

September 2012

Team meeting at Pluscarden

When Jane Coll first joined the UK Oblates Team we were aware that she would be unable to be with us for any of our meetings 'down south'. So, a year ago, the Team arranged that in September 2012 they would meet at Pluscarden - Jane's Monastery. Unfortunately, some of the Team were prevented from journeying north due to trekking in the Himalayas, an important wedding, and preparations for a young man to begin at University ... but Zina, Stephen and Pam ventured north of Hadrian's Wall. Bishop Richard Moth had been invited to join us (as a founder member of the Team and Oblate of Pluscarden) and we were both delighted and honoured that he was able to spend a couple of days with us and tell us a little of his hectic life as Bishop of the Forces and how being an Oblate assisted him in this mission.

The Team, and their travelling companions, stayed in St Scholastica's Guest House and it was a wonderful weekend of getting to know each other as both friends and Oblates of different Congregations (Subiaco and EBC).

We were very grateful to the Community at Pluscarden for their hospitality during our stay and especially for enabling Fr Martin Birrell (their Oblate Master) to spend so much of his time with us.

We now have two extra members of the Team from north of the border, who will be of great assistance to Jane and her future input on the website.

Pat Carrigan is an Oblate of Pluscarden and is just beginning his journey to become a Permanent Deacon - the prayers of all the Team, and those who visit our website, are with Pat in this very important ministry.

Martin Gardner, who is also an Oblate of Pluscarden, will also be helping Jane especially with IT and technical matters. Martin hopes to be able to venture south to the next Team meeting which will be at Prinknash Abbey later in the year.



Back row, l-r: Pam Morey (Prinknash); Fr Martin Birrell (Oblate Master, Pluscarden); Jane Coll (Pluscarden); Pat Carrigan (Pluscarden)

Front row, l-r: Martin Gardner (Pluscarden); Zina Neagle (Douai); Stephen Day (Prinknash); Bishop Richard Moth (Pluscarden)

June 2012

UK Team invited to attend UK Oblate Directors' meeting

Almost three years after the last UK Oblate Directors' meeting, seven Oblate Directors convened on 30th June 2012 at Ealing Abbey, by the kindness of Dom Timothy and the Ealing Community. Five members of the UK Oblate Team had followed an invitation to join the meeting.

Apart from Fr Timothy, who only had a short walk from his Abbey to the meeting room; Sr Benedict had travelled from Minster; Fr Nicholas from Quarr, on the Isle of Wight; Sr Laurentia from the Stanbrook nuns new base in Wass in Yorkshire; Fr Martin from Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire; Fr Gervase from Douai Abbey near Reading; and Fr Gabriel from Buckfast, in Devon. Quite a mammoth journey for some. (Those who had replied to the invitation but were unable to attend were Br Bernard (Belmont); Srs Miriam and Judith (Turvey); Sr Claire (Ryde, IoW); Mother Paula (Curzon Park) and Fr Martin (Pluscarden who is currently in Ghana).

The members of the UK Team who were there were Thomas Brunnhuber, as the National Coordinator for the International Benedictine Oblate Congress in Rome in October 2013; his wife, Klara, as the website manager; Sally Mercer who, in her capacity as Secretary to the Team, was responsible for taking notes of the discussions; Stephen Day, as the Team Treasurer; and Pam Morey, who is currently the chair of the Team.

It was a great meeting and much was discussed and several decisions taken. When the Oblate Directors last met in November 2009, the UK Oblates Team consisted of just two people, Zina Neagle and Pam Morey, who had only recently become a member of the Team. A lot has been achieved in the intervening three years and this was reflected in the relaxed, friendly and happy atmosphere that was very evident during the four hour duration of the gathering.

The main topics discussed were obviously the forthcoming Congress next year, the National Oblates Retreat which is scheduled for May 2013 at Douai, and the Benedictine-Oblates website.

March 2012

The Team spent a wonderful spring-like day at Douai Abbey on 10th March. After our lunch break we enjoyed the company of the young lambs which had recently been born and who were frolicking in the fields behind the Abbey. Our grateful thanks are extended to Fr Gervase, the Douai Oblate Director, for his hospitality to us all on that day. We welcomed to the Team Sally Mercer, an Oblate of Prinknash, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Secretary and apart from Jane Coll, who is resident in the north of Scotland, it was a full Team meeting. One of the items we were able to discuss was the success of our recent National Oblate Retreat which was held at Buckfast at the end of February. Thanks were expressed to Gerry and Stephen who had worked very hard 'behind the scenes' to ensure that the Retreat was so successful. The next National Retreat is already in preparation - to take place at Douai Abbey, 10-12 May 2013. We also discussed necessary preparations for the Consultation Meeting of the Organisation Committee for the Congress of Benedictine Oblates held at Douai in May, to progress their plans for next year's gathering in Rome. Our next Team meeting will be at Pluscarden in September when we look forward to meeting our Scottish member on 'home ground'.



Front row from left to right - Sally Mercer (Prinknash), Zina Neagle (Douai), Revd Gerry Reilly (Elmore), Klara Brunnhuber (Douai) & Oblate Director Fr Gervase (Douai)
Back row from left to right - Pam Morey (Prinknash), Stephen Day (Prinknash), Marie Liveing (St Cecilia's, Ryde) & Thomas Brunnhuber (Douai)

November 2011

The UK Oblate Team met again the weekend before the beginning of Advent. We were the guests of the Abbot of Downside, Fr Aidan Bellenger, and it was a lovely day, weather-wise, hospitality-wise and meeting-wise! We appreciated the kindness offered by the Abbot and his Community, and it was lovely to be able to meet at another Benedictine venue. The main reason for the meeting was to ensure that all was on track for the National Retreat, which we are organising at Buckfast in February 2012. Thomas (our National Congress Coordinator) was unable to be with us as he was 'on call' in London but Klara, Stephen, Gerry, Marie, Pam and Zina were there. The Team were delighted to welcome Zina back with them. Marie kindly took the notes of our meeting and, as has been said before, there is now a real team spirit. We are very much looking forward to our Retreat 27-29 February, and if you are interested in joining us there, please [click here](#) for our flyer.



From left to right - Zina Neagle (Douai), Stephen Day (Prinknash), Marie Liveing (St Cecilia's, Ryde), Klara Brunnhuber (Douai), Revd Gerry Reilly (Elmore) & Pam Morey (Prinknash).

January 2011



Revd Gerry Reilly (Elmore), Klara Brunnhuber (Douai), Pam Morey (Prinknash), Thomas Brunnhuber (Douai), Stephen Day (Prinknash)

Five members of the new UK Oblate Team met at Douai at the end of January and had a very full day's discussions. Pam Morey (Prinknash) chaired the meeting and notes were taken by Treasurer Stephen Day (Prinknash) as the position of Secretary is currently vacant. Thomas Brunnhuber (Douai), the National Coordinator for the 3rd World Congress of Benedictine Oblates in 2013, gave the meeting a full account of the Consultation Meeting which had been held at Montserrat at the end of October. Our website continues to receive compliments, and Website Assistant Klara Brunnhuber (Douai) outlined the hopes and plans for the future of the website - all very exciting, and these will become apparent as the months progress! The Team has been keen

to hold another National Retreat, following the highly successful ones that took place at Douai in the winter of 2008, and Gerry Reilly (Elmore) reported to the meeting on the results of his research - watch this space. More will be published after our next meeting which is scheduled for early July.



UK Oblate Team members with Oblate Director Fr Gervase Holdaway OSB in January 2011 at Douai Abbey.