

**British Federation of
Notre Dame de Namur
Associations**



**St. Julie News
2018**

B F N D A Ninetieth Anniversary 2018

August 31st 2018

The 90th Anniversary Celebrations were held at
Hinsley Hall Conference Centre, Leeds

On Saturday afternoon
Sr Honorine SND, of the Notre Dame Motherhouse in Namur
addressed the members at the
Annual General Meeting

Sr Margaret Walsh SND
read a greeting from
Sr Teresita Weind SND
Congregational Leader of the
Sisters of Notre Dame

Letters of Congratulations and Blessings from
His Holiness, Pope Francis,
His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols
and
Rt. Reverend Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds
were read to the BFNDA members

The President read a letter of congratulations from
Her Majesty the Queen



BFNDA CONFERENCE WEEKEND 90TH ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER 2018

Being welcomed at the door of Hinsley Hall by the familiar statue of St Julie together with smiling Conference Secretary Lorraine and President Bernie was just the start of things to come! I was handed my gold coloured programme giving details of a wonderfully packed programme of weekend events.

In the lounge people were greeting each other, updating on family and former school friends whilst trying (I failed miserably!) to get to grips with the quiz, balancing a cup of tea and eat delicious biscuits all at the same time. Although I was the only former pupil from Oxford I have been many times before and have always been welcomed and joined with other groups maybe from Sheffield, Manchester, Southwark, Northampton, Warrington or Liverpool. This was a weekend in true Julie Spirit.

After some gentle Pilates exercises and dinner we gathered in the lounge and sang lustily to the strains of Sr Catherine and Sr Mary's guitar and voice; everything from well known songs to Gilbert and Sullivan. Next the serious matter of judging the quiz competition won, I believe, by a very clever group from Manchester.

Our visit to the Piece Hall in Halifax, the next day was a lovely venue. A short ride followed by a fascinating history of the Piece Hall and lots of lovely tea and craft shops with an urban street scene in the centre selling enticing street food from all nations - well worth a second visit. We returned to Hinsley Hall to gather for our various meetings and, of course, our AGM. Our new President Diane Donovan was introduced - even though Diane is such a familiar face - and we were given an inspiring talk by Sr Honourine SND from the Congo Kensasha. 'Inspiring' because in true Julie spirit, at the request of a local Bishop a small number of sisters from Belgium went to the Congo and now there are 125 Sisters running schools, classes of different sorts and clinics - all truly inspiring.

Evening prayer was led by Sr Margaret Walsh SND, and then we prepared for our Conference Dinner which was excellent, with superb food, toasts [including the members] and speeches. Of course we were pleased indeed to welcome 'old girl' Dame Colette Bowe DBE our after dinner speaker. Dame Colette essentially put into words what we all knew - that we were taught by women whose lives were dedicated to us all. They were perceptive, intelligent and wise and she reminded us that we can all name sisters who had a profound impact on our lives as children.

After a leisurely Sunday breakfast we prepared for Mass. Fr Chris, wearing the stole beautifully embroidered with our Notre Dame badge,

preached a thought provoking sermon with the beautiful yet challenging idea that it is not rules that change our lives – it is what is in our hearts. And we sang as we were taught – every word of every hymn.

I asked several members what I should say as a summary and without exception we all felt that the weekend was very much in the spirit of Notre Dame. People helping each other, renewing friendships and most importantly – we were all one! We all valued too having sisters with us for the weekend, Sr Patricia Sullivan SND and Sr Jo Chambers SND who joined us and Sr Honourine SND and Sr Margaret Walsh SND who are both based in Namur – Sr Honourine SND will be leaving to return to the Congo soon and we send our good wishes and prayers with her.

Lastly and by no means least, it was a joy to welcome so many members who had joined specially for the 90th Anniversary Weekend and we hope that we shall be able to welcome them all again next year.

Judy Gibbons



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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE AGM OF
THE BRITISH FEDERATION of NOTRE DAME de NAMUR
ASSOCIATIONS
SEPTEMBER 1ST 2018**

My third and final year as president of the BFNDA has been a busy but fruitful one. It started, as usual with the annual conference at Hinsley Hall in Leeds, attended by 45 delegates and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Saturday morning outing to Pontefract was ably organised and led by Margaret Dolan. The AGM followed in the afternoon during which a cheque for £4,500 was made payable to SPRED, our current charity. The Saturday evening entertainment was once again a sing-a-long led by four Holy Child Sisters who included in some Gilbert and Sullivan songs in the programme following a request from the previous year. It was another very successful conference, due in no small part, to Lorraine's excellent organisational skills.

In November I attended the Manchester Mass for deceased members of Notre Dame. This was followed by lunch and the usual fund raising events which were very enjoyable and profitable. The day was made extra enjoyable by the presence of fourteen new attendees, eleven of whom became paid up members of the association.

Southwark Association kindly invited me to their AGM in March, the weather was awful, really snowy, but plenty of people braved it to attend. It was lovely to see so many familiar welcoming faces. It was a very pleasant and successful day, with a full and interesting programme.

April 28th was the Sheffield Alumni Day during which I was given a slot to appeal to the members for volunteers to re-start the Sheffield Association. I am thrilled to report that a group of ladies came forward and the Sheffield Association is now in the process of being re-formed – such a wonderful result.

Manchester once again held their annual May Mass which I attended. The highlight of this was the singing of "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" with some people enjoying a good cry.

I joined a really super outing in June organised by Southwark Association as part of their 90th Anniversary celebrations, Afternoon Tea at the Beaumont Hotel in London. The tea was excellent and the staff very attentive, the members of Southwark Association made me very welcome and the afternoon was well worth my trip from Stockport.

Saturday 22nd June 2019 will be the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of St Julie. A group of members thought it would be nice to celebrate this occasion with a Mass or Prayer meeting in St Peter's in Rome. I haven't

got details of the service yet but I will let the association secretaries know when it has been arranged.

Each year I finish my report by thanking the Executive Committee for their help and support during the year. This year I have to thank them all for everything they have done during the past three years to make my presidency as easy as possible for me. Each and every member of the committee have been outstanding in their individual roles and I would like them to know that words cannot convey my grateful thanks for their assistance and unending patience during the last three years. I know they will do the same for my successor Diane, and I wish her all the luck in the world. I would also like to thank Father Chris for continuing to be our chaplain, not only here at Conference but also at our meetings in Liverpool, we really do appreciate his support.

It just remains now for me to say that I have enjoyed being president of the BFNDA and I would like to thank all of you for your encouragement and support during my term of office.

Bernie Shaw

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### **BATTERSEA NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION**

We used to donate for the use of the lounge room at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon. We made tea and brought sandwiches and cakes to share and washed-up afterwards. Increasing age and the diminishing of members has made the luxury of being waited on very appealing so, much as we loved the lounge, the group is now choosing to meet in the restaurant of Elys, a large store in Wimbledon near the station.

Some of us are also members of Southwark Notre Dame. Although we were not Southwark pupils we do enjoy the meetings there and have made reunion friends in our 'sister' school.

Mary Donaghey



## **MANCHESTER NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION**

In September 2017, 13 delegates from the Manchester Association attended the very successful Notre Dame Conference at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. A great time was had by all and we were told to expect even better in 2018, as it would be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BFNDA.

The November Mass on November 11<sup>th</sup> was for deceased pupils and staff of Notre Dame and this year we remembered especially our very dear Stella McHugh, who worked so tirelessly for the Association for many, many years. She hosted our Committee meetings too at her home, and her husband Brian would prepare tea and coffee for us. She will be very much missed. The Mass was followed by lunch and a sing song in the Hall behind the Church afterwards. A special treat in the raffle was a Notre Dame cushion, which had been specially designed for us. Apart from being a comfortable cushion, it is also a lovely souvenir of schooldays. Cushions were on sale and there were also the last few calendars for 2018 to buy. A special hamper of groceries and goodies was also one of the wonderful prizes.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we held a soup and sandwich event in Blackley. We were joined by many new people and 11 of them joined the Association. It was a really good day and the opportunity to meet with old friends and new and discuss our time at Notre Dame Manchester.

May 5<sup>th</sup> was the date for our St Julie Mass. There was a good turnout and there were many comments on the beautiful singing in church. Afterwards we held a social in the hall with a sing along, (song sheets provided), an excellent buffet lunch and our now famous, (or should I say infamous!) raffle. There was also a handicraft stall, well stocked by Bernie, and a Bring & Buy bookstall. It's always so nice to see everyone enjoying themselves amongst good company.

A very special afternoon tea was organised at the Midland Hotel in Manchester city centre in June. We paid £25 and filled two large tables with our members. The food was very good and we were well looked after and many of us stayed on far longer than intended drinking tea, eating too many cakes and talking 'ten to the dozen'.

Facebook continues to thrive --- now with 260+ members. Recently, there have been many members asking for prayers and support in their battles with life's difficulties, and the response to these requests has been immediate and ongoing.

Through Facebook and many of the events that are arranged, we are still adding to our numbers and renewing friendships as well as reminiscing on our schooldays.

A very special thank you goes to all the people who work tirelessly organising events and to those who support the association.

St Julie Billiard – pray for us

Margaret Dolan

## **NORTHAMPTON NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION**

September 2017 saw 9 members of the Northampton Association enjoying another delightful weekend at Hinsley Hall.

Our year continued with the normal social events and talks - in September a Tea Party, in December a Christmas Celebration with the Weston Favell singers, both held at St. Gregory's Church Hall. March saw a move to St. Matthew's Church Hall, which proved more amenable for our purposes and has become our permanent meeting place. There we had a Pro-Life talk, followed in June with a talk by our own Pam Nock entitled *Love, Lies & Records*; Pam is a registrar in Northampton. These events are attended by 20 to 40 members and do help keep people in touch.

Our year was, of course, dominated by progress on the refurbishment of the cemetery of the Sisters in Notre Dame Mews. At the end of December, we kicked off our fundraising efforts with a target of £6800.00 to refurbish the crosses and on April 21<sup>st</sup> an Awareness Event was held at the Guildhall. This event was organised by the Borough Council and was a resounding success! Guests included the Mayor, the Lord High Sheriff, the incoming Mayor, Canon Mark Floody, Dean of the Cathedral, representing Bishop Peter Doyle, several councillors, many association members who had helped provide memorabilia of the school, and many interested, local inhabitants. Within a very short time after this date we were able to order the removal of the crosses for refurbishment. The crosses are now ready for reinstatement but, as the Borough Council have announced that they will restore the walls and railings surrounding the cemetery during this financial year, the crosses will be kept until all the building works have been carried out. The association are grateful for the help and support they have received in this endeavour from members, the council, and the general public who have shown such generosity in offering their financial support. We look forward to seeing the cemetery fully restored in the coming year.





On April 28<sup>th</sup> we held our AGM and Lunch at the Marriott Hotel, seating 97 association members. We were devoid of invited guests, apart from Mgr. Tony, our Chaplain, due to lack of available funds because of having started off the fundraising for the cemetery with a lump sum from our general fund. Most members do show their appreciation of the opportunity to meet up with old school friends.

In May we returned to St. Aidan's Church, with kind permission from Canon Mark, for our annual St. Julie Mass, celebrated by Mgr. Tony.

September saw 10 of the Northampton Association celebrating 90 years of the BFNDA at Hinsley Hall. A wonderful weekend beautifully organised by Lorraine Platt and attended by approximately 62 members.

We look forward to another year of social events and, to see the cemetery fully restored would be the crowning glory for our association.

Margaret Bradbury

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SOUTHWARK NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION

It has been another enjoyable year for SNDA and our year has been punctuated by our usual events and a special celebration to mark the 90th anniversary of both SNDA and the 90th anniversary of BFNDA.

Last November we once again remembered past members of the Southwark Association, along with past pupils and teaching staff of Notre Dame School at our Mass for the Deceased, celebrated at St Georges Cathedral. The lunchtime Mass was followed by a lively and enjoyable lunch at a local restaurant and was wonderful to have time to sit and chat with one another. We hope that this will become a regular feature in our calendar of activities.

Sadly, we have lost two of our most stalwart members in the last few months and it was also sad to hear of the death of Thérèse Egan – a former committee member and of Patricia Thaler. Patricia's son, Neil, very kindly made the trip into the school on St. Julie's Day to hand over a box of Notre Dame memorabilia that Patricia had been keeping. We also heard the sad news of the death of Alfredo Tisi, husband of Marie Tisi. Alfredo had been a frequent guest at our lunches and was a lovely, kind man with the most gentle of natures. May they rest in peace.

Our AGM and St Julie's Day celebration was held on Sunday March 18th and despite some dreadful weather, we welcomed many of our members

and were sad not to have been able to welcome those whose travel plans were disrupted by snow and treacherous roads. However, our valiant BFNDA President, Bernie Shaw, did manage to join us and we were so pleased that she was able to share the day with us. Our speaker this year was Mr. David Green who is a director of The Florence Nightingale Museum, and he gave an extremely interesting presentation on the life and work of Florence Nightingale and of some of those that worked alongside her. The museum is keen to promote the work of those pioneering women who devoted their lives to nursing and to remind all of us of the squalid and difficult conditions in which they worked.

We had taken delivery of our specially designed 90th anniversary lapel pins which were distributed to members on St Julie's Day. The pins had been manufactured to a design which had been selected from drawings submitted by the school's art and design students. The committee members then faced the daunting task of selecting a drawing to take forward to the manufacturers for production. We were indebted to the students for their efforts, to Jan Somers their art teacher who took the idea on board and inspired the students to become involved and to Sue Joyce who coordinated the task for SNDA.

On Saturday June 16th several of our members attended a wonderful 90th anniversary celebration Afternoon Tea held at The Beaumont Hotel in Mayfair. Once again, Bernie joined us for this very special event. Our thanks go to Sue Ringwood for steering the event to fulfillment.

Throughout the year SNDA continues to be represented at The Westminster Cathedral Quiz nights and I am very grateful to those members who organize the team attendance and ensure that Southwark Notre Dame continues to be represented at these events.

Our connections with the school continue and it gives the members of the association great pleasure to award a small bursary each year to one of the students who will be continuing her education post 16. Sister Anne Marie and her team continue to show us every consideration in assisting us with the organisation of St Julie's Day. Our day involves so many members of the school staff and we simply couldn't enjoy the success that we do without their input, so we thank them all; reception staff, catering team, site services manager and of course Janet in the school office. And Sister Anne Marie!

Finally, my personal thanks to the lovely ladies who take on the various responsibilities within the committee. They all do a brilliant job from running our 'Bring & Buy' to organizing theatre trips and coordinating restaurant arrangements. None of this would happen without them all.

Patricia White



90TH
ANNIVERSARY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FEDERATION

Constitution and Bye-Laws

The object of the Federation shall be to bring into communication with one another former pupils of Notre Dame, through their organised Associations, for the purpose of furthering Catholic education, of affording facilities for mutual assistance among its members, for the formulation and promotion of movements requiring the support of Catholic women, for the welfare of Notre Dame (de Namur), and especially for the fostering of ideas and practice of social service among its members, according to the mind of the church, at home and on the mission field.



This gift marks the beginning of the year which culminates in the 90th anniversary of the Foundation of the British Federation of Notre Dame Associations (BFNDA).

It has been donated by a present member of the Federation who wishes to remain anonymous. The Stole was commissioned for the occasion and worked on by the Needlework Department of Christ the King Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool



Conference Secretary's Report - September 2018

I have been asked to stay on. That is, I have been asked by our new president, Diane Donovan, to stay on as Conference Secretary for another three years. Do you mind, Diane, if I have a week or two off? I'll start on Monday.

My head is still buzzing with the events of the 90th anniversary weekend. I know now what brides mean when they say their wedding day passed too quickly and that they would like to do it all over again. I feel the same way!

I have enjoyed receiving all your letters and cards and really value all your kind words of appreciation. So thank you for all your good wishes.

Quite a few months ago, when the 90th anniversary was still in planning, I spoke to our chaplain, Fr Chris Thomas, and asked him if he thought that a private individual could write to the Pope. I said that I was thinking of writing, on behalf of the BFNDA, to the Holy Father to tell him of our special anniversary. Fr Chris said that of course I could and I should. I visited the Vatican's website. Of course they've got one. I was amazed too. On the website I saw a team of staff emptying sacks of mail onto a desk for sorting. The Vatican has a very busy office. It wasn't at all what I expected to see. I was empowered. I wrote to Pope Francis.

I thought more about the approaching 90th anniversary of the Federation. I wanted to do my best to make it a 'red-letter day' for the members. I wrote to HM the Queen and Prince Philip. On behalf of the BFNDA I congratulated them on their 70th wedding anniversary and told them of our special anniversary too. I wrote to Cardinal Nichols and the Bishop of Leeds. I wrote to Sr Teresita of the Notre Dame order. Then I waited. The booking forms started to pop through the letterbox. It was very exciting. We had such a very good response from members who wanted to attend this special anniversary weekend. It was lovely to see you all and to put faces to the names. It did mean though that Hinsley Hall was packed to the rafters. I was dreading having to tell anyone that we could not accommodate them. I'd like to thank everyone again who had agreed to share a room. It did make all the difference and was greatly appreciated. I was going to stay in the Travel Lodge up the road at one point and so were some of the members of the committee. I hope that everyone was as comfortable as possible even though it was very cosy.

We received a letter with a blessing from The Holy Father. It was a great day in our house. The envelope was stamped with the crest of 'The Vatican'. I don't know if you can even imagine how thrilled I was. I made a few copies of the letter but the original letter and envelope were put in a glass case with a gold lock and key, on an island surrounded by a moat full of crocodiles. Well let's just say 'in a very safe place'.

We received a letter in a cream velour envelope which matched the paper of the letter inside. The envelope was franked 'Buckingham Palace' but franked upside down. Upside down? How careless with the Queen's letter. The envelope and letter is still being kept in that very safe, secret place. It is a beautiful letter from Her Majesty the Queen. The letters from Pope Francis and HM the Queen, together with other very gracious replies, received from Cardinal Nicholls, the Bishop of Leeds and Sr Teresita SND were read aloud by some of our members at the conference dinner.

I still needed help as Conference Secretary, especially on this big anniversary weekend. I still felt like a new girl. I picked the brains of the members of the committee. With Bernie's help I searched the ND archives at Liverpool and tried to read everything I could about previous big anniversaries.

I spoke to the past presidents and asked for their advice. I listened to their recollections of what had been done on previous special anniversaries, such as the 50th, the 75th and the 80th and I found that we had written to the Pope and the Queen in these earlier years too. I had agonised in vain. Instead of stumbling along trying to re-invent the wheel, I should have done my homework. (That's probably not the first time I've heard that advice). However, as all the Conference Secretaries did in their day, I tried to bring my own modern twist to this special weekend.

I went with Margaret Dolan on a trial visit to the Piece Hall in Halifax where we spoke to the Tourist Board. We negotiated a discount for our members with the owners of the teashops and the ice cream parlour. We always love a discount, and we made the arrangements for the Saturday morning drive.

The conference weekend was packed with events. We had a Pilates session and a picture quiz. Some Sisters of the Holy Child came to sing some all-time favourite songs on Friday evening. Sr Honorine SND, who now lives at the Motherhouse in Namur, gave a talk and PowerPoint presentation about her early life and the work of the Notre Dame Sisters in the Congo.

On Saturday evening a pre-dinner drinks reception was held at 6.30pm followed by dinner at 7pm. The dress code for the Conference Dinner was 'elegant and chic'. The members all looked their best. There were some fabulous dresses and lovely evening bags. We had two photographers taking some formal photographs at the pre-dinner drinks reception and more informal ones in the dining room and the lounge. There was quite a bit of fun and laughter and 'Is this my best side?' or 'Do you really want to have your photograph taken with that glass in your hand?' and quite a lot of 'I'm not going on it. I don't like having my picture taken'. But eventually, after some coaxing, threatening and

cajoling the photographs were taken and after checking the table plan for the evening, everyone found their place in the dining room.

To view the photographs please visit:-
<https://keymomentsphotography.zenfolio.com/p305786997>

I'm sure you will see how the photographs show off Hinsley Hall at its best and how they really capture the mood of the 90th Anniversary Celebration.

The dining room looked lovely. Hinsley Hall is surrounded by beautiful grounds with many mature trees giving a lovely outlook from the dining room windows. The manager at Hinsley Hall had said that he and his staff would help us to celebrate our 90th anniversary by creating a special evening for us. They did not disappoint. The tables were laid with white linen, beautiful glassware and pink/lilac and blue flowers. Everyone had a commemorative gift, an engraved pen in a velvet pouch, in front of their place card and a booklet showing the menu, the order of the toasts and the words to the songs.

There was a top table and four legs. The members of the various Associations were seated together. The eight presidents attending were seated either on the top table or at the head of their Association.

We almost had a toastmaster but unfortunately, due to ill health, he was unable to attend. I shamelessly picked his brains. (He is a friend of the family and didn't mind). I asked the manager at Hinsley Hall if I could have a practise with the microphone on Friday morning and he agreed.

I have organised many formal dinners but have never taken such a central role myself. I have always had a toastmaster or a director of ceremonies on the top table directing operations. When I was speaking to Dame Colette Bowe after dinner she said she had never attended a dinner of all women and that she thought it was fitting for us to lead the dinner ourselves without having to 'bring a man in'. It's a view I hadn't really thought about but I think I like it.

Apologies here to Fr Chris Thomas. Thank you for all your help and advice and for putting up with us all.

So, in the absence of a proper toastmaster, the retiring president, Bernie Shaw and the new president, Diane Donovan were announced and led to the top table by me, in my role as Conference Secretary, as the organist played Gilbert & Sullivan's *Three Little Maids From School* and the diners clapped them to their seats.

The dinner was excellent and beautifully served. The wine glasses were constantly topped-up. Diane took wine, with the members of the different Associations, in turn and with one member who was celebrating her birthday that day.

After dinner one of our members proposed the toast and read the letter from HM the Queen. We all sang two verses of the National Anthem. The letters were read from Pope Francis, Cardinal Nicholls and the Bishop of

Leeds. We all sang *God Bless Our Pope*. The Presidents of the BFNDA were introduced and toasted. The Founders were toasted and so were Absent Friends. We all sang *Mater Admirabilis*. There were a few tears as we remembered our school friends, our teachers and our Notre Dame family.

Diane Donovan was introduced. She told the members of her plans for the Federation for the next three years. She welcomed everyone and made a special individual mention of, and took wine with, the members who were attending conference for the first time. There were quite a few of them. They all stood and raised their glasses to Diane. We do hope that they all enjoyed themselves and want to come again.

The special cake was brought in and admired. The chef at Hinsley Hall had excelled himself. The wording on the cake, which was iced in royal blue, said '*BFNDA 90th Anniversary 2018*'.

After the waiters had served the cake and the shots of Baileys it was time for Bernie to introduce our after-dinner speaker

Dame Colette Bowe DBE,
a former Notre Dame 'girl'



Her talk was entitled:-

'What did we get from a Notre Dame education? And has it served us well?'

We were all enthralled. It was a most interesting and entertaining talk.

Diane thanked Dame Colette and she was presented with a gift. We had intended to present her with a bouquet of flowers but since she was returning to London by train the flowers were sent to her office in London on the following week. We asked Dame Colette to hold a bouquet of flowers on the evening, just to have her photograph taken, but to then act surprised the following week when flowers were delivered to her office. She said that she would act suitably surprised.

On Sunday morning one of the staff took a group photograph on the steps at the front of the Hall. We took pains to make sure everyone could be seen on the picture but still three people were hidden at the back. This

was ALMOST a disaster of epic proportions until a very clever friend of mine superimposed the three heads from another picture onto the back of the group. Phew. It might not stand up to close scrutiny but it's as good as we could get it. In ten years when a future conference secretary looks into the Notre Dame archives at Liverpool, as she prepares for the Centenary Conference, she will find a copy of the picture with everyone who attended the 90th Anniversary Conference on it.

After Mass and the raffle we had an excellent lunch the manager and staff were invited into the dining room. They were thanked for their excellent service and presented with a gratuity. Bernie and Diane were presented with bouquets of flowers and both were given a presentation folder containing all the documents of the weekend. We hope that it will be a lovely keepsake of a very happy occasion.

PATRONS

This anniversary weekend cost us more than our usual weekends at HH particularly the conference dinner on Saturday evening. As individuals, we, the delegates did not pay any more.

We had a number of members who kindly agreed to be patrons of the 90th Anniversary Conference. Some of their names are listed in the programme. Some members wanted to make an anonymous donation so do not have their names in the programme. We also had some very generous donations made on the conference weekend. Thank you to everyone who kindly made a donation.

Thank you to all our patrons. They should, by now, have received all the conference information in the post as well as the beautiful commemorative gift. I have also sent all our patrons copies of the lovely letters that we received from Pope Francis, HM the Queen, Cardinal Nicholls, the Bishop of Leeds and Sr Teresita Weind SND. I thought that it would all be of particular interest to our patrons who were unable to be with us at the conference weekend. I have received some lovely cards and letters from our patrons.

And finally

We still have on sale some Notre Dame cushions. There is an order form here in St. Julie News. They would make a nice gift for a ND friend and Christmas is coming. The funding raised from the Patrons donations and the sale of the cushions will help to offset the extra costs incurred. In the happy event of a profit, this will be donated to the Notre Dame charity.

And a note for your diary - next year's Conference is

30th August – 1st September 2019.

Kind regards and a happy Christmas to you all

Lorraine Platt

NOTRE DAME CUSHIONS FOR SALE



Notre Dame Emblem & motto

AH Q'IL EST BON LE BON DIEU

Pictured above, the cushions are made from a royal blue linen-weight fabric with a taupe backing and a zip finish. They measure 45cm x 45cm (18" x 18").

THE CUSHION PRICE IS £17.99
Plus £2.99 P&P

To order a Notre Dame cushion please contact our website

DIRECT MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

I begin by sending my best wishes to all Direct Members. The only opportunity to meet is at the annual conference as members are so widespread – from Yorkshire to Devon. At the conference this year I was pleased to welcome eleven direct members. This year's conference was a very happy occasion as we celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of the Federation.

The number of paid up members for the year 2017-18 was 54 out of the 82 names on the mailing list and 49 subscriptions for 2018/19 have been received up to the end of September. During the past twelve months £438 has been donated to the Federation Charity S.P.R.E.D. Thank you once again to all the Direct Members who continue to support our charity work so generously.

We have six new members, one cancelled membership and I sadly have to report the deaths of Mary Houlton, Joan Duggan, Elizabeth Callaghan and Veronica Fahy. The Federation was represented at the funerals of these members, may they rest in peace. Our chaplain, Father Chris Thomas will say Mass for these and all our deceased Direct Members during November.

We are pleased to welcome as Direct Members Sister Jo Bushell, who has looked after the Executive at their meetings for a number of years, and Sister Pat Sullivan, who was previously Sister Provincial's Team Representative on the Federation Executive Committee. We also welcome as a Direct Member, our guest speaker at Conference, Dame Colette Bowe. Charlotte and I were in the same class at school for a short time at Notre Dame Leeds, so it was a pleasure for me to meet her again after so many years!

I continue to receive letters and cards from Direct Members. Please continue to keep in touch. It makes my role as convenor such a pleasure.

Lesley Freeman



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NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

A copy of the annual report can be found on the BFNDA website.

WEBSITE

The website progresses very slowly. I try to include any news that I am given. I have had some interesting correspondence.

Soon after the last AGM, I was contacted by a solicitor who was trying to track down someone who, she had been told, was a member of our organisation. Using our own contacts, I was able to track her down and she agreed for her details to be given to the solicitor.

Following this, I had an email from a lady in Australia who herself was an old girl of Northampton, asking whether we had anybody in their eighties who went to Blackburn and would be willing to write to a friend of hers who went to Blackburn ND and who belongs to her tennis club! No success there I am afraid.

A lady from Devon contacted me about some magazines that her mother who had collected. As I have a daughter who lives in Plymouth, I was able to go and collect these. I took them to the July Executive meeting and Bernie later took them to the archives. Her mother had been a pupil at Birkdale and obviously, from the magazines in the box, had been a member of Birkdale Association. She also had at one time been a direct member evidenced by St Julie News of the early 1990s and notes from Margaret Lawton who was convenor at the time. As this was personal correspondence I removed these. There were also a few press cuttings and a notelet etc. which I placed in a 'polypocket' which may be of some use to anybody researching Birkdale. There are 37 Birkdale magazines. Some seem to be wholly Birkdale NDA but others are joint school and NDA magazines. While this isn't a full set since 1937, it may fill in a few gaps in the archives. There is also a copy of 1947 precursor of St Julie News which makes for interesting reading.

I was contacted by a lady researching her great aunt who was at Leeds ND before the First World War! I explained that we weren't in existence at that time and so had no archive material. I was also contacted by another lady whose mother went to Manchester Bignor St before the Second World War. In this case I think she was after material which could jog her mother's memory. I referred both of these to the Sisters' Archives but I am not sure whether they have the kind of material these people want.

One point I wish to make, I **NEVER** give any information to enquirers about Federation members (or in fact anyone else) without their express permission.

I am hoping this coming year to make more progress in updating the schools section of the website. I have been somewhat distracted by the appearance of a photo of my house and my home telephone number which is displayed when BFNDA.org is 'googled'. After many phone calls it seems to have disappeared. If anyone spots it appearing again, please let me know.

Mary Lewis

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

General Account & Charity

	Year Ending 2017	Year Ending 2018
Income		
Capitation	1341.00	1197.00
Direct Members	171.00	160.00
Interest	0.00	0.00
Badges	6.00	42.00
Charity	5302.00	4378.00
Calendars & Postage	0.00	1555.97
	6820.00	7332.97
Expenditure		
Executive Travel	1457.80	1608.08
Printing & Stationery	48.47	53.49
Postage & Telephone	167.67	126.57
Miscellaneous	373.34	429.26
St Julie News	297.00	190.00
Donations to Charity	5000.00	4500.00
Calendars	-	1061.30
	7344.03	7968.70
	~~~	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-524.03	-635.73
Balance at Bank 31.03.17	5584.77	
Balance at Bank 31.03.18		4949.04
<b>Carry forward to next year</b>	<b>5584.77</b>	<b>4949.04</b>

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018**

### **According to Capitation Fees Paid**

<b>Association</b>		<b>Number of members</b>
Battersea	£0.00	-
Direct Members	£156.00	52
Manchester	£252.00	84
Northampton	£480.00	160
Southwark	£309.00	103
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,197.00</b>	<b>399</b>

Number of members is based on capitation fees received at £3.00 per person. Most Associations have greater numbers than the above but as subscriptions are paid into the Federation throughout the year we can never get the numbers absolutely correct.

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## **SPRED CHARITY SEPTEMBER 2018**

Brought forward	£4,528.30
Paid to the Charity	(£4,500.00)
Federation 2017	£476.00
Direct Members	£438.00
Battersea	£0.00
Manchester	£1,376.26
Northampton	£500.00
Southwark	£500.00
Other - inc calendar sales & private donations	£273.41
Balance at 1 st August 2018	<b>£3,591.97</b>

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Joan Bollins (nee Middleton) RIP (Northampton) 1917-2018**

Growing up in Northampton, Joan and her sister Daphne lived four streets away from me. Joan was my Guide captain. She had a lovely nature and such a friendly smile.

When the new parish of Saint Gregory was formed the parish priest Farther Eric Phillips asked Joan to start a choir and from then on Friday nights found my friend Marjorie Bromwich (later Mother Prioress at the Benedictine Abbey in Staffordshire) and I at choir practice at Joan's parents' house.

When Joan married Bill Bollins they moved to a delightful cottage in Great Billing. My children loved to be taken to see 'Auntie Joan with the cuckoo clock'! The cottage is still very much part of her family and she lived there happily all her married life.

Joan was a hardworking member on the committee of the Northampton Notre Dame Association. She was a member of the Association until she died aged 101.

May she rest in peace

Jose Sear

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Elizabeth (Betty) Callaghan RIP (Liverpool)

Betty died on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 aged 87 years. She was educated at Notre Dame, Mount Pleasant both in the High School and Training College. Her twin brother, a Redemptorist, died at 52 years of age; they are survived by their brother Paul.

Betty became a Headmistress after years of exemplary teaching and a great inspiration to her pupils, some of whom attended her funeral. Her first cousin, a Jesuit, officiated at her Mass.

Betty was also a member of the Liverpool Association and served on the Committee for some time, she was also an Associate of Notre Dame.

A great raconteur she could keep you enthralled with tales of her teaching career.

Rest in peace

Norah Burns

Joan Mary Duggan RIP (Sheffield)

Joan was born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1921 in Rotherham. In 1926 she moved to Sheffield with her parents. She attended Notre Dame Sheffield and was a lifelong member of the Sheffield and Direct Members Associations. She served for many years on the Executive Committee of the BFNDA and was President for three years.

In addition to her full time job as P.A. to the Managing Director of Laycocks and, later, Firth Dixon, she was also carer to her mother. After the death of her mother, Joan dedicated her life to working for the church through her parish St. Theresa's. Joan was an only child and never married but was "Aunty" and Godmother to many of her friends' children.

Joan spent the last five years in Brackenfield Hall, where good care was taken of her – particularly during the final week of her life. Her requiem was well attended by members of the BFNDA.

May she rest in peace.

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## **Thérèse Marie Mathilde Egan RIP (Southwark) 1933-2017**

Thérèse (née Smith) was born in London and was evacuated to Surrey during the war, living with the Richardson family, their daughter Kathy and another evacuee, Angela Parsliffe. Having passed the Eleven Plus exam, she attended Notre Dame Southwark from 1944 – 1949.

On leaving school, she worked as a trainee cook at Harrods. After completing the course she joined the firm of Philip Harbenthe first UK TV Chef. He ran staff restaurants and whilst there Fortnum & Mason came in to cater for a function. The Fortnum's manager persuaded Thérèse to join his staff.

Away from work, Thérèse was very involved in parish life. She was a Girl Guide and trained as a Leader. At the parish youth club she met John Egan who was to become her husband. They married and moved to North London and had four children. Thérèse found time to establish a Young Wives' Club and to lead Brownies and Guides. Thérèse had always been interested in dressmaking and completed a City & Guilds Course followed by a teacher's certificate and became an FE teacher.

She supported her husband in his work for the Knights of St. Columba and in local politics, serving a term as Mayoress. She was an active member of the Catholic Women's League, being in charge of the catering and serving as Chairman. A member of the Southwark Notre Dame Association, Thérèse was always a willing helper and served on the

committee for a number of years. She was quiet and unobtrusive yet put her point across and was able to offer helpful suggestions.

The packed church at her Requiem Mass on 12th January was a testament to the number of lives she had touched. She is sorely missed.

Diane Donovan

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Veronica Fahy RIP (Leeds/Direct Member) 1927-2018

Although her entrance to the school was in the early days of World War 2 and subsequent evacuation to Boston Spa, Veronica appreciated very much the education she received and friendships she made in Notre Dame, Leeds.

Delicate health made her attendance irregular but pioneering surgery in her late teens meant that she could become a nurse, midwife and health visitor and also a Captain in the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service.

She was buried with military honours at St Edwards Church, Clifford on June 15 and will be greatly missed by many friends.

May she rest in peace

Winifred Fahy

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### **Mary March (nee Eades) RIP (Northampton)**

Mary March was a year ahead of us at school – Notre Dame Northampton. When she left school Mary joined the Notre Dame Association and Sister Gabriel's choir and we remember her having small parts in several of our musical society's G and S productions.

When Jose became president of our association Mary was her very able secretary. At AGM's Mary always gave her a sheet with "Welcome, proposer and seconder of reports etc" so Jose didn't have to do a thing!

After many years as secretary of our association she received the Papal Blessing. When she went home her husband Frank said "I knew you'd get a bunch of flowers but I didn't expect you to come home with a message from the Pope!"

Rest in Peace Mary

Paddy Coles & Jose Sear



*R. I. P.*

Mary Houlton

Veronica Fahy

Leeds

Elizabeth (Betty) Callaghan

Liverpool

Joan Bollins née (Middleton)

Northampton

Kathleen Kidd née Cooke

Northampton

Mary March née Eades

Northampton

Joan Duggan

Sheffield

Anne Byrne née McCarthy

Southwark

Thérèse Egan née Smith

Southwark

Patricia Thaler

Southwark