



Class of '61 Environment Award Presentation



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From the Union President

It has been an honour and a joy to serve as your Union President – in fact, by the time this goes to print my year will be nearly over, and at the AGM on 27th May I will hand on the chain to Jim Keating who has been a rock of support all year as President-Elect.

When my year began last May, there was still an afterglow from the dizzy heights scaled by the SCT in reaching the Leinster Final two short months earlier. There was therefore, an extra pride in welcoming several of that team into the Union, shortly before they sat their Leaving Certificate examinations. The “distractions” of the Cup run seemed to have little effect on the results – I’m no fan of league tables of schools, but it is great to know that CCR students are among the highest achievers in the country. Education always seems to be in the News and at the moment schools such as CCR are facing threats from a government party which has an agenda that is extremely hostile towards private schools and Catholic schools in particular. My advice to the government would be not to attempt to fix what isn’t broken and to be very careful or they might break a lot more than they attempt to fix.

The Summer and Autumn of 2011 saw some wonderful Union occasions in Ireland and abroad, described in detail in this Review. I attended Dinners in Dublin, New York and London, four golf outings, four class reunions (five if we count the Class of 1971 gathering at the Dublin Dinner), and will, hopefully attend the forthcoming Dinners in Kilkenny and Cork. I also was a guest at the King’s Hospital, Clongowes Wood and CUS Dinners – these invitations are sometimes sent to the President and sometimes to the Chairman of the Dublin Branch, but it doesn’t matter as Sinbad Wilmot and I have a very good working relationship! Another very pleasant event I attended was the 63rd Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Sport on Sunday 25th March in St. Ann’s Church, Dawson St., Dublin to which I and various other Union Presidents were invited. Indeed at that service I was sitting beside Jimmy Muldowney, the St. Michael’s College Union President who had just come from Donnybrook where their Juniors had clinched the double. Among the bidding prayers at the service was one which went *“We pray for all sportsmen and women from many nations who compete in all sporting endeavours. We pray that they may be assisted to compete freely and fairly and may also be free from all feelings of rivalry and bitterness. We commend to God the possibilities for unity through the gift of sport.”* We smiled! As Johnny Cash sang *“What could I do?”*

I also attended three wonderful musical occasions involving CCR. Firstly the Musical Evening in May which was held in the University of Limerick Concert Hall - such was the number of people wanting to attend, it had to be moved! And what a performance it was too! Word is this year’s is on at the same venue on 23rd May! In November, I saw a wonderful production of *Fiddler on the Roof* – I had forgotten just how good a musical that is! Then, just before Christmas, the Carol Service in the Monastery Church was a fantastic occasion, as enjoyable as it was uplifting. No amount of praise is too much for what has been achieved in this area, under the guidance of Mr. William Cullagh.

I was delighted that my classmate in CCR, Ambassador Joe Hayes, was able to accept our invitation to be Guest Speaker at the Dublin Dinner. Joe gave a wonderfully entertaining speech and had everyone only wishing he had spoken for longer. A good trick! The same Dublin Dinner saw a presentation being



Photo shows outgoing Union President Johnny Dolan congratulating Pat Hanratty after the handing over of the Presidential chain of office.

made to Gerry Maher who has retired from teaching, in recognition of his contribution as a teacher, a former Union President and a former Editor of the Roscrea Review. We wish Gerry well in his retirement.

As I write this the Leinster Cups have been duly won by St. Michael’s. Firstly, we must congratulate them on a wonderful achievement. Of course we are gutted at the way our involvement in the Senior Cup competition ended. The many pastmen who attended the games in NUIM were absolutely aghast at the amount of extra time played in the first match, and if truth were told, a bit frustrated that we just failed to cross the St. Michael’s line, despite being camped in their half for most of the second period of the replay. Despite losing, the team and their coaches gave us two performances to be absolutely proud of. Written off in the media as no hopers facing St. Michael’s, the consensus is that the better team lost. If anything, the team looked a better all-round unit than last year’s and that is saying something. What they also proved is that last year’s run to the Final was no fluke and we can continue to look forward to competing with the very best. Heartiest congratulations to the team, their coaches and all concerned! The word from the College is, *whisper it!* that next year’s team is expected to be even better!

Boarding schools such as CCR face a difficult future – it’s no secret that numbers are down due to the recession, but the Board of Governors is tackling the issue head on. Lots of pastmen are showing a willingness to help in that regard – they are always welcome in CCR. I have heard the College President on so many occasions emphasise at dinners, reunions and other events that not a week goes by without some pastmen calling on the College and that they are always welcome.

Some of you will be aware that Katherine Donovan took a well deserved six month career break during the second half of 2011. Let’s just say we in the Union missed her greatly and are very glad she is back now since the start of the New Year, and continuing to work on our behalf. I would like to thank Pat Somers and Mark Coen who helped to proofread this Review. Thank you again for having me as your President, and apologies for the late arrival of the Roscrea Review.

Pat Hanratty
patanratty@gmail.com

College News

On Thursday 24th November 2011 Union President Pat Hanratty presented the Union Gold Medal for the best results in the Junior Certificate to Matthew Kavanagh and to Richard Tynan, who both obtained 12 As.

● 5th Year students Angus Baker and Mark Dowley came 3rd in the Senior Group Biological and Ecological category in this year's Young Scientist Competition. Their project involved research into the alternative to antibiotics and was completed on the Abbey farm. The TY Group comprising of Richard Hughes, Matthew Kavanagh and Richard Tynan undertook an investigation into sleep deprivation. Their research was carried out on campus amongst their fellow students and they were highly commended by the judges in the Social and Behavioural Sciences group intermediate category.

● Richard Tynan, a native of Portarlington, who is currently in Transition Year received an award for achieving 3rd place in the Junior Certificate Technical Graphics State Exam in June 2011. Over 12,000 students in the country sat this exam. The Award ceremony took place on Saturday 3rd March in the GMIT Galway.

● On December 14th, the TY students travelled to Dublin to meet Mr Enda Kenny T.D. The reason for their visit to Government Buildings was the launch of the TY Christmas Carols CD. They sang 'Joy to the World' as the Taoiseach came out on the steps and then they were joined by Mr. Kenny in a rendition of 'Silent Night'.

● The Music Department recently participated in the Inter-schools Choral Festival which took place in Wesley College on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd March.

Awards received by the College:-

Winners in the following: the Frank Hughes Cup for The Senior Boys Choral competition; the over 17 Popular Singing Competition - Philip Keegan; the under 16 Popular Singing Competition - Conal Hanamy; the Irish Singing Competition - Conal Hanamy

2nd place in the following: the Under 17 Popular Singing Competition – Stephen Leo; the Irish Singing Competition – Cian Hanamy

1st Class Honours in: Under 16 Popular Singing Competition - David Nagle Under 17 Popular Singing - Jimmy Mc Evoy, Carl O'Dowd and Eoghan Mc Mahon; The Flute Quartet - Keith Kavanagh, Aaron McDermott, Bill Harrington and Diarmuid Ryan. Highly Commended in: Under 16 Popular Singing Competition - Fergal Hayes and Jack Murphy

● The College's Annual Musical Evening will be held in U.L. on May 23rd at 7.30 p.m.

● Conor Finn and Shane Layden from the Class of 2011 both started on the Irish U-20 team that defeated France in Paris. Sean O'Brien has secured a place on the U/18 Schoolboys Team while a number of students have been



Photo shows from left: Richard Tynan Sen. (CCR 1968-'74), Richard Tynan Jr., Carmel Tynan, Union President Pat Hanratty, Liz, Matthew and J.J. Kavanagh. Richard and Matthew both obtained 12 As in the Junior Cert. last June.

selected for the U/19's Squad. 1st & 2nd Year students attended the Ireland V Wales match recently and Shane Layden was voted "Man of the Match" on the day. 3rd Year students attended the U/20's match, when pastman Conor Phelan got out for Ireland.

● Following the Incidental Inspection in December, the College had a very positive History Inspection in February.

● In a recent Sunday Times Poll, Cistercian College was ranked 22nd overall for their admissions to Universities. (This is up from 27th place last year). Furthermore, the College was ranked 7th overall Boys School in Ireland and 4th in Munster.

● Numbers for the coming academic year and beyond continue to be a cause for concern given the current economic climate. The Board of Governors recently organized Mr Kevin Quigley to facilitate a "Think Tank" in conjunction with Senior Management and Staff. A Focus Group was subsequently formed in an effort to formulate a structured plan for consideration by the Board. Five regional meetings were also arranged for March to promote the school to prospective families and an Open Evening was held before Easter.

At a recent Union Central Committee meeting the Report commissioned a number of years ago, which was spearheaded by Mr Bill O'Brien, was referred to and it was suggested that the College should take every opportunity to tap into the expertise available to them. It was also stated that the College actively supports networking amongst pastmen to help support graduates looking for work experience and internships. Ms. Cody stated that the College seeks to support its past students and actively seeks to employ pastmen to provide services for the College whenever possible. Mr Pat O'Shea stated that the Union Constitution refers to the issue of networking and support for fellow pastmen and it is an issue that requires more structure and development given the current economic climate.

South West Dinner 29th April 2011

The South West Branch returned to the Haulbowline Naval Base for its annual get together. The barbecue format of the 2010 Dinner was repeated and the occasion was blessed with the early summer weather we had during April 2011.

It was the last official function as Union President for Johnny Dolan who was accompanied by his wife, Anne. Also present was incoming Union President, Pat Hanratty as well as Pat's designated successor, Jim Keating who assumed their respective offices at the AGM of the CCR Union two weeks later.

It was great to see the younger generation coming to the event, John Verling who is studying in UCC and Andrew Lett from Tipperary who is going into his final year studies in UCG.

John Joyce (Class of 1961) travelled down from Birr and stayed with his old classmate, Peter Sommerfield. John and his twin brother, Arthur are sons of Fred Joyce, our French Teacher in CCR.

Chairman of the Dublin Branch, Sinbad Wilmot and his wife Michele Nugent availed of the opportunity to have a getaway weekend in Cobh.

It wasn't just a Reunion for CCR as there was an unexpected meeting of two school friends from the Loreto Convent in Fermoy. Margaret O'Shea, wife of Pat, found lots more than CCR matters to talk about with Kitty McCarthy, wife of Donal. While both are regular supporters of CCR events, they had not previously met at a CCR function. Later, they could compare notes with Kay O'Meara, also a Loreto Past Student.

Obviously, when we were organising the event, we were hoping that the Leinster Schools Senior Cup would be on display in Haulbowline. Nevertheless, College President, Marcelline Cody was able to give those present an inside view on CCR's rugby accomplishments during the year. Naturally thrilled with this achievement during her first year in the role, she is very optimistic that CCR will continue to feature in sporting success stories.

Towards the end of the evening, a raffle, kindly sponsored by a locally based Past Student was held. Union President, Johnny Dolan and current President Elect, Jim Keating were wondering how they could transport their newly acquired, large hampers of fruit home from Haulbowline. The other prize was won by Maura O'Sullivan, sister in law of Branch Chairman, Gerry O'Meara.

A most enjoyable evening ended with most of the guests being transported by late night ferry across scenic Cork Harbour to their cars or hotels.

One long standing supporter of Branch events, **Tom O'Callaghan** (CCR 1943-45) of Mitchelstown was unable to attend this year. Tom was a son of Pat O'Callaghan who was among CCR's first student intake in 1905. CCR was always close to Tom's heart. He asked if one of the monks could call on him if they were travelling to the dinner.

We were delighted that Dom Peter Garvey travelled to the event and he readily agreed to call to Tom on the way down. Tom died just two months later. It was gratifying that holding the Haulbowline event in April gave him one last opportunity to renew acquaintance with an institution that meant so much to him and to several generations of the O'Callaghans.

Tom is sadly missed by his wife Margaret, his family and friends as well as by his fellow pastmen. *Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a ainm usual.*



*A happy group having just taken the ferry from Cobh to Haulbowline
Back Row: Richie Ryan, Dom Peter Garvey, Donncha Cody, Andrew Lett, John Verling, Colman McCarthy, Brendan Hyland, Anne Hyland, Paul Carroll (partly hidden), Donal McCarthy.
Front Row: Pat Hanratty, Margaret O'Shea, College President Marcelline Cody, Union President Johnny Dolan, Anne Dolan, Jim Keating, Michael McNamara, Michele Nugent, Sinbad Wilmot, Liz Ryan, Kitty McCarthy, Colette Carroll.*



Union President Johnny Dolan addresses the happy gathering.

South West Dinner

continued...

Right: Anne and Brendan Hyland being served at the barbecue as Peter Sommerfield looks on admiringly.



Liz Ryan pictured with Colette and Paul Carroll.



Michael McNamara with Neans and Gerald McCarthy.



Pat Hanratty presents a bouquet of flowers to Anne Dolan while Gerry O'Meara looks on.



Left: Johnny Dolan and his wife Anne on the ferry back to Cobh after the Dinner.



Gerard Malone who, with his wife Joan are regular attenders at SW Branch functions alongside Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and his wife Michele.



Marion and Cathal Bredin.



Pat O'Shea and Donal McCarthy (with Dermot Cronin is in the background).



Joan Malone receiving a bouquet of flowers from Union President Johnny Dolan.



Donal Cantwell and Donncha Cody.



Brothers Billy and Mick O'Neill with next year's Union President, Jim Keating.



Gerry O'Meara with Kitty McCarthy and Margaret O'Shea who were school friends, and who are both married to CCR pastmen.



John Joyce and Gerry O'Meara.



Andrew Lett and John Verling with Dom Peter Garvey.

Matt Hyland/Noel Windle Golf

Grange Golf Club - June 2011

The Dublin Branch golf event was held on 24th June 2011. As it was the twentieth year of the Matt Hyland Cup, in honour of this occasion the Branch made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Lean Hyland in recognition of her ongoing involvement in, and support for the event.

The venue was Grange Golf Club, as it was last year, but unfortunately last year's spectacular weather failed to make a repeat appearance. Instead a significant amount of rain and wind added hugely to the normal challenge of the course – in plain terms conditions, especially in mid-afternoon were appalling.

The turnout was excellent though, with a total of sixty players starting out, but more than one team opted to call it a day before completing the course (quite a sensible decision as the early part of the day may easily have lulled them into a false sense of security, leading to the wet gear being left at home).

The dinner provided by the Grange was excellent as always, though not as well attended as it might have been if the players had not been quite so thoroughly drowned on the course.

In the men's competition the first place and the Matt Hyland Cup went to Morris Mulvany (34 points), with Emilio Cirillo

(31 points) and Frank O'Meara (30 points) in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Frank came third on a countback – Dom Peter Garvey had a similar score. The ladies' competition and Noel Windle Cup went to Janet Green (32 points) with Yve O'Driscoll in second place (26 points).

In the team competition first place went to Dom Peter Garvey, Kay Garvey and Greg Swift, with second place going to Brian Culliton, John Cody and Brendan Doogue. Brendan also managed to waltz away with the Longest Drive on the 17th, while Nearest the Pin on the 8th went to Maurice Phelan.

Two fine speeches were forthcoming from our recently installed Union President, Pat Hanratty, and the President of the College Marcelline Cody. We were particularly glad to see Aidan McNulty back with us after his recent illness.

I must say we were very well supported with a selection of sponsors, some stalwarts from previous years, others new and very welcome, and to all of whom I must express the gratitude of the Dublin Branch. Similarly I must extend a thank you to all who attended and made the day the success it was.

Sinbad Wilmot
Chairman, Dublin Branch.



Fresh and spruced up after the deluge – Rob O'Shea and Fergal Cox



Johnny Dolan with Penny and John Rooney.



The Bardon brothers, Christy, Anthony and James, Their brother Joe, who died in 2008 was the very first winner of the Matt Hyland Trophy.



Declan Martin, Emilio Crillio, Yvonne Malone, Hugh O'Neill, Fiona Duffy Cody and Aidan Mc Nulty.



Chairman Sinbad Wilmot presenting a bouquet of flowers to Lean Hyland to mark 20 years of the Matt Hyland Trophy.



David Mulvany accepts the Matt Hyland Trophy on behalf of his brother Morris, from Lean Hyland.



Sinbad Wilmot presents the prize for second place to regular contestant Emilio Cirrillo.



Sinbad presents the runner up prize in the ladies competition to Yve O'Driscoll.



Brendan Doogue and Brian Culliton accept the Team Runner Up prize from Sinbad Wilmot.



Sinbad Wilmot and the winners of First Prize in the Team event – Dom Peter Garvey, Kay Garvey and Greg Swift.



Feargal O'Dubhghaill and Joe O'Shea.



Conor O'Hara and Michael Hayden.



Janet Green who won the Noel Windle Ladies' Trophy with Union President Pat Hanratty.

List of Sponsors:

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Comans Wholesale Ltd.	Tom Coman Class of '84
Graph Print	Publishers of Roscrea Review
Paddywagon Tours	Cathal O'Connell Class of '86
Hackett's Bookmakers	John Hackett Class of '88
Marcus Lynch Solicitors	Hugh O'Neil Class of '69
BMC Motivation	Brian McCoy Class of '84
Brady Family Ham	John O'Brien Class of '98
Michael J Mc Nulty & Co Accountants, Dublin & Sligo	Michael McNulty Class of '65
Forest Hill Financial Planning	Brian Culliton Class of '90
BetDaq	Brendan Phelan Class of '79
Wireless Connect Ltd.	Tom Smyth Class of '98

Midland Branch Golf Outing, Esker Hills, August 2011

The Annual Midlands golf outing took place on 26th August in fine late summer weather. The course was in excellent shape, although that didn't make it any easier for the high handicappers, such is the challenge of that course!

Great credit is due to Midlands Branch Chairman Paul Fitzpatrick, Jim Keating and all the Thompsons, especially Margaret who had beer and burgers for the weary golfers after the 11th hole.

As usual Margaret's husband Frank concentrated on the golf, and used all his local knowledge (and considerable expertise) to achieve a winning score of 40 points. In second place was Kevin O'Regan followed by Dan Hackett, with the best past student score (apart from the winner) going to Stephen Thompson.

For the ladies, regular participants, Regina O'Regan, Kay Wrafter and Aisling Hackett were 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

A wonderful meal was had and we are looking forward already to this year's event which will be in late August. Check the Union website www.ccrunion.org



Andy Galvin, Paddy Egan and Shaun Wrafter



Five members of the Thompson family: Andrew, Emmet, Frank, Margaret and Stephen.



Eight members of the Class of 1968 with the Union President; Standing, Pat Keane, Dick Spring, Kevin Croke, Sean McCann, John O'Connor and Rory Culliton. Seated Jim Keating and Frank Thompson.



Left to right: Dara Gannon (1994), Barry Egan (1993), Ronan Egan, Andy Hennessy, Colin Byrne, Ian Fox (all 1991), Dermot Cuniffe, John Maher (both 1990), and Julian Flynn (1991).



Left: Johnny Dolan, Michael McNamara and Kevin Croke.

Right: Paul Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Regan and Frank Thompson.



Abbot's Cup 2011

The Abbot's Cup was played in brilliant Autumn sunshine on 10th September last. One of the event's most loyal and faithful participants over the years, Frank O'Meara (CCR 1962-'67) finally hit the jackpot, his 40 points (off a handicap of 10) being well ahead of the next best score, that of Paul Wrafter (CCR, 1966-'71), who won the College President's Prize. Others to score well included Gerry Hayes as well as classmates from the class of 1989, Alan Landers and regular prize winner Rob O'Shea who graciously accepted that on this one occasion, Tipperary had come out on top!

The field was boosted by the presence of several members of the Class of '56, who decided at their 50th a few years ago that they would reunite every five years. Their best score was carded by Michael O'Dwyer and he was presented with a prize at their dinner.

With a number of reunions planned for the Union Weekend, (15th/16th September) we are hoping to have a shotgun start this year - this requires a large number to pre-book, but has the advantage that all would finish at the same time. That should also help boost numbers at the Abbot's Cup Dinner.

Why not make a date of it - contact a few friends/colleagues/contemporaries and then get in touch with the organisers? Roscrea is a lovely golf course with some challenging holes, but not such as to intimidate high handicappers!



A delighted Union President Pat Hanratty presents the Abbot's Cup to his erstwhile classmate Frank O'Meara.



Marcelline Cody presents the College President's Prize to Runner-up Paul Wrafter.



President-Elect Jim Keating presents prizes to (left) Rob O'Shea, (right) Gerry Hayes and (below) Alan Landers.



Dublin Dinner

November 2011

This year's Dublin Dinner took place on Saturday 5th November in the Alexander Hotel. Over a hundred and twenty attended, including pastmen from every decade from the thirties to the noughties. There were guests from seven other unions, and all were lavish in their praise of the venue, the meal, the overall atmosphere and particularly the guest speakers on the night.

Dom Richard and Marcelline and Donncha Cody made the journey from Roscrea - indeed Dom Richard had a particularly hectic itinerary in recent weeks when one considers that he is Abbot of a contemplative order. He spoke of the challenges facing schools such as ours both from the economic point of view and the overall educational landscape.

Union President Pat Hanratty spoke of his delight at seeing so many young pastmen at the Dinner and encouraged them to involve themselves in the Union. He recalled the great delight we had felt earlier in 2011 with the Cup run, and commended all for the wonderful examination results achieved. As he was being followed by two All-Ireland standard public speakers, he kept his words to a minimum.

The evening really warmed up with the speech of Joe Hayes (Class of '67), currently Irish Ambassador to Singapore (with East Timor recently added to his portfolio). Joe's speech was wonderfully witty and entertaining and he did the classic trick of sitting down at a stage when his audience would definitely have loved him to go on.

It was then the turn of the Branch Chairman, Sinbad Wilmot to make a presentation to Gerry Maher on his retirement from teaching. Gerry is, of course a former Union President and Editor of the Roscrea Review and no mean speaker either. He recalled some of the high points of his time teaching and of his year as Union President in particular his fond memories of the New York Dinner in 2001 which took place just two months after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. There might have been question marks over the holding of that year's event, but the attitude of the North American Branch was "It MUST go ahead!" Gerry also recalled presenting a book of condolences on behalf of the College to a representative of Mayor Giuliani at the dinner and that the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brian Cowen who was attending the U.N. General Assembly at the time also attended on that fateful night. He thanked pastmen for their generosity and good wishes and wished the College and the Union well as they faced the future.

Great credit is due to Sinbad Wilmot and his Committee on yet another outstanding Dublin Dinner.



*Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and Union President Pat Hanratty with guests from other Unions: Alan Doran, St. Michael's College; Alan Morgan, Terenure College; Michael Galvin, Gonzaga College; Victor Cassoni, Presentation College, Bray; Stephen Tracey, St. Mary's College; Mark Lochrin, Clongowes Wood College and Michael Moriarty, Catholic University School.
On behalf of the Union we extend our sincere condolences to Alan Morgan, President of the Terenure College Union on the recent death, after a year long battle with cancer of his wife, Adele.*



From the Class of '65: John Sherry, Eamon Tansey, Aidan McNulty and John Phelan.



Liam Spooner (CCR 1962-'68), Conor Brady (CCR 1962-'66), Joe Doherty and Gerry Moloney (both CCR 1956-'61).



Emmet Thompson (CCR, 1995-2001), Paul Murphy (CCR 1984-'89), David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89) and Peter Sherry (CCR 1970-'75).

DUBLIN DINNER more photos..



Guest Speaker at the Dublin Dinner 2011, Joe Hayes, Ireland's Ambassador to Singapore and East Timor.



Donncha Cody with Board of Governors' Chairman Diarmuid Ó Murchú.



John Shannon, Neville Quinn and John Verling, (all from the class of 2007).



Four members of the extended Sherry clan from Foxford: John (CCR 1960-'65), Brendan (CCR 1970-'75), Barney (1935-'40) and Peter (CCR 1970-'75).



Mostly from the Class of 2007: Front Row left to right, Andrew Valette, Union President Pat Hanratty, Mark Delahunty. Middle Row left to right: Eunan Carroll, Jack Byrne, Neville Quinn, John Shannon, Brian O'Donnell, Eoghan Madigan, Sinbad Wilmot (Dublin Branch Chairman). Back row left to right: Matthew Quinlivan, John Verling, Eddie Hogan, Eoin Quinn, Andrew Richardson, Darragh Glynn.



Class of 1972: Back row: Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Fergal Keane, James Kelly, Michael O'Brien and Tom Kelly. Front row: Simon Coyle, Pat Hanratty (1967), Gerry Maher, Johnny Dolan and Shay Garvey.



Former Union Presidents Gerry O'Meara and Michael Coyle.



Andrew Valette, Eddie Hogan and Eoin Quinn all from the Class of 2007.



Dom Peter Garvey (Class of 1955) and Dick Spring (Class of 1968).



Two more former Union Presidents – classmates from 1967-'72, Johnny Dolan and Gerry Maher.



Gerry Maher says his "Cúpla focail".

A more complete selection of photographs taken on the night can be seen on the Union website ccrunion.org under the heading "Union News".

Last July, after a year or more of meticulous planning, the Class of 1961 held their Golden Jubilee Reunion over a weekend. While all give the most credit for the organisation of the event to Gerry Moloney, we are deeply indebted to others, including Paul Robinson, whom the Union President managed to persuade over breakfast the morning after to be the main chronicler of the events, and Peter Sommerfield who made sure we would have lots of photos from the weekend. Only a very small selection of photos from the weekend are included here, but Peter has lots more online on a Picasa site and anyone wishing to view these should contact the editor. Peter has also been at work scanning photos from CCR in the late 50s and early 60s which make fascinating viewing.

Over the years at the times of their various reunions, the Class of '61 presented two awards in memory of Gus Martin and Dermot Tuohy. Their use of the occasion of their 50 year reunion to donate the **Dom Colmcille Award for Contribution to the Environment** is an entirely appropriate gesture for which they are to be commended. They are an exceptional group even by CCR standards, and even though Gerry Moloney and friends were billing the event as "The Last Hurrah" we are sure that we haven't heard the last of The Class of '61!



6th Year Class photo May 1961 with Fr Gerard Burke, O.C.S.O:

Sitting : Peter Kehoe & Tom Hainsworth

Front Row: John Joyce, Michael Walsh, Gabriel Rogers, Liam Kilcawley, Colman Ryan, Fr Gerard, John Fennessy, Ian Downie, Liam Allis, Stuart Houlihan, Jimmy Lennon

Second Row : Tom Garvey, Michael Keating, Peter Sommerfield, Denis Chambers, Julian Hennessey Quinten Shortt, Jim Grehan, Freddie Wehrly, Billy Meehan, Coilin Owens, Jarlath Morris,

Third Row: Gerry Moloney, Michael Cullen, Eric King, Philip Cleary, Richard Fennell, Paul Robinson, Joe Doherty, Pat Boland, Joe Buckley, George Mullan, Tim Lane.

Fourth Row: John Coffey, Michael Keohane, John Fennell, Hilary Lawless, Ray Ballantyne, Pat Callanan, Ned Comerford, Joe Hoban, Ray Gibbons, Donald Gallivan

Missing: Sean Dineen, Frank Hall, Mel McCarthy, Charlie McDonald, Jim McKeogh, Timmy O'Dwyer, Peter Rockett, Donal Twohig, James Troy.

'BACK AFTER 50!!' or 'THE LAST HURRAH!' CLASS OF 1956-1961 REUNION 22nd - 24th July 2011

"The Eagles!"

"Where? Where?"

"The Golden Eagles. On the gates."

"Oh, yeah. We'll be singin' about dem tomorra."

" Ah, go on ou' wa dat."

It is an axiom that each Roscrea class-year is and feels unique and different and because all classes are unique and different it follows that they are uniquely all the same and similar. There are, however some years which are more special than others. It is a truism that this also applies uniquely to all classes.

As expected, the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Class of '61 was a mind-blowing milestone, filled with emotion, camaraderie, affection, remembrance and forgiveness. Out of a possible 52 participants a collection of 30 sober, successful professionals, entrepreneurs, philosophers and academics – no failures in this Class! - gathered in 'the afternoon of their lives' to renew acquaintances and pay homage to the institution which shaped their lives during their five-year internship at CCR.

Friday afternoon and evening saw the gathering of the hosts into the County Arms Hotel, Birr, from as far afield as Australia, Africa, Canada, USA, Europe and Britain. Once again the skills of recognition were tested – most were recognisable but a few had

to be prompted with, "Do I know you?" and as soon as voice and gesture became evident the game was up.

Dinner at "The Thatch", in Crinkle outside Birr was filled with further recognitions and merriment- immediate or prompted. The evening was delightfully hosted by John Joyce, in whose home town we were, and all flowed contentedly with assorted memories and 'catching up' wafting over, across and through the company. Plans were laid for the events for the following day. It must be said that the preparation and organisation was impeccable. Under the management of Gerry Moloney (Howth) the seed was sown some 13 months previously and followed up to perfection by his team consisting of Joe Doherty (Sandymount), Tom Garvey (Galway), John Joyce (Birr), Peter Sommerfield (Cork – there's always one!) (photographic archivist), Donald Gallivan (London) and Jack Fennell (Templeogue), ably assisted by Tim Lane (Blackrock, Dublin) and Joe Hoban (Dublin 2). It was a blueprint for any such gathering. Saturday morning found us still in Birr at the home of John Joyce, where John entertained us for 'coffee' and an array of sustenance which obviated the necessity for lunch – a magnificent morning 'soirée' in which he was assisted by his twin brother, Arthur, and Arthur's two daughters, Dr. Claire and Dr. Elaine. John also delivered a delightful talk on the historical connections of his family and home.

The great moment arrived for the main business – the visit and

Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*

reception at the College. This began with 'meticulous' preparation by organist Paul Robinson (Harare) and choir master Joe Buckley (Maynooth) with his hastily conscripted motley choir. Mass was concelebrated in the College Chapel by Dom Peter Garvey, Abbot of Bolton Abbey, Moone, and Fr. Billy Meehan, P.P. St. Mary's, Clonmel, and assisted by Deacon Michael Cullen, St. Joseph's parish, Barron, Wisconsin (the latter two being from the Class of 61). Also in attendance were Abbots Dom Colmcille O'Toole, Dom Ambrose Farrington, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Kevin Daly and Dom Laurence Walsh, College President, Mrs. Marcelline Cody, Union President, Pat Hanratty and distinguished retired teacher, John Shanahan. The Readings were read by Tom Hainsworth (Portarlinton) and Sean Dineen (Stillorgan) and the Bidding Prayers of the Faithful were offered by Julian Hennessy (Fethard-on-Sea), Tim Lane, John Fennessy (Vienna) and Peter Sommerfield.

Dom Peter asked for prayers for our deceased classmates, Frank Hall, Liam Kilcawley and Jim McKeogh, and for a soberingly long list of deceased monks and lay teachers who had taught and looked after us during our years in CCR. Dom Peter, harking back to the sermon given by the late and much missed preacher, Fr. Nivard Kinsella O.C.S.O. at our first reunion in 1987, remarked on how the themes of Fr. Nivard's sermon – the EEC, Europe and Culture, Secularisation, the Referenda, the Power Structure of the Catholic Church, the need for the Church to be less authoritarian, to be a Church of Service and, increasingly, to be a Church of the Laity - continued to be topical. He spoke about the challenges facing Irish society, our economy, ourselves and our families. Towards the end of what was for many of us a very moving Service, the congregation sang the Salve Regina and after the final blessing the rousing strains of the College Anthem - composed by the late Professors Cole and Semple in the '50s - "The Gleaming Eagles", were rendered with gusto.

The official Reunion photos were then taken by Peter Sommerfield on the front steps of the College, incorporating five Abbots (a record?), the College and Union Presidents, followed by a reception hosted by the College President in the Centenary Room i.e. that which was known in our time as the Billiard Room.

College President Marcelline Cody welcomed the gathering, recounting some of the major recent changes in and achievements of the College and students. She hoped that the Class of '61 would continue to visit and support efforts to advance the College's reputation. Don Gallivan, a 'gallant' and efficient MC, spoke briefly about keeping in contact with Fr. Eanna Henderson (who was too ill to be present - as was An tAth. Ciarán) over the years, the importance of the "Roscrea Review" for pastmen living abroad and the pride that all had in the College Senior Rugby team's progress to the Final of this year's Leinster Senior Schools Cup competition. Paul Robinson paid tribute to the lasting effects that the Monastery had on our lives, saying that he could not imagine the College existing without the Monastery or the Monastery without the College. He humorously recounted some notable aspects of attendance at Sunday High Mass in the monastery Church and gave us a virtuoso impression of the late Fr. Eunan Crumlsh's rendering of "Panis Angelicus".

The Class of '61, in memory and recognition of the advice and guidance Abbot Emeritus Dom Colmcille O'Toole gave us as Dean of Studies, and in recognition of his contribution to the husbandry of the environment during his thirty-six years as Abbot, presented the **Dom Colmcille Award for Contribution to the Environment** to the President, to be awarded annually to the student adjudged to have made the most significant contribution in this important area. The award is in the form of an original bronze of a stylised rowan tree sculpted by Anne Cooney. It is inspired by the words "Scarlet berries clot like blood on the mountain rowan" from a translation by Seamus Heaney of the saga of "Sweeney Astray" (also parodied in Flann O'Brien's "At Swim-two-Birds"). It was graciously accepted from Paul Robinson on behalf of the College by President Marcelline Cody. The erudite academic, Joycean scholar and author, Colín Owens (Alexandria, Virginia), had received personal, pithy reminiscences and reflections from a number of classmates on the general question "Why, after fifty years, are you back in Roscrea?" Introducing the contributions, which he had bound together under the title "Back after 50: The Class of '61 Remember...", Colín said that "We were blessed to have been prepared for life by monks and teachers who recognised our discrete talents and who taught us, by example and rule, the values of self-discipline, service, tolerance and mutual respect." under the care of Cistercians who Joyce called (in "The Dead") "the only true Christians". Describing the reminiscences as "variously humorous, playful, nostalgic, or ruminative, all implying an appreciation of what we carried along our own trails and trials, successes and failures over the past fifty years.", he distributed a copy to all as a memento of the Reunion.

Finally, President Cody gave many of us a quick conducted tour of the major changes which have been made to the accommodation, classroom, and sporting facilities of College of which she can be rightfully proud, while others were content to share memories with the attending monks.

The formal dinner (no – not black tie!) took place in the evening at the County Arms. The guest list was as above, with the exception of Dom Kevin and John Shanahan who expressed their apologies. It must be mentioned at this stage, when all the initial meeting and mingling was over, the gathering seemed 'very comfortable' with one another. During previous reunions there was often the element of competition as to the level of success – or lack of it - among some individuals. Not so now, with most of us behaving like contented, smiling grandfathers. Truly delightful!

Toastmasters for the Dinner were Gerry Moloney and Tom Garvey who wittily introduced each speaker, commencing with Joe Doherty who proposed and Dom Richard Purcell, who responded to the toast to "Mount Saint Joseph". Joe Doherty recalled that the Monastery and the College would not exist without the munificence of Count Arthur Moore. He echoed the view expressed earlier that the College and the Monastery had a symbiotic relationship with each other, that the spiritual and temporal values under which the monks lived, prayed and taught and the quality of lay teaching had made an indelible impression

Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*

on us and hoped that this was also the case for current students. Enduring Cistercian values had, he said, attracted the attention of the general public in a 2010 award-winning French film "Of Gods and Men", based on a 1990s event - the kidnapping and murder of seven members of an Algerian monastery by Islamic militants.

He mentioned that some countries were trying to depart from using financial data to measure standards of living by measuring 'happiness', and that Cistercians could perhaps give them some pointers in that quest! Finally, Joe recalled the relatively (by late 1950s/early '60s standards) non-authoritarian regime under which the College was run (e.g., students electing House Captains, etc.), and how he saw it reflected in CCR's Ethos Statement (*cf.* College website) of today. Dom Richard, describing the current major challenges facing the monastery, said that at some stage the College might have to envisage continuing without the monastery.

A very sincere Pat Boland (New York) proposed the toast to the Union on behalf of the vibrant North American Branch to which Pat Hanratty, magnanimously responded as Union President, updating the gathering on Union matters. A high point was the toast to the unique "Class of '61" proposed by our House Captain and high achiever – *and still the All-Ireland Schools 440 yards record holder* Colman Ryan (Daly City, CA) who spoke eloquently 'ex corde'. Another well known high achiever, Peter Kehoe (Chadds

Lane PA) responding, remarked on the collegiality and comradeship he had found at this and previous reunions, on the wide range of occupations and achievements of the graduates of the Class of '61, and on various Roscrea men he has run into on his world-wide travels. Dom Peter, who had served two terms totalling seventeen years as College President, rounded off the evening with a few remarks on whether the educational and administrative policies of the monks were deliberate or accidental!

Tributes were again paid to Gerry Moloney and his stalwarts for the efficient and trouble-free organisation but credit must go to all the attendees who contributed whole-heartedly to this wonderful occasion simply by happily 'being there'. The stories improved with the retelling as the night wore on and even the ubiquitous Jack Fennell had to finally concede victory to John Joyce's reminiscence of his visit to Marlene Dietrich's hotel suite in Oxford: he never got to tell us what the outcome of his encounter was, pleading it was like the third secret of Fatima, but he guaranteed a full Class Reunion in 2021 for our 60th when he promised to reveal all.

Paul Robinson (with assistance from Joe Doherty, Tom Garvey and Gerry Moloney)



Dom Colmcille and Pat Hanratty pose with the four academic "stars" of the class of '61 all of whom were scholarship winners in the Inter Cert of 1959 – Cólín Owens (3rd), Tim Lane (23rd), Paul Robinson (24th) and Peter Kehoe who got 1st place in the country.



John Joyce and John Coffey.



Joe Doherty paying eloquent and grateful tribute to the Monastery and College.



A rare photo of five abbots together, all but one of them pastmen of CCR: Dom Kevin Daly, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, Dom Peter Garvey and Dom Ambrose Farrington, each of whom attended some part of the festivities.



Peter Kehoe makes a presentation to organiser-in-chief and the one who keeps us all in touch, Gerry Moloney.



Dom Richard graciously replies to Joe's kind words.



Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*



Peter Sommerfield reading a lesson at the Mass in the College Chapel.



Colman Ryan, House Captain 1960-'61, and a long time resident of California gives an emotional speech on his "return".



Marcelline Cody giving some of the Class of '61 the tour of the new facilities – picture shows Fr. Billy Meehan, Timmy Dwyer, Julian Hennessy, Paddy Boland, Ray Ballantyne, Sean Dineen and Donald Gallivan.

CLASS REUNIONS



Class of 1961: Dom Peter Garvey, Dom Kevin Daly, Colman Ryan House Captain 60-61, Union President Pat Hanratty, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Colmcille, CCR President Marcelline Cody, John Shanahan, Fr. Billy Meehan, Dom Ambrose Farrington.
 Second Row; Peter Sommerfield, Deacon Michael Cullen, Sean Dineen, Julian Hennessey, Jim Grehan, Paddy Boland, John Fennessy, Tim Lane, Peter Kehoe, Jarlath Morris, Donald Gallivan, Tom Hainsworth.
 Back Row; Arthur Joyce, John Fennell, Ray Gibbons, Tom Garvey, James Troy, Gerry Moloney, Jimmy Lennon, Eric King, Timmy Dwyer, Paul Robinson, Coilin Owens, Joe Doherty, John Joyce, Ray Ballantyne, Joe Hoban, Joe Buckley. (John Coffey came later.)



Class of 1956:

Back row l to r: Michael O'Dwyer, Conor O'Hara, Jim Egan, Micheal Meagher, Donal Monks, Aidan Sheeran, Jim O'Shea, Cyril Hackett.

Seated l to r: Michael Cullen, Donal Flynn, Pat Hanratty, Union President, Pat O'Shea, Marcelline Cody, College President, Dom Ambrose Farrington, (Bolton Abbey), John Cahill, Terry Ashe, Michael Harney.



Class of 1966: Back l to r: Michael Whyte, Bryan O'Donnell, Mattew Coady, John Mullaly, John Kiernan, Michael Comer, Peter Joyce, Kenneth Forde, Frank Buckley, Jim Lyndon, Anthony Bennett, Derry Bergin, Gerry Buckley, Alan Loomes, Fergus Owens.
 Middle l to r: Pat Collier, Marcelline Cody (President CCR), Liam Collins, Peter McGinnity (R.I.P.), Damien Coffey, Michael Crowley, Brendan McGrath, Billy O'Neill, Michael Nevin, Chris Bardon, Peter Nugent, Eddie O'Donovan, David Garahy, John Woods, Tom Stokes.
 Front l to r: Conor Brady, Eugene Hardiman, Eugene McGinnity, John Rafferty, Hugh Durkin, Jim Keating (incoming President, CCR Union), Tom Hope, Tom Healy, Liam Mulcahy, Peter Murray, Pat Kinsella, Colomba Eastwood.

CLASS REUNIONS



Class of 1951:

Seated, l to r: Peter Delaney, Tom Ambrose, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, OCSO, Pat Hanratty, Union President, Terry Gleeson, James Mackey, Ray Simon.

Standing l to r: Larry Brannigan, Marcelline Cody, College President, Jack Fleming, Paddy McMahon, Michael Hayden, Frank Johnson, Dom Laurence Walsh, OCSO, Michael Payne, Pat Reynolds, Liam O'Flanagan, Joe Cox, Denis Keating.



Class of 1991:

Far Back Brian McManus, David O'Donovan, Enda Murphy, Martin McDermott, Andy Hennessy, Ronan Stewart, Tony Phelan, Andrew Downey, Paul Deegan, William Kieran, Melvyn Kennedy, Barry Glendenning, Mark McNerney, Declan O'Dwyer.

2nd Row, Jim Sheehan, Jimmy Finn, Robin O'Donoghue, Niall Hennessy, Julian Flynn, Eoin Flanagan, John Ryan, Tom Murphy, Ian Mernagh, Martin Maher, Patrick Phelan, Finbarr Diamond.

Seated: Martin O'Carroll, Mike O'Hanlon, Patrick Chambers, Michael Littleton, Ronan Egan, Ian Fox, David Hyland, Colin Byrne, Des Warner.

Front Row: Union President 2010/'11 Johnny Dolan, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Pat Sheedy, Union President Pat Hanratty, College President Marcelline Cody, Eddie O'Sullivan.



Class of 1971:

Brian O'Sullivan, Tadhg Campion, Richard Vaughan, Michael Bruen, Jim Gibbons, Declan Martin, Willy McTiernan, Union President Pat Hanratty, Paul Wrafter, Michael McLaughlin, Donal Cantwell, Donal Hayes and Martin Gibbons.

PHOTOS OF CLASSES OF 1951, 1956 AND 1966 COURTESY OF BRIAN REDMOND, ROSCREA. www.redmondphotography.com

Class of '66 Reunion

In 1991, when last we met, we were all “fortyish.” This time we were all “sixtyish.” And when we regrouped at the College on September 17th our ranks had been thinned a little further by mortality.

Nonetheless, the Class of 1966 – mustered an impressive 44 for dinner, including our two guests who honoured us with their presence, Mrs Marcelline Cody, President of CCR and Jim Keating, the incoming President of the Union, deputised for Pat Hanratty, whose son was getting married that day.

All of the monks and the teaching staff of the mid-1960s are long retired. Many are gone to their eternal reward. But the doughty John Shanahan, who taught some of us French and some of us Irish, is hale and hearty. And to our great delight he made the journey from West Limerick. He joined us for Mass at the College chapel and at the reception in the Centenary Room – which, of course, will always be the “Billiard Room” to our generation.

Our day started with the statutory outing at Roscrea Golf Club. A damp morning gave way to a clearer afternoon and some decent score cards were filled. Dom Kevin celebrated Mass for all at 4.30 pm in the College Chapel. In his homily he recalled (with disquieting clarity) some of the more colourful characters he encountered in his first year as Dean and who were now sitting before him, demure in their advanced age.

The President and the Senior Dean, Seamus Hennessy, along with Dom Kevin welcomed us in the Centenary Room over a pleasant reception, catered for by Bernie Teehan and her excellent staff. There was a tour of the new dormitories, the refurbished study halls and the new, high-tech infirmary. Then there was the statutory group photograph, after which it was off to the County Arms Hotel in Birr. Pastman Brian Loughnane and his staff did us proud at the County Arms. The “Drawing Room” was the perfect venue for dinner after an informal pint or two in the bar downstairs. The four course meal was excellent and Brian’s staff personified courtesy and professionalism.

Two young rockers from the 1960s, Billy O’Neill and John Woods had collaborated to put together a superb music compilation. So the room reverberated to the Beatles, the Stones, the Who et. al. Some of those with, shall we say, more folksy preferences, enjoyed the occasional interspersing of numbers from the showbands – the Royal, The Miami and the Dixies.

A slide show of photographs from the era, drawn from the College archives by Dom Richard, and supplemented by snapshots of varying quality and clarity, was shown on a continuous loop. There were the inevitable sarcastic comments, principally relating to hair loss and the expanding girth of once-athletic forms.

A notable feature of the evening was the appearance for the occasion of a special edition of the “Vexillum.” It featured among other significant contributions, a message to all from Fr Patrick in Heaven (!), the lyrics of the Salve Regina and Puck’s “Goodnight” from A Midsummer Night’s Dream, bringing back recollections of the Christmas play of 1962.

We had witty speeches and toasts (“Ireland,” “The College,” “The Guests,” and “Absent Friends”) from Liam Mulcahy, Ken Forde, Christy Bardon and Anthony Bennett.

There were fond recollections of those who are no longer with us Mick Byrne (Kilkenny), John Comerford (Thomastown), John Glynn (Galway), Tom Naughton (Dunmore, Galway), Brian Shouldice (Tipperary), Paul McCarthy (Johnstown, Co Kilkenny) and Donal Cummane (Westport and Dublin). May the Lord hold them safe.

Greetings were recorded from others who were unavoidably absent; Jim Phelan, Kieran Moran, Chris Farrell, Tom Joyce and Tim Maher.

It was particularly good to have a strong delegation from North America – Peter Joyce, Ken Forde, Jim Lyndon and Peter Murray all flew in. Unfortunately, Conn Foley was unable to travel at the last minute due to unforeseen demands at the medical centre where he operates. Richard Meagher had hoped to travel from Nova Scotia but was also unable to make the trip due to professional commitments. From the UK, we had Anthony Bennett (Manchester) and John Mullally (London).

When dinner was over there was music, provided by Frank Buckley (banjo) and Bryan O’Donnell (fiddle). There was much chat in the bar and renewed examination of the photo slide-show, leading to further disparagement of those now tonsorially challenged or pushing out at the waistline.

Survivors were reportedly glimpsed in the lobby of the County Arms at 6 am. But for the majority, things wound down around 3 o’clock, allowing participants to present themselves in a more or less tolerable state at breakfast the following morning.

A medical psychologist recently offered the view that a lot of men are probably at their happiest now in their early 60s. Their lives are shaped; they are at, or near to the point of winding down their careers; for the most part, their families are making their own way in the world. The years of striving are generally over. If they are lucky, they have not yet encountered serious ill health. All in all, it can be a good time for them.

That there is at least some truth to that analysis was evident over the course of this reunion. The atmosphere was relaxed, comradely and full of good humour. Friendships were rekindled. If long ago there may have been animosities or rivalries they did not surface. Stories were told of schoolboy triumphs and of narrow escapes. Anecdotes of almost half a century ago were recounted as if they had occurred yesterday.

In thanking the College and the Abbey for welcoming us back, I would also like to pay a special tribute to Tom Hope and John Rafferty who brought their professional skills and their great energies into our reunion project. Essential ingredients for a successful reunion include early organization, attention to detail and good teamwork. No better men!

Conor Brady

Class of '66 Reunion - images



Top from left: Pat Collier, Pat Kinsella, Michael Whyte, John Kiernan: Ken Forde, Billy O'Neill, Alan Loomes:
 Second from top, from left: Peter Murray, Tom Healy: Tony Bennett, Frank Buckley: Mick Nevin, Conor Brady, John Rafferty:
 Third from top, from left: Billy O'Neill, John Rafferty: Below: Hugh Durkin, Tom Stokes: Right centre: Liam Mulcahy, John Woods:
 Right top: Matt Coady, Damien Coffey: Below: John Woods, Columba Eastwood, Eugene McGinnitty
 Bottom: left to right, Columba Eastwood, Peter McGinnitty (RIP) Bottom right: Peter Joyce, Peter Nugent
 It was with great regret that we learned of the recent sudden death of Peter McGinnitty. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Scoring with GOAL...

GOAL, the Irish humanitarian organisation, was set up by John O'Shea 35 years ago and for many of those years I have found myself involved in it in a variety of ways. GOAL was my choice of charity because it was and is, a lean, mean machine which walks the walk rather than talking the talk.

My first role was as a volunteer fundraiser, a task which continues to this day.

Early on, more photographs were needed to spread the word of GOAL's work and being a keen amateur I offered my services. "You could be opening a door that you may not be able to close" is what John O'Shea said before I left for war torn South Sudan. How right he was! Now many years and many wars, famines and natural disasters later, that door is blown off its hinges.

Sometimes a hand was needed at logistics or with food distribution, but always the camera was at hand. Luckily the photos were used by local and national media as well as ads to promote GOAL's work.

It's one thing watching heart wrenching scenes on the TV, but nothing, absolutely nothing prepares you for the real thing.

The sounds and in particular the smells become buried deep in the psyche. But being part of an aid organisation is so much more than simply the sounds and smells of far away distant lands. It is a huge honour to be able to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It's an incredible privilege to be welcomed into cultures foreign to our own. Of course the work can be heart breaking and sad beyond words but at the same time it's rewarding in a way that also defies words. Thinking back over the experiences of 14 trips to places like Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Sri Lanka, what always remains with me, despite their mind boggling suffering, is the dignity and hope of those who are suffering most.

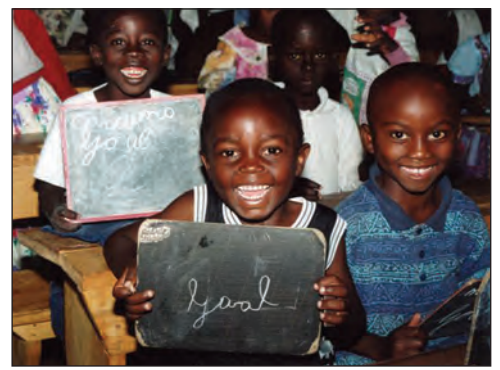
In Ethiopia at a time when their land and lives were being ravaged by drought and famine, an elder presented me with the wooden bell of a dead camel as a sign of gratitude. Another prized possession is the headdress of the Taliban, given by an incredibly brave young woman who had risked her life to teach local children during the Taliban regime. Even though his house and livelihood was washed away during the Tsunami, I can still hear a local fisherman thank GOAL for travelling so far to help.

Since becoming involved with GOAL, the support of the Irish people has been truly phenomenal. It has been, and continues to be, an absolute privilege and honour to be part of GOAL and to be able to offer support to some of the world's poorest people.

Tiernan Dolan (CCR 1965-71) continues to teach in Longford when not being a GOALie.

www.GOAL.ie

Imags from Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and a scary moment in Afghanistan.



Feedback

Two articles in the last issue gave rise to very interesting feedback. In the first place, Barney Sherry's fascinating article on Count Arthur Moore found its way into the hands of his great-great-grandson, a primary school student in South Tipperary. His Principal sent us this, which we gladly reproduce.

My great-great-grandfather, Count Arthur Moore

As a great-great-grandson of Count Arthur Moore, I was fascinated to read your article in the Spring 2011 edition of the Roscrea Review. I'm a fifth class pupil in Shronell NS, Lattin Co. Tipperary and my favourite subjects are History, Geography, Art and P.E. I particularly enjoy school table quizzes and have represented my school on many occasions.

As part of our 5th class History curriculum we studied local history and did a large project about Count Arthur Moore. While I was always aware of my family history, its significance did not become apparent until I started to research and speak in detail to my father and grandmother. I brought in some original documents including the deeds of the Mooresfort Estate, dated 1852. We worked as archivists with special gloves examining and analysing the information from these tattered and faded documents.

I learned from the project that Count Arthur Moore attended Mass every day, spent hours at the tabernacle in his own private oratory, fasted rigorously, made frequent retreats and went, year after year to Lourdes and the Holy Land, not as a sight seeing traveller, but as a pilgrim and a penitent. At home I am proud to say that he was the kindest and most indulgent of landlords, and that no beggar went unrelieved from his door.

It may be of interest that my family have in our possession a skull cap belonging to his holiness Pope Pius IX, given by him in the year of the Vatican Council 1870 to Mrs Charles Moore, mother of Count Arthur Moore.

An interesting fact in my family tree is the pattern of christian names passed through the generations. My great-great-great-grandfather was Charles Moore. His son was Count Arthur Moore, whose son was Charles Moore (who married Lady Dorothe Feilding, subject of the book "Lady Under Fire on the Western Front"), and their son was Arthur Moore – my grandfather, whose son Charles Moore is my father! I am honoured to share a name and roots with such an influential man.

Arthur Moore, age 11 (at the time of writing)



Count Arthur Moore



That's me in the red jumper.

The article by Andrew Cody about the Fr. Nicholas Cody in the last Review elicited the following email from John (Johnny) O'Connor (CCR 1963-'68):

Pat,

Greetings from John O'Connor, Roscrea. I enjoyed the bumper Spring 2011 Roscrea Review, in particular the article by Andrew Cody about his grand-uncle Fr. Nicholas Cody. The photograph of the CCR Senior Rugby Team 1909-1910 holds special interest for me in that Tom O'Connell and Paddy O'Connell who appear in the photograph were my grand-uncles. My grandfather Jack O'Connell lived in Derryvale, Roscrea (opposite the Golf Club) but he did not attend CCR. His son William (my uncle) attended CCR in the 1930s. There were five O'Connell brothers, all of whom qualified as doctors. In his article Andrew states that Tom O'Connell was the first Roscrea student to win an International Cap - in fact this was Paddy O'Connell who gained 2 or 3 caps in or about 1913. I don't believe Tom ever achieved an International Cap. The O'Connell brothers all came from Castleiney near Templemore. The O'Connells' great grand-nephew, Mark McHugh, who played for Leinster, Connacht, Mountpellier and at present Nice, achieved one full international cap against Tonga a few years ago.

With Best Wishes
John O'Connor

OBITUARIES

Fr Charles Ayward died on Monday 1st June 2009 in hospital in Worthing. He was 85 and had just celebrated 60 years as a priest. He was born in 1924, attended CCR between 1936 and 1942, and was ordained on 26th May 1949 at the Abbey of Nunraw. He was incardinated into the diocese of Portsmouth in 1970 and served in Crowthorne (1968-1971) and Woolston (1971-1977) as an assistant priest. He served as parish priest in St Edmund Campion, Bournemouth (1977-1981), St Joseph, Connor (1981-1983), St Bernard, Holbury (1983-1989), Sacred Heart, Hook (1989-1994) and St Anne, Alderney (1994-1999).

Dr. Tom O'Callaghan, (CCR 1943 to 1945) Tom's father, Patrick O'Callaghan (CCR 1905-1907) was among the first group of students to attend CCR. Tom was a great supporter of the South West Branch functions and of the CCR Union. He was unable to attend the most recent event in Haulbowline at the end of April. However, happily, Dom Peter called to him on his way to Haulbowline that evening.

Donal Barry, Kinvara, Co. Galway (CCR 1942-48); formerly Roscrea. His father taught at CCR 1916-51.

Peter McGinnitty (CCR 1961-66); died suddenly on 29th Feb. 2012. He is survived by his wife Mary, seven sons and a daughter. A large number of pastmen including President Elect Jim Keating attended his funeral. Peter's brothers Eugene (1961-'66) and Oliver (1966-'71) also attended CCR.

Martin (Murt) O'Sullivan of Rossleighan, Portlaoise, Laois died on 16th November 2011.

Dr. Peter Power (CCR 1933-'37); died on 12th December 2011. Peter was a noted athlete and rugby player in CCR and studied Medicine in UCC. Some time after qualification he decided to make his career in the British Army, his late father having served in World War One and fought at the battle of the Somme.

After a lengthy career in the Royal Army Medical Corps, Peter returned to Cork on his retirement. He was a regular attender at SW Branch Dinners – indeed he attended one as recently as 2007. He was widowed three times – most recently in 2008 when Ita, his wife of 32 years passed away.

Ulick O'Boyle (CCR class of 1951) died after a long illness in July 2011. A songwriter and poet, most of his songs were about the people he met when working on the Snowy Mountains Scheme - "The hard rock drilling and the big construction game". He also composed jazz and blues music and songs. He was described as the Woody Guthrie of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, the largest civil engineering scheme in the Southern Hemisphere. With a work force of approximately 8,000 from 40 countries, it made Cooma and the surrounding district the first multicultural area in Australia with the Irish among the most numerous.

Over the years, Ulick moved to Canberra with his wife Noelene and continued to play and record music, adding much to the social fabric of the national capital. In 1999, his first and second albums were re-released to mark the 50th anniversary of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme.

Pat Mulhall remembers Ulick who was two years ahead of him as being good at sport, mainly boxing and rugby and expressing his musical talent in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera.

Richard Mc Hugh (CCR 1948-'50), formally from Kilterna, Dunmore died January 2012

He was a brother of Bernard (Bernie) Mc Hugh (CCR 1948-'54) who subsequently emigrated to USA.

Martin Donovan (CCR 1932-'36), neighbour and friend from Mountheaton, Roscrea died January 25th 2012. Martin's brother Denis attended CCR, in 1927-'28 and his grandson Damien attended the College from 1997 to 2003.



Next Union President

Simon Coyle (CCR 1967-'72) will be proposed as President-Elect at the Union AGM on 27th May. Simon, who hails from Dublin is a former Chairman of the Dublin Branch and has been a very active member over a long number of years. His brother, Michael was Union President in 2008-'09, and they will become just the second set of brothers to be Union Presidents. Simon will take over as President from Jim Keating at the 2013 AGM.

Class of '51 Reunion

The Class of 1951 which includes such Union stalwarts as Tom Ambrose, Larry Branigan and Michael Hayden held a very enjoyable 60 year reunion over the last weekend in September last. For their venue, they chose the Guest House – a surprise choice some might say, but the catering there is now of an extremely high standard.

In common with other groups they started off with a Mass in the College Chapel, at which Dom Laurence did the honours. This was followed by a reception in the Centenary Room hosted by College President Marcelline Cody and the optional jaw dropping tour of the upstairs' facilities which have certainly changed since the Class of 1951 were in CCR!

A very pleasant meal with lots of wine and good memories lasted until quite late. As there was no television in the Guest House, members were given the option of being brought by the Union President to a pre-arranged location to watch the Ireland v Russia Rugby World Cup match at 6 a.m. the following morning. Only Larry Branigan rose to the occasion – he and Pat will tell of their adventures that morning in search of a TV that worked! (They did actually make it mid way through the first half when Ireland were 17-0 up!)



Photo collage from the top:

1. Jack Fleming, Percy Delaney, Paddy McMahan, Denis Keating, Terry Gleeson, Pat Reynolds and Jim Mackey.
2. Michael Payne, Ray Simon, Liam O'Flanagan, Joe Cox and Frank Johnson.
3. Jim Mackey, Ray Simon and Michael Hayden.
4. Jack Fleming, Paddy McMahan and Liam O'Flanagan
5. Larry Branigan, Denis Keating and Michael Payne.
6. Jack Fleming, Percy Delaney and Paddy McMahan.
7. Dom Colmcille and Ray Simon.
8. Frank Johnson and Dom Laurence Walsh.
9. Terry Gleeson, Pat Reynolds and Tom Ambrose
10. Dom Kevin with Larry Branigan and Tom Ambrose
11. Percy Delaney and Frank Johnson

Class of '91 Reunion

Ireland assumed the role of EU Presidency, the government controversially allowed US planes to refuel in Shannon en route to the Gulf War, the Birmingham Six were freed and the Class of 1991 walked the corridors as students for the final time in June of that year.

The Trojan effort of one man, Ronan Egan, resulted in a super turnout for the weekend in Kilkenny, with 45 past students making the effort over the two nights.

The Class of 1991 reunion in Kilkenny commenced on Friday 14th October, as souls from the four corners of Ireland and a couple from over the Irish Sea, converged on the Pembroke Hotel, the central hub for the weekend. 20 years were bridged in a few moments as handshakes were exchanged and anecdotes of five years of secondary education were exchanged over a few pints. The stories got taller and taller as the night wore on.

A number of hardy souls braved the damp Saturday morning to play a round of golf in Gowran Park. Some were nursing hangovers while others just arriving were wondering what was in store. Others visited the Go Kart track in Ballyhale to vent their frustration and a few were left to sample the delights that Kilkenny City had to offer.

The official proceedings eventually got underway in the Pembroke Hotel as 35 past men sat down to a 3 course meal complemented with a typical CCR Sunday tea time treat, Lion bars and Tayto Crisps.

In attendance were College President Marcelline Cody, Pat Sheedy, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Eddie O Sullivan, current Union President Pat Hanratty and former Union President Johnny Dolan.

Ronan Egan, the man who shouldered the work load of organising the event, thanked all for attending and those who helped him to organise the weekend. Former House Captain John Ryan spoke for everyone in thanking Ronan for his organisational skills. Ian Fox made a special presentation to Ronan, which I'm assured has pride of place on his mantelpiece.

Marcelline Cody spoke on behalf of the college, saying that it was wonderful to see so many at the reunion and Pat Hanratty again thanked Ronan for all his efforts and hoped that all would continue to attend past student events. Following the speeches the revelries continued well into the early hours with stories and myths regaled.

As sore heads rose on Sunday morning it was agreed that it shouldn't be as long next time.....



College President Marcelline Cody, Patrick Phelan and retired Housemaster Eddie O'Sullivan



Mark McInerney, Julian Flynn, Ronan Stewart & Colin Byrne



Melvyn Kennedy



Ronan Egan & Finbarr Diamond

Enda Murphy & Martin McDermott



Jimmy Finn and Tony Phelan



Martin Maher, Brian McManus, Tom & Enda Murphy & Eoin Flanagan

New York Dinner

18th November 2011

This year's New York Dinner moved from its venue of many years, Langan's, of 47th St. right beside the Theatre District in Manhattan to the Capital Grille in the mezzanine of the Time Life Building. Union President, Pat Hanratty thought he was the only one travelling from Ireland to the event, but was pleasantly surprised to find that John Naughton (Class of 1977) and Joe Hoban (Class of 1961) were also there. John is a pilot with Aer Lingus and was due to fly to Boston that day, but being persuaded by Johnny Coughlan (who himself flew in from Vancouver) he managed to swap rosters and flew to New York instead and took in the Dinner.

There were a total of four from the Class of 61, meeting again so soon after their reunion in July - Joe himself and regulars Paddy Boland, Peter Kehoe and Cólín Owens. Not for the first time, Charlie Scroope flew down from Toronto for the occasion, and Peter Kehoe's baby brother Kerry, who is currently organising a 50 year reunion of the Class of '62, flew from Albuquerque, New Mexico to be there.

The cuisine was superb, and the "official" speeches from Des O'Brien and Pat Hanratty were short. In his speech Pat referred to the fateful Dinner in November 2001, just two months after the 9/11 atrocities. As Gerry Maher who was

Union President at the time said in his speech at the Dublin Dinner, he had indicated that everyone would understand it if the North American Branch did not wish to go ahead with a Dinner that year, but the message from the Branch was "It must go ahead", and it did, and a book of condolences signed by students and staff in the College was presented on the night to a representative of Mayor Giuliani.

Des and Pat were followed by impromptu, unscripted and sincere offerings from among others, Kerry and Charlie. A constant theme running through the night's proceedings was a serious desire for those pastmen well established in the USA and Canada to be of assistance to young pastmen heading to those countries, even by way of helping them to prepare well for the transition, to their new environment.

Great credit is due to Des O'Brien and to Niall Rafferty and his wife, Jackie who made everyone feel very well at home. After the dinner we retired the few blocks to Langan's where drinks were on the house. It is reported that some were there till 4 a.m. Indeed could you believe that on the Saturday evening as Pat Hanratty was walking through Times Square on his way back to his hotel in the midst of the hordes and multitudes, he met none other than the aforementioned Johnny Coughlan and the two agreed to meet up in O'Briens' in 46th St where pints and an excellent meal was served.

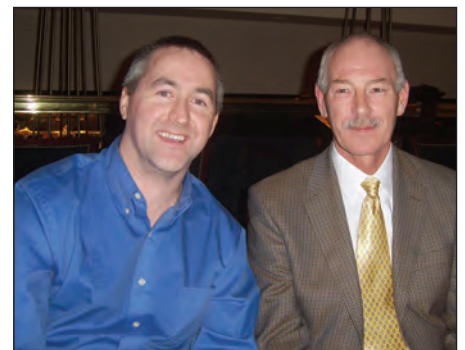
The North American Branch is currently preparing to commission a medal for the Branch Chairman - its design will incorporate a tribute to the doyen of the Branch, Noel McCarthy who died after a short illness in 2009.



Kerry Kehoe and his daughter Sinéad and Lochlann Kehoe, son of Peter.



John Coughlan, Amy and Des O'Brien.



Brian Adams and John Naughton.



The Adams brothers, Glen and Brian.



Three from the Class of '61 – Paddy Boland, Cólín Owens and Joe Hoban with Union President Pat Hanratty.



Niall and Jackie Rafferty.

Superb “Fiddler” at Cistercian College

If I were asked to name my three favourite musicals over all the years of reviewing productions I would probably choose “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Oklahoma!” and “South Pacific”, in that order.

CCR staged the show in 1979, 1995 and 2002. Each had been memorable, so it was with a sense of anticipation that I went out to see how the students of 2011 would present the story of the little Jewish community of Anatevka in the turbulent Russia of 1905.

I was not disappointed. In fact, I would suggest it is one of the best productions of Fiddler I have seen anywhere. The pace never flagged, great direction, great chorus work, superb set, all contributed to that. But most important, it had a great Tevye.

Tevye is one of the most challenging roles in musical comedy. He was on stage most of the time, and involved with most of the show’s big numbers. Jimmy McEvoy met the challenge superbly. Right from the prologue and the opening number with the company, “Tradition” he is authoritative, and his confidence in the role and enthusiasm make for a really memorable performance. He has a good strong voice, big numbers like “If I were a Rich Man” “To Life” (with Lazar Wolf), and the dramatic “The Dream” and tender “Do you love me?” (with Golde) were brilliantly done.

Aaron McDermott was well cast as his long suffering wife, Golde. Philip Keegan, (Tzeitel), Keith Kavanagh (Hodel), David Nagle (Chava) played the older and eligible daughters, and they sang the well known “Matchmaker” well. Eoghan McMahon played the impoverished tailor Motel, who wins the hand of Tzeitl despite Tevye’s

promise to give her to wealthy widower Lazar Wolf (John Duggan). His fine voice was effective in the ecstatic “Miracle of Miracles”.

Cian Hanamy played Perchik, the student who falls in love with Hodel, and they celebrated their engagement with the lovely “Now I have everything”. Later he is sent to Siberia, and Hodel followed him, leading to the poignant “Far from the home I love”. Conal Hanamy did well in the role of Fyedka, the Russian, with whom Chava falls in love. Tevye could not accept a Russian son-in-law, and Chava eloped with Fyedka. Tevye’s rejection of his daughter is a poignant scene.

Carl O’Dowd handled the essentially comic role of Yente, the matchmaker well. Other roles were capably filled by Angus Baker (Rabbi), Richard Hughes (Morcha), John Boyle (Mendel), David Dooley (Avram), Diarmuid Ryan (Constable), Fergal Hayes (Shprintze), Brian Tierney (Bielke), Adam Flaherty (Grandma Tzeitel), Nicholas Cody (Shaindel), and Rory Moloney (Fiddler).

Congratulations then to Director Stephen O’Riordan, Co-Director Giada Orlandi, Musical Director William Cullagh, and cast on a wonderful production.

Liam Doran



The Cloyne Report and Taoiseach Enda Kenny's speech

The Cloyne Report was published in mid-July 2011. It was followed by a roller-coaster of commentary and reaction including Taoiseach Enda Kenny's speech in the Dáil. In turn, this was followed by a response from the Vatican and the Government's response to the Vatican's response. Much of this action took place in the glare of the world's media. There were reports that an official Chinese newspaper quoted Enda Kenny's speech in support of its battle to win total control of the Catholic Church in China.

The introduction to the Cloyne Report states "In assessing how the diocesan and other Church authorities dealt with complaints, the Commission has judged them by the standards set in their own documents – the Framework Document and Our Children, Our Church..... The Commission acknowledges that the standards which were adopted by the Church are high standards which, if fully implemented, would afford proper protection to children. The standards set by the State are less precise and more difficult to implement".

The report goes on to conclude that the diocese did not implement the standards that it had ostensibly set for itself. The responsibility for this negligence is placed firmly with Bishop Magee. It is very difficult to understand how Bishop Magee could have been so negligent in implementing this fundamental aspect of pastoral care, especially given all we have been through in recent years. It is particularly sad given what the Commission itself says about the standards being high and if fully implemented, would afford the proper protection of children.

On the 20th July, Taoiseach Enda Kenny gave his speech to the Dáil. It is hard to work out what the Taoiseach was thinking at the time. His speech was not approved in advance by the government as an official response to the Cloyne Report. Senior officials in Government Departments were not consulted. In *The Irish Times* on Monday August 29th Dr. Dermot Keogh (Professor Emeritus, UCC) was of the opinion that "the speech, more scattergun than sure shot, ignored the checks and balances of an administrative system which has served this State well since its foundation". This is hardly a ringing endorsement. And if the Government didn't approve the speech (very few of them were even in the Dáil when he delivered it) and if senior civil servants were not consulted, who did write the speech? It is hardly likely that the Taoiseach wrote it himself. Does it matter? The Taoiseach delivered the speech. He presumably read it before he delivered it. He must have been happy with its content.

The speech was well received in many quarters. Many people agreed that the Taoiseach had said things that needed to be said. There is no doubt that there is a strong element of truth in this. The drip-drip of report after report and apology after apology has tested the patience, resolve and faith of the Irish people. However, the end does not justify the means. Truth matters. The good intention of wanting to "put children first" or "focus exclusively on the welfare of children" doesn't justify irrational emotionalism, unthinking populism or being irrational with the truth. In some quarters the speech was praised as "courageous". John Waters in *The Irish Times*, under the headline "Attacking phantoms is not brave, Taoiseach" said that there was nothing particularly courageous

about the speech and that it might have been courageous thirty or forty years ago. While he welcomes some elements of the speech he reckons that it was partly motivated to placate "the atheist ayatollahs of the Labour Party". Several other commentators were similarly of the opinion that Fine Gael and The Labour Party were competing with each other as to who could show the most moral outrage. Mark Dooley, writing in *The Irish Daily Mail* wonders why Enda Kenny had opted for what Edmund Burke called "the temporary and transient praise of the vulgar".

In working up to the finale of his speech the Taoiseach quotes from a 1990 document of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, (signed by the then Cardinal Ratzinger as prefect of that Congregation): "Standards of conduct appropriate to civil society or the workings of a democracy cannot be purely and simply applied to the church." The clear implication in the Taoiseach's speech is that this quotation suggests an official mentality in the Church that would seek to undermine "the workings of democracy in this republic". The Taoiseach was either unaware, or chose to ignore, the context of the document from which the quotation was drawn. The quotation was from a document called *The Instruction on the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian*. In summary, this quotation is saying that a Catholic theologian cannot base his theological teaching about revelation on democratic principles, on what might be in vogue at one time or another. For the Taoiseach to use this quote completely out of context as the basis for his closing remarks shows a staggering superficiality if not a deliberate attempt to sully the reputation of Pope Benedict. To my knowledge, there has been no retraction of this or any other part of the speech.

The Taoiseach says in his speech: "This is the Republic of Ireland 2011. A Republic of laws, of rights and responsibilities...." He alleges that "for the first time in Ireland, a report into child sexual abuse exposes an attempt by the Holy See, to frustrate an inquiry in a sovereign, democratic republic." This is a very serious allegation. However, there was no mention of acts of frustration in the Cloyne Report. When clarification was sought on this issue, a Government spokesperson replied that Enda Kenny was not referring to anything specific. It is difficult to understand how no specific incidents could have the effect that the Taoiseach refers to.

Towards the end of his speech, he also criticises the State and its record of neglect of children. He chose not to use the inflammatory emotional language that he had used in criticising the Church. In his speech, the Taoiseach makes much of Ireland being a "sovereign, democratic republic". It is somewhat ironic, that this same republic, which claims to care so much about the welfare of children, proposed to reduce funding for some family and child support services by up to 20% in last December's budget. Dr. Helen Buckley (a senior lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in TCD and one of the authors of the *Ferns Report*) is quoted in *The Irish Catholic* of 6th October as saying, "a few weeks ago, Eamonn Gilmore said 'this Government is committed to child protection'. I remember thinking 'that's a load of rubbish'. The Government doesn't understand what child protection is. Their version of child protection is strengthening legislation which affects about 5% of children. What they are actually doing is cutting back on child protection. That's the reality of what the Government is doing".

In summary, words matter, context matters, truth matters. Elements of Enda Kenny's speech needed to be said and served to give voice to the anger and frustration of many Irish people. More of it, however, was an emotional and embarrassing rant.

David Mc Donagh - CCR 1977-1980

Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan R.I.P.

Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan (CCR 1960-'62) died on 13th August last after a year-long battle with cancer. The huge attendance at his removal and funeral reflected the esteem in which he was held in legal circles. Many pastmen attended his funeral, at which Dom Richard Purcell was a concelebrant. Vivian's wife, Una, told mourners that her late husband's reaction to being told he had limited time left to live was "I have had a full life".

While he had a long and distinguished career on the bench, it was also recalled that in the 1970s he was one of a group of four socially conscious young barristers who helped make access to the law possible for those who could not afford it, through the Free Legal Advice Centres system (FLAC) which is now taken for granted but seemed revolutionary at the time.

Vivian was called to the Bar in 1969, and later (1975) to the Bar of England and Wales and to the Inner Bar in 1982. He was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 1989 and served as President of the Law Reform Commission between 1998 and 2000. He became a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, USA in 1980 and an Honorary Member of the American Bar Association in 1983. He was an advisor to the Attorney General and to Ministers of Government in respect of various legislative programmes between 1979 and 1982, and to Fianna Fáil Front Bench Members of Opposition in respect of proposed law reforms between 1982 and 1986.

His contemporaries in Roscrea recall a brilliant scholar, a great athlete and one who was always great company. He was a brilliant musician with a particular skill with the uilleann pipes which made sure he was very welcome in various haunts in West Clare and in Killarney. In 2000, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the death of the legendary piper, pipe maker and teacher Leo Rowsome, he gave a very moving address in the presence of Leo's family.

Vivian was very active in the CCR Union in the early 1970s. He was Treasurer of the Dublin Branch at the time of the fund raising campaign which, under Gerry Bates' guidance, led to the building of the swimming pool.

He is survived by his wife Una, sons Myles and Viv, daughters Naomi and Sarah, his three grand children and his sister Ann. To them, on behalf of the Union, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Our thanks to Frank Cullen (CCR 1960-'65) for help with this piece – Frank was a co-worker with Vivian in the Dublin Branch of the Union and this led to a life long friendship.

A tribute to Vivian Lavan...

I first met Vivian Lavan in the autumn of 1960 when he came to Roscrea, having done his Inter Cert at Terenure. I don't recall how or exactly when it was that we came to be friends because we did not, initially, move in the same circles. He came with a reputation as a sprinter of some note and became a member of the senior rugby team. I, on the other hand, was a lowly member of the "junior op". He and I both played for the senior team in our 6th year and I named him "Hands of Stone" for his abject inability to hang on to a ball. A broken arm curtailed his career and I always accused him of faking it to avoid further villification from his team mates (well perhaps only from me). He told me in later years that the problem was with his vision but I dismissed this as the recently contrived excuse of a man trying to rewrite a basic lack of ball handling talent.

Vivian was not fluent in Irish and was therefore in the B stream in class. I suggested to him, after his elevation to the bench, that this was the most appropriate training for a high court judge, who would not want to cloud his decision-making abilities with a surfeit of intellectual training. Some years ago, when I was visiting Dublin, he told me how admission to the bar was now so competitive that a first class honours degree was a basic requirement. "My God, wasn't it lucky they didn't have that requirement in your day" I remarked. His Honour had the good grace to feign amusement, though he did suggest that I walk home from The King's Inns. However it came about, we became fast friends. Vivian, David Hennessy, Morris McMahon (another late arrival at CCR) and I became a "gang of four" and had our friendship captured in celluloid during the end of year photo session of our final year.



Vivian Lavan pictured in July 1969.

VIVIAN LAVAN TRIBUTE - *continued*

After Roscrea Vivian departed on a world trip, for a few years, so I did not see much of him at U.C.D., though I think we overlapped by a year. I next saw him in Cambridge, where I was a graduate student and he had come for a debate with, I think, the UCD Law Society. As it happened I was performing with my band *Maglory Dengluch* and he caught a show, which consisted mostly of Irish folk songs and jokes. Afterwards Vivian roundly castigated me for my stage Irishman performance, which he felt was total pandering to the Sasanach's view of the Gael and beneath the dignity of a CCR alumnus. "Ah Vivian" I said, "you should see what they are paying me". That he could appreciate.

I did not see him again until the early 1980s when, based in the U.S., I took my family to Ireland for a trip. We visited Vivian and his young family and I remember his daughter, looking at my attire, saying to him "I didn't know that Daddies wore jeans". In all the years after that I never did see Vivian wear jeans – clearly beneath the dignity of a CCR alumnus.

During our 25th reunion, a few years later, we shared a hotel room in Roscrea and talked into the night. "You know" he said "when we were coming here today I was trying to remember why you and I had become friends in the first place, but it only took a few minutes of chat to figure it out". I was happy to tell him that my experience was the same.

I lived in a number of countries in the 1990s and early 2000s but visited Ireland quite often. One time, I think in the early 90s, I was in Dublin and, for business reasons, staying in a hotel. I had had dinner with Vivian and some others from Roscrea and we were in my hotel room discussing the world. Vivian had fairly recently been appointed to the high court and was being ever so slightly officious as he explained to me that he could now have me jailed on a whim if he so chose. I had had a few at the time but am reliably informed by Kevin McNiff that I told Vivian that he was welcome to try but would be launched through the window if he did. This deterred him not a bit as he went on to explain, with a certain amount of harrumphing, what the legal consequences of that would be.

Through that period I usually stayed with Vivian when I was in Dublin. He was then, of course, something of a celebrity but that never impacted on our relationship. He was always the most wonderful of hosts, taking me to see parts of Dublin that I, as a Kerryman, had never seen but that he clearly loved and loved to show. One of our more memorable outings was when he took me to the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham for the annual commemoration of fallen soldiers. He was happy to introduce me to the Taoiseach and the President but what was really important to him was that I meet his boss, the President of the High

Court, Richard Johnson. The name meant nothing to me but, when we finally met the great man, Vivian began an introduction with great solemnity "President, I would like you to meet .." but never got to finish. Ricky and I grinned at each other as the President of the High Court said "Ah Jaysus Vivian, you don't have to introduce me to this guy. Sure didn't we play rugby together for Tralee." It was the first time in forty five years that I saw Vivian speechless.

That night, like many others, we sat in his kitchen, his wife Una having long gone to bed with the admonishment that we were not to stay up late as usual, and talked about other things we had not, despite all the years, known about each other. He told me how he had considered the priesthood. It happened when a recruiting priest from Florida had shown us a picture of a Cadillac and suggested that we too could have such a beauty if only we would sign up. I told him that I could certainly see him in the pulpit but thought that, while Una might put up with him, I felt God never would.

In that and other kitchen chats we talked about our children. He was enormously proud of his four and I received an update on their accomplishments and goings on at every meeting and on every phone call. He had good reason to be proud. They have all done as brilliantly as any parent could hope.

No matter where I was in the world a call from Vivian was something I could always expect on Christmas day. When it got to be about 9pm Dublin time and the phone rang I would tell my wife Gillian "that will be Vivian" and sure enough it would be. In recent years we extended the calls to St. Patrick's Day and it was on the most recent one that Vivian made an allusion to his health that made me think that the problem he had mentioned at Christmas was more serious than I had thought.

I discovered that the illness was in fact serious and went to see him shortly before he died. He was reconciled to death and was incredibly brave about it. We recognized that our meeting was a farewell but we – Kevin McNiff was with me - laughed through most of it as we reminisced about our times in Roscrea and since.

Vivian Lavan was a man of great charm and humour, enormously kind to me and, I am sure, to many others. He was a wonderful raconteur and a fine speaker. I knew nothing of his public life, living as I did outside the country, but the encomia that followed his death spoke to the public figure that he was. I knew him only as a schoolboy with hands of stone, to whom I never showed the respect that was the due of his public personage. He loved life and loved his family and always made me laugh. I am very grateful that he was my friend. As this past Christmas day ended, my wife Gillian said "I kept waiting for Vivian to call". I went to my office and had a manly weep.

Kerry Kehoe (CCR 1958-'62)

Dublin Branch AGM

22nd FEBRUARY 2012

MINUTES of MEETING

Present: Sinbad Wilmot, Emmet Thompson, Sean O'Donnell, Pat Hanratty, Vincent Coyne, Michael McNamara, Aidan McNulty, Fergal Cox.

Apologies: Conor Massey, David Hernan, Paul Murphy.

Minutes of last year's AGM: Last year's AGM minutes were adopted.

Chairman's Report: The chairman was especially pleased that three new members had joined the committee – Emmet, Vincent and Sean. He was also delighted with the success of the Branch's two main events – the golf event and the Dublin Dinner. With regard to the golf outing a few lessons have been learned in terms of collecting money from people in advance and also seeking a firm indication in advance from players as to whether or not they are staying on for the meal. The caterers were very understanding in the circumstances but certainly for the 2012 Golf Event, we will have to be more sure of our numbers before confirming numbers for the meal.

The Dublin Dinner was a very enjoyable event, particularly the speeches and the presentation to Gerry Maher, who was overwhelmed by the generosity of the central committee and the anonymous donor.

Aidan McNulty wanted to express his delight at the attendance and speeches of Joe Hayes and Gerry Maher – they made the evening very special indeed.

The Chairman attended the CUS Dinner in the Shelbourne, while Pat Hanratty attended the Terenure, King's Hospital and Clongowes dinners. He also attended the South West Branch Dinner in Haulbowline.

The Golf outing is booked for the Grange again on 22/06/2012, whilst the Dublin Dinner in the Davenport is confirmed for 03/11/2012. The student night is due to take place in McSorley's on 10/03/2012, the same day as the Ireland vs. Scotland game.

Treasurer's Report: It has been a good year for the Dublin Branch and that is primarily down to the hard work and dedication of Sinbad. Enough money was made at the Golf Outing and Dublin Dinner to enable the Branch to donate half of the money towards the portrait of Marcelline Cody and also to organize a Student Night Out. Sinbad noted that a contribution will be made towards the Benevolent Past Men's Fund.

Aidan McNulty said that it should be noted in the minutes the Branch's gratefulness towards the person who provided the anonymous donation to Gerry Maher.

Election of Officers: Aidan McNulty proposed Sinbad Wilmot to be Chairman for a third year in succession, a feat only accomplished by the late and great Matt Hyland. It is an exceptional honour but highly merited. Pat Hanratty seconded the nomination. Sinbad was duly elected and accepted the task.

Sinbad Wilmot nominated Sean O'Donnell as Secretary, Fergal Cox seconded the nomination and Sean was duly elected.

Aidan McNulty nominated Vincent Coyne as Treasurer, Sean O'Donnell seconded the nomination and Vincent was duly elected (to the eternal relief of Fergal Cox!)

The rest of the committee was re-elected en mass.

AOB: Aidan McNulty pointed out that the Central Committee minutes go out to a lot of people, but very few actually attend the meetings. We should try to spread the Dublin Branch minutes to a wider audience as well so as to include more people in the activities of the Dublin Branch. Pat Hanratty was asked to include a copy of the minutes in the Review, which Fergal Cox agreed to write.

Sinbad Wilmot then closed the AGM.



The Dublin Branch Committee 2012: Emmet Thompson, Pat Hanratty, Vincent Coyne, Aidan McNulty, Sinbad Wilmot, Fergal Cox and Sean O'Donnell and Michael McNamara. Ironically, not a single Dub among them!

Right: A delighted Fergal Cox who served as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch hands over the books to Vincent Coyne.



The Dublin Branch Officers 2012: Chairman Sinbad Wilmot flanked by Treasurer Vincent Coyne and Secretary Sean O'Donnell.

Class Reunions

2011 saw lots of Reunions as pastmen will see on reading this copy of the Roscrea Review. As things turned out, six reunions took place between July and October, and a group from the Class of 1971 came together at the Dublin Dinner on 5th November.

Obviously the format, venue and other details are ultimately at the discretion of the organisers of the events and they, no doubt will be greatly influenced by the views of members of the year group in question. The Union does, however give detailed guidelines on the holding of Class Reunions on its website. These are not meant to be totally prescriptive as each group will have different priorities, but the following points are worth noting for future reference, especially those coming up in 2012.

For the benefit of people involved in the College, groups are asked to avoid the Summer months, when staff are either on a well deserved break or in the middle of the hectic August period around exam results and preparing for the new school year.

It would be ideal if Reunions were arranged to coincide with Union Weekend in September – in 2012 this will be the weekend of 15th/16th September i.e. the weekend between the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals. Admittedly, if say, six reunions were taking place that weekend it would

be difficult for the College and Union Presidents to attend them all, and difficult for local hotels as well, but if they can't be held that weekend, people are asked to consider the other weekends in September. It would, however be a great boost to numbers playing in the Abbot's Cup Golf competition if there were a few reunions taking place that weekend.

The College President Marcelline Cody is always delighted to welcome pastmen back to the College. She is very supportive of Union events and takes particular delight in meeting class groups, hosting receptions in the College and giving pastmen the grand tour of the new facilities.

Understandably, some pastmen have mixed memories of their days in CCR and some approach reunions with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. Experience shows that such fears melt away minutes after arriving – witness the happy accounts of various reunions that have been described in the Review over the years.

Occasionally, year groups get together at the Dublin Dinner in early November. This is especially suited to get togethers of year groups not celebrating milestone anniversaries, though this year's Dublin Dinner included a large group from the Class of 1971.

So, go for it – don't wait and assume others will do the organising, and with the internet, Google, Facebook and LinkedIn to help, it's never been easier to track those classmates down!

Emails

During the 2011 and 2012 Senior Cup campaigns we sent emails to a growing number of pastmen at home and around the world. I have basically two contact groups, one specifically for those who were with me in 1962-'67 and another general group of Union members. Jim Keating has one for his own year group, and I know he is most assiduous in keeping them informed and up to date. I tried to write *accurate* accounts of the various matches I attended, and I know from a little bit of feedback that many pastmen appreciated them and even forwarded them to family and friends. It's a long way from the 2013 campaign, but if you would like to be added to our lists, just contact me at pathanratty@gmail.com or Jim at jaskeating@gmail.com

New Union Website www.ccrunion.org

After much good work by Jim Keating and Sinbad Wilmot, a new Union website was set up recently. It's a work in progress (as are all good websites), but bit by bit more material will be uploaded and we will try our best to keep it up to date.

LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter etc.

More and more pastmen are joining the CCR network on LinkedIn – a good way of fairly instant communication, especially for those offering or seeking business opportunities. Likewise there are a few Facebook pages, though some of them seem to have had very little activity. We did experiment with having a twitter feed for some of the Rugby matches – maybe by the time next year's campaign comes around it will be easier! Or maybe there'll be some new technology on offer!

LinkedIn



In the Next Issue...

- A tribute to Gerry Maher
- A full report on the London and South East Dinners held in March and April 2012.
- More about the Union website ccrunion.org
- Another Presidential Portrait
- A new Hon. Life Vice President.
- All the usual features

NEWS OF PASTMEN



Dr. Cathal Bredin (CCR 1955-'60) was recently awarded the Irish Thoracic Society (ITS), Gold Medal Award for his outstanding contribution to Respiratory Medicine. The photo above shows Cathal and his wife Marion with Dr. Ed McKeon, incoming President of the ITS and last year's President Dr. Terry O Connor.

That the **Roscrea Review** is read and enjoyed by pastmen living in Australia was brought home to me in no uncertain manner by correspondence from **Pat Mulhall** (CCR 1948-'53) – living in Canberra and retired after a career in Forestry Science. He married Anne Brennan from Co. Leitrim and they have six children and 10 grandchildren.

He loves his adopted country, warts and all and reckons it was the Chinese and Japanese buying their coal, oil and natural gas that helped Australia escape the world recession. He blames the corruption of bankers, politicians and developers who betrayed those who gave their all for Irish independence.

Despite the distance involved, he occasionally visits Mark Smyth, a fellow pastman of similar vintage, now a happily retired civil engineer in New South Wales. He also mentioned Dubliner Andy Fennessy (CCR 1947-'52), now in a nursing home in Melbourne.

Others of his generation living in Australia include the following:

- **Mark Smith** (CCR 1947-'50) from Cahir, is a retired engineer living with his wife and family on the NSW Central Coast.
- **John Rice**, a great athlete in his CCR days in the 1940s is a bachelor living in Brisbane.
- **Fr. Andy Fennessy** (CCR 1947-'52) is a priest of the Melbourne diocese.
- **Ned Ryan** (CCR 1948-'53) from Clonaulty, Co. Tipperary is also retired.

Vincent Coyne (CCR 1992-'97) obtained an L.L.B. in 2001 and having worked for some years with McCann Fitzgerald will shortly move to William Fry Solicitors.

John Dolan (CCR 2003-'09) from Kilbegan is currently studying Political Science and Geography in TCD.

His brother **Gareth** (CCR 1998 - 2004) obtained a B.Comm in 2008 and is a trainee accountant with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Jimmy Fullam who was House Captain in 2003-'04 is working towards a PhD in Public Health in TCD, having obtained his primary degree in Zoology.

Simon Fraser (CCR 1998 - 2004) from Nenagh is now working in Industrial Relations with the employers' group IBEC.

Patrick Taaffe (CCR 2001-'06) is now a pilot with Ryanair, based in Madrid.

The above named young pastmen gave the Editor their details when they met up with some of the Dublin Branch Committee for drinks on the day of the Ireland v Scotland game. Anyone else with items for News of Pastmen, should send them to the Editor – contact details below.

Paul Fahey (CCR 1977-'82) from Tullamore is currently President of the Irish Pharmaceutical Union.

Not long after **Conor Brady** (CCR 1962-'66) retired as Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commissioner, the editor received an invitation to the launch in Dublin's Mansion House of his latest book and first novel *A June of*



Six Characters in Search of an Author? At the recent launch of **Conor Brady's** novel *A June of Ordinary Murders in the Mansion House, Dublin*, from left **Kieran Fitzgerald** (1979), **Tom Enright** (1960), **Sean Dineen** (1961), **Conor**, **Pat Hanratty** (1967) and **Mark Coen** (2003).



The late Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan flanked by two Garda Ombudsmen, Kieran Fitzgerald and the recently retired Conor Brady.

Ordinary Murders. Set in Dublin during the hot summer of 1887, the novel tells a gripping tale of gruesome murders, a criminal underworld we wouldn't have thought existed in our capital city, corrupt local politicians and lots more besides and is a thoroughly human story of a decent cop whose superiors don't always appreciate his efforts, against the backdrop of the imminent visit of Queen Victoria celebrating her Golden Jubilee. This reader was kept in suspense throughout – one (Det.) Swallow did make for a very interesting Summer! *Are there more in the pipeline Conor?*

Kieran Fitzgerald (CCR 1974-'79) was appointed a Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commissioner in December 2011 having previously served as Head of Communications and Research for that body.

Steven Miller (CCR 1996-2002) was recently appointed sports editor of the Limerick Leader. Steven studied journalism in DCU and was sports editor of the Leinster Express - where he worked with another pastman, Pat Somers (CCR 1982-'87), who was editor - prior to moving to Limerick. Steven's brother Niall (CCR 1999-2005) is currently studying for his final chartered accountancy exams with KPMG.

Wedding bells rang recently for two active members of the Dublin Branch. **Fergal Ó Dubhghall** (Fergal Doyle in his CCR days) married Majella Stack from Tralee last July on a beautiful sunny day. Among the guests were two other CCR pastmen, **Joe O'Shea** (1977-'83) and **Morgan Keane** (1978-'83). More recently, David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89) married Susan Kelly from Ballon, Co. Carlow and the editor has been promised a photo for the next Review of the 23 CCR pastmen who attended the wedding!

Items for "News of Pastmen" are always welcome - by email (pathanratty@gmail.com), phone (087-2731904) or post to **36, Rathfarnham Wood, Dublin 14.**

From the Union President

It has been an honour and a joy to serve as your Union President – in fact, by the time this goes to print my year will be nearly over, and at the AGM on 27th May I will hand on the chain to Jim Keating who has been a rock of support all year as President-Elect.

When my year began last May, there was still an afterglow from the dizzy heights scaled by the SCT in reaching the Leinster Final two short months earlier. There was therefore, an extra pride in welcoming several of that team into the Union, shortly before they sat their Leaving Certificate examinations. The “distractions” of the Cup run seemed to have little effect on the results – I’m no fan of league tables of schools, but it is great to know that CCR students are among the highest achievers in the country. Education always seems to be in the News and at the moment schools such as CCR are facing threats from a government party which has an agenda that is extremely hostile towards private schools and Catholic schools in particular. My advice to the government would be not to attempt to fix what isn’t broken and to be very careful or they might break a lot more than they attempt to fix.

The Summer and Autumn of 2011 saw some wonderful Union occasions in Ireland and abroad, described in detail in this Review. I attended Dinners in Dublin, New York and London, four golf outings, four class reunions (five if we count the Class of 1971 gathering at the Dublin Dinner), and will, hopefully attend the forthcoming Dinners in Kilkenny and Cork. I also was a guest at the King’s Hospital, Clongowes Wood and CUS Dinners – these invitations are sometimes sent to the President and sometimes to the Chairman of the Dublin Branch, but it doesn’t matter as Sinbad Wilmot and I have a very good working relationship! Another very pleasant event I attended was the 63rd Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Sport on Sunday 25th March in St. Ann’s Church, Dawson St., Dublin to which I and various other Union Presidents were invited. Indeed at that service I was sitting beside Jimmy Muldowney, the St. Michael’s College Union President who had just come from Donnybrook where their Juniors had clinched the double. Among the bidding prayers at the service was one which went “*We pray for all sportsmen and women from many nations who compete in all sporting endeavours. We pray that they may be assisted to compete freely and fairly and may also be free from all feelings of rivalry and bitterness. We commend to God the possibilities for unity through the gift of sport.*” We smiled! As Johnny Cash sang “*What could I do?*”

I also attended three wonderful musical occasions involving CCR. Firstly the Musical Evening in May which was held in the University of Limerick Concert Hall - such was the number of people wanting to attend, it had to be moved! And what a performance it was too! Word is this year’s is on at the same venue on 23rd May! In November, I saw a wonderful production of *Fiddler on the Roof* – I had forgotten just how good a musical that is! Then, just before Christmas, the Carol Service in the Monastery Church was a fantastic occasion, as enjoyable as it was uplifting. No amount of praise is too much for what has been achieved in this area, under the guidance of Mr. William Cullagh.

I was delighted that my classmate in CCR, Ambassador Joe Hayes, was able to accept our invitation to be Guest Speaker at the Dublin Dinner. Joe gave a wonderfully entertaining speech and had everyone only wishing he had spoken for longer. A good trick! The same Dublin Dinner saw a presentation being



Photo shows outgoing Union President Johnny Dolan congratulating Pat Hanratty after the handing over of the Presidential chain of office.

made to Gerry Maher who has retired from teaching, in recognition of his contribution as a teacher, a former Union President and a former Editor of the Roscrea Review. We wish Gerry well in his retirement.

As I write this the Leinster Cups have been duly won by St. Michael’s. Firstly, we must congratulate them on a wonderful achievement. Of course we are gutted at the way our involvement in the Senior Cup competition ended. The many pastmen who attended the games in NUIM were absolutely aghast at the amount of extra time played in the first match, and if truth were told, a bit frustrated that we just failed to cross the St. Michael’s line, despite being camped in their half for most of the second period of the replay. Despite losing, the team and their coaches gave us two performances to be absolutely proud of. Written off in the media as no-hopers facing St. Michael’s, the consensus is that the better team lost. If anything, the team looked a better all-round unit than last year’s and that is saying something. What they also proved is that last year’s run to the Final was no fluke and we can continue to look forward to competing with the very best. Heartiest congratulations to the team, their coaches and all concerned! The word from the College is, *whisper it!* that next year’s team is expected to be even better!

Boarding schools such as CCR face a difficult future – it’s no secret that numbers are down due to the recession, but the Board of Governors is tackling the issue head on. Lots of pastmen are showing a willingness to help in that regard – they are always welcome in CCR. I have heard the College President on so many occasions emphasise at dinners, reunions and other events that not a week goes by without some pastmen calling on the College and that they are always welcome.

Some of you will be aware that Katherine Donovan took a well deserved six month career break during the second half of 2011. Let’s just say we in the Union missed her greatly and are very glad she is back now since the start of the New Year, and continuing to work on our behalf. I would like to thank Pat Somers and Mark Coen who helped to proofread this Review. Thank you again for having me as your President, and apologies for the late arrival of the Roscrea Review.

Pat Hanratty
pathanratty@gmail.com

College News

On Thursday 24th November 2011 Union President Pat Hanratty presented the Union Gold Medal for the best results in the Junior Certificate to Matthew Kavanagh and to Richard Tynan, who both obtained 12 As.

● 5th Year students Angus Baker and Mark Dowley came 3rd in the Senior Group Biological and Ecological category in this year's Young Scientist Competition. Their project involved research into the alternative to antibiotics and was completed on the Abbey farm. The TY Group comprising of Richard Hughes, Matthew Kavanagh and Richard Tynan undertook an investigation into sleep deprivation. Their research was carried out on campus amongst their fellow students and they were highly commended by the judges in the Social and Behavioural Sciences group intermediate category.

● Richard Tynan, a native of Portarlington, who is currently in Transition Year received an award for achieving 3rd place in the Junior Certificate Technical Graphics State Exam in June 2011. Over 12,000 students in the country sat this exam. The Award ceremony took place on Saturday 3rd March in the GMIT Galway.

● On December 14th, the TY students travelled to Dublin to meet Mr Enda Kenny T.D. The reason for their visit to Government Buildings was the launch of the TY Christmas Carols CD. They sang 'Joy to the World' as the Taoiseach came out on the steps and then they were joined by Mr. Kenny in a rendition of 'Silent Night'.

● The Music Department recently participated in the Inter-schools Choral Festival which took place in Wesley College on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd March.

Awards received by the College:-

Winners in the following: the Frank Hughes Cup for The Senior Boys Choral competition; the over 17 Popular Singing Competition - Philip Keegan; the under 16 Popular Singing Competition - Conal Hanamy; the Irish Singing Competition - Conal Hanamy

2nd place in the following: the Under 17 Popular Singing Competition – Stephen Leo; the Irish Singing Competition – Cian Hanamy

1st Class Honours in: Under 16 Popular Singing Competition - David Nagle Under 17 Popular Singing - Jimmy Mc Evoy, Carl O'Dowd and Eoghan Mc Mahon; The Flute Quartet - Keith Kavanagh, Aaron McDermott, Bill Harrington and Diarmuid Ryan. Highly Commended in: Under 16 Popular Singing Competition - Fergal Hayes and Jack Murphy

● The College's Annual Musical Evening will be held in U.L. on May 23rd at 7.30 p.m.

● Conor Finn and Shane Layden from the Class of 2011 both started on the Irish U-20 team that defeated France in Paris. Sean O'Brien has secured a place on the U/18 Schoolboys Team while a number of students have been



Photo shows from left: Richard Tynan Sen. (CCR 1968-'74), Richard Tynan Jr., Carmel Tynan, Union President Pat Hanratty, Liz, Matthew and J.J. Kavanagh. Richard and Matthew both obtained 12 As in the Junior Cert. last June.

selected for the U/19's Squad. 1st & 2nd Year students attended the Ireland v Wales match recently and Shane Layden was voted "Man of the Match" on the day. 3rd Year students attended the U/20's match, when pastman Conor Phelan got out for Ireland.

● Following the Incidental Inspection in December, the College had a very positive History Inspection in February.

● In a recent Sunday Times Poll, Cistercian College was ranked 22nd overall for their admissions to Universities. (This is up from 27th place last year). Furthermore, the College was ranked 7th overall Boys School in Ireland and 4th in Munster.

● Numbers for the coming academic year and beyond continue to be a cause for concern given the current economic climate. The Board of Governors recently organized Mr Kevin Quigley to facilitate a "Think Tank" in conjunction with Senior Management and Staff. A Focus Group was subsequently formed in an effort to formulate a structured plan for consideration by the Board. Five regional meetings were also arranged for March to promote the school to prospective families and an Open Evening was held before Easter.

At a recent Union Central Committee meeting the Report commissioned a number of years ago, which was spearheaded by Mr Bill O'Brien, was referred to and it was suggested that the College should take every opportunity to tap into the expertise available to them. It was also stated that the College actively supports networking amongst pastmen to help support graduates looking for work experience and internships. Ms. Cody stated that the College seeks to support its past students and actively seeks to employ pastmen to provide services for the College whenever possible. Mr Pat O'Shea stated that the Union Constitution refers to the issue of networking and support for fellow pastmen and it is an issue that requires more structure and development given the current economic climate.

South West Dinner 29th April 2011

The South West Branch returned to the Haulbowline Naval Base for its annual get together. The barbecue format of the 2010 Dinner was repeated and the occasion was blessed with the early summer weather we had during April 2011.

It was the last official function as Union President for Johnny Dolan who was accompanied by his wife, Anne. Also present was incoming Union President, Pat Hanratty as well as Pat's designated successor, Jim Keating who assumed their respective offices at the AGM of the CCR Union two weeks later.

It was great to see the younger generation coming to the event, John Verling who is studying in UCC and Andrew Lett from Tipperary who is going into his final year studies in UCG.

John Joyce (Class of 1961) travelled down from Birr and stayed with his old classmate, Peter Sommerfield. John and his twin brother, Arthur are sons of Fred Joyce, our French Teacher in CCR.

Chairman of the Dublin Branch, Sinbad Wilmot and his wife Michele Nugent availed of the opportunity to have a getaway weekend in Cobh.

It wasn't just a Reunion for CCR as there was an unexpected meeting of two school friends from the Loreto Convent in Fermoy. Margaret O'Shea, wife of Pat, found lots more than CCR matters to talk about with Kitty McCarthy, wife of Donal. While both are regular supporters of CCR events, they had not previously met at a CCR function. Later, they could compare notes with Kay O'Meara, also a Loreto Past Student.

Obviously, when we were organising the event, we were hoping that the Leinster Schools Senior Cup would be on display in Haulbowline. Nevertheless, College President, Marcelline Cody was able to give those present an inside view on CCR's rugby accomplishments during the year. Naturally thrilled with this achievement during her first year in the role, she is very optimistic that CCR will continue to feature in sporting success stories.

Towards the end of the evening, a raffle, kindly sponsored by a locally based Past Student was held. Union President, Johnny Dolan and current President Elect, Jim Keating were wondering how they could transport their newly acquired, large hampers of fruit home from Haulbowline. The other prize was won by Maura O'Sullivan, sister in law of Branch Chairman, Gerry O'Meara.

A most enjoyable evening ended with most of the guests being transported by late night ferry across scenic Cork Harbour to their cars or hotels.

One long standing supporter of Branch events, **Tom O'Callaghan** (CCR 1943-45) of Mitchelstown was unable to attend this year. Tom was a son of Pat O'Callaghan who was among CCR's first student intake in 1905. CCR was always close to Tom's heart. He asked if one of the monks could call on him if they were travelling to the dinner.

We were delighted that Dom Peter Garvey travelled to the event and he readily agreed to call to Tom on the way down. Tom died just two months later. It was gratifying that holding the Haulbowline event in April gave him one last opportunity to renew acquaintance with an institution that meant so much to him and to several generations of the O'Callaghans.

Tom is sadly missed by his wife Margaret, his family and friends as well as by his fellow pastmen. *Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a ainm usual.*



*A happy group having just taken the ferry from Cobh to Haulbowline
Back Row: Richie Ryan, Dom Peter Garvey, Donncha Cody, Andrew Lett, John Verling, Colman McCarthy, Brendan Hyland, Anne Hyland, Paul Carroll (partly hidden), Donal McCarthy.
Front Row: Pat Hanratty, Margaret O'Shea, College President Marcelline Cody, Union President Johnny Dolan, Anne Dolan, Jim Keating, Michael McNamara, Michele Nugent, Sinbad Wilmot, Liz Ryan, Kitty McCarthy, Colette Carroll.*



Union President Johnny Dolan addresses the happy gathering.

South West Dinner

continued...

Right: Anne and Brendan Hyland being served at the barbecue as Peter Sommerfield looks on admiringly.



Liz Ryan pictured with Colette and Paul Carroll.



Michael McNamara with Neans and Gerald McCarthy.



Pat Hanratty presents a bouquet of flowers to Anne Dolan while Gerry O'Meara looks on.



Left: Johnny Dolan and his wife Anne on the ferry back to Cobh after the Dinner.



Gerard Malone who, with his wife Joan are regular attenders at SW Branch functions alongside Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and his wife Michele.



Pat O'Shea and Donal McCarthy (with Dermot Cronin is in the background).



Pat O'Shea and Donal McCarthy (with Dermot Cronin is in the background).



Joan Malone receiving a bouquet of flowers from Union President Johnny Dolan.



Donal Cantwell and Donncha Cody.



Brothers Billy and Mick O'Neill with next year's Union President, Jim Keating.



Gerry O'Meara with Kitty McCarthy and Margaret O'Shea who were school friends, and who are both married to CCR pastmen.



John Joyce and Gerry O'Meara.



Andrew Lett and John Verling with Dom Peter Garvey.

Matt Hyland/Noel Windle Golf

Grange Golf Club - June 2011

The Dublin Branch golf event was held on 24th June 2011. As it was the twentieth year of the Matt Hyland Cup, in honour of this occasion the Branch made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Lean Hyland in recognition of her ongoing involvement in, and support for the event.

The venue was Grange Golf Club, as it was last year, but unfortunately last year's spectacular weather failed to make a repeat appearance. Instead a significant amount of rain and wind added hugely to the normal challenge of the course – in plain terms conditions, especially in mid-afternoon were appalling.

The turnout was excellent though, with a total of sixty players starting out, but more than one team opted to call it a day before completing the course (quite a sensible decision as the early part of the day may easily have lulled them into a false sense of security, leading to the wet gear being left at home).

The dinner provided by the Grange was excellent as always, though not as well attended as it might have been if the players had not been quite so thoroughly drowned on the course.

In the men's competition the first place and the Matt Hyland Cup went to Morris Mulvany (34 points), with Emilio Cirillo

(31 points) and Frank O'Meara (30 points) in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Frank came third on a countback – Dom Peter Garvey had a similar score. The ladies' competition and Noel Windle Cup went to Janet Green (32 points) with Yve O'Driscoll in second place (26 points).

In the team competition first place went to Dom Peter Garvey, Kay Garvey and Greg Swift, with second place going to Brian Culliton, John Cody and Brendan Doogue. Brendan also managed to waltz away with the Longest Drive on the 17th, while Nearest the Pin on the 8th went to Maurice Phelan.

Two fine speeches were forthcoming from our recently installed Union President, Pat Hanratty, and the President of the College Marcelline Cody. We were particularly glad to see Aidan McNulty back with us after his recent illness.

I must say we were very well supported with a selection of sponsors, some stalwarts from previous years, others new and very welcome, and to all of whom I must express the gratitude of the Dublin Branch. Similarly I must extend a thank you to all who attended and made the day the success it was.

Sinbad Wilmot
Chairman, Dublin Branch.



Fresh and spruced up after the deluge – Rob O'Shea and Fergal Cox



Johnny Dolan with Penny and John Rooney.



The Bardon brothers, Christy, Anthony and James, Their brother Joe, who died in 2008 was the very first winner of the Matt Hyland Trophy.



Declan Martin, Emilio Crillio, Yvonne Malone, Hugh O'Neill, Fiona Duffy Cody and Aidan Mc Nulty.



Chairman Sinbad Wilmot presenting a bouquet of flowers to Lean Hyland to mark 20 years of the Matt Hyland Trophy.



David Mulvany accepts the Matt Hyland Trophy on behalf of his brother Morris, from Lean Hyland.



Sinbad Wilmot presents the prize for second place to regular contestant Emilio Cirrillo.



Sinbad presents the runner up prize in the ladies competition to Yve O'Driscoll.



Brendan Doogue and Brian Culliton accept the Team Runner Up prize from Sinbad Wilmot.



Sinbad Wilmot and the winners of First Prize in the Team event - Dom Peter Garvey, Kay Garvey and Greg Swift.



Feargal O'Dubhghaill and Joe O'Shea.



Conor O'Hara and Michael Hayden.



Janet Green who won the Noel Windle Ladies' Trophy with Union President Pat Hanratty.

List of Sponsors:

<i>Firm</i>	<i>Link</i>
Comans Wholesale Ltd.	Tom Coman Class of '84
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Forest Hill Financial Planning	Brian Culliton Class of '90
BetDaq	Brendan Phelan Class of '79
Wireless Connect Ltd.	Tom Smyth Class of '98

Midland Branch Golf Outing, Esker Hills, August 2011

The Annual Midlands golf outing took place on 26th August in fine late summer weather. The course was in excellent shape, although that didn't make it any easier for the high handicappers, such is the challenge of that course!

Great credit is due to Midlands Branch Chairman Paul Fitzpatrick, Jim Keating and all the Thompsons, especially Margaret who had beer and burgers for the weary golfers after the 11th hole.

As usual Margaret's husband Frank concentrated on the golf, and used all his local knowledge (and considerable expertise) to achieve a winning score of 40 points. In second place was Kevin O'Regan followed by Dan Hackett, with the best past student score (apart from the winner) going to Stephen Thompson.

For the ladies, regular participants, Regina O'Regan, Kay Wrafter and Aisling Hackett were 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

A wonderful meal was had and we are looking forward already to this year's event which will be in late August. Check the Union website www.ccrunion.org



Andy Galvin, Paddy Egan and Shaun Wrafter



Five members of the Thompson family: Andrew, Emmet, Frank, Margaret and Stephen.



Eight members of the Class of 1968 with the Union President; Standing, Pat Keane, Dick Spring, Kevin Croke, Sean McCann, John O'Connor and Rory Culliton. Seated Jim Keating and Frank Thompson.



Left to right: Dara Gannon (1994), Barry Egan (1993), Ronan Egan, Andy Hennessy, Colin Byrne, Ian Fox (all 1991), Dermot Cuniffe, John Maher (both 1990), and Julian Flynn (1991).



Left: Johnny Dolan, Michael McNamara and Kevin Croke.



Right: Paul Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Regan and Frank Thompson.

Abbot's Cup 2011

The Abbot's Cup was played in brilliant Autumn sunshine on 10th September last. One of the event's most loyal and faithful participants over the years, Frank O'Meara (CCR 1962-'67) finally hit the jackpot, his 40 points (off a handicap of 10) being well ahead of the next best score, that of Paul Wrafter (CCR, 1966-'71), who won the College President's Prize. Others to score well included Gerry Hayes as well as classmates from the class of 1989, Alan Landers and regular prize winner Rob O'Shea who graciously accepted that on this one occasion, Tipperary had come out on top!

The field was boosted by the presence of several members of the Class of '56, who decided at their 50th a few years ago that they would reunite every five years. Their best score was carded by Michael O'Dwyer and he was presented with a prize at their dinner.

With a number of reunions planned for the Union Weekend, (15th/16th September) we are hoping to have a shotgun start this year - this requires a large number to pre-book, but has the advantage that all would finish at the same time. That should also help boost numbers at the Abbot's Cup Dinner.

Why not make a date of it - contact a few friends/colleagues/contemporaries and then get in touch with the organisers? Roscrea is a lovely golf course with some challenging holes, but not such as to intimidate high handicappers!



A delighted Union President Pat Hanratty presents the Abbot's Cup to his erstwhile classmate Frank O'Meara.



Marcelline Cody presents the College President's Prize to Runner-up Paul Wrafter.



President-Elect Jim Keating presents prizes to (left) Rob O'Shea, (right) Gerry Hayes and (below) Alan Landers.



Dublin Dinner

November 2011

This year's Dublin Dinner took place on Saturday 5th November in the Alexander Hotel. Over a hundred and twenty attended, including pastmen from every decade from the thirties to the noughties. There were guests from seven other unions, and all were lavish in their praise of the venue, the meal, the overall atmosphere and particularly the guest speakers on the night.

Dom Richard and Marcelline and Donncha Cody made the journey from Roscrea - indeed Dom Richard had a particularly hectic itinerary in recent weeks when one considers that he is Abbot of a contemplative order. He spoke of the challenges facing schools such as ours both from the economic point of view and the overall educational landscape.

Union President Pat Hanratty spoke of his delight at seeing so many young pastmen at the Dinner and encouraged them to involve themselves in the Union. He recalled the great delight we had felt earlier in 2011 with the Cup run, and commended all for the wonderful examination results achieved. As he was being followed by two All-Ireland standard public speakers, he kept his words to a minimum.

The evening really warmed up with the speech of Joe Hayes (Class of '67), currently Irish Ambassador to Singapore (with East Timor recently added to his portfolio). Joe's speech was wonderfully witty and entertaining and he did the classic trick of sitting down at a stage when his audience would definitely have loved him to go on.

It was then the turn of the Branch Chairman, Sinbad Wilmot to make a presentation to Gerry Maher on his retirement from teaching. Gerry is, of course a former Union President and Editor of the Roscrea Review and no mean speaker either. He recalled some of the high points of his time teaching and of his year as Union President in particular his fond memories of the New York Dinner in 2001 which took place just two months after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. There might have been question marks over the holding of that year's event, but the attitude of the North American Branch was "It MUST go ahead!" Gerry also recalled presenting a book of condolences on behalf of the College to a representative of Mayor Giuliani at the dinner and that the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brian Cowen who was attending the U.N. General Assembly at the time also attended on that fateful night. He thanked pastmen for their generosity and good wishes and wished the College and the Union well as they faced the future.

Great credit is due to Sinbad Wilmot and his Committee on yet another outstanding Dublin Dinner.



*Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and Union President Pat Hanratty with guests from other Unions: Alan Doran, St. Michael's College; Alan Morgan, Terenure College; Michael Galvin, Gonzaga College; Victor Cassoni, Presentation College, Bray; Stephen Tracey, St. Mary's College; Mark Lochrin, Clongowes Wood College and Michael Moriarty, Catholic University School.
On behalf of the Union we extend our sincere condolences to Alan Morgan, President of the Terenure College Union on the recent death, after a year long battle with cancer of his wife, Adele.*



From the Class of '65: John Sherry, Eamon Tansey, Aidan McNulty and John Phelan.



Liam Spooner (CCR 1962-'68), Conor Brady (CCR 1962-'66), Joe Doherty and Gerry Moloney (both CCR 1956-'61).



Emmet Thompson (CCR, 1995-2001), Paul Murphy (CCR 1984-'89), David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89) and Peter Sherry (CCR 1970-'75).

DUBLIN DINNER more photos..



Guest Speaker at the Dublin Dinner 2011, Joe Hayes, Ireland's Ambassador to Singapore and East Timor.



Donncha Cody with Board of Governors' Chairman Diarmuid Ó Murchú.



John Shannon, Neville Quinn and John Verling, (all from the class of 2007).



Four members of the extended Sherry clan from Foxford: John (CCR 1960-'65), Brendan (CCR 1970-'75), Barney (1935-'40) and Peter (CCR 1970-'75).



Mostly from the Class of 2007: Front Row left to right, Andrew Valette, Union President Pat Hanratty, Mark Delahunty. Middle Row left to right: Eunan Carroll, Jack Byrne, Neville Quinn, John Shannon, Brian O'Donnell, Eoghan Madigan, Sinbad Wilmot (Dublin Branch Chairman). Back row left to right: Matthew Quinlivan, John Verling, Eddie Hogan, Eoin Quinn, Andrew Richardson, Darragh Glynn.



Class of 1972: Back row: Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Fergal Keane, James Kelly, Michael O'Brien and Tom Kelly. Front row: Simon Coyle, Pat Hanratty (1967), Gerry Maher, Johnny Dolan and Shay Garvey.



Former Union Presidents Gerry O'Meara and Michael Coyle.



Andrew Valette, Eddie Hogan and Eoin Quinn all from the Class of 2007.



Dom Peter Garvey (Class of 1955) and Dick Spring (Class of 1968).



Two more former Union Presidents – classmates from 1967-'72, Johnny Dolan and Gerry Maher.



Gerry Maher says his "Cúpla focail".

A more complete selection of photographs taken on the night can be seen on the Union website ccrunion.org under the heading "Union News".

Last July, after a year or more of meticulous planning, the Class of 1961 held their Golden Jubilee Reunion over a weekend. While all give the most credit for the organisation of the event to Gerry Moloney, we are deeply indebted to others, including Paul Robinson, whom the Union President managed to persuade over breakfast the morning after to be the main chronicler of the events, and Peter Sommerfield who made sure we would have lots of photos from the weekend. Only a very small selection of photos from the weekend are included here, but Peter has lots more online on a Picasa site and anyone wishing to view these should contact the editor. Peter has also been at work scanning photos from CCR in the late 50s and early 60s which make fascinating viewing.

Over the years at the times of their various reunions, the Class of '61 presented two awards in memory of Gus Martin and Dermot Tuohy. Their use of the occasion of their 50 year reunion to donate the **Dom Colmcille Award for Contribution to the Environment** is an entirely appropriate gesture for which they are to be commended. They are an exceptional group even by CCR standards, and even though Gerry Moloney and friends were billing the event as "The Last Hurrah" we are sure that we haven't heard the last of The Class of '61!



6th Year Class photo May 1961 with Fr Gerard Burke, O.C.S.O:

Sitting : Peter Kehoe & Tom Hainsworth

Front Row: John Joyce, Michael Walsh, Gabriel Rogers, Liam Kilcawley, Colman Ryan, Fr Gerard, John Fennessy, Ian Downie, Liam Allis, Stuart Houlihan, Jimmy Lennon

Second Row : Tom Garvey, Michael Keating, Peter Sommerfield, Denis Chambers, Julian Hennessey Quinten Shortt, Jim Grehan, Freddie Wehrly, Billy Meehan, Coilin Owens, Jarlath Morris,

Third Row: Gerry Moloney, Michael Cullen, Eric King, Philip Cleary, Richard Fennell, Paul Robinson, Joe Doherty, Pat Boland, Joe Buckley, George Mullan, Tim Lane.

Fourth Row: John Coffey, Michael Keohane, John Fennell, Hilary Lawless, Ray Ballantyne, Pat Callanan, Ned Comerford, Joe Hoban, Ray Gibbons, Donald Gallivan

Missing: Sean Dineen, Frank Hall, Mel McCarthy, Charlie McDonald, Jim McKeogh, Timmy O'Dwyer, Peter Rockett, Donal Twohig, James Troy.

'BACK AFTER 50!!' or 'THE LAST HURRAH!' CLASS OF 1956-1961 REUNION 22nd - 24th July 2011

"The Eagles!"

"Where? Where?"

"The Golden Eagles. On the gates."

"Oh, yeah. We'll be singin' about dem tomorra."

" Ah, go on ou' wa dat."

It is an axiom that each Roscrea class-year is and feels unique and different and because all classes are unique and different it follows that they are uniquely all the same and similar. There are, however some years which are more special than others. It is a truism that this also applies uniquely to all classes.

As expected, the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Class of '61 was a mind-blowing milestone, filled with emotion, camaraderie, affection, remembrance and forgiveness. Out of a possible 52 participants a collection of 30 sober, successful professionals, entrepreneurs, philosophers and academics – no failures in this Class! - gathered in 'the afternoon of their lives' to renew acquaintances and pay homage to the institution which shaped their lives during their five-year internship at CCR.

Friday afternoon and evening saw the gathering of the hosts into the County Arms Hotel, Birr, from as far afield as Australia, Africa, Canada, USA, Europe and Britain. Once again the skills of recognition were tested – most were recognisable but a few had

to be prompted with, "Do I know you?" and as soon as voice and gesture became evident the game was up.

Dinner at "The Thatch", in Crinkle outside Birr was filled with further recognitions and merriment- immediate or prompted. The evening was delightfully hosted by John Joyce, in whose home town we were, and all flowed contentedly with assorted memories and 'catching up' wafting over, across and through the company. Plans were laid for the events for the following day. It must be said that the preparation and organisation was impeccable. Under the management of Gerry Moloney (Howth) the seed was sown some 13 months previously and followed up to perfection by his team consisting of Joe Doherty (Sandymount), Tom Garvey (Galway), John Joyce (Birr), Peter Sommerfield (Cork – there's always one!) (photographic archivist), Donald Gallivan (London) and Jack Fennell (Templeogue), ably assisted by Tim Lane (Blackrock, Dublin) and Joe Hoban (Dublin 2). It was a blueprint for any such gathering. Saturday morning found us still in Birr at the home of John Joyce, where John entertained us for 'coffee' and an array of sustenance which obviated the necessity for lunch – a magnificent morning 'soirée' in which he was assisted by his twin brother, Arthur, and Arthur's two daughters, Dr. Claire and Dr. Elaine. John also delivered a delightful talk on the historical connections of his family and home.

The great moment arrived for the main business – the visit and

Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*

reception at the College. This began with 'meticulous' preparation by organist Paul Robinson (Harare) and choir master Joe Buckley (Maynooth) with his hastily conscripted motley choir. Mass was concelebrated in the College Chapel by Dom Peter Garvey, Abbot of Bolton Abbey, Moone, and Fr. Billy Meehan, P.P. St. Mary's, Clonmel, and assisted by Deacon Michael Cullen, St. Joseph's parish, Barron, Wisconsin (the latter two being from the Class of 61). Also in attendance were Abbots Dom Colmcille O'Toole, Dom Ambrose Farrington, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Kevin Daly and Dom Laurence Walsh, College President, Mrs. Marcelline Cody, Union President, Pat Hanratty and distinguished retired teacher, John Shanahan. The Readings were read by Tom Hainsworth (Portarlinton) and Sean Dineen (Stillorgan) and the Bidding Prayers of the Faithful were offered by Julian Hennessy (Fethard-on-Sea), Tim Lane, John Fennessy (Vienna) and Peter Sommerfield.

Dom Peter asked for prayers for our deceased classmates, Frank Hall, Liam Kilcawley and Jim McKeogh, and for a soberingly long list of deceased monks and lay teachers who had taught and looked after us during our years in CCR. Dom Peter, harking back to the sermon given by the late and much missed preacher, Fr. Nivard Kinsella O.C.S.O. at our first reunion in 1987, remarked on how the themes of Fr. Nivard's sermon – the EEC, Europe and Culture, Secularisation, the Referenda, the Power Structure of the Catholic Church, the need for the Church to be less authoritarian, to be a Church of Service and, increasingly, to be a Church of the Laity - continued to be topical. He spoke about the challenges facing Irish society, our economy, ourselves and our families. Towards the end of what was for many of us a very moving Service, the congregation sang the Salve Regina and after the final blessing the rousing strains of the College Anthem - composed by the late Professors Cole and Semple in the '50s - "The Gleaming Eagles", were rendered with gusto.

The official Reunion photos were then taken by Peter Sommerfield on the front steps of the College, incorporating five Abbots (a record?), the College and Union Presidents, followed by a reception hosted by the College President in the Centenary Room i.e. that which was known in our time as the Billiard Room.

College President Marcelline Cody welcomed the gathering, recounting some of the major recent changes in and achievements of the College and students. She hoped that the Class of '61 would continue to visit and support efforts to advance the College's reputation. Don Gallivan, a 'gallant' and efficient MC, spoke briefly about keeping in contact with Fr. Eanna Henderson (who was too ill to be present - as was An tAth. Ciarán) over the years, the importance of the "Roscrea Review" for pastmen living abroad and the pride that all had in the College Senior Rugby team's progress to the Final of this year's Leinster Senior Schools Cup competition. Paul Robinson paid tribute to the lasting effects that the Monastery had on our lives, saying that he could not imagine the College existing without the Monastery or the Monastery without the College. He humorously recounted some notable aspects of attendance at Sunday High Mass in the monastery Church and gave us a virtuoso impression of the late Fr. Eunan Crumlsh's rendering of "Panis Angelicus".

The Class of '61, in memory and recognition of the advice and guidance Abbot Emeritus Dom Colmcille O'Toole gave us as Dean of Studies, and in recognition of his contribution to the husbandry of the environment during his thirty-six years as Abbot, presented the **Dom Colmcille Award for Contribution to the Environment** to the President, to be awarded annually to the student adjudged to have made the most significant contribution in this important area. The award is in the form of an original bronze of a stylised rowan tree sculpted by Anne Cooney. It is inspired by the words "Scarlet berries clot like blood on the mountain rowan" from a translation by Seamus Heaney of the saga of "Sweeney Astray" (also parodied in Flann O'Brien's "At Swim-two-Birds"). It was graciously accepted from Paul Robinson on behalf of the College by President Marcelline Cody. The erudite academic, Joycean scholar and author, Coloin Owens (Alexandria, Virginia), had received personal, pithy reminiscences and reflections from a number of classmates on the general question "Why, after fifty years, are you back in Roscrea?" Introducing the contributions, which he had bound together under the title "Back after 50: The Class of '61 Remember...", Coloin said that "We were blessed to have been prepared for life by monks and teachers who recognised our discrete talents and who taught us, by example and rule, the values of self-discipline, service, tolerance and mutual respect." under the care of Cistercians who Joyce called (in "The Dead") "the only true Christians". Describing the reminiscences as "variously humorous, playful, nostalgic, or ruminative, all implying an appreciation of what we carried along our own trails and trials, successes and failures over the past fifty years.", he distributed a copy to all as a memento of the Reunion.

Finally, President Cody gave many of us a quick conducted tour of the major changes which have been made to the accommodation, classroom, and sporting facilities of College of which she can be rightfully proud, while others were content to share memories with the attending monks.

The formal dinner (no – not black tie!) took place in the evening at the County Arms. The guest list was as above, with the exception of Dom Kevin and John Shanahan who expressed their apologies. It must be mentioned at this stage, when all the initial meeting and mingling was over, the gathering seemed 'very comfortable' with one another. During previous reunions there was often the element of competition as to the level of success – or lack of it - among some individuals. Not so now, with most of us behaving like contented, smiling grandfathers. Truly delightful!

Toastmasters for the Dinner were Gerry Moloney and Tom Garvey who wittily introduced each speaker, commencing with Joe Doherty who proposed and Dom Richard Purcell, who responded to the toast to "Mount Saint Joseph". Joe Doherty recalled that the Monastery and the College would not exist without the munificence of Count Arthur Moore. He echoed the view expressed earlier that the College and the Monastery had a symbiotic relationship with each other, that the spiritual and temporal values under which the monks lived, prayed and taught and the quality of lay teaching had made an indelible impression

Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*

on us and hoped that this was also the case for current students. Enduring Cistercian values had, he said, attracted the attention of the general public in a 2010 award-winning French film "Of Gods and Men", based on a 1990s event - the kidnapping and murder of seven members of an Algerian monastery by Islamic militants.

He mentioned that some countries were trying to depart from using financial data to measure standards of living by measuring 'happiness', and that Cistercians could perhaps give them some pointers in that quest! Finally, Joe recalled the relatively (by late 1950s/early '60s standards) non-authoritarian regime under which the College was run (e.g., students electing House Captains, etc.), and how he saw it reflected in CCR's Ethos Statement (*cf.* College website) of today. Dom Richard, describing the current major challenges facing the monastery, said that at some stage the College might have to envisage continuing without the monastery.

A very sincere Pat Boland (New York) proposed the toast to the Union on behalf of the vibrant North American Branch to which Pat Hanratty, magnanimously responded as Union President, updating the gathering on Union matters. A high point was the toast to the unique "Class of '61" proposed by our House Captain and high achiever – *and still the All-Ireland Schools 440 yards record holder* Colman Ryan (Daly City, CA) who spoke eloquently 'ex corde'. Another well known high achiever, Peter Kehoe (Chadds

Lane PA) responding, remarked on the collegiality and comradeship he had found at this and previous reunions, on the wide range of occupations and achievements of the graduates of the Class of '61, and on various Roscrea men he has run into on his world-wide travels. Dom Peter, who had served two terms totalling seventeen years as College President, rounded off the evening with a few remarks on whether the educational and administrative policies of the monks were deliberate or accidental!

Tributes were again paid to Gerry Moloney and his stalwarts for the efficient and trouble-free organisation but credit must go to all the attendees who contributed whole-heartedly to this wonderful occasion simply by happily 'being there'. The stories improved with the retelling as the night wore on and even the ubiquitous Jack Fennell had to finally concede victory to John Joyce's reminiscence of his visit to Marlene Dietrich's hotel suite in Oxford: he never got to tell us what the outcome of his encounter was, pleading it was like the third secret of Fatima, but he guaranteed a full Class Reunion in 2021 for our 60th when he promised to reveal all.

Paul Robinson (with assistance from Joe Doherty, Tom Garvey and Gerry Moloney)



Dom Colmcille and Pat Hanratty pose with the four academic "stars" of the class of '61 all of whom were scholarship winners in the Inter Cert of 1959 – Cólín Owens (3rd), Tim Lane (23rd), Paul Robinson (24th) and Peter Kehoe who got 1st place in the country.



John Joyce and John Coffey.



Joe Doherty paying eloquent and grateful tribute to the Monastery and College.



A rare photo of five abbots together, all but one of them pastmen of CCR: Dom Kevin Daly, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, Dom Peter Garvey and Dom Ambrose Farrington, each of whom attended some part of the festivities.



Peter Kehoe makes a presentation to organiser-in-chief and the one who keeps us all in touch, Gerry Moloney.



Dom Richard graciously replies to Joe's kind words.



Class of '61 Reunion - *continued...*



Peter Sommerfield reading a lesson at the Mass in the College Chapel.



Colman Ryan, House Captain 1960-'61, and a long time resident of California gives an emotional speech on his "return".



Marcelline Cody giving some of the Class of '61 the tour of the new facilities – picture shows Fr. Billy Meehan, Timmy Dwyer, Julian Hennessy, Paddy Boland, Ray Ballantyne, Sean Dineen and Donald Gallivan.

CLASS REUNIONS



Class of 1961: Dom Peter Garvey, Dom Kevin Daly, Colman Ryan House Captain 60-61, Union President Pat Hanratty, Dom Richard Purcell, Dom Colmcille, CCR President Marcelline Cody, John Shanahan, Fr. Billy Meehan, Dom Ambrose Farrington. Second Row; Peter Sommerfield, Deacon Michael Cullen, Sean Dineen, Julian Hennessey, Jim Grehan, Paddy Boland, John Fennessy, Tim Lane, Peter Kehoe, Jarlath Morris, Donald Gallivan, Tom Hainsworth. Back Row; Arthur Joyce, John Fennell, Ray Gibbons, Tom Garvey, James Troy, Gerry Moloney, Jimmy Lennon, Eric King, Timmy Dwyer, Paul Robinson, Coilin Owens, Joe Doherty, John Joyce, Ray Ballantyne, Joe Hoban, Joe Buckley. (John Coffey came later.)



Class of 1956:

Back row l to r: Michael O'Dwyer, Conor O'Hara, Jim Egan, Micheal Meagher, Donal Monks, Aidan Sheeran, Jim O'Shea, Cyril Hackett.

Seated l to r: Michael Cullen, Donal Flynn, Pat Hanratty, Union President, Pat O'Shea, Marcelline Cody, College President, Dom Ambrose Farrington, (Bolton Abbey), John Cahill, Terry Ashe, Michael Harney.



Class of 1966: Back l to r: Michael Whyte, Bryan O'Donnell, Mattew Coady, John Mullaly, John Kiernan, Michael Comer, Peter Joyce, Kenneth Forde, Frank Buckley, Jim Lyndon, Anthony Bennett, Derry Bergin, Gerry Buckley, Alan Loomes, Fergus Owens. Middle l to r: Pat Collier, Marcelline Cody (President CCR), Liam Collins, Peter McGinnity (R.I.P.), Damien Coffey, Michael Crowley, Brendan McGrath, Billy O'Neill, Michael Nevin, Chris Bardon, Peter Nugent, Eddie O'Donovan, David Garahy, John Woods, Tom Stokes. Front l to r: Conor Brady, Eugene Hardiman, Eugene McGinnity, John Rafferty, Hugh Durkin, Jim Keating (incoming President, CCR Union), Tom Hope, Tom Healy, Liam Mulcahy, Peter Murray, Pat Kinsella, Colomba Eastwood.

CLASS REUNIONS



Class of 1951:

Seated, l to r: Peter Delaney, Tom Ambrose, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, OCSO, Pat Hanratty, Union President, Terry Gleeson, James Mackey, Ray Simon.

Standing l to r: Larry Brannigan, Marcelline Cody, College President, Jack Fleming, Paddy McMahon, Michael Hayden, Frank Johnson, Dom Laurence Walsh, OCSO, Michael Payne, Pat Reynolds, Liam O'Flanagan, Joe Cox, Denis Keating.



Class of 1991:

Far Back Brian McManus, David O'Donovan, Enda Murphy, Martin McDermott, Andy Hennessy, Ronan Stewart, Tony Phelan, Andrew Downey, Paul Deegan, William Kieran, Melvyn Kennedy, Barry Glendenning, Mark McInerney, Declan O'Dwyer.

2nd Row, Jim Sheehan, Jimmy Finn, Robin O'Donoghue, Niall Hennessy, Julian Flynn, Eoin Flanagan, John Ryan, Tom Murphy, Ian Mernagh, Martin Maher, Patrick Phelan, Finbarr Diamond.

Seated: Martin O'Carroll, Mike O'Hanlon, Patrick Chambers, Michael Littleton, Ronan Egan, Ian Fox, David Hyland, Colin Byrne, Des Warner.

Front Row: Union President 2010/'11 Johnny Dolan, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Pat Sheedy, Union President Pat Hanratty, College President Marcelline Cody, Eddie O'Sullivan.



Class of 1971:

Brian O'Sullivan, Tadhg Campion, Richard Vaughan, Michael Bruen, Jim Gibbons, Declan Martin, Willy McTiernan, Union President Pat Hanratty, Paul Wrafter, Michael McLaughlin, Donal Cantwell, Donal Hayes and Martin Gibbons.

PHOTOS OF CLASSES OF 1951, 1956 AND 1966 COURTESY OF BRIAN REDMOND, ROSCREA. www.redmondphotography.com

Class of '66 Reunion

In 1991, when last we met, we were all “fortyish.” This time we were all “sixtyish.” And when we regrouped at the College on September 17th our ranks had been thinned a little further by mortality.

Nonetheless, the Class of 1966 – mustered an impressive 44 for dinner, including our two guests who honoured us with their presence, Mrs Marcelline Cody, President of CCR and Jim Keating, the incoming President of the Union, deputised for Pat Hanratty, whose son was getting married that day.

All of the monks and the teaching staff of the mid-1960s are long retired. Many are gone to their eternal reward. But the doughty John Shanahan, who taught some of us French and some of us Irish, is hale and hearty. And to our great delight he made the journey from West Limerick. He joined us for Mass at the College chapel and at the reception in the Centenary Room – which, of course, will always be the “Billiard Room” to our generation.

Our day started with the statutory outing at Roscrea Golf Club. A damp morning gave way to a clearer afternoon and some decent score cards were filled. Dom Kevin celebrated Mass for all at 4.30 pm in the College Chapel. In his homily he recalled (with disquieting clarity) some of the more colourful characters he encountered in his first year as Dean and who were now sitting before him, demure in their advanced age.

The President and the Senior Dean, Seamus Hennessy, along with Dom Kevin welcomed us in the Centenary Room over a pleasant reception, catered for by Bernie Teehan and her excellent staff. There was a tour of the new dormitories, the refurbished study halls and the new, high-tech infirmary. Then there was the statutory group photograph, after which it was off to the County Arms Hotel in Birr. Pastman Brian Loughnane and his staff did us proud at the County Arms. The “Drawing Room” was the perfect venue for dinner after an informal pint or two in the bar downstairs. The four course meal was excellent and Brian’s staff personified courtesy and professionalism.

Two young rockers from the 1960s, Billy O’Neill and John Woods had collaborated to put together a superb music compilation. So the room reverberated to the Beatles, the Stones, the Who et. al. Some of those with, shall we say, more folksy preferences, enjoyed the occasional interspersing of numbers from the showbands – the Royal, The Miami and the Dixies.

A slide show of photographs from the era, drawn from the College archives by Dom Richard, and supplemented by snapshots of varying quality and clarity, was shown on a continuous loop. There were the inevitable sarcastic comments, principally relating to hair loss and the expanding girth of once-athletic forms.

A notable feature of the evening was the appearance for the occasion of a special edition of the “Vexillum.” It featured among other significant contributions, a message to all from Fr Patrick in Heaven (!), the lyrics of the Salve Regina and Puck’s “Goodnight” from A Midsummer Night’s Dream, bringing back recollections of the Christmas play of 1962.

We had witty speeches and toasts (“Ireland,” “The College,” “The Guests,” and “Absent Friends”) from Liam Mulcahy, Ken Forde, Christy Bardon and Anthony Bennett.

There were fond recollections of those who are no longer with us Mick Byrne (Kilkenny), John Comerford (Thomastown), John Glynn (Galway), Tom Naughton (Dunmore, Galway), Brian Shouldice (Tipperary), Paul McCarthy (Johnstown, Co Kilkenny) and Donal Cummane (Westport and Dublin). May the Lord hold them safe.

Greetings were recorded from others who were unavoidably absent; Jim Phelan, Kieran Moran, Chris Farrell, Tom Joyce and Tim Maher.

It was particularly good to have a strong delegation from North America – Peter Joyce, Ken Forde, Jim Lyndon and Peter Murray all flew in. Unfortunately, Conn Foley was unable to travel at the last minute due to unforeseen demands at the medical centre where he operates. Richard Meagher had hoped to travel from Nova Scotia but was also unable to make the trip due to professional commitments. From the UK, we had Anthony Bennett (Manchester) and John Mullally (London).

When dinner was over there was music, provided by Frank Buckley (banjo) and Bryan O’Donnell (fiddle). There was much chat in the bar and renewed examination of the photo slide-show, leading to further disparagement of those now tonsorially challenged or pushing out at the waistline.

Survivors were reportedly glimpsed in the lobby of the County Arms at 6 am. But for the majority, things wound down around 3 o’clock, allowing participants to present themselves in a more or less tolerable state at breakfast the following morning.

A medical psychologist recently offered the view that a lot of men are probably at their happiest now in their early 60s. Their lives are shaped; they are at, or near to the point of winding down their careers; for the most part, their families are making their own way in the world. The years of striving are generally over. If they are lucky, they have not yet encountered serious ill health. All in all, it can be a good time for them.

That there is at least some truth to that analysis was evident over the course of this reunion. The atmosphere was relaxed, comradely and full of good humour. Friendships were rekindled. If long ago there may have been animosities or rivalries they did not surface. Stories were told of schoolboy triumphs and of narrow escapes. Anecdotes of almost half a century ago were recounted as if they had occurred yesterday.

In thanking the College and the Abbey for welcoming us back, I would also like to pay a special tribute to Tom Hope and John Rafferty who brought their professional skills and their great energies into our reunion project. Essential ingredients for a successful reunion include early organization, attention to detail and good teamwork. No better men!

Conor Brady

Class of '66 Reunion - images



Top from left: Pat Collier, Pat Kinsella, Michael Whyte, John Kiernan: Ken Forde, Billy O'Neill, Alan Loomes:
 Second from top, from left: Peter Murray, Tom Healy: Tony Bennett, Frank Buckley: Mick Nevin, Conor Brady, John Rafferty:
 Third from top, from left: Billy O'Neill, John Rafferty: Below: Hugh Durkin, Tom Stokes: Right centre: Liam Mulcahy, John Woods:
 Right top: Matt Coady, Damien Coffey: Below: John Woods, Columba Eastwood, Eugene McGinnitty
 Bottom: left to right, Columba Eastwood, Peter McGinnitty (RIP) Bottom right: Peter Joyce, Peter Nugent
 It was with great regret that we learned of the recent sudden death of Peter McGinnitty. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Scoring with GOAL...

GOAL, the Irish humanitarian organisation, was set up by John O'Shea 35 years ago and for many of those years I have found myself involved in it in a variety of ways. GOAL was my choice of charity because it was and is, a lean, mean machine which walks the walk rather than talking the talk.

My first role was as a volunteer fundraiser, a task which continues to this day.

Early on, more photographs were needed to spread the word of GOAL's work and being a keen amateur I offered my services. "You could be opening a door that you may not be able to close" is what John O'Shea said before I left for war torn South Sudan. How right he was! Now many years and many wars, famines and natural disasters later, that door is blown off its hinges.

Sometimes a hand was needed at logistics or with food distribution, but always the camera was at hand. Luckily the photos were used by local and national media as well as ads to promote GOAL's work.

It's one thing watching heart wrenching scenes on the TV, but nothing, absolutely nothing prepares you for the real thing.

The sounds and in particular the smells become buried deep in the psyche. But being part of an aid organisation is so much more than simply the sounds and smells of far away distant lands. It is a huge honour to be able to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It's an incredible privilege to be welcomed into cultures foreign to our own. Of course the work can be heart breaking and sad beyond words but at the same time it's rewarding in a way that also defies words. Thinking back over the experiences of 14 trips to places like Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Sri Lanka, what always remains with me, despite their mind boggling suffering, is the dignity and hope of those who are suffering most.

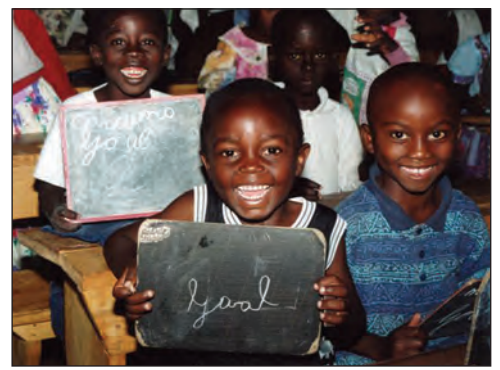
In Ethiopia at a time when their land and lives were being ravaged by drought and famine, an elder presented me with the wooden bell of a dead camel as a sign of gratitude. Another prized possession is the headdress of the Taliban, given by an incredibly brave young woman who had risked her life to teach local children during the Taliban regime. Even though his house and livelihood was washed away during the Tsunami, I can still hear a local fisherman thank GOAL for travelling so far to help.

Since becoming involved with GOAL, the support of the Irish people has been truly phenomenal. It has been, and continues to be, an absolute privilege and honour to be part of GOAL and to be able to offer support to some of the world's poorest people.

Tiernan Dolan (CCR 1965-71) continues to teach in Longford when not being a GOALie.

www.GOAL.ie

Imags from Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and a scary moment in Afghanistan.



Feedback

Two articles in the last issue gave rise to very interesting feedback. In the first place, Barney Sherry's fascinating article on Count Arthur Moore found its way into the hands of his great-great-grandson, a primary school student in South Tipperary. His Principal sent us this, which we gladly reproduce.

My great-great-grandfather, Count Arthur Moore

As a great-great-grandson of Count Arthur Moore, I was fascinated to read your article in the Spring 2011 edition of the Roscrea Review. I'm a fifth class pupil in Shronell NS, Lattin Co. Tipperary and my favourite subjects are History, Geography, Art and P.E. I particularly enjoy school table quizzes and have represented my school on many occasions.

As part of our 5th class History curriculum we studied local history and did a large project about Count Arthur Moore. While I was always aware of my family history, its significance did not become apparent until I started to research and speak in detail to my father and grandmother. I brought in some original documents including the deeds of the Mooresfort Estate, dated 1852. We worked as archivists with special gloves examining and analysing the information from these tattered and faded documents.

I learned from the project that Count Arthur Moore attended Mass every day, spent hours at the tabernacle in his own private oratory, fasted rigorously, made frequent retreats and went, year after year to Lourdes and the Holy Land, not as a sight seeing traveller, but as a pilgrim and a penitent. At home I am proud to say that he was the kindest and most indulgent of landlords, and that no beggar went unrelieved from his door.

It may be of interest that my family have in our possession a skull cap belonging to his holiness Pope Pius IX, given by him in the year of the Vatican Council 1870 to Mrs Charles Moore, mother of Count Arthur Moore.

An interesting fact in my family tree is the pattern of christian names passed through the generations. My great-great-great-grandfather was Charles Moore. His son was Count Arthur Moore, whose son was Charles Moore (who married Lady Dorothe Feilding, subject of the book "Lady Under Fire on the Western Front"), and their son was Arthur Moore – my grandfather, whose son Charles Moore is my father! I am honoured to share a name and roots with such an influential man.

Arthur Moore, age 11 (at the time of writing)



Count Arthur Moore



That's me in the red jumper.

The article by Andrew Cody about the Fr. Nicholas Cody in the last Review elicited the following email from John (Johnny) O'Connor (CCR 1963-'68):

Pat,

Greetings from John O'Connor, Roscrea. I enjoyed the bumper Spring 2011 Roscrea Review, in particular the article by Andrew Cody about his grand-uncle Fr. Nicholas Cody. The photograph of the CCR Senior Rugby Team 1909-1910 holds special interest for me in that Tom O'Connell and Paddy O'Connell who appear in the photograph were my grand-uncles. My grandfather Jack O'Connell lived in Derryvale, Roscrea (opposite the Golf Club) but he did not attend CCR. His son William (my uncle) attended CCR in the 1930s. There were five O'Connell brothers, all of whom qualified as doctors. In his article Andrew states that Tom O'Connell was the first Roscrea student to win an International Cap - in fact this was Paddy O'Connell who gained 2 or 3 caps in or about 1913. I don't believe Tom ever achieved an International Cap. The O'Connell brothers all came from Castleiney near Templemore. The O'Connells' great grand-nephew, Mark McHugh, who played for Leinster, Connacht, Mountpellier and at present Nice, achieved one full international cap against Tonga a few years ago.

With Best Wishes
John O'Connor

OBITUARIES

Fr Charles Ayward died on Monday 1st June 2009 in hospital in Worthing. He was 85 and had just celebrated 60 years as a priest. He was born in 1924, attended CCR between 1936 and 1942, and was ordained on 26th May 1949 at the Abbey of Nunraw. He was incardinated into the diocese of Portsmouth in 1970 and served in Crowthorne (1968-1971) and Woolston (1971-1977) as an assistant priest. He served as parish priest in St Edmund Campion, Bournemouth (1977-1981), St Joseph, Connor (1981-1983), St Bernard, Holbury (1983-1989), Sacred Heart, Hook (1989-1994) and St Anne, Alderney (1994-1999).

Dr. Tom O'Callaghan, (CCR 1943 to 1945) Tom's father, Patrick O'Callaghan (CCR 1905-1907) was among the first group of students to attend CCR. Tom was a great supporter of the South West Branch functions and of the CCR Union. He was unable to attend the most recent event in Haulbowline at the end of April. However, happily, Dom Peter called to him on his way to Haulbowline that evening.

Donal Barry, Kinvara, Co. Galway (CCR 1942-48); formerly Roscrea. His father taught at CCR 1916-51.

Peter McGinnitty (CCR 1961-66); died suddenly on 29th Feb. 2012. He is survived by his wife Mary, seven sons and a daughter. A large number of pastmen including President Elect Jim Keating attended his funeral. Peter's brothers Eugene (1961-'66) and Oliver (1966-'71) also attended CCR.

Martin (Murt) O'Sullivan of Rossleighan, Portlaoise, Laois died on 16th November 2011.

Dr. Peter Power (CCR 1933-'37); died on 12th December 2011. Peter was a noted athlete and rugby player in CCR and studied Medicine in UCC. Some time after qualification he decided to make his career in the British Army, his late father having served in World War One and fought at the battle of the Somme.

After a lengthy career in the Royal Army Medical Corps, Peter returned to Cork on his retirement. He was a regular attender at SW Branch Dinners – indeed he attended one as recently as 2007. He was widowed three times – most recently in 2008 when Ita, his wife of 32 years passed away.

Ulick O'Boyle (CCR class of 1951) died after a long illness in July 2011. A songwriter and poet, most of his songs were about the people he met when working on the Snowy Mountains Scheme - "The hard rock drilling and the big construction game". He also composed jazz and blues music and songs. He was described as the Woody Guthrie of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, the largest civil engineering scheme in the Southern Hemisphere. With a work force of approximately 8,000 from 40 countries, it made Cooma and the surrounding district the first multicultural area in Australia with the Irish among the most numerous.

Over the years, Ulick moved to Canberra with his wife Noelene and continued to play and record music, adding much to the social fabric of the national capital. In 1999, his first and second albums were re-released to mark the 50th anniversary of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme.

Pat Mulhall remembers Ulick who was two years ahead of him as being good at sport, mainly boxing and rugby and expressing his musical talent in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera.

Richard Mc Hugh (CCR 1948-'50), formally from Kilterna, Dunmore died January 2012

He was a brother of Bernard (Bernie) Mc Hugh (CCR 1948-'54) who subsequently emigrated to USA.

Martin Donovan (CCR 1932-'36), neighbour and friend from Mountheaton, Roscrea died January 25th 2012. Martin's brother Denis attended CCR, in 1927-'28 and his grandson Damien attended the College from 1997 to 2003.



Next Union President

Simon Coyle (CCR 1967-'72) will be proposed as President-Elect at the Union AGM on 27th May. Simon, who hails from Dublin is a former Chairman of the Dublin Branch and has been a very active member over a long number of years. His brother, Michael was Union President in 2008-'09, and they will become just the second set of brothers to be Union Presidents. Simon will take over as President from Jim Keating at the 2013 AGM.

Class of '51 Reunion

The Class of 1951 which includes such Union stalwarts as Tom Ambrose, Larry Branigan and Michael Hayden held a very enjoyable 60 year reunion over the last weekend in September last. For their venue, they chose the Guest House – a surprise choice some might say, but the catering there is now of an extremely high standard.

In common with other groups they started off with a Mass in the College Chapel, at which Dom Laurence did the honours. This was followed by a reception in the Centenary Room hosted by College President Marcelline Cody and the optional jaw dropping tour of the upstairs' facilities which have certainly changed since the Class of 1951 were in CCR!

A very pleasant meal with lots of wine and good memories lasted until quite late. As there was no television in the Guest House, members were given the option of being brought by the Union President to a pre-arranged location to watch the Ireland v Russia Rugby World Cup match at 6 a.m. the following morning. Only Larry Branigan rose to the occasion – he and Pat will tell of their adventures that morning in search of a TV that worked! (They did actually make it mid way through the first half when Ireland were 17-0 up!)



Photo collage from the top:

1. Jack Fleming, Percy Delaney, Paddy McMahan, Denis Keating, Terry Gleeson, Pat Reynolds and Jim Mackey.
2. Michael Payne, Ray Simon, Liam O'Flanagan, Joe Cox and Frank Johnson.
3. Jim Mackey, Ray Simon and Michael Hayden.
4. Jack Fleming, Paddy McMahan and Liam O'Flanagan
5. Larry Branigan, Denis Keating and Michael Payne.
6. Jack Fleming, Percy Delaney and Paddy McMahan.
7. Dom Colmcille and Ray Simon.
8. Frank Johnson and Dom Laurence Walsh.
9. Terry Gleeson, Pat Reynolds and Tom Ambrose
10. Dom Kevin with Larry Branigan and Tom Ambrose
11. Percy Delaney and Frank Johnson

Class of '91 Reunion

Ireland assumed the role of EU Presidency, the government controversially allowed US planes to refuel in Shannon en route to the Gulf War, the Birmingham Six were freed and the Class of 1991 walked the corridors as students for the final time in June of that year.

The Trojan effort of one man, Ronan Egan, resulted in a super turnout for the weekend in Kilkenny, with 45 past students making the effort over the two nights.

The Class of 1991 reunion in Kilkenny commenced on Friday 14th October, as souls from the four corners of Ireland and a couple from over the Irish Sea, converged on the Pembroke Hotel, the central hub for the weekend. 20 years were bridged in a few moments as handshakes were exchanged and anecdotes of five years of secondary education were exchanged over a few pints. The stories got taller and taller as the night wore on.

A number of hardy souls braved the damp Saturday morning to play a round of golf in Gowran Park. Some were nursing hangovers while others just arriving were wondering what was in store. Others visited the Go Kart track in Ballyhale to vent their frustration and a few were left to sample the delights that Kilkenny City had to offer.

The official proceedings eventually got underway in the Pembroke Hotel as 35 past men sat down to a 3 course meal complemented with a typical CCR Sunday tea time treat, Lion bars and Tayto Crisps.

In attendance were College President Marcelline Cody, Pat Sheedy, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Eddie O Sullivan, current Union President Pat Hanratty and former Union President Johnny Dolan.

Ronan Egan, the man who shouldered the work load of organising the event, thanked all for attending and those who helped him to organise the weekend. Former House Captain John Ryan spoke for everyone in thanking Ronan for his organisational skills. Ian Fox made a special presentation to Ronan, which I'm assured has pride of place on his mantelpiece.

Marcelline Cody spoke on behalf of the college, saying that it was wonderful to see so many at the reunion and Pat Hanratty again thanked Ronan for all his efforts and hoped that all would continue to attend past student events. Following the speeches the revelries continued well into the early hours with stories and myths regaled.

As sore heads rose on Sunday morning it was agreed that it shouldn't be as long next time.....



College President Marcelline Cody, Patrick Phelan and retired Housemaster Eddie O'Sullivan



Mark McInerney, Julian Flynn, Ronan Stewart & Colin Byrne



Melvyn Kennedy



Ronan Egan & Finbarr Diamond

Enda Murphy & Martin McDermott



Jimmy Finn and Tony Phelan



Martin Maher, Brian McManus, Tom & Enda Murphy & Eoin Flanagan

New York Dinner

18th November 2011

This year's New York Dinner moved from its venue of many years, Langan's, of 47th St. right beside the Theatre District in Manhattan to the Capital Grille in the mezzanine of the Time Life Building. Union President, Pat Hanratty thought he was the only one travelling from Ireland to the event, but was pleasantly surprised to find that John Naughton (Class of 1977) and Joe Hoban (Class of 1961) were also there. John is a pilot with Aer Lingus and was due to fly to Boston that day, but being persuaded by Johnny Coughlan (who himself flew in from Vancouver) he managed to swap rosters and flew to New York instead and took in the Dinner.

There were a total of four from the Class of 61, meeting again so soon after their reunion in July - Joe himself and regulars Paddy Boland, Peter Kehoe and Cólín Owens. Not for the first time, Charlie Scroope flew down from Toronto for the occasion, and Peter Kehoe's baby brother Kerry, who is currently organising a 50 year reunion of the Class of '62, flew from Albuquerque, New Mexico to be there.

The cuisine was superb, and the "official" speeches from Des O'Brien and Pat Hanratty were short. In his speech Pat referred to the fateful Dinner in November 2001, just two months after the 9/11 atrocities. As Gerry Maher who was

Union President at the time said in his speech at the Dublin Dinner, he had indicated that everyone would understand it if the North American Branch did not wish to go ahead with a Dinner that year, but the message from the Branch was "It must go ahead", and it did, and a book of condolences signed by students and staff in the College was presented on the night to a representative of Mayor Giuliani.

Des and Pat were followed by impromptu, unscripted and sincere offerings from among others, Kerry and Charlie. A constant theme running through the night's proceedings was a serious desire for those pastmen well established in the USA and Canada to be of assistance to young pastmen heading to those countries, even by way of helping them to prepare well for the transition, to their new environment.

Great credit is due to Des O'Brien and to Niall Rafferty and his wife, Jackie who made everyone feel very well at home. After the dinner we retired the few blocks to Langan's where drinks were on the house. It is reported that some were there till 4 a.m. Indeed could you believe that on the Saturday evening as Pat Hanratty was walking through Times Square on his way back to his hotel in the midst of the hordes and multitudes, he met none other than the aforementioned Johnny Coughlan and the two agreed to meet up in O'Briens' in 46th St where pints and an excellent meal was served.

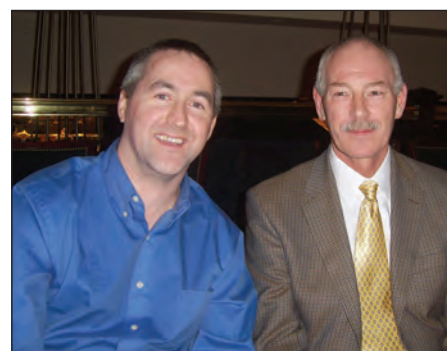
The North American Branch is currently preparing to commission a medal for the Branch Chairman - its design will incorporate a tribute to the doyen of the Branch, Noel McCarthy who died after a short illness in 2009.



Kerry Kehoe and his daughter Sinéad and Lochlann Kehoe, son of Peter.



John Coughlan, Amy and Des O'Brien.



Brian Adams and John Naughton.



The Adams brothers, Glen and Brian.



Three from the Class of '61 – Paddy Boland, Cólín Owens and Joe Hoban with Union President Pat Hanratty.



Niall and Jackie Rafferty.

Superb “Fiddler” at Cistercian College

If I were asked to name my three favourite musicals over all the years of reviewing productions I would probably choose “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Oklahoma!” and “South Pacific”, in that order.

CCR staged the show in 1979, 1995 and 2002. Each had been memorable, so it was with a sense of anticipation that I went out to see how the students of 2011 would present the story of the little Jewish community of Anatevka in the turbulent Russia of 1905.

I was not disappointed. In fact, I would suggest it is one of the best productions of Fiddler I have seen anywhere. The pace never flagged, great direction, great chorus work, superb set, all contributed to that. But most important, it had a great Tevye.

Tevye is one of the most challenging roles in musical comedy. He was on stage most of the time, and involved with most of the show’s big numbers. Jimmy McEvoy met the challenge superbly. Right from the prologue and the opening number with the company, “Tradition” he is authoritative, and his confidence in the role and enthusiasm make for a really memorable performance. He has a good strong voice, big numbers like “If I were a Rich Man” “To Life” (with Lazar Wolf), and the dramatic “The Dream” and tender “Do you love me?” (with Golde) were brilliantly done.

Aaron McDermott was well cast as his long suffering wife, Golde. Philip Keegan, (Tzeitel), Keith Kavanagh (Hodel), David Nagle (Chava) played the older and eligible daughters, and they sang the well known “Matchmaker” well. Eoghan McMahon played the impoverished tailor Motel, who wins the hand of Tzeitl despite Tevye’s

promise to give her to wealthy widower Lazar Wolf (John Duggan). His fine voice was effective in the ecstatic “Miracle of Miracles”.

Cian Hanamy played Perchik, the student who falls in love with Hodel, and they celebrated their engagement with the lovely “Now I have everything”. Later he is sent to Siberia, and Hodel followed him, leading to the poignant “Far from the home I love”. Conal Hanamy did well in the role of Fyedka, the Russian, with whom Chava falls in love. Tevye could not accept a Russian son-in-law, and Chava eloped with Fyedka. Tevye’s rejection of his daughter is a poignant scene.

Carl O’Dowd handled the essentially comic role of Yente, the matchmaker well. Other roles were capably filled by Angus Baker (Rabbi), Richard Hughes (Morcha), John Boyle (Mendel), David Dooley (Avram), Diarmuid Ryan (Constable), Fergal Hayes (Shprintze), Brian Tierney (Bielke), Adam Flaherty (Grandma Tzeitel), Nicholas Cody (Shaindel), and Rory Moloney (Fiddler).

Congratulations then to Director Stephen O’Riordan, Co-Director Giada Orlandi, Musical Director William Cullagh, and cast on a wonderful production.

Liam Doran



The Cloyne Report and Taoiseach Enda Kenny's speech

The Cloyne Report was published in mid-July 2011. It was followed by a roller-coaster of commentary and reaction including Taoiseach Enda Kenny's speech in the Dáil. In turn, this was followed by a response from the Vatican and the Government's response to the Vatican's response. Much of this action took place in the glare of the world's media. There were reports that an official Chinese newspaper quoted Enda Kenny's speech in support of its battle to win total control of the Catholic Church in China.

The introduction to the Cloyne Report states "In assessing how the diocesan and other Church authorities dealt with complaints, the Commission has judged them by the standards set in their own documents – the Framework Document and Our Children, Our Church..... The Commission acknowledges that the standards which were adopted by the Church are high standards which, if fully implemented, would afford proper protection to children. The standards set by the State are less precise and more difficult to implement".

The report goes on to conclude that the diocese did not implement the standards that it had ostensibly set for itself. The responsibility for this negligence is placed firmly with Bishop Magee. It is very difficult to understand how Bishop Magee could have been so negligent in implementing this fundamental aspect of pastoral care, especially given all we have been through in recent years. It is particularly sad given what the Commission itself says about the standards being high and if fully implemented, would afford the proper protection of children.

On the 20th July, Taoiseach Enda Kenny gave his speech to the Dáil. It is hard to work out what the Taoiseach was thinking at the time. His speech was not approved in advance by the government as an official response to the Cloyne Report. Senior officials in Government Departments were not consulted. In *The Irish Times* on Monday August 29th Dr. Dermot Keogh (Professor Emeritus, UCC) was of the opinion that "the speech, more scattergun than sure shot, ignored the checks and balances of an administrative system which has served this State well since its foundation". This is hardly a ringing endorsement. And if the Government didn't approve the speech (very few of them were even in the Dáil when he delivered it) and if senior civil servants were not consulted, who did write the speech? It is hardly likely that the Taoiseach wrote it himself. Does it matter? The Taoiseach delivered the speech. He presumably read it before he delivered it. He must have been happy with its content.

The speech was well received in many quarters. Many people agreed that the Taoiseach had said things that needed to be said. There is no doubt that there is a strong element of truth in this. The drip-drip of report after report and apology after apology has tested the patience, resolve and faith of the Irish people. However, the end does not justify the means. Truth matters. The good intention of wanting to "put children first" or "focus exclusively on the welfare of children" doesn't justify irrational emotionalism, unthinking populism or being irrational with the truth. In some quarters the speech was praised as "courageous". John Waters in *The Irish Times*, under the headline "Attacking phantoms is not brave, Taoiseach" said that there was nothing particularly courageous

about the speech and that it might have been courageous thirty or forty years ago. While he welcomes some elements of the speech he reckons that it was partly motivated to placate "the atheist ayatollahs of the Labour Party". Several other commentators were similarly of the opinion that Fine Gael and The Labour Party were competing with each other as to who could show the most moral outrage. Mark Dooley, writing in *The Irish Daily Mail* wonders why Enda Kenny had opted for what Edmund Burke called "the temporary and transient praise of the vulgar".

In working up to the finale of his speech the Taoiseach quotes from a 1990 document of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, (signed by the then Cardinal Ratzinger as prefect of that Congregation): "Standards of conduct appropriate to civil society or the workings of a democracy cannot be purely and simply applied to the church." The clear implication in the Taoiseach's speech is that this quotation suggests an official mentality in the Church that would seek to undermine "the workings of democracy in this republic". The Taoiseach was either unaware, or chose to ignore, the context of the document from which the quotation was drawn. The quotation was from a document called *The Instruction on the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian*. In summary, this quotation is saying that a Catholic theologian cannot base his theological teaching about revelation on democratic principles, on what might be in vogue at one time or another. For the Taoiseach to use this quote completely out of context as the basis for his closing remarks shows a staggering superficiality if not a deliberate attempt to sully the reputation of Pope Benedict. To my knowledge, there has been no retraction of this or any other part of the speech.

The Taoiseach says in his speech: "This is the Republic of Ireland 2011. A Republic of laws, of rights and responsibilities...." He alleges that "for the first time in Ireland, a report into child sexual abuse exposes an attempt by the Holy See, to frustrate an inquiry in a sovereign, democratic republic." This is a very serious allegation. However, there was no mention of acts of frustration in the Cloyne Report. When clarification was sought on this issue, a Government spokesperson replied that Enda Kenny was not referring to anything specific. It is difficult to understand how no specific incidents could have the effect that the Taoiseach refers to.

Towards the end of his speech, he also criticises the State and its record of neglect of children. He chose not to use the inflammatory emotional language that he had used in criticising the Church. In his speech, the Taoiseach makes much of Ireland being a "sovereign, democratic republic". It is somewhat ironic, that this same republic, which claims to care so much about the welfare of children, proposed to reduce funding for some family and child support services by up to 20% in last December's budget. Dr. Helen Buckley (a senior lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in TCD and one of the authors of the *Ferns Report*) is quoted in *The Irish Catholic* of 6th October as saying, "a few weeks ago, Eamonn Gilmore said 'this Government is committed to child protection'. I remember thinking 'that's a load of rubbish'. The Government doesn't understand what child protection is. Their version of child protection is strengthening legislation which affects about 5% of children. What they are actually doing is cutting back on child protection. That's the reality of what the Government is doing".

In summary, words matter, context matters, truth matters. Elements of Enda Kenny's speech needed to be said and served to give voice to the anger and frustration of many Irish people. More of it, however, was an emotional and embarrassing rant.

David Mc Donagh - CCR 1977-1980

Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan R.I.P.

Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan (CCR 1960-'62) died on 13th August last after a year-long battle with cancer. The huge attendance at his removal and funeral reflected the esteem in which he was held in legal circles. Many pastmen attended his funeral, at which Dom Richard Purcell was a concelebrant. Vivian's wife, Una, told mourners that her late husband's reaction to being told he had limited time left to live was "I have had a full life".

While he had a long and distinguished career on the bench, it was also recalled that in the 1970s he was one of a group of four socially conscious young barristers who helped make access to the law possible for those who could not afford it, through the Free Legal Advice Centres system (FLAC) which is now taken for granted but seemed revolutionary at the time.

Vivian was called to the Bar in 1969, and later (1975) to the Bar of England and Wales and to the Inner Bar in 1982. He was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 1989 and served as President of the Law Reform Commission between 1998 and 2000. He became a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, USA in 1980 and an Honorary Member of the American Bar Association in 1983. He was an advisor to the Attorney General and to Ministers of Government in respect of various legislative programmes between 1979 and 1982, and to Fianna Fáil Front Bench Members of Opposition in respect of proposed law reforms between 1982 and 1986.

His contemporaries in Roscrea recall a brilliant scholar, a great athlete and one who was always great company. He was a brilliant musician with a particular skill with the uilleann pipes which made sure he was very welcome in various haunts in West Clare and in Killarney. In 2000, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the death of the legendary piper, pipe maker and teacher Leo Rowsome, he gave a very moving address in the presence of Leo's family.

Vivian was very active in the CCR Union in the early 1970s. He was Treasurer of the Dublin Branch at the time of the fund raising campaign which, under Gerry Bates' guidance, led to the building of the swimming pool.

He is survived by his wife Una, sons Myles and Viv, daughters Naomi and Sarah, his three grand children and his sister Ann. To them, on behalf of the Union, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Our thanks to Frank Cullen (CCR 1960-'65) for help with this piece – Frank was a co-worker with Vivian in the Dublin Branch of the Union and this led to a life long friendship.

A tribute to Vivian Lavan...

I first met Vivian Lavan in the autumn of 1960 when he came to Roscrea, having done his Inter Cert at Terenure. I don't recall how or exactly when it was that we came to be friends because we did not, initially, move in the same circles. He came with a reputation as a sprinter of some note and became a member of the senior rugby team. I, on the other hand, was a lowly member of the "junior op". He and I both played for the senior team in our 6th year and I named him "Hands of Stone" for his abject inability to hang on to a ball. A broken arm curtailed his career and I always accused him of faking it to avoid further villification from his team mates (well perhaps only from me). He told me in later years that the problem was with his vision but I dismissed this as the recently contrived excuse of a man trying to rewrite a basic lack of ball handling talent.

Vivian was not fluent in Irish and was therefore in the B stream in class. I suggested to him, after his elevation to the bench, that this was the most appropriate training for a high court judge, who would not want to cloud his decision-making abilities with a surfeit of intellectual training. Some years ago, when I was visiting Dublin, he told me how admission to the bar was now so competitive that a first class honours degree was a basic requirement. "My God, wasn't it lucky they didn't have that requirement in your day" I remarked. His Honour had the good grace to feign amusement, though he did suggest that I walk home from The King's Inns. However it came about, we became fast friends. Vivian, David Hennessy, Morris McMahon (another late arrival at CCR) and I became a "gang of four" and had our friendship captured in celluloid during the end of year photo session of our final year.



Vivian Lavan pictured in July 1969.

VIVIAN LAVAN TRIBUTE - *continued*

After Roscrea Vivian departed on a world trip, for a few years, so I did not see much of him at U.C.D., though I think we overlapped by a year. I next saw him in Cambridge, where I was a graduate student and he had come for a debate with, I think, the UCD Law Society. As it happened I was performing with my band *Maglory Dengluch* and he caught a show, which consisted mostly of Irish folk songs and jokes. Afterwards Vivian roundly castigated me for my stage Irishman performance, which he felt was total pandering to the Sasanach's view of the Gael and beneath the dignity of a CCR alumnus. "Ah Vivian" I said, "you should see what they are paying me". That he could appreciate.

I did not see him again until the early 1980s when, based in the U.S., I took my family to Ireland for a trip. We visited Vivian and his young family and I remember his daughter, looking at my attire, saying to him "I didn't know that Daddies wore jeans". In all the years after that I never did see Vivian wear jeans – clearly beneath the dignity of a CCR alumnus.

During our 25th reunion, a few years later, we shared a hotel room in Roscrea and talked into the night. "You know" he said "when we were coming here today I was trying to remember why you and I had become friends in the first place, but it only took a few minutes of chat to figure it out". I was happy to tell him that my experience was the same.

I lived in a number of countries in the 1990s and early 2000s but visited Ireland quite often. One time, I think in the early 90s, I was in Dublin and, for business reasons, staying in a hotel. I had had dinner with Vivian and some others from Roscrea and we were in my hotel room discussing the world. Vivian had fairly recently been appointed to the high court and was being ever so slightly officious as he explained to me that he could now have me jailed on a whim if he so chose. I had had a few at the time but am reliably informed by Kevin McNiff that I told Vivian that he was welcome to try but would be launched through the window if he did. This deterred him not a bit as he went on to explain, with a certain amount of harrumphing, what the legal consequences of that would be.

Through that period I usually stayed with Vivian when I was in Dublin. He was then, of course, something of a celebrity but that never impacted on our relationship. He was always the most wonderful of hosts, taking me to see parts of Dublin that I, as a Kerryman, had never seen but that he clearly loved and loved to show. One of our more memorable outings was when he took me to the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham for the annual commemoration of fallen soldiers. He was happy to introduce me to the Taoiseach and the President but what was really important to him was that I meet his boss, the President of the High

Court, Richard Johnson. The name meant nothing to me but, when we finally met the great man, Vivian began an introduction with great solemnity "President, I would like you to meet .." but never got to finish. Ricky and I grinned at each other as the President of the High Court said "Ah Jaysus Vivian, you don't have to introduce me to this guy. Sure didn't we play rugby together for Tralee." It was the first time in forty five years that I saw Vivian speechless.

That night, like many others, we sat in his kitchen, his wife Una having long gone to bed with the admonishment that we were not to stay up late as usual, and talked about other things we had not, despite all the years, known about each other. He told me how he had considered the priesthood. It happened when a recruiting priest from Florida had shown us a picture of a Cadillac and suggested that we too could have such a beauty if only we would sign up. I told him that I could certainly see him in the pulpit but thought that, while Una might put up with him, I felt God never would.

In that and other kitchen chats we talked about our children. He was enormously proud of his four and I received an update on their accomplishments and goings on at every meeting and on every phone call. He had good reason to be proud. They have all done as brilliantly as any parent could hope.

No matter where I was in the world a call from Vivian was something I could always expect on Christmas day. When it got to be about 9pm Dublin time and the phone rang I would tell my wife Gillian "that will be Vivian" and sure enough it would be. In recent years we extended the calls to St. Patrick's Day and it was on the most recent one that Vivian made an allusion to his health that made me think that the problem he had mentioned at Christmas was more serious than I had thought.

I discovered that the illness was in fact serious and went to see him shortly before he died. He was reconciled to death and was incredibly brave about it. We recognized that our meeting was a farewell but we – Kevin McNiff was with me - laughed through most of it as we reminisced about our times in Roscrea and since.

Vivian Lavan was a man of great charm and humour, enormously kind to me and, I am sure, to many others. He was a wonderful raconteur and a fine speaker. I knew nothing of his public life, living as I did outside the country, but the encomia that followed his death spoke to the public figure that he was. I knew him only as a schoolboy with hands of stone, to whom I never showed the respect that was the due of his public personage. He loved life and loved his family and always made me laugh. I am very grateful that he was my friend. As this past Christmas day ended, my wife Gillian said "I kept waiting for Vivian to call". I went to my office and had a manly weep.

Kerry Kehoe (CCR 1958-'62)

Dublin Branch AGM

22nd FEBRUARY 2012

MINUTES of MEETING

Present: Sinbad Wilmot, Emmet Thompson, Sean O'Donnell, Pat Hanratty, Vincent Coyne, Michael McNamara, Aidan McNulty, Fergal Cox.

Apologies: Conor Massey, David Hernan, Paul Murphy.

Minutes of last year's AGM: Last year's AGM minutes were adopted.

Chairman's Report: The chairman was especially pleased that three new members had joined the committee – Emmet, Vincent and Sean. He was also delighted with the success of the Branch's two main events – the golf event and the Dublin Dinner. With regard to the golf outing a few lessons have been learned in terms of collecting money from people in advance and also seeking a firm indication in advance from players as to whether or not they are staying on for the meal. The caterers were very understanding in the circumstances but certainly for the 2012 Golf Event, we will have to be more sure of our numbers before confirming numbers for the meal.

The Dublin Dinner was a very enjoyable event, particularly the speeches and the presentation to Gerry Maher, who was overwhelmed by the generosity of the central committee and the anonymous donor.

Aidan McNulty wanted to express his delight at the attendance and speeches of Joe Hayes and Gerry Maher – they made the evening very special indeed.

The Chairman attended the CUS Dinner in the Shelbourne, while Pat Hanratty attended the Terenure, King's Hospital and Clongowes dinners. He also attended the South West Branch Dinner in Haulbowline.

The Golf outing is booked for the Grange again on 22/06/2012, whilst the Dublin Dinner in the Davenport is confirmed for 03/11/2012. The student night is due to take place in McSorley's on 10/03/2012, the same day as the Ireland vs. Scotland game.

Treasurer's Report: It has been a good year for the Dublin Branch and that is primarily down to the hard work and dedication of Sinbad. Enough money was made at the Golf Outing and Dublin Dinner to enable the Branch to donate half of the money towards the portrait of Marcelline Cody and also to organize a Student Night Out. Sinbad noted that a contribution will be made towards the Benevolent Past Men's Fund.

Aidan McNulty said that it should be noted in the minutes the Branch's gratefulness towards the person who provided the anonymous donation to Gerry Maher.

Election of Officers: Aidan McNulty proposed Sinbad Wilmot to be Chairman for a third year in succession, a feat only accomplished by the late and great Matt Hyland. It is an exceptional honour but highly merited. Pat Hanratty seconded the nomination. Sinbad was duly elected and accepted the task.

Sinbad Wilmot nominated Sean O'Donnell as Secretary, Fergal Cox seconded the nomination and Sean was duly elected.

Aidan McNulty nominated Vincent Coyne as Treasurer, Sean O'Donnell seconded the nomination and Vincent was duly elected (to the eternal relief of Fergal Cox!)

The rest of the committee was re-elected en mass.

AOB: Aidan McNulty pointed out that the Central Committee minutes go out to a lot of people, but very few actually attend the meetings. We should try to spread the Dublin Branch minutes to a wider audience as well so as to include more people in the activities of the Dublin Branch. Pat Hanratty was asked to include a copy of the minutes in the Review, which Fergal Cox agreed to write.

Sinbad Wilmot then closed the AGM.



The Dublin Branch Committee 2012: Emmet Thompson, Pat Hanratty, Vincent Coyne, Aidan McNulty, Sinbad Wilmot, Fergal Cox and Sean O'Donnell and Michael McNamara. Ironically, not a single Dub among them!

Right: A delighted Fergal Cox who served as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch hands over the books to Vincent Coyne.



The Dublin Branch Officers 2012: Chairman Sinbad Wilmot flanked by Treasurer Vincent Coyne and Secretary Sean O'Donnell.

Class Reunions

2011 saw lots of Reunions as pastmen will see on reading this copy of the Roscrea Review. As things turned out, six reunions took place between July and October, and a group from the Class of 1971 came together at the Dublin Dinner on 5th November.

Obviously the format, venue and other details are ultimately at the discretion of the organisers of the events and they, no doubt will be greatly influenced by the views of members of the year group in question. The Union does, however give detailed guidelines on the holding of Class Reunions on its website. These are not meant to be totally prescriptive as each group will have different priorities, but the following points are worth noting for future reference, especially those coming up in 2012.

For the benefit of people involved in the College, groups are asked to avoid the Summer months, when staff are either on a well deserved break or in the middle of the hectic August period around exam results and preparing for the new school year.

It would be ideal if Reunions were arranged to coincide with Union Weekend in September – in 2012 this will be the weekend of 15th/16th September i.e. the weekend between the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals. Admittedly, if say, six reunions were taking place that weekend it would

be difficult for the College and Union Presidents to attend them all, and difficult for local hotels as well, but if they can't be held that weekend, people are asked to consider the other weekends in September. It would, however be a great boost to numbers playing in the Abbot's Cup Golf competition if there were a few reunions taking place that weekend.

The College President Marcelline Cody is always delighted to welcome pastmen back to the College. She is very supportive of Union events and takes particular delight in meeting class groups, hosting receptions in the College and giving pastmen the grand tour of the new facilities.

Understandably, some pastmen have mixed memories of their days in CCR and some approach reunions with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. Experience shows that such fears melt away minutes after arriving – witness the happy accounts of various reunions that have been described in the Review over the years.

Occasionally, year groups get together at the Dublin Dinner in early November. This is especially suited to get together of year groups not celebrating milestone anniversaries, though this year's Dublin Dinner included a large group from the Class of 1971.

So, go for it – don't wait and assume others will do the organising, and with the internet, Google, Facebook and LinkedIn to help, it's never been easier to track those classmates down!

Emails

During the 2011 and 2012 Senior Cup campaigns we sent emails to a growing number of pastmen at home and around the world. I have basically two contact groups, one specifically for those who were with me in 1962-'67 and another general group of Union members. Jim Keating has one for his own year group, and I know he is most assiduous in keeping them informed and up to date. I tried to write *accurate* accounts of the various matches I attended, and I know from a little bit of feedback that many pastmen appreciated them and even forwarded them to family and friends. It's a long way from the 2013 campaign, but if you would like to be added to our lists, just contact me at pathanratty@gmail.com or Jim at jaskeating@gmail.com

New Union Website www.ccrunion.org

After much good work by Jim Keating and Sinbad Wilmot, a new Union website was set up recently. It's a work in progress (as are all good websites), but bit by bit more material will be uploaded and we will try our best to keep it up to date.

LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter etc.

More and more pastmen are joining the CCR network on LinkedIn – a good way of fairly instant communication, especially for those offering or seeking business opportunities. Likewise there are a few Facebook pages, though some of them seem to have had very little activity. We did experiment with having a twitter feed for some of the Rugby matches – maybe by the time next year's campaign comes around it will be easier! Or maybe there'll be some new technology on offer!



In the Next Issue...

- A tribute to Gerry Maher
- A full report on the London and South East Dinners held in March and April 2012.
- More about the Union website ccrunion.org
- Another Presidential Portrait
- A new Hon. Life Vice President.
- All the usual features

NEWS OF PASTMEN



Dr. Cathal Bredin (CCR 1955-'60) was recently awarded the Irish Thoracic Society (ITS), Gold Medal Award for his outstanding contribution to Respiratory Medicine. The photo above shows Cathal and his wife Marion with Dr. Ed McKeon, incoming President of the ITS and last year's President Dr. Terry O Connor.

That the **Roscrea Review** is read and enjoyed by pastmen living in Australia was brought home to me in no uncertain manner by correspondence from **Pat Mulhall** (CCR 1948-'53) – living in Canberra and retired after a career in Forestry Science. He married Anne Brennan from Co. Leitrim and they have six children and 10 grandchildren.

He loves his adopted country, warts and all and reckons it was the Chinese and Japanese buying their coal, oil and natural gas that helped Australia escape the world recession. He blames the corruption of bankers, politicians and developers who betrayed those who gave their all for Irish independence.

Despite the distance involved, he occasionally visits Mark Smyth, a fellow pastman of similar vintage, now a happily retired civil engineer in New South Wales. He also mentioned Dubliner Andy Fennessy (CCR 1947-'52), now in a nursing home in Melbourne.

Others of his generation living in Australia include the following:

- **Mark Smith** (CCR 1947-'50) from Cahir, is a retired engineer living with his wife and family on the NSW Central Coast.
- **John Rice**, a great athlete in his CCR days in the 1940s is a bachelor living in Brisbane.
- **Fr. Andy Fennessy** (CCR 1947-'52) is a priest of the Melbourne diocese.
- **Ned Ryan** (CCR 1948-'53) from Clonaulty, Co. Tipperary is also retired.

Vincent Coyne (CCR 1992-'97) obtained an L.L.B. in 2001 and having worked for some years with McCann Fitzgerald will shortly move to William Fry Solicitors.

John Dolan (CCR 2003-'09) from Kilbegan is currently studying Political Science and Geography in TCD.

His brother **Gareth** (CCR 1998 - 2004) obtained a B.Comm in 2008 and is a trainee accountant with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Jimmy Fullam who was House Captain in 2003-'04 is working towards a PhD in Public Health in TCD, having obtained his primary degree in Zoology.

Simon Fraser (CCR 1998 - 2004) from Nenagh is now working in Industrial Relations with the employers' group IBEC.

Patrick Taaffe (CCR 2001-'06) is now a pilot with Ryanair, based in Madrid.

The above named young pastmen gave the Editor their details when they met up with some of the Dublin Branch Committee for drinks on the day of the Ireland v Scotland game. Anyone else with items for News of Pastmen, should send them to the Editor – contact details below.

Paul Fahey (CCR 1977-'82) from Tullamore is currently President of the Irish Pharmaceutical Union.

Not long after **Conor Brady** (CCR 1962-'66) retired as Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commissioner, the editor received an invitation to the launch in Dublin's Mansion House of his latest book and first novel *A June of*



Six Characters in Search of an Author? At the recent launch of **Conor Brady's** novel *A June of Ordinary Murders in the Mansion House, Dublin*, from left **Kieran Fitzgerald** (1979), **Tom Enright** (1960), **Sean Dineen** (1961), **Conor, Pat Hanratty** (1967) and **Mark Coen** (2003).



The late Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan flanked by two Garda Ombudsmen, Kieran Fitzgerald and the recently retired Conor Brady.

Ordinary Murders. Set in Dublin during the hot summer of 1887, the novel tells a gripping tale of gruesome murders, a criminal underworld we wouldn't have thought existed in our capital city, corrupt local politicians and lots more besides and is a thoroughly human story of a decent cop whose superiors don't always appreciate his efforts, against the backdrop of the imminent visit of Queen Victoria celebrating her Golden Jubilee. This reader was kept in suspense throughout – one (Det.) Swallow did make for a very interesting Summer! *Are there more in the pipeline Conor?*

Kieran Fitzgerald (CCR 1974-'79) was appointed a Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commissioner in December 2011 having previously served as Head of Communications and Research for that body.

Steven Miller (CCR 1996-2002) was recently appointed sports editor of the Limerick Leader. Steven studied journalism in DCU and was sports editor of the Leinster Express - where he worked with another pastman, Pat Somers (CCR 1982-'87), who was editor - prior to moving to Limerick. Steven's brother Niall (CCR 1999-2005) is currently studying for his final chartered accountancy exams with KPMG.

Wedding bells rang recently for two active members of the Dublin Branch. **Feargal Ó Dubhghall** (Fergal Doyle in his CCR days) married Majella Stack from Tralee last July on a beautiful sunny day. Among the guests were two other CCR pastmen, **Joe O'Shea** (1977-'83) and **Morgan Keane** (1978-'83). More recently, David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89) married Susan Kelly from Ballon, Co. Carlow and the editor has been promised a photo for the next Review of the 23 CCR pastmen who attended the wedding!

Items for "News of Pastmen" are always welcome - by email (pathanratty@gmail.com), phone (087-2731904) or post to **36, Rathfarnham Wood, Dublin 14.**