

HNDL GB News

The newsletter of the Association of British Members of the
Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes

September 2017

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**Paying your Hospitalité Cotisations through
the British Hospitalite Trust**

**Association of British Members of the
Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes**

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2017 Reunion – Shrewsbury



For our 2017 Reunion we are heading to the Diocese of Shrewsbury over the weekend of Friday 3rd – Sunday 4th November.

Our reunion Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady, Help of Christians, and St Peter of Alcantara and the reunion lunch and Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Lion Hotel, which is conveniently located a short walk from the cathedral.

Full details and a booking form are in this newsletter.

Venues for Future Reunions

We have received an offer to host the 2019 reunion, to coincide with a pilgrimage anniversary but at the time of writing we do not have an offer to host 2018.

If anyone would like to host the 2018 Reunion or any future reunions please get in touch with Mick Davison.

John Ryan RIP

John Ryan was born In Bushey, Hertfordshire on 14th July, 1940 a son for James and Catherine Ryan and a brother for Mary Ann otherwise known as Maureen, when John was eleven his parents had a second daughter, Philomena.

John was a shy, retiring lad but always thoughtful and considerate. His education at Gunnersbury Catholic Grammar School was unremarkable but he did pass seven GCE exams.

John was a regular altar server and at the age of fifteen he joined the celebrations at Westminster Cathedral for the diamond jubilee of the Arch Confraternity of Saint Stephen, a group of which he later became chairman.

After leaving school John applied for an apprenticeship with London Transport and at the age seventeen years he joined London Transport as a clerical clerk class B at the Chiswick and Acton Depot at the princely annual salary of £315. John remained with London Transport until opting for early retirement after thirty eight years' service.

His faith played a significant part in John's life. It was while he was in the parish of St Joseph's Wembley in 1974 that he joined his first pilgrimage to Lourdes with what was then called the English National Pilgrimage. St Joseph's provided a group of about thirty pilgrims and their group was led by Fr Peter Latham who was also chaplain to the Arch Confraternity of St Stephen. By 1983 John had joined the Council of the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes and eight years later he was appointed Chairman of the Society, a post he held until 1999.

After 2001 when he had completed his twenty fifth pilgrimage with SOLL John, having retired early from work, decided to devote more of his time to Lourdes but this time working for Lourdes as a 'stagiaire'. John had begun his career with the Hospitalité of Lourdes in the late 1970's, he made his Engagement on 19 May 1982 and his Consecration on 19 September 1984. However, given his considerable involvement with SOLL, his time available to work with HNDL at that time was restricted. Nevertheless, John had an inherent love for trains and so it was, in the manner of most Lourdes volunteers, that he found himself working at Lourdes Railway Station assisting sick pilgrims on and off the trains.

Nobody fully knows how many trips John made to Lourdes although he did admit at one time it exceeded 250. As a single man with no dependents John was able to spend much time in Lourdes. Initially he took a room in a now closed hotel in the Rue du Bourg, he then took a room at No 40 Rue de La Grotte where he spent the best part of 20 years.

John became one of the team of volunteers to lead the teams at the Railway Station and he found himself spending upwards of twenty weeks a year in Lourdes. The Station and its clients became his great love. John became well known because he took time to engage with the fourgon drivers and with pilgrimage leaders.

During 2015 and 2016 John's health declined significantly but it still came as a great shock when the news of his death on 11th January 2017 was received.

John's funeral was attended by many of his fellow hospitaliers and his fellow pilgrims from the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes. John's ashes were interred in the Hospitalité vault in the Bon Pasteur cemetery in Lourdes during the Society pilgrimage in May,

May he rest in peace.

[Thanks to Paul Whitbourn who provided the notes he used in giving the Eulogy at John's funeral to enable this tribute to be included in this newsletter]

Reunion 2017 – Programme, Costs and Bookings

Reunion Programme

Friday 3rd November

Our hosts have organised a wine tasting session on Friday evening. I don't know why they think the wines of south-west France will be of interest to the members of the Association. The evening at Tanners Wine Merchants will begin at 7.30pm with a champagne reception, followed by a tour of the internationally famous cellars with wine tasting and charcuterie at a cost of £25 per person

Saturday 4th November

9.30am-10.30am

Registration at Shrewsbury Cathedral, Our Lady, Help of Christians and St Peter of Alcantara, Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE. Tea & Coffee will be available.

11.00am

Mass in the Cathedral, Celebrant Bishop Mark Davis Bishop of Shrewsbury

The Mass will be offered for deceased members of the Association. Members are asked to inform Mick Davison about any members who have died since our last reunion so that their names can be included in the bidding prayers for the Mass.

12.45pm

Lunch (including wine) in the Lion Hotel, Wyle Coop, SY1 1UY

2.15 pm

Annual General Meeting of the Association. We will aim to finish the meeting by 5.00pm

On Saturday evening members and guests are invited to assemble for dinner and drinks in one of the nearby pubs / restaurants. Details will be announced on the day.

Sunday 5th November

Breakfast in hotel and depart

For those wishing to attend Mass before leaving Shrewsbury there are Masses in the Cathedral at 8.30am and 10.45am

Hotel Accommodation

Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange an acceptable group rate for members and their guests at the Lion Hotel (the venue for the lunch and meeting), but looking at the room rates available on the hotel website for the weekends before and after the reunion acceptable rates may be available now that the hotel is not holding a block booking for us. There are a number of hotels close to the Cathedral and the Lion Hotel that you may wish to consider using for the weekend. Our suggestions are:

Hotel	Post Code	Telephone	To Cathedral	To Lion Hotel
The Lion	SY1 1UY	01743 353107	0.25 miles	
Old Post Office	SY1 1SZ	01743 236019	0.15 miles	0.15 miles
Morgans – The Exchange	SY1 1 HU	231199	0.3 miles	0.3 miles
Premier Inn	SY1 1PG	0871 5279402	0.7 miles	0.3 miles

Bookings for accommodation should be made direct with the hotel of your choice.

Wine tasting (Friday evening – optional)	£25.00 per person
Registration and Administration Fee	£10.00 per person
Lion Hotel Conference Fee (including lunch, room booking, etc)	£35.00 per person

A booking form for the Reunion is enclosed with this newsletter.

Closure of the Piscines

Further work is being carried out this winter which will see a new plateau area developed in front of the baths and the construction of a new canopy. As a result the piscines will be closed from 30th October through until 23rd March next year. For pilgrims visiting Lourdes during this period there will be a Service of Water arranged at various times during the day. The times of the services will be announced on a day by day basis and the frequency will depend on the number of pilgrims present. The Services of Water will enable pilgrims to respond to Our Lady's requests to "Go and drink at the spring" and "Go and wash in the water" during the period that the baths are closed.

Will you come and follow me

There is still the need to encourage more people to follow in our footsteps to travel to Lourdes and work as part of the Hospitalité. In 2018 Pope Francis has called a Synod to look particularly at young people in the church. The Lourdes Sanctuary have extended a particular welcome to young people (aged 16-29) to come to Lourdes in 2018 as part of the preparations for the Synod, a great opportunity for us to reach out to young people and invite them to join us in the family of Hospitalité.

Your Contact Details

We do our very best to keep our records up to date but people do move house from time to time and probably more frequently change their e-mail address. If you have changed your postal or e-mail address please let us know.

If you have received this newsletter by post but have an e-mail address we would be very grateful if you would provide us with your e-mail address. Please send an e-mail to HNDLGB@gmail.co.uk. With the costs of stationery, printing and postage it costs over £1 for every newsletter we send by post by comparison maintaining the website and sending emails to tell people the newsletter is available on-line costs a few pence. If you have an email address please send it to us.

If you do not have an email address don't worry we will not cut you off and will continue to send you a newsletter through the post.

Paying your Hospitalité Cotisation through the British Hospitalité Trust

As members of the Hospitalité we are required to pay an annual Cotisation (membership subscription). Everyone, except those who through age have retired from actively working, are required to pay this annual subscription to continue as members. The most important thing to remember about paying your Cotisation is that it ensures you are insured while carrying out your duties with the Hospitalité. If you are in doubt about whether your subscription is up to date we recommend that you arrange to pay through the British Hospitalité Trust (BHT).

The BHT assists the work of the Hospitalité (HNDL) by collecting the annual cotisations (subscriptions) of British members. As a registered UK charity the Trust is able to reclaim any UK tax that has been paid on these subscriptions. The tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid Scheme is then used to support the work of the Hospitalité. If you are not already paying your subscriptions through the Trust you can get full details including a standing order form and Gift Aid declaration form from the BHT web-site, www.britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk.

Website not available

We apologise that our website (www.HNDLGB.co.uk) is currently not available. There has been a problem with the web site hosting. We hope to have this problem resolved as soon as possible.

Association of British Members of the Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes

2017 Reunion – Shrewsbury (Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th November 2017)

Notes to Booking Form

We look forward to welcoming many members of the Hospitalité to the 2017 Reunion. We will also be pleased to welcome anyone stagiaires who are in their period of formation and have not yet become full members of the Hospitalité. Any member or stagiaire may also invite guest to join them at the reunion.

If you require accommodation please book direct with the hotel of your choice (see newsletter and below for information on nearby hotels).

Registration and Administration Fee

The Registration and Administration fee for the reunion covers the overhead costs of the reunion, including, the costs of accommodating our guests from Lourdes, printing and stationery, order of service for Mass, etc, etc. **The Registration and Administration Fee is payable by everyone attending the reunion. A booking form with the £10 Registration and Administration Fee must be completed and returned to the Secretariat for everyone attending the reunion.**

Cost of Reunion

Registration and Administration fee	£10.00 per person
Day delegate rate for Saturday (incl lunch, teas, coffees, room hire etc)	£35.00 per person
Friday evening – Wine Tasting (optional)	£25.00 per person

Hotel Accommodation

Hotel	Post Code	Telephone	To Cathedral	To Lion Hotel
The Lion	SY1 1UY	01743 353107	0.25 miles	
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Premier Inn	SY1 1PG	0871 5279402	0.7 miles	0.3 miles

Vegetarian or Other Special Diets Menu

If you require a vegetarian or other special diet menu please indicate this on the booking form.