



ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 98 - NEWSLETTER OF THE CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA UNION

Spring 2017

Thousands of CCR pastmen all over the world were devastated to hear the news that after 112 years their beloved Alma Mater was going to close. Tears were shed, messages exchanged by text, email and social media – most of us just too shell shocked to think of doing anything about it, except exchange messages showing how saddened we all were, and how appreciative we were of all that CCR had done to shape our lives.

Not so the Parents' Association!
As the new week started, news was breaking of a meeting to be held in the County Arms Hotel in Birr on Wednesday 22nd February which was preceded by a four hour meeting of the Parents' Association with the Abbot, Dom Richard, which gave a hint of a possible reprieve. This meeting was very well attended by parents and pastmen and sent an extremely positive message about the desire of one and all to save the College. A further meeting with Dom Richard on Friday 24th February led to the letter from him which stated that no further action will be taken prior to 17 March 2017 pending engagement with the group to be formed from among parents and pastmen to explore possible viable proposals for the future of the College.

Others including the current and immediate past Union President have also rowed in and have been working tirelessly in support of the project.

As many of us are only too well aware, the falling numbers since the recession started have led to the College being subsidised by the Monastery – this was not going to be sustainable long term, but with the economy seeming to pick up and a bounce from winning the Senior Cup so spectacularly in 2015, there was real hope for the future.

Now the reality is that unless the Action Group can come up with pledges of serious contributions, and a viable plan for the next five years in the next few weeks, the College WILL close and so much that we all cherish will be just a memory. Inside this special edition of the *Roscrea Review* is an urgent message from Union President Pádraic Ó Máille to all pastmen – it has already been circulated by email but there are 2,000 pastmen for whom we have postal but not email addresses. At the bottom of this page is a link to a short survey the Action Group is conducting to research the extent to which children of pastmen might be likely to attend CCR in years to come. Even if your children are long left school, feel free to complete it.

Production of an edition of the *Roscrea Review* covering events of 2016 was at a fairly advanced state when the sad news broke. It will be produced in due course. This special edition has been rushed out so that ALL pastmen are made aware of the crisis, and to give them an opportunity to do something to turn things around. Inside are details of the campaign and its leaders who are to be commended for their selfless dedication to the cause of saving for future generations the Alma Mater we love so well.

**TOGETHER
WE CAN SAVE
CCR!**

saveccr@outlook.com

#saveccr

Facebook:

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**Please complete the
following online survey:**

[https://www.
surveymonkey.com/r/
WPNXVYM](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPNXVYM)

Spearheading the Campaign to save CCR



Ronnie Culliton (CCR 1979-'84)



Parents with Dom Richard



Mark Ryan (1974-'77) seen here handing over the chain of office to current Union President Pádraic Ó Máille at the Union AGM last September



Bill O'Brien (CCR 1963-'68)



Fergal Cox (CCR 1987-'92)



Arthur Spring (CCR 1989-'95)



Graham Ross (CCR 1989-'95)

PÁDRAIC Ó MÁILLE President

March 2nd 2017

Dear CCR Pastman,

There has been an overwhelming expression of emotion from pastmen worldwide, the parents of the current student body, and significantly, from the current

Three generations of McGinnittys & Murphys



Brian McGinnitty who received an Entrance Scholarship to UCD in recognition of his excellent Leaving Cert results last Summer (580 points) and is now studying Commerce at UCD. Brian is photographed with his Dad Eoin (CCR 1987-'92) and his grandfather Eugene (CCR 1961-'66).

Pictured in Donnybrook after victory in the Junior League Final December 2015: Former Union President Dr. Sean Murphy (CCR 1955-'60) and College Physio Brian Murphy (CCR 1985-'90) with Brian's wife Lyndsay and their three children Ben (TY), Sam (2nd year) and Luke (1st year 2020).

Let's hope there'll be a fourth generation of McGinnittys and Murphys in CCR!



The scene from the balcony at UL Concert Hall during CCR's annual Musical Evening in 2012.

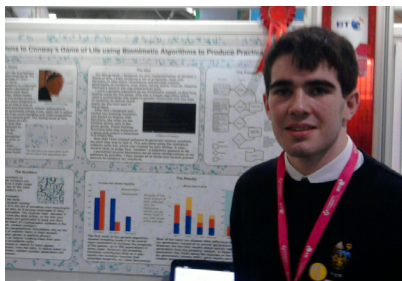


Three CCR Legends: Dan Trayers, Willie Mullins and Tim Foley on 17th March 2015.



Union gold Medal 2016: Lucas Culliton accepting the Union Gold Medal for the best Junior Cert results from Pádraic Ó Máille alongside College President Brendan Feehan

YSE 2013 Richard Tynan with his prize winning exhibit at the 2013 BT Young Scientist Competition in the RDS.



Five Abbots – pictured on the occasion of the Class of '61 Golden Jubilee Reunion: Dom Kevin Daly, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Colmcille O'Toole R.I.P., Dom Peter Garvey R.I.P. and Dom Ambrose Farrington.

Could we ever forget?



The scene as members of the victorious SCT celebrate CCR's victory over Belvedere College in the Leinster Cup Final on St. Patrick's Day 2015.



Leinster and All Ireland Hurling 'C' Champions 2015

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