



## Fife St Margaret's 500th Meeting - KY3 OUA

You can just imagine this postcode being read out in the same incredulous voice as Dame Edith Evans saying the famous Lady Bracknell 'A handbag!' line. It's the postcode of the island of Inchcolm.

As far as 500th meetings go, this one was slightly different. **Fife St Margaret Circle** had decided to change date, venue and time in order to celebrate the special meeting with a special Mass in a special place – the abbey on the aforementioned Island of Inchcolm – Inch meaning Island and Colm being another form of St Columba. The abbey was founded in the 12th Century by the Augustinian Order after they were invited there by King David I. Monastic life came to an end after the Protestant Reformation of 1650.

After a remarkably smooth cruise to the Island from South Queensferry, passing under the famous Forth Railway Bridge, the group of brothers, wives and guests entered the abbey and it once again echoed to the sound of brothers at a prayer, though this lot were probably not as holy as their 12th Century counterparts. A simple but spiritual Mass was said by Circle Chaplain, Fr Tom Mullen, who told all present that this was his first visit to the island. It was subsequently discovered that Fr Mullen wasn't the only one making a first visit, some of the Fife brothers and visiting brothers admitted that this was also their first visit. After an equally smooth return crossing, the group made their way over the Forth Road Bridge to North Queensferry where they had a celebration dinner. Acting President Alex Burns welcomed all the visitors (President Peter Carney was unavoidably detained in Australia – a victim of the volcanic ash hold ups). Director and Grand Vice President Elect Tony Godden responded on behalf of the visitors. In a strange way, the brothers had escaped lightly - no collection at Mass, they had been given the very briefest of sermons and there had been no Catenian raffle at the dinner. Could their luck continue? No such luck. They were made to pay the price when Circle Secretary John McLean led the group in a folk singing session!

All in all, those present agreed that this was a most novel and enjoyable way to celebrate a Circle's 500th meeting and they look forward to the 600th meeting hoping that it will be as good.



## Golf... 4 Rounds... 4 Countries... 1 Day!

Martin Mann aged 66, Past President and Secretary of **Ellesmere Port Circle**,



took on the challenge of playing a game of golf in four countries in one day. The Catton Hall Shooting Ground Director who lives at Catton Hall, Bradley Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire, picked the longest day, 21st June, to make his attempt. Elected Captain of Helsby Golf Club in February he chose Powered Wheelchairs for severely disabled children as his charity.

All the golf courses he played offered the courses free, indeed the Secretary of the Northern Ireland course, who lives some 20 miles away, had assured him that he personally would open the gates and welcome him at 3.30am that morning. Further information can be obtained from [www.peterallissmasters.org](http://www.peterallissmasters.org) A full report will appear in the August edition.

## Thirty-five Thousand Pints of Bitter Please!

Henry Soulsby, who was installed as President of **Wolverhampton Circle**, was previously President in 2000/01. He and his wife Julie are looking forward to renewing many acquaintances. His charity for the year is Multiple Sclerosis. The new President has many plans for a very entertaining and active social programme which he began by arranging for a group of 14 brothers and their families to visit Banks' Brewery (now Marston's) in Wolverhampton. The company has been brewing beer in Wolverhampton since 1875 and many of the original Victorian buildings are still in use. The group was given a guided tour through the brewing process from initial malt milling to fermentation and casking.

*The group are pictured gazing longingly into one of the many fermentation vessels holding 35,000 pints of beer*



## Bill's 40 Catenian Years

**Tynemouth Circle's** Bill Atkinson recently received his 40 years membership scroll. Some 90 people crowded into the Grand Hotel to pay tribute to Bill who has been Circle President twice and also Provincial President. In a moving speech, Bill concentrated on the firm and long lasting friendships he and his wife Pat have made over the years. *Pictured left to right are: Jim Mcloughlin, Provincial President; Ken Ibbs, Tynemouth Circle President; Bill and Pat Atkinson and Donald Austin, Director Province 5*