from Arundel being very quick off the mark, he suggested that some fish and chips was purchased and all go back to his place in Slindon. Tony and Alice Walsh were delegated to get the food from a "Chippy" in Barnham, only to find that it had recently been burned down. Luckily the Wine store was still open, so enough liquid refreshment was available whilst the assembled company awaited the arrival of the fish and chips, which eventually came from Chichester! Despite all the problems it turned out to be a great spontaneous evening.

Brother Peter Taylor was congratulated on his passing the Bar exams, and becoming a Barrister, after many years of study.

Again in October, it was reported that Chris Darby had to be taken in to hospital, and this unfortunately revealed symptoms unlikely to be curable.

John Aldred was enrolled in November 1997, and in December Val Weston rejoined Chichester as a dual member. The Christmas dinner was again held at The Inglenook Restaurant, at which the wives and friends were entertained. A raffle raised £90 for the President's Charity. The Circle was delighted to learn that Benny Pieters married Francis in December 1997. and they were duly congratulated

In February 1998 the Circle entertained The Hon. Nona Byrne, from The Catholic Building Society to dinner, after which she gave a talk on the activities of the Society. The Circle was saddened to hear that two widows, Eileen Skinner and Alice O'Hare had both died within the past weeks, and Andrew Marner died at the age of 91. His funeral was held on February 24th. and many friends and Brothers were in attendance. Noel Derrick resigned at this time, having re-married, and his new wife was semi invalid, so he felt he could not give time to the Association.

In April, David Owgan was installed as President, with Val Weston as his Vice President.

Roy Clayton died, and his funeral was held in East Wittering on April 7th, which was well attended by friends and Brothers. The Circle was now 36 strong.



Top. Members of Chichester and Worthing Circles with their wives, enjoying the Chichester Harbour cruise in 1998.



Bottom picture: After the joint meeting with Arundel, at the Goodwood Park Hotel in July 1997, Brother Brian Taylor with Grand President John Barrie and his wife, Una at the barbecue.

On May 30th Brother Val Weston arranged a visit to Ballard's Brewery, together with Arundel Brothers. Val's son, Francis, is the Brewmaster, and afterwards the party went back to the Weston household for a buffet supper.

The Provincial lunch to celebrate the year of Tony Walsh was held at the White Hart Hotel in Lewes, and a presentation was made to Tony and Alice in recognition of their successful year. On 9th June the Circle Charter night was celebrated, together with the ladies, with a barbecue at the Itchenor Sailing Club. Paul Mellings was enrolled.

Unfortunately, David Owgan tendered his resignation as President, as he felt unable to carry on in his present situation, so after a hastily arranged extraordinary general meeting, Michael O'Neill agreed to fill the office for the remainder of the Presidential year. His first task was President's Sunday, and after a 3pm Mass at St. Richard's the party went across the road to Brian and Majella's garden for a fine tea, prepared by the Westons.

On 14th June it was learned that Chris Darby had died, which was a great shock to his family and the Circle. Chris had been an inspirational past President, and also membership officer at the time of his death.

In July, Michael O'Neill was duly installed (again) as President, and he enrolled Kevin Williams into the Circle. Soon after, Pat Saulet died, another shock for the family and Circle, as Pat was a long serving and well respected member of the Association.

Worthing Circle joined the Brothers and their wives for a harbour trip, followed by supper at The Lamb Inn, in West Wittering. A Joint Circle meeting was held with Arundel, at the Arundel venue.

In October the Circle commissioned a Circle tie, and the approved design was placed on order. Michael O'Neill and Tony and Alice Walsh joined a party from Province to attend the annual Malta week in November. On December 5th the annual Christmas dinner with, the ladies, was held again at The Inglenook Restaurant.

On February 7th 1999, Freddy Sherman died at his new home near Winchester, and many Brothers of Province attended his funeral, held at The Towers, Henfield. Congratulations were offered to Jerome O'Hea on being promoted to Knight Commander of KHS, and Sheila Lyons to Dame Commander of the order of the Holy Sepulchre.

In March, a monthly lunch meeting was started, at the George and Dragon, in North Street. In April, Val Weston was installed as President, and Tony Walsh became Vice President. In May, Michael O'Neill agreed to take over the new post of Circle Press Officer, an idea of Province 18, which was duly adopted by Grand Council the following year for each Circle. Peter Serna transferred to Chichester, from Arundel, but Nick Jarman had to resign due to pressure of work, as he was away so much. In June there was another joint meeting with Arundel at Chichester's venue, and a theatre visit to see "The Importance of being Earnest" at the Chichester Festival Theatre was arranged.

Unfortunately Max Fox and David Owgan both resigned at this time.

On 31st July the annual barbecue was held again at the Itchenor Sailing Club. Also enjoyed by the ladies, and many Brothers from Province. Nigel Homes was enrolled in to the Circle. President's Sunday was held at Midhurst in August, although the turn out was somewhat disappointing, as it was a holiday month.

Robert Crane and Tony Donnelly both resigned, bringing the number down to 31. The after dinner speaker following the October Circle meeting was the Rev David Weston, brother of Val, who gave us a talk about his experiences on his latest trip to Mexico, and the Parish Priest of Midhurst, Fr Emmanuel Agius was present.

November witnessed a skittles match with Portsmouth at The Spur, in Slindon. Chichester won this match!

There was no Circle or Council meeting in December, but the Christmas Dinner was held at The Ship Hotel, in North Street, Chichester.

In January 2000, David Blower was enrolled into the Circle bringing the membership back to 32, but in March, John Aldred resigned due to too many commitments abroad. April saw the installation of Tony Walsh as President again, and Peter Serna agreed to serve as Vice President, with reservations, due to a full schedule at work. Jeremy McNiven transferred in to the Circle from Arundel.

In May, Val Weston presented a cheque for £527 to the Chichester Care Association, and in June, a walking tour of the City was organised, with a qualified guide pointing out all the interesting bits. This month Tony D'Avray died, another sad loss for Chichester Brothers.

On July 18th the Circle held the annual barbecue at The Itchenor Sailing Club, and brothers and their ladies from various Circles joined in a very good evening.

In August, Sheila and Jerry Lyons celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Simon Nardechia was enrolled into the Circle in October.

In November there was a return skittles match with Portsmouth, at the Lobster pot in Waterlooville. Chichester won again! The Six Provinces Mass for deceased Brothers was held in Westminster Cathedral. The Province became the sixth Province in this group last year, and about six Brothers from Province, including Michael O'Neill from Chichester, and some wives attended the Mass.

The Christmas Dinner, attended by the ladies, was held at The Ship Hotel, which is proving to be a good venue for this event.

There was no Circle meeting in December.

January 2001 started with the resignation of Kevin Williams, who was promoted in his company which meant a move to Halifax. One hopes he will join Halifax in due course.

The Circle learned with regret, the death of Hilda Bailey, wife of the longest serving Brother, Ted, and Brothers attended the funeral in East Wittering.

In February there was a joint meeting with Arundel at their venue, and the Circle Clergy night was held at the Ship Hotel, again with a very good turn out, especially with a good number of Priests. In March, Tony Crist resigned, due to ill health, and his inability to get to meetings. There are now no Catenians from Selsey.

The Circle was pleased to congratulate Anne Taylor on her election last November as Commodore of the Itchenor Sailing Club, and to Ron and Nell Gwynne on their Golden Wedding anniversary, and to Brian and Majella Taylor on 40 years of marriage. In April Brother Peter Serna should have been installed as President, but he was away, flying to some exotic destination (Bombay?), but Brian Taylor was installed as Vice President.

At the Provincial AGM, in Hove, Michael O'Neill was installed as the 6th Brother to hold the post of Provincial President from Chichester Circle, since Provincial Council's inception in 1958, and was well supported by Brothers of the Circle. The Circle should have held a Ladies Night, with Vocations Mass, but due to a hiccup with the Hotel, who could not accommodate us on this occasion, the Circle meeting had to be cancelled in May, thus meeting No. 597 had to be transferred to June.

At the June meeting, Peter Serna was installed as President, at last! The July meeting was held at the Itchenor Sailing Club, and the ladies were invited to join the Brothers at the annual barbecue, afterwards. A number of visitors from Province were welcomed, but due to inclement weather, the actual feasting had to take place indoors.

The death occurred of Reg Withey aged 91, who had been President of Chichester on two occasions in the 1970s, who moved to Weston-Super-Mare soon afterwards, and left the Association in 1992. The circle also heard that Margaret Collier, widow of Tom Collier died in July. In August, preparations were completed for the 600th meeting, being a celebration of 50 years since the Circle was established in 1951. Brother Val Weston spent many hours in advertising the event, on visits to all Circles in Province, during the past few months, and the reward for all his efforts, in coordinating the numbers attending, preparing menu cards, table plans and registrations sheets, together with Maurice Pollock 's assistance, it would appear that in excess of 120 would attend the actual dinner, in which Grand President, Dick Jones agreed to be guest of honour, with at least four Past Grand Presidents including Dick Last, who attended the inaugural meeting of the Circle, and Ron Brown who was Grand President attending our 500th meeting in 1993 and various Directors and Provincial Officers from around the south joining the festivities.

A separate Ladies Night Dinner organised by Majella Taylor at a local restaurant in Chichester added to the occasion.

The number of Brothers in the Chichester Circle on this occasion was 30.



CHICHESTER CIRCLE 600th MEETING. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; TOP ROW
RON BROWN – Past Grand President. MICHAEL O’NEILL – Provincial President Province 18
PETER SERNA -President of Chichester. BRIAN TAYLOR – Vice President of Chichester.
BOTTOM ROW; JOHN BARRIE – Past Grand President, PHIL GIDMAN – Director Province 18.
DICK JONES – GRAND PRESIDENT. ARTHUR McKIVETT – Immediate Past Grand President.
BRIAN PARKER – Director Province 11. DICK LAST – Past Grand President.

List of Chichester Brothers in August 2001.

**Ted BAILEY.
David BLOWER
Andrew BOYD
Peter COMRIE
Mike COOMBS
Mike DORAN
Chris DWYER
Alan GREENWOOD
Ron GWYNNE
Nigel HOMES
Jerry LYONS
Saverio MACARI
Michael MARTIN
Terry McDONALD
Jeremy McNIVEN
Paul MELLINGS
Terry MOLLAND
Simon NARDECCHIA
Jerome O'HEA
Michael O'NEILL
Benny PIETERS
Maurice POLLOCK
Denis SAVILL
Peter SERNA
Terry SWEENEY
Brian TAYLOR
Peter TAYLOR
Tony WALSH
Tony WATTS
Val WESTON**