



Two Eminent Doctors Share Stage at Dublin Dinner



At the Dublin Branch Dinner last November, Dr. Martin Daly (CCR 1975-'80), last year's President of the Irish Medical Association was guest speaker while Air Vice Marshall Manus Moran (CCR 1941-'45) was guest of honour along with his wife Maureen. A Union stalwart for decades, Manus was presented with a pair of specially commissioned cufflinks by then Union President Michael Coyle.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this edition of the Roscrea Review. A lot has happened on the Union front since the last issue. Michael Coyle has had a most eventful and enjoyable year as President, representing us at Union functions in Ireland, England and the United States, and has recently handed over the President's chain to Gerry O'Meara.

Because of my own wife Bridget's illness and subsequent passing, Pat Somers has done much of the work of editing this issue, and I am very grateful to him for that. This Review will seem way out of date, as several recent events are not covered – they will be in the next issue – hopefully before the end of the year.

Some months ago Dom Kevin resigned as Abbot of Mount St. Joseph. Always a great supporter of Union events, we wish him well in his *retirement*, though we know it will be an active one! Congratulations to his recently elected successor, Dom Richard Purcell who was installed as abbot on 11th July – more on that in the Autumn issue. Suffice to say at this point that our hopes and prayers are with him.

The last Review had on the cover a photo of the then newly elected Taoiseach Brian Cowen, and Union members wished him well as he started his time in that job. Who would have imagined then the economic and political earthquakes that have caused such havoc in Ireland and all over the world? Regardless of political affiliation, we must wish Brian and his government well in their tackling the enormous problems we as a nation face, and hope that they can harness the goodwill and determination that citizens of all political persuasions and none can muster, as we face an uncertain future, but one which for the sake of our young people we must endeavour to build together.

A list of forthcoming Union events appears as an insert. The South West and West Branches have already held successful functions even without a Review to advertise them. There was no function in Kilkenny this year – the organising committee felt it appropriate to defer it on this occasion. Much soul searching went into deciding that the traditional (after 25 years) Kenmare weekend should go ahead. The fact that the rate has come down to €315 for the weekend should help swell the numbers.

We offer our sincere condolences to former Union President and regular Kenmare supporter Gerald McCarthy and his wife Neans on the sudden and unexpected death in February of their daughter, Ciara Ni Dhuinnin. Burial was on Sunday, 1st March in Cuil Aodha and it was gratifying that despite the short notice, a significant number of CCR past-men were there to lend their support to Gerald and Neans on that very sad occasion. More recently, we heard the sad news that Gerald's brother Noel, an Honorary Life Vice President and doyen of the North American Branch died. To his family we offer our sincere sympathies. A tribute to Noel will appear in the next issue.

We wish Dan Smyth the very best as he recovers from heart surgery. In his absence Diarmuid Ó Murchú is College President and Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony has been appointed interim Chairman of the board of Governors. As I write this, thousands of students are awaiting their Leaving Certificate results. Our hopes and prayers are with the CCR Class of 2009 who face a more difficult future than any of their predecessors have done for a generation. We trust there IS a better future for them and for us all.

Pat Hanratty

New Union President

New Union President Gerard O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70) is originally from Lorrha in North Tipperary, about 20 miles from the College. He has lived and worked in Cork for over 30 years. After leaving CCR he completed a B. Comm. degree in University College Dublin. He subsequently completed the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Management accountants (CIMA) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). He has held a number of positions with Irish Fertilizer Industries (IFI) and Bord Gais Eireann (BGE).

He has been involved in CIMA affairs for many years and is currently on the Membership Assessment Board, the first non-UK member appointed to the Board. He was also an external examiner to the Waterford Institute of Technology for a number of years. Gerard has served as Chairman of the South West Branch since 2006. Married to Kay (nee O'Sullivan, whose late uncle, Denis Cahill of Rathmore, attended CCR from 1931 to 1934) they have three sons.



Michael Coyle passes on the chain of office to new Union President Gerard O'Meara at the Union AGM last May.

Message from the Union President

I am privileged and honoured to serve as President of our Union, in this, the 80th anniversary of its formation. I have received huge enjoyment in meeting so many members of the South West Branch during my time as Chairman and I am very much looking forward to meeting Pastmen in all the other branches. I also look forward to renewing contact with the College and the Monastery. I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Michael Coyle for the huge effort he put into his presidential role and the very high standards he set for his successors.

I am pleased to report that the College and Monastery stand as proud as ever. Both have lived through much more difficult times than we are presently experiencing – two World Wars, the Economic War, the Great Depression, the Civil War etc. The College is well equipped to address current difficulties with its Board of Governors chaired by Diarmuid O'Murchú as well as College President, Dan Smyth, and College Principal, Marcelline Cody and the other College Staff.

Indeed, if you visit the College during the summer you will see a very busy work schedule on the next phase of development of the College Facilities.

I would like to pay tribute to Union Patron, Dom Kevin who has recently stood down as Abbot. Dom Kevin has been part of the fabric of the College over the lifetime of many CCR men, whether as student, Dean of Discipline, Mentor, President, Ambassador or Lord Abbot. He has made an enormous contribution to the development of the College and the Union and I hope will continue to do so in whatever role he accepts in the future.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Fr. Anthony Finnegan OCSO, who died during the last year. I was gratified to meet Fr. Anthony during the launch of "Céad Bliain Faoi Rath" and thank him personally for the encouragement he gave to me during my student days.

I recently attended a most impressive graduation evening in the College for this year's Leaving Cert Class, culminating in my presenting CCR Union ties to the next generation of pastmen. I was impressed by Fr. Richard's Sermon at the graduation mass in the Monastery and how similar it was to Fr. Eanna's at my own graduation function so many years ago. It didn't take too long for me after leaving CCR to realise just how pertinent Fr. Eanna's words were. The message to this year's 46 Leaving Cert. students is just as important and relevant as it was then.

As regards the Mass and Ceremony, I doubt if any other school in the country could match CCR for the grandeur and magnificence of both the proceedings and the location.

I have a busy year ahead with Branch functions, committee meetings and golf outings. In addition class reunions are proving more popular every year. During 2009 reunions of the classes of 1969, 1984, 1989 and 1999 are being organised. Contact details and other arrangements are elsewhere in the Review.

I strongly encourage all of you to attend your branch events and class reunions. As I said to this year's graduation class, the friends you've made in CCR are friends for life. Your Union provides you with opportunities to meet these friends throughout your lives, will help you keep in contact with the College and Monastery and enable you to make new friends through your shared experiences. Indeed, at the recent South West function, one very committed 88 year old pastman spent much of the night conversing with a colleague who left CCR about 5 years ago.

One important legacy of Michael's Presidential Year is the establishment of a Benevolent Fund for Pastmen. During the year the fund has been enhanced by contributions from golf outings and class reunions. While it is at a very early stage, this fund gives an indication of the wide-ranging activities and developments of our Union. Should you wish to be associated with this worthy cause, please send your contributions to either of our Joint Treasurers Ollie Byrne or Paul O'Shea.

The Roscrea Review is a most valuable mechanism for keeping our Union Members up to date on developments in the college as well as news of fellow pastmen. Special thanks to Pat Hanratty who strives to circulate the Review twice a year and maintain its quality and relevance and to Pat Somers who assisted him with this issue.

For the more modern electronic medium, the new website format is almost complete and will be introduced very shortly, courtesy of Jim Keating and Tom Smyth.

As I travel around the country it is very noticeable, the number of pastmen featuring on the election posters currently dotting the landscape. It is also pleasing to see so many CCR featuring prominently in the sporting arenas. Both are very tangible examples of the wide-ranging interests nurtured during our student days.

In conclusion, I extend a warm welcome to John Dolan, (class of '72), who will assume the Presidential role during 2009-10. Based in Kilbeggan, John has been a staunch supporter of Union activities for many years. His son and namesake was among the newest recruits who were presented with their Union ties on that Friday night last May.



Dublin Branch Dinner 2008

In the cigar filled back room of one of our committee member's homes, discussions began early in the year as to whom we should invite as our Guest Speaker for November 2008. With the success of George Hook in 2007 we realised 'pulling power' is nice to have!

We didn't have to look far, as my neighbour at home in Ballygar, Co. Galway has 'pulling power' in spades: Dr Martin Daly, President of the Irish Medical Organisation in 2008.

It was also agreed that we would honour a stalwart of the London Branch as our special guest in recognition of his significant contribution to the Past Pupils Union. Retired Air Vice Marshal, Manus Moran and his wife Maureen joined us to receive a pair of specially commissioned cufflinks presented by President of the Union, Michael Coyle.

Manus gave us a wonderful trip down memory lane of his travels in the Service from Cyprus to Singapore, and his time growing up in Mayo and boarding at the College.

Two very good friends from Manus' class of '45 also attended, Dom Columcille O'Toole and Joe O'Loughlin plus a sizeable number from the London Branch.

Equally a large group of Martin Daly's old classmates attended from the class of '80.

Martin's speech touched a number of points, both serious and light hearted, and brought the evening's proceedings to a wonderful close.

Numbers for the evening touched the 100 mark and included Dom Kevin Daly and Dom Peter Garvey; Dan Smyth, President CCR; Marceline Cody, Principal CCR; and Diarmuid O'Murchu, the new Chairman of the Board of Governors.

The Davenport Hotel, on its maiden hosting of the Branch dinner, passed the test with flying colours and, as the crowd mingled and imbibed, we all looked back on a most enjoyable evening.

Finally many thanks to the Dublin Branch committee for their help and advice during the year, a great team effort.

David Hernan, Chairman, Dublin Branch



Dr Martin Daly and Manus Moran



Liam Nicholl and Declan Martin

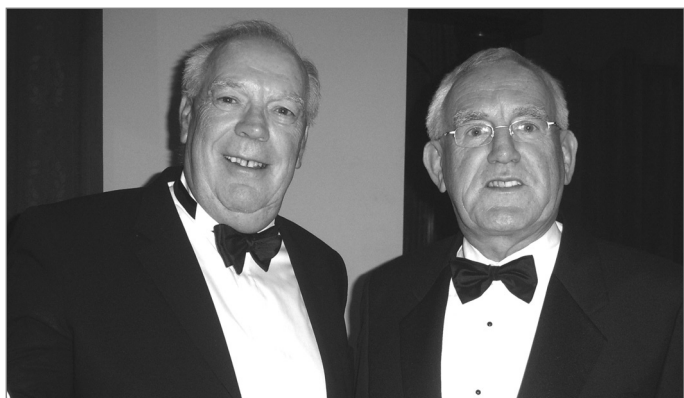


Katherine Donovan, Dr Martin Daly and Ollie Byrne



The Hernan brothers, Ray, David and Robbie

DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER 2008 - continued...



John Yurky and Justice Vivian Lavan.



Marcelline Cody and Michael Coyle



Brian McManus, John McManus and Paul Hayes



Paul Murphy and Sinbad Wilmot



Brian Flynn and Pat O'Shea



From the Class of '68: Noel O'Callaghan, Jim Keating, Michael Coyle, Brian Grogan and Pat Keane



Conor Brady and Diarmuid Ó'Murchú



Maureen and Manus Moran and Dom Colmcille are slightly dwarfed by the O'Loughlins - Cormac, Shane, Diarmuid and Joe

Dr. Martin Daly address...

Dr. Martin Daly was guest speaker at last November's Dublin Branch dinner. The following is the text of his address to the gathering.

Firstly, thank you to the Chairman and the Committee members of the Dublin Branch to bestow on me the honour of speaking at your annual dinner.

I went to Roscrea in 1975 in different times. I won't stand here and tell you all that I loved it, or was particularly excellent at anything, because I didn't and wasn't! Boarding school was, and remains, a difficult transition for many boys, from the warmth and security of their families to a rough house of young men.

For others, it was a happy refuge from difficult times at home. Some thrived, some did not, but adapted, whilst others sank. If you could adapt, it became an important experience which shaped you for the challenges of life in many spheres.

At the time, and for some years after leaving Roscrea, I felt critical of some aspects of the college but, in time, came a realisation that, as in all aspects of life, it was no different, neither perfect nor wholly imperfect. You realised that many of the things that are difficult in adolescence such as lack of confidence, extreme self consciousness, the seemingly canny ability of others to expose your shortcomings, are perennial subjects of all adolescents, not just of your own school.

It took time and it took the support of some very kind classmates to survive those initial years. The difficulty in boarding school was that when you were in the eye of the storm there seemed to be no place to escape; a claustrophobic feeling that could be paralysing. As one matured, things became easier. Out of all of that came an ability to laugh and be self depreciating about my own particular idiosyncracies.

Many year later I met a very nice guy who was in my brother's class, but he was quite standoffish with me. It transpired that he felt I had bullied him. I was appalled, having felt that I had been at the receiving end myself. After a conversation there was a genuine rapprochement between us. What I had taken part in was the traditional hazing of inter cert students by leaving cert students after the June exams. I had obviously not given it second thought, thinking it had been fun at the time, but never realising that students on the receiving end had taken an entirely different view. It was a sobering experience that having been the hunted, I had become part of the pack.

Bullying is not something that is peculiar to school, it pervades all aspects of life. I have worked with the Irish Medical Organisation for the last ten years, a professional organisation and union representing 6,000 doctors, and am honoured to be its President this year. I have anecdotal experience of some bullying in the profession and in the health services. This is replicated in many spheres of life or business.

Sometimes it comes to light but often it doesn't, and peoples' lives are diminished by it - both the bullied and the ones who have bullied. It is the cause of many lost work days, and stunts personal development. It is malignant and corrosive, and it is too late when someone has been forced to seek legal remedy.



Dr. Martin Daly with his uncle Dom Kevin and some of his former classmates, Conor Irwin, Jimmy Trayers, Pat Meade, Marty Dwan, Philip Harding and Pat Coman

In my role as Union Representative and Doctor, I see people who lead miserable lives as a result of it; resorting to alcohol, drugs, suffering depression and anxiety, and sometimes just being simply unhappy.

It is very easy to mock the peccadilloes of others, especially when part of a group, but it is a far greater challenge and, ultimately more satisfying, to intervene with quiet words of support for people who are marginalised, or if that doesn't work, to alert people in authority to it.

We need to retain our sense of fairness and objectiveness when dealing with people at the margins, both Irish and emigrant, never more so in these times of an economic downturn.

It was Wilde who said, 'education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught.'

I think he was referring to the ability to learn from our life experiences, and the never ending possibility for self improvement.

Times have changed precipitously, sending a cold chill down my generation and the generations that preceded us. Many of the headlines have a remarkable similarity to the late '70s and early '80s. People in power keep reassuring us that we are better equipped to see off this recession, but I am not sure. For those who are younger, who have experienced an Ireland where they have never had to think about not having a choice of job or career, and where deferring a holiday or even a night out has never been a consideration for them, this is a massive cultural shock. People are losing their jobs, can't pay their mortgages, can't fund their pensions. The market can't take care of everything.

I see an Ireland that is maybe less equipped emotionally, culturally and psychologically than previous generations to deal with this downturn. In the past people emigrated from the West to Dublin, then to Manchester, Liverpool, or London, and then further to the USA and Australia. Before the '70s they didn't even have an education. Yet they kept this country afloat with contributions to the families they left behind. Many of them were never seen again. Many hadn't the courage to come home without the trappings of success. Many hadn't the confidence in themselves to thrive beyond a subsistence living.

I experienced this first hand as a student one Summer working in Kilburn in the 1980s. I remember meeting an elderly man as I killed a day after failing to get work digging holes on the motorway. He spotted me reading an Irish paper

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and initiated conversation. He was from a small parish in West Cork having emigrated 60 years previously, and lived in a high rise council apartment in Kilburn. We talked for nearly two hours about Ireland, and he invited me for tea.

His apartment was a treasure trove of every scrap of news about his parish for the past 60 years. He had collected every newspaper clipping spanning sports, politics, and social events and, lived, what we might term, a parallel cyberlife through those collected communications. He had never been home. He had sent money to his parents, but they had died. Then his siblings died. There were no connections left. I asked him why he had never gone home - he said he felt he hadn't been successful enough. Though he was only a 60 minutes flight from home, he may have been in Darwin in Australia. His story of economic migration, sacrifice and loneliness was emblematic of generations of Irish people. That type of engrained family and community loyalty has been diluted in the last ten years. We have come to measure people by how much they have, rather than what they have contributed to their communities.

There has been a sundering of the spirit, that gently submerged the needs of the individual for the greater good. There have been exceptions to this, like the Special Olympics, but they appear to be the exception rather than the norm. I am not saying that they were better times - they were not. There were many wrongs. There was stifling control by the institutions of the State, professions and religious, but there was less of the over weaning dependence on the assets and possessions by which we now define ourselves. Maybe times of adversity will see that communal spirit re-emerging.

The Cistercians developed an ethos of community and of sacrifice over many centuries, and have led by example.

In the current climate they are more relevant than ever. They didn't suggest that people shouldn't dare to aspire. The motto of the college: 'Insidiat coelis animo sed corpore terris' - while conscious of earthly needs we seek things of heaven - reminds us of the balance of life. To paraphrase in a more pluralist generation - we should always strive to succeed but never forget from where we have come.

Maybe we have lost a little of that in Ireland. Many of us have failed to recognise the emigrants amongst us who have the same habits of the Irish who went abroad often working harder at the jobs the indigenous populations didn't want to do anymore, and sending home money to their poor communities in Poland, the Phillipines, and India.

We could learn a lot from the example of the Cistercians in how we balance ourselves in our development in the future.

Yeats said: 'Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.'

I often felt that the Cistercians operated that rule in their educational ethos - they were not natural educators having only one school in the world, and maybe that is what made them different. There was none of the presumption of the Jesuits nor the zeal of the Holy Ghosts - they seemed to engender a culture of curiosity and encouragement to self fulfil without overt philosophical or religious direction.

I am very proud of our family's association with the Abbey, with Dom Kevin being my father's brother and my uncle. I admire the commitment to things non material and to a life of contemplation. Whether or not you believe in their God, or any particular God, we all eventually strive to make sense of our existence. There is more to life than the false god of consumerism - the Cistercians represent a different path by their example.

Before I finish, I want to remember people who treated me with kindness and encouraged me whilst I was in Roscrea - I was always fascinated by Roddy Ryan. He had taught my father Latin in the 1950s and failed miserably! Twenty-three years later, I arrived at Roscrea and he failed miserably again! This was no reflection on him, but it would appear there was some mutated anti Roman Etruscan gene in my Dad's DNA that he passed onto me! Obviously it was all genetic, not my lack of application! Roddy spanned what seemed like generations in the college - he had been in Czechoslovakia before World War Two; had attended matches with Dixie Dean playing for Everton in the 1930s, called his full back line which won a Junior Schools' Leinster Hurling title in 1952, the Hindenburg Line; and managed to be good humoured in spite of all the school boy antics we got up to in the latter part of his career.

Then there was Fr Eanna, a gentle soul who had the bloodiest war museum I have ever seen - I used to stare at the bloodstains on Dick McKee's uniform where he had been shot and bayoneted to death by the British in Dublin castle in 1920, which was on permanent display outside the 6th year common room. I never looked back after that - it was the icing on the cake of my political development.

Then there was Fr Flannan who encouraged my interest in history and didn't understand my reasons for taking science subjects. There was Fr Bonaventure whose immortal quote, 'you are in Roscrea now and I am your mammy' had you reminding yourself you were actually in a boarding school and not San Quentin prison in some Johnny Cash song.

I remember him organising anti litter campaigns - the reward for us and himself were outings to Thurles to see Kilkenny and Clare in the 1976 league final, both the draw and the replay. There were many others such as Miss Bergin - I was a debutante at Ascot in *My Fair Lady*. I remember the success of the Athletics teams under the care of Dom Kevin. I remember Kevin Kelly as the dogged captain of our Senior Rugby Team, the gentle giant that was Brendan McHugh who was our House Captain, and who has sadly passed away.

We will have a good night here this evening; one of camaraderie but, hopefully, not being overly self congratulatory or smug.

I have been very fortunate in my life so far, but I also want to remember the past students who have not been so lucky - some who have not survived, some who have illness, and some who, like the Irish immigrants, don't have the confidence to come to reunions because they feel that they are not successful enough. They are the ones the Past Pupil Organisations of every school should reach out to, because their stories are integral to any reflection on the success of a school in educating young people.

I would like to finish with a reflection by Emerson, American Essayist, poet and philosopher

'To laugh often and much,

To win the respect of intelligent people

And the affection of children,

To earn the appreciation of honest critics

and endure the betrayal of false friends,

to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others

to leave the world a bit better,

wheter by a healthy child,

a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;

to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived

This is to have succeeded'.

Thanks for listening.

Manus Moran - A Man for all Seasons

Manus Moran was honoured at last November's Dublin Branch dinner for his singular contribution to the Union. Fellow London branch member, Fergal Keane paid tribute to Manus at the function. The following is the text of his speech, detailing Manus' early days in CCR and subsequent life and career.

It is a great privilege and honour as Chairman of the London Branch of the Union to stand before you to propose the vote of thanks for one of our own. By one of our own I mean a member of the London Branch, I speak of course of Manus Moran or to give him his full title - Air Vice Marshall, Manus Moran.

Manus was born in April 1927 at Hatch Street Nursing Home in Dublin and hailed from Castlerea, Co Roscommon. Another famous son of that town was the grandfather of Oscar Wilde who was the town's GP and whose son became an eminent ENT Surgeon in Dublin (maybe that was why Manus chose that branch of medicine) whose own son was Oscar, who needs no introduction.

In September 1940, Manus became a student of Cistercian College Roscrea and over the next five years he enjoyed his time in CCR. He made many friends, and friendships which have continued to the present day, including for example, Dom Colmcille O'Toole and Joe O'Loughlin.

Unfortunately, none of Manus's contemporaries could tell me any stories of what mischief he got up to in the College. Those that I asked said that he was one of the good boys - is it any wonder that he was elected by ballot by his peers and schoolboys to *Enfant De Marie* otherwise known as *The Children of Mary*. In the College the boys knew them as 'The G-men'.

During Manus' education at CCR he entered and won first prize in The Bishop's Exam. The prize should have been a missal which was printed in Douay in Belgium. However, the College could not get the necessary item due to the small matter of the Second World War, or The Emergency as it was known in Ireland. Instead, Manus was presented with a copy of *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler's bible by Fr. Finnian (who I believe used to read extracts from it in religious class). I think the book made a huge impression on Manus which led him to choose his final career path, but more of that later.

Manus enjoyed his time at Roscrea so much that he visited the College and Abbey in the summer of 1945, the year he left the College. The details are as follows:

Joe O'Loughlin, a former citizen of Gorey, Co Wexford decided to cycle to Castlerea to meet Manus with a view to them passing some time together until the main business of the summer took place. They cycled to Galway for race week then on to Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo for a step together

festival. They then cycled to Roscrea to attend the Mass where their best friend entered the Monastery - I speak of course of Dom Colmcille O'Toole.

Afterwards both cycled to Gorey. After a spot of recuperation Manus felt that he had enough exercise and decided to let the train take the strain from Gorey to Dublin where he commenced his University education reading Medicine, from which he graduated in 1952 having received the Medical Society gold medal for that year.

Manus has a very persuasive nature and has managed to persuade the most able and distinguished of people to accept assignments that others would not dream of asking them to do. During his time at UCD Manus was involved along with some others in running the University Medical Society.

I will give you two instances:

On one occasion the Society decided to try and get a celebrity from RTE to act as their DJ, no less, for their Annual Halloween Ball. The celebrity in question was Eamonn Andrews. Manus went to The GPO, where RTE was broadcasting from at that time, to ask him if he would be willing to accept the task. Manus was informed that he was relaxing in the bar around the corner and there he found him. Having put the request to him, Eamonn pointed out that he had recently signed a contract with the Theatre Royal and could not accept another 'paid' job but, when pressed if there was another payment he would accept in lieu of cash, he replied that a bottle of whiskey would be acceptable. I doubt if anyone other than Manus could have persuaded one of the biggest broadcasters at the time to accept a DJ's job for a bottle of whiskey.

On another occasion the Society wanted a guest speaker and it was Manus who came up with the speaker's name and it fell to him to write and invite the speaker in question. The speaker was Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin who, of course, agreed to speak at their next meeting.

On graduating Manus was one of four paid House Surgeons out of 28 appointees in St Vincent's Hospital. The other 24 were Honorary House Surgeons. The letters from his superiors in the hospital all stated that he showed not only exceptional conscientiousness but soundness of judgement, usually associated with those with much longer experience and inspired the greatest confidence in his patients. Is it any wonder he retired at the top of his chosen career?

Having completed his internship, Manus was offered an assistant's position in a friend's brothers' GP practice in Lutterworth in England in 1953 and, a year later, was offered a partnership. However, National Service was still in force in the UK at this time and, as Manus was in the UK for over a year at the time, he received the call to take the Queen's shilling in 1954.

Manus, who was about to get married to Maureen, decided that if he opted for a short term commission of

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three years rather than the normal two years then he would be offered married quarters. Since the RAF Medical Branch was the most up to date and progressive of the three Service Departments, he decided to apply and was accepted by the RAF. He joined with the rank of Flying Officer, specialising in Otorhinolaryngology.

Manus has a wicked sense of humour and sense of fair play as can be shown here.

At the inaugural dinner of the Joseph Society, of which he is a founder member, now known as The European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery, those present were telling jokes, particularly Irish ones. Manus's ire was rising and getting to his feet decided to tell the definite Irish joke. I hope I will do it justice - it goes something like this:

When Boris Spassky lost to Bobby Fisher in the World Chess Championship in September 1972, at the height of the Cold War, he arrived back in the USSR in disgrace. He was whisked off to one of their secretive laboratories where he was met by the Chairman of the KGB. The Chairman said 'Spassky you have brought dishonour on our homeland and this dishonour will not be tolerated and must not be allowed to happen again. We have designed and made a machine that will ensure that you will never play a chess match again. Step in here'.

Spassky entered and was connected to it. After the door was closed the Chief Scientist turned the dial from Spassky's IQ of 165 to 125. When Spassky was taken out and resuscitated he was asked 'Well Spassky how do you feel?'. Spassky replied quietly 'I think I can still play a good game of chess'. At this the Chief Scientist said 'No No this won't do, we have to start again'.

So Spassky was put back in the machine and the dial was turned to zero. When Spassky was taken out and resuscitated again he was asked 'Well Spassky how do you feel now?'. Spassky replied (in his best Irish accent) 'Sure not too bad, how's yourself?' At this they decided that Spassky was still too verbose so they put him back in again and the dial set to minus 50. When Spassky was taken out and resuscitated for the third time he was asked 'Well Spassky how do you feel now?'. Spassky replied (in his best British accent) 'My dear chap never felt better in all my life'.

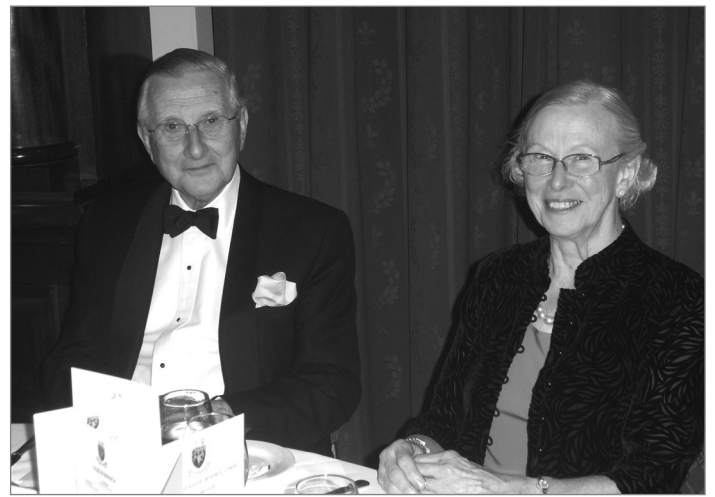
This was greeted with a deathly silence which Manus most enjoyed. Some months later Manus received a letter from the Secretary of the Society regarding the arrangements for the next dinner in which he was advised that there would be no more Irish Jokes.

John F. Kennedy once said 'ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country'. Manus has performed this task, not only for one country but for two countries with distinction and honour namely - Ireland and the United Kingdom.

In the case of Manus this can be best shown in a few of his many accomplishments:

In 1980 Manus was awarded the Lady Cade Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in recognition of his work in ORL in The Royal Air Force.

In 1984 Manus was elected a Liveryman of the City of London for the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries and



Manus Moran and his wife Maureen pictured at last November's Dublin Branch Dinner.

became Chairman of the Livery Committee in 1994.

In 1985 he became a Freeman of the City of London. I look forward to the day when he decides to take up his right to drive a flock of sheep across London Bridge. When that happens I am sure that I and many others will be there waving not only the Irish flag, but also the black and white of CCR.

In 1988 Manus became The Queen's honorary physician as well as being appointed Dean of Air Force Medicine and Senior Consultant, Royal Air Force with the rank of Air Vice Marshall, the highest rank that could be achieved for a specialist medical officer.

He retired from the Service in 1991 but continued to serve as Civilian Consultant until 1995 when he was appointed Consultant to the Metropolitan Police. I know the high regard that Manus was held in by all in the Metropolitan Police from two of my clients. When I found out where they worked and enquired if they knew Manus they informed me that without him the department would not have functioned as it did.

During 1987 to 1991 he was Chairman of the 8th Branch of Academic Conference in ORL.

During 1991 to 1992 he was appointed President of the Section of Laryngology of The Royal Society of Medicine of London.

During 1989 to 1996 he was a member of the overseas Editorial Board of American Journal of ENT.

In 1989 He was appointed by HM The Queen Commander of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

In 1990 Manus was elected an Honorary Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

In 1991 he was appointed to the Board of Cooperation North, a charity under the Patronage of The President of Ireland and HM The Queen which promotes better understanding and cooperation between The Republic and Northern Ireland.

continued on page 10

I am sure you will agree that his many accomplishments and honours were justly deserved.

In addition I am sure that JFK will not mind if I change that famous quote I quoted previously as follows: 'Ask not what your School, College or Union can do for you but what you can do for your School, College or Union'. In the case of Manus Moran he has carried out this task in an exemplary manner. We are here tonight to express our thanks to Manus, not only thanks from the Union as a whole but particularly from the London Branch.

I can state without fear of contradiction that without him and a few other distinguished past men - two of whom are here tonight - namely John Yurky and Brian Flynn, the London Branch would not exist today. As you may be aware we in London hold a dinner the night before Ireland play England in Twickenham. When it comes to booking a venue Manus is always there to inform us that The RAF Club will be available should we wish to use it, and that the club would be delighted in doing so. I know the reason for this is the high regard that Manus is held by all in the RAF as was demonstrated by the countless letters I have seen and read in the 'This is your Life' book produced by his children for his 75th birthday.

Needless to say we in The London Branch always take up the offer. In addition Manus has put at our disposal not only The RAF Club but the Royal Society of Medicine for our meetings. He has always encouraged those of us in the Branch to do the best that you can do, whether it be in work rest or play. I am sure that this frame of mind was developed in CCR.

Before I finish may I urge those of you who may go to work in the UK to consider joining the London Branch which encompasses the whole of the UK.

We in the London Branch are going to try to hold an annual dinner commencing in 2009. It will be held on 20th February 2009, once again in the RAF Club and anyone who would like to attend will be most welcome. In addition those who may be in London attending the Ireland/England match in 2010 could I urge you to attend our pre match dinner. The details will be in the Review.

Thank you.

Fergal then proposed a toast to Manus Moran who then gave a very interesting and thought provoking reply.



*London Branch Chairman
Fergal Keane addressing the
gathering*

Manus Moran's reply:

Manus in his reply thanked the Union for the kind invitation to himself and his wife to attend the Dublin Branch Dinner and for very thoughtful and much cherished gifts. He thanked Fergal Keane for his kind remarks and stressed the vital importance of maintaining a vigorous and proactive London Branch of the Union and suggested a number of ways in which the branch could help past pupils newly arrived in the UK.

He was full of praise for the way Roscrea had equipped him to survive in a society predominantly non-religious. He particularly remembered his English teacher Mr Joyce (Bunkum) who introduced him and his colleagues to the beauty of language and verse. "He taught us that language, as the philosophers of old held must never be used to deceive or mislead and must never be so loosely structured so as to permit the most subtle of concepts to break the bonds of language and escape. Language, we are told is the ultimate tool." *Those of us who were in CCR in later years knew Mr. Joyce ("Bungy" by then) mainly as a teacher of French – Editor.*

Manus said he learned never to consider his shadow to be longer than that of other men, and finished by encouraging Roscrea boys never to forget the debt they owe to the Monastery for its contribution to secondary education in Ireland over many generations and instilling in them the wonders of our Catholic faith and the concept of nationhood.



*RAF Medical
Service Crest*

CCR Union London Branch Dinner

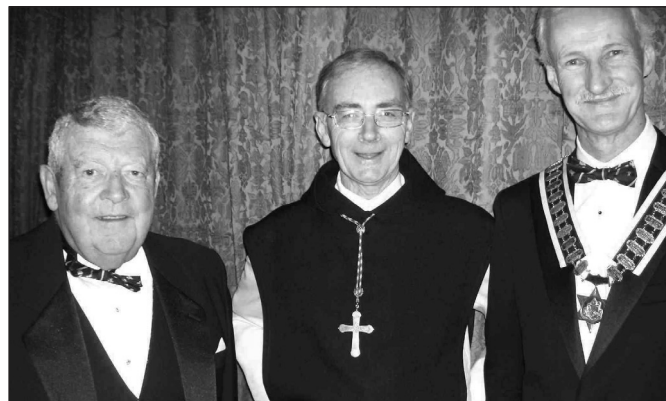
Friday 26th February 2010
RAF Club Piccadilly

(Eve of the England v Ireland game at Twickenham)

MAKE IT A DATE!

Kenmare Weekend

Another very successful and enjoyable Kenmare Weekend was held at the Park Hotel last Halloween. With over twenty years of tradition behind it, the occasion offers the opportunity for rest and relaxation in good company and lovely surroundings. This year's event will take place from Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November. Those interested please contact Gerry O'Meara at gerryo@gerardomeara.com



Noel McCarthy, Dom Peter Garvey and Michael Coyle



Dom Peter Garvey with Jennifer and Michael Coyle



The Garahy Family, clearly enjoying themselves!



Michael Coyle, Bosco Cardozo and Dan Smyth



Margaret O'Shea and Owen Fox



Gerald McCarthy, Cora Fox and John Garahy



Dom Peter Garvey presents the Fr. Dermot Cup to Marie Garahy as Pat O'Shea looks on.

Class of 1963 - '68

40 Year Reunion

The reunion of the Class of 1963-'68 took place on Saturday 27th September 2008 in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. Earlier in the day, nine guys from our year took part in the Annual Abbot's Cup Golf competition in Roscrea Golf Club which I am delighted to report, was won by our own Rory Culliton! Following the Golf, we had a quick meal in the Clubhouse as we were mindful of being in time for the Dinner & that hopefully the 'remaining Pastmen' would be awaiting our arrival in Portlaoise!

Thirty one guys turned up on the night, with apologies received from V. Egan, P. Blake, M. O'Donnell, Rev. Fr. M. Campion, J. Kiely, P. Carroll, G. Enright, N. Burke & P. Salvadori, but who wished us well for the celebrations and asked to be remembered. Jim Keating had left a sheet on the Table for each classmate to take away with them, which gave a brief synopsis of what each of the Pastmen who were unable to be with us, were living now.

After much banter & craic in the bar, committee members Jim Keating, Michael Brody and Rory Culliton had the task of 'shepherding' the assembled Pastmen into a side room for the Group Photograph (Note: Nicky Ryan & Peadar Cox are not included in the photo due to late arrival – unavoidably delayed?)

Dom Kevin Daly was our guest on the night, as was the Union President – our very own classmate – Michael Coyle. College President, Dan Smyth was unable to attend due to recent surgery and Deputy Principal, Marcelline Cody had to represent the College at the Abbott's Cup presentation of prizes in Roscrea Golf Club. John Burke was unable to attend due to the fact that he was officiating at his son's Class of 1988 Reunion in Limerick on the same night.

After Dom Kevin had said Grace, a minute's silence was observed as Jim Keating read out the names of the 10 deceased pastmen: Aidan Collins, Felix Cronin, William Doyle, Jim Fallon, Niall Gaffney, John McGowan, Jamesy McGowan, Joe Mellotte, Frank Reynolds & Jim Downey.

Michael Brody did a fine job as Master of Ceremonies, thanking Kevin Croke and Frank Thompson for their kind sponsorships: Kevin for the lovely 40th Souvenir Pens and Frank for the sets of Golf Balls, which had the CCR Crest beautifully inscribed. Needless to say – 'There was one for everyone in the audience'!

Dom Kevin was heartened to see that so many from our year had come to celebrate our 40 Year Reunion, and hoped to see us again in 5 years time! Union President, Michael Coyle was next to speak, outlining the Union's activities for the year and wishing us all good health in the coming years. Dick Spring spoke for the rest of the gathering by thanking the Guests for attending, and continued to regale us with his own memories of his sporting days in CCR. His account of the infamous match with De La Salle in the Senior Cup challenge when Frank Brandon was 'nearly mauled' - but for the timely intervention of Dick, was very funny. That was followed by Gerry O'Leary's account of an even funnier story about his early years in Roscrea when he decided to take a trip home to Dublin from Roscrea Station – without informing his parents or the College authorities!

It was only when dinner was finished, and having retired to the bar that we really got to know each other again. The arrival in the bar at 2:30 a.m. of a lively & lovely group of Ladies from Newcastle West joined us to 'listen' to our tales about our time in CCR. Even at this late hour, former Sherry Cup winner, Peadar Cox could be heard playing a selection of some lovely well known ballads on the Grand Piano in the Reception area.

My thanks to John O'Connor who did a great job in looking after all the finances associated with the event. Finally, I would like to thank committee members, Michael Brody & Rory Culliton for all their support, encouragement and most of all, their friendship in making the long journey with me for the previous 9 months and ensuring the night ran so smoothly. To those Pastmen who made the journey, and to those I had the pleasure of talking to on the phone – Thanks for the Memories!

Jaz Keating

Editor's Postscript: Many thanks to the Class of 1963-'68 who donated the surplus from their reunion of €95.14 towards the Roscrea Review expenses. Well done and delighted you guys had such a wonderful event! Pat H.



Class of 1963 - '68 - 40 Year Reunion

Back Row: Gerry Browne, Gerry O'Leary, Raphael Keane, John O'Connor, John O'Dwyer, William O'Connell, Bill O'Brien, Sean McCann, Leo Crehan, Rory Culliton.

Middle Row: Brian Grogan, Liam Spooner, Michael Brody, Sean Leyden, Des Hanrahan, Jim Ryan, Tom Hunt, Noel O'Callaghan, Pat Keane, Peter Hogan, Frank Brandon.

Front Row: Jimmy Gleeson, Kevin Croke, Dick Spring, Dom Kevin, Michael Coyle, Jim Keating, David O'Brien, Frank Thompson & John Keane.



The 'Three Amigos', Frank Thompson, Jim Keating and Dick Spring



Michael Brody, Rory Culliton and Jim Keating, organising committee of Class of 68 reunion with the Abbot's Cup which Rory had won earlier that day.

Class of '83 mark 25 years

It is 25 years since the class of 83 made their final pass under the watchful eye of the golden eagles of CCR. Recession was in the air. Doom and gloom prevailed in the economy. The banks were seen as the solid providers of employment. The weather seemed to have been much better then than it is now.

To mark their silver anniversary, the class reunited at the Racket Hall in Roscrea on Saturday 27th September 2008.

Dom Peter Garvey joined the group for drinks and a meal at the Racket Hall. Dom Peter had presided over the full term of the class from '78 to '83 and had no problems remembering names and faces. Indeed, the years had been kind to all and with only a few shiny tops on show and a gentle shift toward gray hair, little else seemed to have changed.

Brian Kelly travelled in from Phoenix Arizona, Fergus Liffey, Morgan Keane, Simon Delahunty and Patrick Gleeson and Brian Perrott all made the journey from the UK and the small contingent of Donal Reid and John Roche made the exodus from Germany, diverting briefly to Amsterdam for some rest on the way over.

In all, thirty eight class members made the trip. We had been unable to reach a handful of classmates and sadly, Joe Hardy had passed away eight years previously. At dinner, a toast was held for absent friends. Eoin McCarthy performed the ceremonies at the meal.

In his address, Dom Peter recalled the years of '78 to '83 and regaled the group with his memories of some of the more colourful characters of the year. By way of reply, Donal Reid, John Roche, Tim O'Brien and Vinnie Browne all recalled some memories and reflected on their years at CCR. With an emphasis on humour and little dependence on fact these stories were well received and spawned many more a tale. For further catching up, the group retired to the bar. Songs were heard from the bar as the sun rose over Roscrea.

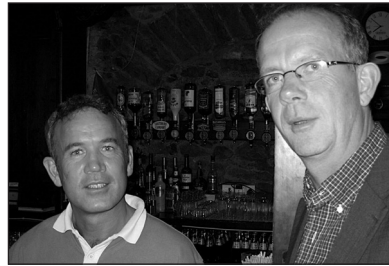
On Sunday a few made the pilgrimage to the school where all the changes over the preceding quarter century were observed and no doubt, had any passers-by been listening, they would have heard the "In my day it wasn't this easy..." refrain.



Michael O'Gara and Dermot Comerford



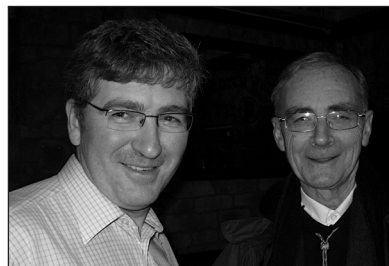
Daithi O'Connor, Donal Reid and Vincent Browne



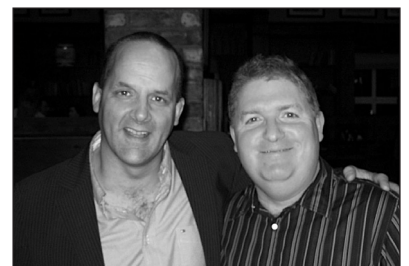
Patrick Gleeson and Jonathan Moriarty



Edward Kelly and Peter Donnelly



Morgan Keane and Dom Peter Garvey



Peter Daly and James Gleeson



Kevin Connellan and John Dunne



Dom Peter Garvey, Brian McClean and Sean Dunne.



Fergus O'Regan, Vincent Browne, Colm O'Toole, Joe O'Shea and Fergus Liffey.

CLASS OF '83 MARK 25 YEARS continued...



David O'Brien, Paul Kinirons and Tim O'Brien



Brian Perrott, Dave Sheils and John O'Regan



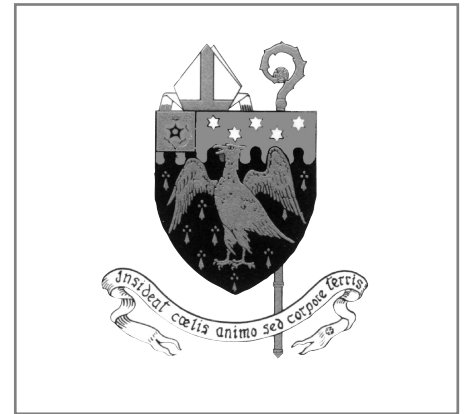
Brian Conroy and Charlie Monaghan



Fergus O'Regan, John Roche and Daithi O'Connor



Simon Delahunty, David Burke, John Dunne and Paul Gillen

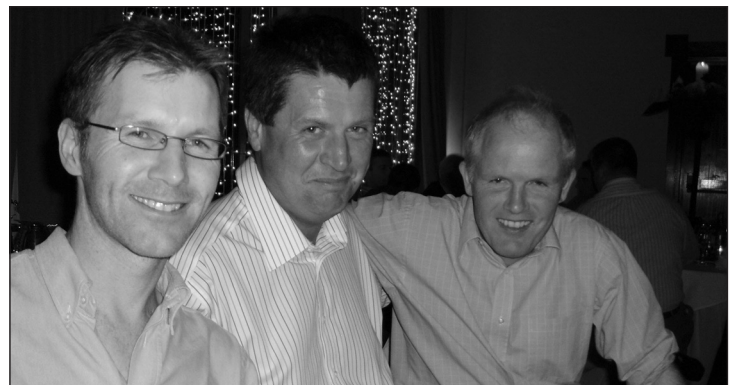


Class of 1988 Reunion

The class of 1983-'88 held their twenty year reunion in the Radisson Hotel in Limerick on 27th September 2008. there was a great turnout and a wonderful night was had by all, as the following photos suggest! Special thanks are due to Harvey O'Brien, Pierce O'Leary and Niall Doogue who put it all together.



Eoin Rafferty, Richie Collins, Eoghan O'Callaghan, Brendan Hickey and Garvan Roche



Carl Kiernan, William Smith and Simon Kelliher



Kieran Dunleavy, Killian O'Grady, Gerard Grace and Pat Somers



Niall Doogue, John Hackett, Gearoid Kerins, Sean Bredin and Pierce O'Leary



Donagh Verling, Kevin Keegan and Damien Bourke

CLASS OF 1988 REUNION continued...



The Class of '88



Eoghan O'Callaghan, Ger Kelly and David Kruse



Pierce O'Leary and Declan Murphy



Tom Duggan and Eric Barry



Harvey O'Brien, Garvan Roche and David Hernan



John McManus and Colm Power



Shane Slattery and Killian O'Grady



Sean Bredin and Gearoid Kerins



Niall Doogue, John Berry, Frank Harrington and David Hernan



Pat McInerney, John Berry, John Hackett, Frank Harrington and Fergal Slevin



Niall Doogue, David Hernan and Eric Barry



Tom Shortall, Eoghan Comerford, and Vinnie O'Hara

In the next issue;

- South West Branch Dinner, Mallow
- Conor Irwin and Marcelline Cody win M. Hyland and N. Windle Golf trophies
- Dom Richard Purcell's installation as Abbot
- Western Branch Dinner, Barna
- Reports and photos from class reunions
- And lots more!

London Branch Dinner

Outside their normal sequence it may have been but the London Branch held a most enjoyable Dinner last February. Guest of Honour at the Dinner was Vincent Sherry (CCR 1929-1935) who was thanked for his long service to the London Branch since 1942 and who was presented with a Union tie and scarf.

Next Spring the London Branch will revert to its usual biennial cycle and have its dinner in the RAF Club on Friday 26th February, the night before the England – Ireland Rugby match.



Manus Moran, Dom Kevin Daly, Vincent Sherry, Union President Michael Coyle, Dan Smyth, John O'Shea and Fergal Keane.



A happy group at last February's London Branch Dinner



Vincent Sherry, Michael Coyle and Dan Smyth



Aidan McNulty, Brian Flynn, Kevin O'Flanagan and John Yurkey.



Pat's Soccer Success!

Although always keenly interested in a variety of sports, Pat Hanratty (CCR 1962-67) only took up the management of schools' teams relatively recently. This year he had the thrill of helping to guide Tallaght Community School's Senior Soccer Team to a Leinster title, overcoming Naas CBS 2-1 in the Final. Pat feels very strongly about the unfair attitude of the media which devote huge attention to the Schools' Rugby Cups, a lot to those in Gaelic games, but hardly any to the Soccer although it involves huge numbers of schools and students of different ages.



Left: March 2009 saw Pat Hanratty turning 60 – a nice quiet party was held in the Yellow House to mark the occasion and some CCR pastmen made it; Sean Costello, Sinbad Wilmot, Michael Coyle, Aidan McNulty, Tom Grennan, Noel McManus and Feargal O Dubhghall.

NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH DINNER

November 2008

My wife, Jennifer and I had the enormous pleasure of attending the north American branch dinner on Friday, November 21. Having arrived the previous afternoon to what was typical seasonal, bright, crisp New York weather the festive mood was truly set for Thanksgiving the following week, and the beginning of the Christmas season.

At 7pm we worked our way to O'Briens Bar for pre-dinner drinks and then to Langan's Restaurant for dinner which was preceded with an extensive range of tasty appetisers. A delicious meal of many courses was served with wine plied by an enthusiastic staff.

Brief after dinner speeches by the chairman, Des O'Brien and Union President, Michael Coyle were followed by lively conversation and revelry which went on into the small hours of the morning.

Among those in attendance were stalwarts of the branch including the chairman, Des O'Brien, Paddy and Anne Boland, Peter and Biddy Keogh, Noel McCarthy, Tom Lynch, Cohn Owen and Ken Forde. Included amongst the new faces were Padhraig O'Loughlin and his wife, Maureen, Sean O'Sullivan and his guest, Gavin Daly and a past man who attracted a lot of interest, namely Charlie Scroop, who travelled from Ontario and who recalled fond memories of his time at Roscrea, even though that only extended to one term in 1948.

Congratulations to Des and his team for organising such a successful event which will hopefully be repeated in 2009.

Michael Coyle



Anne Boland, Peter and Biddy Kehoe



Noel McCarthy, Union President Michael Coyle and Charlie Scroope



Jim Lyndon and Ken Forde (both CCR 1961-'66)



Sean O'Sullivan and friends look happy



Bosco Cardozo, Mary O'Loughlin, Anne Boland and Pádraig O'Loughlin

Midlands Branch Annual Golf Outing

ESKER HILLS G.C.

It seems like ages ago now, but last August, on one of the very few really fine days of Summer 2008, the Midlands Branch held their Annual Golf Outing at Esker Hills G.C. – more recently made famous as the home club of Irish Open Champion, Shane Lowry.

A very enjoyable day was had by all, even if some of us found the course very tough! Not so Frank Thompson and Michael Brody, who, as well as organising the event, were well represented among the prize winners. An interesting feature of the Dinner that evening was that the four men at the top table, Frank, Michael, Jim Keating and then Union President Michael Coyle are all from the Class of 1963-'68!

They are obviously very good organisers – they asked me before the Dinner if I would accept a cheque towards the Review expenses, representing the surplus from the event, and I willingly said yes. I was fairly bowled over when I discovered that the cheque was for well over €800. These guys know how to organise a function! They could even volunteer to help the beleaguered Dept. of Finance!

Pat Hanratty



Paul Fitzpatrick (CCR 1969-'72) and Frank Thompson present a cheque for over €800 to Pat Hanratty towards the Roscrea Review.



From the class of 1962-'67: Gerry Curran, Pat Hanratty and Donal Hogan.



Winners all – Frank Thompson, Michael Brody and College Principal Marcelline Cody.



The top table – all from the class of 1963-'68: Michael Brody, Frank Thompson, Union President Michael Coyle and Jim Keating.

Common Room Blues...

by John Hernan

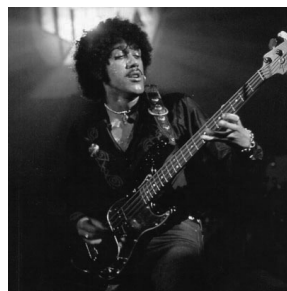
LIKE millions of other viewers around the planet, I suppose most of you tuned in to the Beijing Olympics. Many will remember it for the grandiose opening ceremony, Michael Phelps multiple gold, Usain Bolt's 100 metre record, Robina Muqimyar, Afghanistan's first woman athlete. Personally I remember the Beijing Olympic games for the Closing Ceremony - in fact for six raw minutes of the closing ceremony - three open chords, E, A and D played by a living legend on a legendary Gibson Les Paul.

Yes Jimmy Page, straddling a London bus, lashing out the chords of 'A Whole Lotta Love' to the whole world. What we were witnessing was pure poetry, this was musical greatness (as well as being an unprecedented historical moment in China). A truly genuine tremor swept across the stadium and sent shivers down my spine (to be completely honest it actually brought a tear to my eye). Let there be no doubt my air guitar friends, this was a musical genius shaking the foundations of the world. London may have given the world teatime, scones, Lady Di and Shakespeare - but above all it gave the world Rock n Roll!

Many of you are asking has Hernan completely lost it? Nope, I'm perfectly clear headed. However, unless you've shared long wet afternoons in the 4th year common room with 35 other lads, standing around a turntable playing air guitars, tennis rackets, hurleys and other phallic addenda, screaming their lungs out in unison to 'hey hey mama said the way you move, gonna make you sweat gonna make you groove' you won't have a clue what I'm talking about.

It is in fact one of CCR'S best kept secrets - not only are our minds and bodies educated in the classrooms, on the playing field and in prayer - they are also moulded in the sweat and heat of gyrating Common Room Rockers worshipping the pagan gods of Angus, Izzy, Page, Plant, and Lynott. We were no longer kids we were adolescents on the road to becoming men. The foremost ritual and initiation to this manhood was to hit the lonesome trail to Roscrea, and come back with a Stereo System and a big pair of mean speakers.

And so it was we discovered Rock 'n' Roll - nothing sophisticated or elaborate, this was guitars, bass, drums and long haired men in tight jeans. Testosterone, four chords, guitar heroes, screaming sopranos. And so began our musical and spiritual journey, our symbol of individuality and belief in personal freedom - Paranoia urged us on We Ran to the Hills and across the Highway Star.. We rang those Hells Bells and raced Back in Black. Looking for Teenage Kicks we found Whisky in the Jar and we Shook It all Night Long. We chased the Black Dog and fought the Trooper, conquered the War Pigs and felled the Iron Man. In



time We Got A Whole Lotta Rosie and the Woman from Tokyo but we could get no Satisfaction. Everyone knows that When the Levee Breaks you have to Get Off that Cloud and continue that journey to your Stairway to Heaven. Yes, if you listen carefully, somewhere on the Dark Side of the Moon, the Riders on the Storm still carry their Child in Time and will Take it to the Limit one more time Too old to rock but too young to Die, these Warriors, Cold with Sweat are Waiting for an Alibi... somewhere out there is a Street with No Name, somewhere on the horizon there is Smoke on the Water.

Yes it was supposed to be the 80's but we were definitely stuck in the 70's. My first record was of course Led Zep's 4th album, Deep Purple Made in Japan followed by Live and Dangerous and many more.

You would walk along the corridors to the swimming pool to sounds of Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here, Dark Side of the Moon, Zeppelin's Immigrant Song, Rainbow, Deep Purple, White Snake, Moving Hearts (!!!) AC DC., Thin Lizzy, I recall of course a few attempts by some class mates to educate our metal brains - David Cunningham trying to get me to listen to David Bowie (I wish I had), Tony O'Grady insisting that

Springsteen's Nebraska is a masterpiece (and he was right), Rob Cole made a few brave attempts to introduce us to the Police, Madness and the Specials; Pdraig Greally entertaining us many evenings with fine guitar playing and renditions of Simon and Garfunkel - Mark Redmond did his best to convince us that John Lennon was a poet, but not to much avail - we were unabashedly on a Highway to Hell, Our Sympathy was for the Devil!

Rock music helped us through the difficult times, the rough patches, the moments of doubt and solitude - those moments of silence, of anger and confusion. Luxembourg Radio, Radio 2, Dave Fanning's night show which we secretly listened to under our pillows in the dormitory were beacons of hope and sanity to many of us, probably more so than we care to admit. When you had given up and you thought nobody understood and nobody cared well, For Cryin Out Loud there was always Meat Loaf.

Yes the music and lyrics of Phil Lynott, Bon Scott, Robert Plant, Ian Gillan, did as much to get us through our days in Roscrea than any amounts of bread, Alpen, prayer or cigarettes. 'I think I'll fall to pieces if I don't find something else to do' with Brian Robertson's solo guitar and Philo singing' are part of my very fibre, touching my deepest soul as much so as Van Morrison, Eddie Vedder, Neil Young or Thom Yorke do today.

So for all of you 40 year old rockers don't hang up the drum sticks just yet, 'keep those six stings on your back, play for keeps', 'Our lives are stone, your lines made us stars'. 'If I knew now what I had known then'.. I would have invented Guitar Hero and become a millionaire!

And for all those new students in CCR facing lonely evenings of profound spiritual doubt; yes you will falter, you will stumble, you may even fall, but we have all walked that road, and we have scaled those city walls, with or without you, always, always remember what the prophet wrote:

'Let there be light, and there was light, let there be sound and there was sound, let there be drums and there were drums, let there be guitars and there were guitars, then let there be rock'.

'For those about to rock, we salute you!'

Bridget Hanratty

1951 - 2009

Since my wife Bridget's first brush with pancreatic cancer in 2007, Roscrea folk have been amazingly supportive. That Autumn, an issue of the Review was lost - it was simply impossible for me at the time to produce one. Thankfully, by early 2008 she had recovered and during the Mid Term Break that February, I put the finishing touches to the Spring edition in the Slieve Russell hotel. As ever, she was helping me with proof reading!

Alas, her recovery was short lived. Although she was back at work in the School of Education in UCD during most of 2008, the cancer moved into the liver last Autumn and, from November onwards, her decline was rapid. She was given three to six months when discharged from hospital just before Christmas, but a severe chest infection hastened her demise. The doctors and palliative team kept revising their estimates of how long she had. Thankfully, she was very well prepared for death, both psychologically and spiritually, and she died on 15th January 2009.

Bridget's links with Roscrea did not begin when I started working on the Review at the beginning of this decade. Before she ever met me, her students in Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham had come up against CCR teams in the Muintir na Tíre public speaking competition. Subsequently she was frequently asked by the organisers to provide a team of adjudicators for the competition, though if CCR were involved, I always made sure that I was in the safe position of the chair!

As an English teacher, she was a great admirer of the work of Gus Martin and Liam Maher. With her eye for detail she was an excellent side kick to have for proof reading, or for good phrasing. Indeed, she didn't just spot typos, but would suggest ways of improving what was already written, without ever destroying the spontaneity or style of the writer. Through it all, she had a great love for everything to do with CCR, and her help will be greatly missed.

Something strange happened the night she died. After her passing at about 7.50 p.m., prayers were said and phone calls were made. At about 10p.m. I received a text message of condolence from Donal Taaffe, and as I was reading it, Frank O'Meara rang. It dawned on me - I had, as yet, not rung anyone connected with Roscrea. How did these guys know? 'Dan Smyth (his brother-in-law as it happens) told me' was Frank's answer to the question. But how did he know, I surmised. It took me a while to work it out, but I reckon the Loreto connection kicked in and someone from Beaufort rang Liz Maher who told her husband Eamon

and he told his brother Gerry who told Katherine Donovan who did the rest. Amazing - it is a small country!

My family and I will be forever grateful for all the support from the Monastery, the College, pastmen of my own vintage and many more besides, during her illness

and at the time of her obsequies, and indeed since then in many ways. Special thanks are due to Fr. Richard who concelebrated at her funeral Mass, and to Union President Michael Coyle who visited her in hospital in November and has been a tower of strength to me throughout this period. The Mass cards, letters, emails, telephone calls, invitations to go for a meal or a drink are all deeply appreciated. I hope in the coming months to get back to working on future issues of the Review, and am most grateful to Pat Somers who has very kindly agreed to look after this issue. To all of you a most sincere thanks.



Pat Hanratty

April 2009

OBITUARIES

Major Raymond Hoare (CCR 1932-34) Originally from Birr died on July 28 2008. Raymond was in the British army and was posted in Northern Ireland for quite some time during the troubles. Served in the East for a long period. Lived in Cyprus for many years after retiring.

Michael Hewison (1972-74) died on July 19 2008 after a very short illness at the age of 46.

Michael was a classmate and debating colleague of Brian Cowen. He studied Law in Trinity College and graduated in 1981 with a B.Sc. Legal Science (Hons) in 1981.

He worked in London for over 20 years and was Sales Manager for a large software company. He was laid to rest in in St. Decline's Cemetery after a very moving Requiem Mass celebrated by Monsignor Michael Olden PP and Rev Fr Niall O'Neill SJ in the Holy Cross Church, Tramore, Co Waterford.

He is survived by his sons Richard and Liam and their mother Michelle; his parents Jim and Siobhan, sisters Marie-Noelle and Joanne, brother Peter, aunts, uncles and cousins, his uncle Gerry Culliton and cousins Brian, Ronnie, Garrett, Neal, Rory and David, and the late Comdt. Paul Culliton who are past pupils of CCR.

*As always we are grateful to those who send us notice about pastmen who have died.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uile.*

News of Pastmen - Pastmen in the News

Gary Morrison (1989-94) is Managing Director of the new 5m euro Morrison BMW development in Cahir. The BMW dealership in Cahir recently had its BMW franchise renewed for five years. His brothers Niall and Ian were also past pupils.

Thurles man **Gearóid O'Brien** has been appointed President/Principal of De La Salle Secondary School in Waterford. He is the first lay principal of De La Salle where he succeeds Br Damien Kellegher.

Gearoid has been Principal of the Christian Brothers Secondary School in Tramore since 2001 before which he taught at Oatlands Stillorgan and Enniscorthy. A graduate of UCD in mathematics and economics he was involved in business for two years as a graduate trainee before becoming a teacher in 1993. Married to Catriona Morgan-O'Brien of Dublin and Vice-Principal of the Ursuline Secondary School, Waterford, they have two sons Gearoid and Quan.

Eamon Maher (1972-78) recently edited *Contemporary Catholicism Ireland: a critical appraisal* with Fr John Littleton. The launch took place at Government Buildings with Taoiseach Brian Cowen. The collection of essays examines the vital roles the Church played over many years of Irish society in such areas as education and health and culture. It is published by Columba Press.

Michael O'Regan (1984-89), Bruff, Co Limerick, is Advertising Manager of the Limerick Leader.

An article in the Sunday Business Post on 4th January last under the heading 'Irish officials at the hub of EU decision-making' featured eight Irish civil servants in important positions in the EU.

Among these were **Anthony Whelan and Peter Power (both CCR 1980-i85)**. Anthony, a graduate of both TCD and Cambridge qualified as a barrister in 1992 and served at the European Court of Justice from 1995 to 2000. He later was a member of the legal Service of the European Commission before becoming a member of the cabinet of the Dutch Commissioner for Competition Policy, Neelie Kroes with responsibility for merger policy including the first Ryanair bid for Aer Lingus. He is currently Kroes chef de cabinet and his current role includes assessing state aid aspects of guarantees to banks. We wish him well in that role!

Peter was at the time of the SBP article spokesperson for European Commissioner for Trade, Catherine Ashton, but has since moved to London to the post of Press Secretary to Peter Mandelson in the UK cabinet for whom he had formerly been a spokesman in Europe.

Iain Brennan (1993-98), Mallow was conferred with a PHD from Cardiff University. He is now Research Assistant at the Violence Research Group of Cardiff University.

Cormac Burke (1989-94) recently married Samantha Gleeson. Cormac is Irish Independent assistant editor while Samantha is a producer on RTE's



Laois People of the Year Awards:

Gareth Culliton (1988) who received a Laois People of the Year Award last February for Outstanding Achievement in Sport, pictured with his brother Neal (1990) and sister Zita.

Taoiseach at Book Launch

Eamon and Liz Maher with Taoiseach Brian Cowen at the launch of Eamon's book 'Contemporary Catholicism in Ireland, A Critical Appraisal.' The book was co-edited by Eamon and Fr John Littleton.



The Board of Governors

THE current Board of Governors of Cistercian College Roscrea was appointed by the Abbot of Mount Saint Joseph, Dom Kevin Daly OCSO and took up office in January of last year.

The chair of the Board is Diarmaid O Murchú, whose professional background is in education administration and who has been involved in the operation of a number of religious school boards, notably those of the Holy Ghost Order.

At its first meeting at the College, Mr O Murchú paid warm tribute to the outgoing Board of Governors and in particular to its chair, Conor O'Hara. The current Board is appointed for three years.

The other members of the current Board are:

- Rt Rev Dom Laurence Walsh OCSO
- Mr Dan Smyth, President
- Mr Conor Brady
- Mrs Helen Comerford
- Mr Barry Deveraux
- Rev Fr Brendan Hally, C.S.Sp
- Mr Gary Lyons
- Mr Pearse O'Doherty
- Rev Sr Eithne Woulfe, Sisters of St Louis
- Rev Fr Dan Joe O'Mahony Ofm.Cap.

The Board has established a number of sub-committees. These include Finance, Ethos and Education, Buildings and Development, Human Resources, Communications.

The new Board came to office conscious that it faced a full agenda in building on existing strengths and in helping to gear the College for the future. The sub-committees have been working with College management and staff in putting together a comprehensive development plan to bring CCR forward.

This plan will be called 'CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA - TOWARDS 2020'

The plan includes a programme of physical development of the buildings and campus; the adoption and implementation of a new statement of ethos for the College; a review of curricula and resources; an overhaul of human resources and the general administration of the College and its relationship with the Abbey.

The Board is conscious that any such plan can only succeed with the 'buy in' of all the stakeholders; parents, staff, students, the CCR Union, the Abbey community and the Board of Governors itself.

At this writing, the Board of Governors is preparing to launch an information campaign aimed at all stakeholders and seeking input as the elements of the plan are formulated.

Work has already started on the first phase of the building plan, viz., the renovation and refurbishment of junior house accommodation on the top floor of the main College building.

The Board of Governors' first 'News Letter,' setting out more details of 'CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA' will be available at the College (printed version) at the end of the current term and it will also be available on the College website.

Conor Brady

ATTENTION PASTMEN!

Are you receiving the "Roscrea Review" twice a year, posted directly to your present address? If not, or if the "Review" is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen.

The details below will also help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions.

Name : _____ Year Entered : _____ Year Left : _____

Home Address : _____ Occupation : _____

_____ Business Address : _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone : _____

Mobile : _____ Fax : _____ Email : _____

College Contact Numbers : Phone : (0505) 23237 / 23344 Fax : (0505) 22066

Email : mtjoseph@iol.ie Website : <http://www.cisterciancollege.com>

Dan Down Under

Dan Ryan (CCR 1962-67) a Port Laoise native, was one of the most talented sportsmen in Roscrea in the mid 1960s. As well as being a good all round athlete he was Out Half and Captain of both Junior and Senior Rugby teams. He was elected Third House Captain in 1966. He studied Engineering at UCD and later went into mineral processing, plant design and construction in various parts of the world.

Dan was at the class 25 year reunion in 1992, but had moved house and was not contactable for our 40th. Despite that, he somehow got a copy of the Autumn 2008 Review, enjoyed looking at photos of his ageing former classmates and contact has been re-established.

To say he has led an eventful life would be an understatement. In the early years of the gold boom in Australia his firm First Quantum Minerals Ltd. built plants all over that country. They later moved international and built plants in RSA, Zimbabwe, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, US, France. In Chile they built some plants at elevations between 4,000-4,500m above sea level in the Alto Plano. They also built one plant just north of Cape Horn. Dan was somewhere down a mine in Chile when Ireland was going ballistic during Italia 90!

Later Dan and his firm built 3 major Copper Plants in Zambia and one in the DRC, which he project managed. The DRC plant is near where the infamous Niamba massacre of Irish UN peace keeping forces took place in 1960. As can be imagined work over there is difficult. Last year they took over a project in Finland and he was up there twice, about 250 km inside the Arctic Circle. More details of Dan's firm can be seen on www.first-quantum.com.



Despite his busy work schedule, Dan continued playing rugby into his forties, after which he took up hockey. He now cycles about 150-200 Km a week and swims about 3 Km a week. He has two daughters who are into sport fulltime. Beccy lives from surfing and Felicity is professional triathlete who raced in France in Division 1 Grand Prix series last summer and in the Continental Cup in Athlone in July last year and came third for her father's adopted country.

Not surprisingly Dan reckons Australia and life have been good to him and his family. He says Perth is wonderful as are the locations down in the South West of the continent. He sounds like a man who is extremely fit for one in his late 50s!



**THE 1934-35
rugby team**

*Submitted by
John Feeney,
John himself is
in the back
row and Peter
Power is on
the extreme
right in the
front row.*