



# Newsletter

Issue 13 - March 2010

## Meet the Core Group

With the enlargement of the Extended Family Core Group in the North Europe Province, it seemed timely to introduce the new members (on this page) and revisit the original group (overleaf).

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, there is evidence of some of the enthusiasm generated at our recent meetings at Noddfa.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.



**Kathleen O'Neill, Ealing**

A retired primary school teacher, now works voluntarily in the School reading with young children & organising the library. Foundation Governor at a local Catholic School. In the Parish, coordinates two Sacramental Programmes and is the Safeguarding Representative. Interested in theatre, flower-arranging and antiques.



**Sr. Aline Leonard, Ealing**

A member of a hospitality community of three, and the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Province in England and Wales. Involved in the parish as a member of the SVP and by visiting the sick & housebound. Gives reading support at her 'old' school as well as some individual tutoring. Also teaches reading at the British Council for Immigration Centre in Houslow, West London.



**Kathleen Nolan, Liverpool**

Has known Sr. Eleanor Dalton for many years. After retiring from teaching, worked with her at Nugent Care as a voluntary worker, and is now a Community Worker with them, supporting people with learning difficulties, and their carers. Helped Sr. Kathleen O'Keefe at Seafield, entering computer data to assist in her fund-raising. Feels the mission of the Sisters should be spread to lay people; loves the idea of "fanning the flame", putting her in mind of the Holy Spirit.



**Eileen Silvester, Carlisle**

Married to Peter; mother of three and grandmother of, Bethan; Eucharistic Minister & Reader in the Parish; Deputy Head of St. Margaret Mary's Primary School which has a long RSHM affiliation. Has worked closely with several Sisters at school, parish & deanery level, benefitting personally from their spirituality and prayer and reflection groups. Was delighted to attend the Jubilee Mass and EF Core Group Meeting.



**Peter Silvester, Carlisle**

Recently retired from work at a Building Society. M.C. in Warwick Bridge Parish. Early life in Liverpool, in close contact with Benedictine community. First contact with RSHM when Chair of Governors of a Carlisle Catholic Primary School. Highly valued parish & local contact with the Sisters and the opportunity to attend E.F. Core Group meeting at Noddfa. Attended RSHM 150th Anniversary Mass in Liverpool, and is keen to support the Sisters in their work.

*"That all may have life"*



**Colette Kearney, Liverpool**

At Seafield Convent School from 1943 to 1950, later keeping in touch through her younger cousins. Attended the RSHM Jubilee Mass at Liverpool Cathedral in 1999, and later several meetings of the SHM Extended Family. Drawn into the Core Group by Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan.



**Ruth Long, Liverpool**

Attended Seafield School between 1940 & 1950, then had several jobs until marriage in 1962. Has 6 children and is involved in helping with her eight grandchildren, doing the school run and babysitting.



**Sr. Kathleen O'Dovovan, Upminster**

The Jubilee Mass in Liverpool in 1999 deepened her belief that the charism given by Fr. Gailhac is shared with all who journey with us. Ministers at the 'Women @ the Well'. Centre, offering support to vulnerable women. Finds involvement with EF to be challenging & life-giving.



**Sr. Moira Lever, Carlisle**

Lives in St. Gabriel's Convent in a community of seven sisters. Works pastorally for the sisters in the house and is also involved in some catechetical work at parish level. Currently North Europe Province EF Coordinator, and is grateful for all the life she has received from colleagues and friends as together they try to develop the EF in the Province.



**Sue Black, York**

Married to Patrick; educated by La Sainte Union, Presentation of Mary, and Notre Dame sisters; supported Passionist Sisters in the early days of the hospice movement. Three grown-up children. Musician & liturgist since the mid-60s, working at parish, deanery and diocesan level. Completed Lancaster Diocese Collaborative Ministry course. Increasingly interested in global poverty & human rights.



**Patrick Black, York**

Retired Head Teacher; first came into contact with RSHM working alongside a colleague, Sr. Agnes Lyons, in Barrow and later worked with the sisters in their parish pastoral roles. Jesuit educated. Like Sue, actively involved in liturgy and church music, leading the parish choir, and composing for the liturgy. After 30 years in Barrow, moved 'home' to Yorkshire with Sue in 2008.

---

### **Seafield Gathering in November 2009**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November a group of about 20 from Crosby and Fazakerly gathered in Seafield. As Sr. Deirdre and our friends from Fazakerley gathered there was a great buzz as old acquaintances were renewed. Sr. Patsy extended a warm welcome to everyone. Kath Nolan reported on a meeting of the Extended Family in Pen after which we met to see what we might do in November. It was felt that there had to be a purpose in our gathering. Previously we had told our story and shared topics of interest. With Kath's fundraising experience we decided to ask the Zambezi Province to name a project we might support and they suggested we could help two small projects in Mutare. Kath led a prayer and this was followed by two friends sharing their experience of Zimbabwe.

... cont. ...

*"That all may have life"*

Gertrude Chikura, is a Zimbabwean trained in the hospital in Chikonohono where we had our Novitiate. Gertrude is always amazed at our willingness to help her people. She spoke graciously about the Missionaries who enabled her and her family to get a good education. It was always the ambition of young Zimbabweans, she said, to do well at school but unfortunately with the current political situation very few young people benefit from secondary school education. She broke down as she spoke about how AIDS has devastated her fellow country people. She was the first to donate to the fund for Mutare.



Lorraine Brown gave a brief overview of her voluntary work with MRANG a group of women seeking asylum in Liverpool, most of whom have been raped in their country of origin. Fr. Peter Morgan met some of these women in the Maternity Hospital in Liverpool where he is chaplain and saw how they struggled as they gave birth alone in a foreign country and found it extremely difficult to bond with their babies. MRANG provides birth partners for the women, gives them all they need for themselves and their babies while in hospital and welcomes them twice a week to meet in St. Patrick's Hall, Toxteth. Lorraine keeps Fridays free so that she can accompany the women to Detention Centres, Court or the hospital. Nugent Care is now assisting MRANG with policies and procedures, Financial and Management matters. Questions and discussion followed. Sr. Nuala prepared a welcome cup of tea and refreshments. The community at Seafeld were happy to have us meet there and we look forward to our next gathering.

*Sr. Eleanor Dalton RSHM*

---

### **Arrowsmith House, Liverpool**

One of our sisters, Sr. Anne Curran, has got together a lovely file large enough for all to see and read, covering the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Crosslands Convent School, Barrow-in-Furness (1929-2009). Although Ann did not collect this information she has arranged it into large A4 pages so that our elderly sisters can see and read it more easily, and use it as part of our social time. \*

Ann has taught deafness awareness in the past, and we aim to set up awareness sessions for both staff and sisters. We are also looking at starting memory diaries for any of our sisters who may have memory problems. These have been previously

researched and found to be beneficial to people who have different degrees of memory loss. The emphasis is on the sister completing the diary herself, with help where needed, so encouraging autonomy and independence. If anyone could contribute to these projects, please contact me at this e-mail address:

[rshmarrowsmith1@btinternet.com](mailto:rshmarrowsmith1@btinternet.com)

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone at Arrowsmith House, as well as sisters in other areas, for all the love and support I received during my recent illness, and a more recent bereavement.

*Chris Clowery, (Manager, Arrowsmith House)*

---

\* *Sister Anne's compilation on the Crosslands Convent School anniversary was drawn from "The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary" edited by Alice Leach, an old girl of the school, and a noted local historian. It is available to read, or to download and print (a large file!) at:*

<http://www.barrowhistorysociety.org.uk/page63.html>

*and with memories of many of the Sisters who taught there, as well as numerous past pupils, it's fascinating! - Patrick.*

---

*"That all may have life"*

## Lisburn, Northern Ireland



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November Lisburn Community celebrated John Gailhac's Birthday by inviting some of our past pupils to join us in prayer followed by a light supper. After the initial words of welcome, a brief outline of the history of the congregation and the work of Gailhac was given, followed by the story of our coming to Lisburn in 1870. This was the first foundation after Beziers.

We then proceeded to the Oratory for a prayer Service, "Our Journey of Companionship with Jesus." This was greatly appreciated by our visitors as they

remarked how privileged they felt to have been invited to join us. During the supper and afterwards there was much chatting and exchanging of stories as we tripped down memory lane and remembered some of the great women who made such a valuable contribution to education in Lisburn.

We were very happy when Therese Hamilton invited us to Rathmore Grammar School on the morning of the 24th February. We were very warmly greeted by the Head Girl and Head Boy, senior pupils and some members of staff.

A lavish spread awaited us in the Board Room, after which we visited the exhibit of Mere St Jean and Gailhac. It was so heartening to see the Spirit of R.S.H.M. sisters being preserved and continued in the School. Dunmurry Community then joined us for lunch and chat.



*Sr. Kathleen McCartan RSHM*

---

## Castlemilk



At our celebration here in Castlemilk Community, Glasgow, on Friday evening 13th November, we had friends in from the three surrounding parishes for prayer, refreshments (including a birthday cake) and a sing-song. The evening was enjoyed by all.



*Sr. Margaret Fielding RSHM*

---

*"That all may have life"*

## Montebello, California



On November 16th, 2009, we celebrated our 5th year as SHM Extended Family. On that day, over 100 gathered in Montebello, California at the Provincial Center to celebrate Liturgy and the interconnectedness of all. The students who participated in the International School meeting in Portugal this past year planned the Liturgy and shared their experiences of that meeting. This celebration was filled with life and new energy as the students gave a wonderful presentation of how they are living out the charism of the RSHM. Another amazing outcome of this day was to see so many students and parents meet once again with some of the Sisters who had taught them in days gone by.

It was also at this time that an appreciation for Sr. Mary Genino was shown by a fund donated in her name to CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking). Sr. Mary was elected to leadership as Provincial in the WAP. She has guided the SHM EF during the past 5 years. We thank her for her leadership, as well as her energy and enthusiasm.

*Barbara Redmond (WAP)*

---

### WEP/EAP Communications Director

*Jane Eggleston (WAP)* reports that the Western and Eastern American Provinces have recently appointed Cecilia Brizuela as their Communication Director. Cecilia, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, has 15 years experience in Communications, Marketing, Public Relations, Conceptual Design, and Website creation and maintenance.

She will be responsible for producing the materials needed to communicate the RSHM charism and mission to family, friends, benefactors and the general public through the website, newsletters, newspaper articles, Powerpoint presentations, DVDs and brochures.

A very interesting development!

---

### Next Issue

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition - and please, keep your stories coming!

Could you possibly arrange for copies to get to other interested people, such as ex-RSHM, former pupils, parishioners? My list of lay associates is still woefully small.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in July, and the deadline for contributions will be

**22nd June 2010**

All material will be gratefully accepted - articles, photographs, thoughts, reflections, prayers, poems, etc. etc.

Please send it all to:

Patrick Black  
E-mail: [patrick.black@btinternet.com](mailto:patrick.black@btinternet.com)  
Phone: 01904 760331  
(Outside UK 0044 1904 760331)

Address: 117, Greenshaw Drive,  
Haxby,  
York,  
YO32 2DB, UK.

---

**Best wishes from the SHM EF Core Group (NEP)**

---

*“That all may have life”*