



Bursary Fund Awards

Sir, In November 2005, Grand Council awarded the Bursary Fund Committee £70,000 from a bequest, to be used helping young people going to Lourdes as Junior Helpers. Since then several hundred awards have been made but last December this amount had been spent and so regretfully the Trustees have decided that they now can only continue to support those young people working in Lourdes with HCPT which is approximately one eighth of the total to date.

At the same time while considering awards, they also decided that they can no longer support applicants who spend less than two weeks working 'on site', exclusive of travelling, acclimatisation or recreation. As applicants travel further afield, such as to China or Peru, it is fairly obvious that if the time away from home is only two weeks, frequently less than one week is actually spent working, so once again reluctantly, the Trustees have decided that this sort of project will no longer fall within their remit.

P A Martin, Hon Secretary
Bursary Fund Committee

Always A Pleasure

Sir, Have just been reading the January 2010 edition of Catena. It is always a pleasure to receive it for so many interesting items appear.... the photographs, Circle events and the main articles. I glance through it and come back and read it at leisure.

I stopped and read in its entirety NEWMAN on page 21. What wonderful information was supplied by Tony Jenkins of Wilmslow Circle. It is good to hear the lengths to which we are prepared to supply the necessary miracles for the canonisation of those we have loved and respected.

I well remember the Mass at the Oratory on Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, for the September opening term for St Paul's High School for Girls and the boys of St Philip's Grammar School. St Philip's boys sat on the left side of the Oratory and St Paul's Girls on the right hand side.

I was at St Paul's from 1928 - 1934. Yes, I and was there for their Centenary Mass. Old Girls filled the Oratory that morning, and the choir of Old Girls led us in the singing. A wonderful day to remember although I failed to meet any of the girls who were at school so long ago.

**Thora Beddard, widow of
Founder Member Harry Beddard,**
Aston-under-Lyne Circle

Christmas Stamps

Sir, There was some discussion on these pages about a year ago concerning the choice of subject for the Royal Mail's Christmas 2008 postage stamps.

The images on the stamps represented a secular topic, pantomime characters, rather than having a Christian theme. For Christmas 2007, the Royal Mail had issued a set of Christmas stamps with an Angel theme, and in response to demand, reissued the books of 12 first or second class of this design ready for Christmas 2008. I used these, but I am not sure how widely known their availability was. I am not sure if they were available at normal Post Offices or those with philatelic counters. I obtained mine directly from the British Philatelic Bureau. Last year's stamps, in my opinion, were of an excellent Christian design, having pictures of church stained glass windows. The presentation set was accompanied by an illustrated description of the use of stained glass church windows, although I did have a quibble about its wording. It confused St Peter's Monastery, Wearmouth, Sunderland, founded by St Benedict Biscop, and had the first stained glass windows fitted in 674AD, with St Paul's Monastery, Jarrow, about 10 miles away, which was not founded until 20 years later. Incidentally, it is hoped that the twin monasteries of Wearmouth/Jarrow will be awarded World Heritage Site status in the near future.

The Christmas 2010 stamps are due to be issued on 2nd November, and I suspect they may again have a secular subject, although I do not know if any decision has been made yet on the theme of this issue. Brothers may wish to know that books of Christmas 2009's first and second class stamps are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau. They are Ref UB304 and UB305 with windows depicting Madonna and Child (1st Class), and an Angel (2nd Class), respectively, and since the postage rates rise in April, if purchased before then, you can stock up with stamps at the old rate ready for next Christmas! I believe they can be ordered by telephone on 08457 641 641.

Peter Holwell
Sunderland and
Ampleforth & District Circles

We Can Roar

Sir, As the widow of a member of the Catenian Association of many years standing I feel compelled to speak out. Am I alone in thinking that we are being treated, brainwashed, daily, (by both the BBC and daily papers) to calls for assisted suicide?

I spent 11 years caring for my late husband, and three of these years visiting him each day, in a nursing home, it certainly opened my eyes; Mothering Sunday, Fathers Day; Christmas and Easter, there was plenty of room in the car park!

The medical profession well understands when a life is drawing to a close - why do we need the legal "piece of paper"? I am just one little voice BUT when two or three are gathered together, we can ROAR.

Patti Quinn
(Bournemouth)

Catenian Association National Monument

Sir, The National Memorial Arboretum is located at Alrewas, Staffordshire, operated and managed by The Royal British Legion and has well established national and international credibility with annual visitors exceeding 300,000.

Through continued development the NMA intends to become a world centre with increased emphasis on education and learning access.

It is specifically dedicated as "a public memorial to commemorate and remember those who have lost their lives or suffered injury; or put themselves at risk of loss of life or injury, in service of the public". The words "in service of the public" can be interpreted to also define and recognise those people outside of the armed services who have provided an essential public service.

Whilst it is not accurately known how many Catenians have lost their lives or have sustained injury as members of such services and affiliations, there is a certainty that many have and may continue to do so as the result of current and future conflict.

I have recently undertaken a personal study of the criteria and implications for the design, manufacture and costing of a stone monument at the arboretum, with encouragement from yourself.

The information that I have collated indicates that the installed costs could be in the region of £15,000. In an article written by Brother Philip Gidman, Past Grand President and Chairman of the Centenary Committee and published in the August 2009 edition of this magazine, it was stated that "There is currently projected a surplus of some £35,000 which is not likely to be disbursed." The article also invited ideas from members for ways in which the surplus could be allocated and whilst I am not aware of any such suggestions I have decided to make this proposal.