



## Letter from the Union President



As May blossoms adorn the hedgerows signalling that Spring is turning to Summer, a reflection on the past year casts both light and shadow. The winter months saw the illness and ultimate passing at a young age of Brendan McHugh (CCR 1975-'80). Brendan's long association with both the College and the Monastery was celebrated recently by pastmen and the community alike. Brendan, a former House Captain, was the third of the three McHugh brothers to attend CCR. John and Eoin had preceded him in CCR by just two years and one year respectively. The Union extends deepest sympathies to the entire McHugh family and in particular to Brendan's wife, Mary and their young children.

A tragedy such as Brendan's untimely death could serve, in some eyes, to trivialise the ongoing workings of the Union. On the other hand, it also serves to underline the value of the fellowship we share. Getting together for the occasional dinner, to swap stories and to listen to, and heckle unfortunate speech-makers is not only entertaining. It keeps people in touch; it reminds people whence we came; it offers the possibility of fresh acquaintance. The past winter season saw much of this.

If there has to be a "man-of-the-season" award, then it would surely have to go to former College Principal, Hugh McDonnell. He was feted in CCR on his retirement. All that could be said about his contribution to Roscrea seemed to have been said. But no! At the Dublin dinner in November, when the Union honoured him, a whole new set of anecdotes was told. All that could be said of him has surely been said. But no! At the recent highlight-of-the-year dinner in Kilkenny City, the South-East branch showed that when you want to talk hurling, (a) it is never the case that all that could be said has been said and (b) the hurling fraternity has anecdotes of its own well worth the telling and the re-telling into the small hours. South-East chairman, Robert O'Shea and the entire branch put on a show that will entice more and more to Kilkenny in coming years. *(A report and photos from this event will appear in the next Review - Ed.)*

On a more international note, (and reinforcing the fact that medicine is the most chosen profession for CCR past students)..... if one had happened to be feeling at all unwell last November.... and if one required a wide range of medical opinion.....and if one happened to be a CCR man... who happened to be in New York ..... all one would have had to do was pop into Des O'Brien's lively mid-town establishment, Langan's, where the North American branch of the Union held its dinner. The evening resembled a medical convention. Only a very ill person or a pharmaceutical company rep or a bride-to-be nurse could ever find themselves in the midst of such a stethoscopical (Brendan Behan used to make up words, why can't we?) throng.

Noel McCarthy had, as ever, pulled together Roscrea men from across the United States. Indeed it was something of a joke on the evening to find those who had travelled from Dublin and Galway querying whether or not some of the "Americans" hadn't undertaken a longer journey! For some it was a local affair - Paddy Boland had only to make his way downtown. Peter Kehoe had travelled in from Chad Falls. Galway's John Sherry and Ann (who, as ever, made off with the "style and elegance" award) were spending a few days taking in shows, restaurants, shopping, restaurants, plays, restaurants and a little opera followed by late night restaurants. The Union President and the Dublin Chairman, Fergal Cox made up the rest of the travelling party.

Des O'Brien made several strategic errors on the night. He threw a great party, made everyone feel very welcome, provided a lovely meal and pronounced himself happy to be among Union colleagues. Little did Des realise that his charm on the evening dispelled any lingering reservations the North American branch might have had about asking such a busy man to take on the office of Chairman for 2007!

He was duly elected Chairman and it's safe to say that this dinner will thrive in coming years. And why wouldn't it? - November in NY - a little shopping and a great Saturday night with friends. As they say, what's not to like?

All the travel could make it easy to overlook the outstanding contribution of Dublin Chairman, Fergal Cox, in hosting the ever enjoyable Dublin Dinner. His and his committee's contribution to the Union during the past year has been a high-water mark.

The year is not over. The tireless Gerry O'Meara is orchestrating what should be a fine trooping of the colours in the naval headquarters in Haulbowline on May 24th.

I will soon have the most pleasant task of handing over the chain of office to the incoming President, Ollie Byrne and I wish him the very best for his term.

To have been President of the Union for the past year has been an honour. It has been humbling, sociable, and fattening. Most of all it has been very enjoyable. Thank you to all those who made it possible for me.

Kieran Fitzgerald (CCR 1974-'79)

# Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2007 Roscrea Review, which covers a variety of reunions, dinners and other events and has contributions from pastmen from far and near. Many thanks to all who took time out to write for the Review – I found the pieces submitted this time around absolutely fascinating.

Three Reunions are in the pipeline for later this year – because of the Rugby World Cup any attempt to bring the Class of 1962-67 together will have to wait till Spring 2008. Could guys please send an email to Liam, Frank or myself and we'll have a good old get together next Spring!

All the indications are that the College is doing brilliantly – numbers are up and even if we were disappointed at the early exit of the Senior Rugby team, there was some consolation seeing Kilkenny beat Blackrock and thinking what might have been.

By the time you read this Summer will be near. Do check the calendar on page 13 for the various events, especially the Abbot's Cup which will be held on Saturday 29th September, the day before Ireland play Argentina in the Rugby World Cup.

Finally, congratulations to Ollie Byrne who will shortly take over the reins as Union President, and many thanks to **Kieran Fitzgerald** who has been a wonderful ambassador for the Union and all associated with Roscrea during the past year.

*Every good wish to all:*  
**Pat Hanratty**

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## Junior Rugby team win the Fr. Godfrey Cup.

Cistercian College, Roscrea	25
King's Hospital	20

Out-half **Jack O'Connell** struck for an injury-time try to give Cistercian College Roscrea the Leinster Schools Fr Godfrey Junior Cup at Cill Dara RFC.

It looked an unlikely outcome after 40 minutes as King's Hospital built a 20-8 lead on the basis of their hard working forwards and the fast finishing of their entire back row and prop.

Roscrea were led by the astute play-making of O'Connell, who ended the hour with 15 points and the smooth movement of their three-quarters from where full-back **Gareth Mc Namee** struck for a first-half try. Scrum-half **Robert Durcan** and O'Connell were in outstanding form

after the break.

Scorers for CCR: **Jack O'Connell**, 2 tries. **Gareth Mc Namee** and **Robert Durcan**, 1 try each.

Cistercian College Roscrea: **G. Mc Namee**, **S. Kelly**, **D. Hayes**, **S. Leyden**, **J. O'Halloran**, **J. O'Connell**, **R. Durcan**, **M. Reyes**, **D. Coffey**, **O. Kilgallon**, **D. O'Hanlon**, **M. Mc Crohan**, **D. Egan**, **J. Murphy**, **J. Mc Gee**

Replacement: **C. Finn** for **G. Mc Namee** (28 mins)

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## Senior Hurlers exit bravely

After an intense period of participation under Team Manager **Pat Sheedy** and Team Coach & House Master **Brendan McKeogh**, the Senior Team overcame Enniscorthy in the first round of the Leinster Championship and was narrowly beaten by Castlecomer in the Quarter Final. Congratulations to Castlecomer who went on to beat St. Kieran's and Kilkenny CBS to win the Final. Most of this team are with us again next year and the future is bright.

The Roscrea Hurling Support Group were proud to present all hurlers within the College with a College-crested Tracksuit and had the pleasure of the legendary **Tommy Dunne** on Presentation Night with staff and members of the Committee **Jim Nash**, **Ann McIntyre**, **Larry O'Loughlin**, **Michael Delahunty**, **Seamus Hennessy**, **Michael Breen**, **Donnacha Cody**, **Marie O'Meara**, **Conor McGee**, **Hugh McDonnell** and the legendary Galwegian, **Joe Connolly**.

The Committee looks forward to the support of all in its annual fund-raising Golf Classic on Friday, July 13th next at Roscrea Golf Club. Contact **Ann McIntyre** for Timesheet.

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## The Stations of the Cross

Pastman, **Paul Foley** (CCR 1953/'58) formerly from Waterford, now living in England recently produced a fold-out, pocket-sized version of the Stations of the Cross featuring the images from the student Chapel at Cistercian College, Roscrea.

These Station of the Cross images, which hang in the College Chapel were originally designed by the Clark/King Studio.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the pocket-sized Stations of the Cross can do so by contacting the College or the Monastery Beads Shop.

**“A Wandering Star” could be the title for this piece by Kerry Kehoe (CCR 1958-’62) whose career has taken him all over the world, but who is now settling for a quiet life in Santa Fe, New Mexico – that is until Hollywood beckons!.**

When last I wrote for The Review in the early 90s, I was in Tokyo, working for DuPont and enjoying the somewhat unreal existence of a heavily subsidized expat with a luxurious (by Tokyo standards anyway) apartment, hot and cold running water, servants, club memberships and overseas allowances. I refrained from telling my employers that Tokyo was my wife’s favourite city in the world, lest they should decide to cancel the goodies.

I moved on to Mexico City, which quickly became my wife’s second favourite city in the world. Here the servants were running even faster and now I had an armed guard who was supposed to prevent my kidnap but seemed to spend most of his time charming the local señoritas, much to the annoyance of his wife, who showed up one Christmas and demanded to stay with us to keep an eye on him. While I confirmed, before I accepted the assignment, that my employer would indeed pay the ransom, nobody bothered to try kidnapping me, which was a bit of a blow to the ego. I had written an entire scenario, which ended with the kidnappers paying me to leave.

Mexico felt quite like home to me. The Mexicans, even those working for my staid and generally humourless company, liked to party and have a good time. I made a mental note to stay out of the U.S. for as long as I stayed in the corporate world.

I had a green U.S. passport (a one time aberration, no doubt effected by an Irishman who didn’t like his red Irish one). Mexican passports are green and I used to join the Mexican line at immigration and wave my passport at the immigration desk, as all the other Mexicans did. Mexicans used to joke that no one was going to bother checking them coming back into the country.

Graft and corruption were endemic in Mexico but fairly gentle among government employees. One could get just about anything done with an appropriate “propina”. A company lawyer accompanied me to the motor vehicle bureau where I passed the physical, driving and written tests for my driver’s license in two minutes for 200 pesos - just like Tralee!! On the way back to the office the lawyer drove the wrong way around a roundabout, explaining to me that it was quicker.

Part of my assignment was to make acquisitions and I regularly practised my negotiating skills on the police who were underpaid and needed “gifts” from the public for imagined traffic infractions. The going rate was about \$5 during the day and \$10 at night, if the cop was waving an Uzi about. By the end of my two years some of the police were greeting me by name and giving me a “favoured customer” discount.

Next was Hong Kong, just in time to have the British transfer sovereignty to China. We (*I married Gillian when I was a student in Cambridge*) lived there for only a year. Locals in Hong Kong describe themselves as having a refugee mentality, most of them having come as refugees from the Chinese mainland. This is evidenced by an obsession with making money and a visceral need to rush everywhere, pushing ahead of everyone else where possible and refusing to make way for others. The latter gets to be annoying after a time.

One day, as I took my regular run along Bowen Path, that one flat route near The Peak, I was confronted with five Buddhist nuns, walking abreast, filling the path and refusing to make room for me to pass. “Well” I thought “*six can play that game*”. I bowled two of them over as I went through the line. I knew it was time to leave. By then I had done my deals in China (*having learned that Communist secretaries now liked to do their deals on the golf course*) and was ready to charm the South Koreans.

We decamped to Tokyo. Why not Seoul you ask? Because I am allergic to garlic and can’t even fly on Korean Airlines. Our people in Seoul had to take me to Swiss restaurants to preserve my health. Anyway Tokyo, as you now know, is Gillian’s favourite city in the world. Corporate cost cutting, alas, had slowed the servants to a trot and overseas allowances were just not what they used to be in the good old days. Life was reduced to a state of semi luxury.

Help, however, was at hand. I was offered a job in London, heading a new company that was owned 50% by a U.S. conglomerate and 50% by a Turkish one. It had 6000 employees and I was the only Irishman, though I was, officially, the U.S. representative. Establishing a common culture for a group that was half Turkish, 30% English (*if Yorkshiremen consider themselves to be English*), 15% German and 5% other, posed a bit of a problem so I decided that the culture would be Irish. My first step was to double the Irish population by hiring Paul Murphy, another Roscrea alumnus.

All multinational corporations nowadays must have a mission statement, usually a lot of codswallop full of nonsensical platitudes. We agonized over ours for five minutes and finally came up with “*Big Bucks Ho Ho Ho*”, which pretty much captured my view of business – have a lot of fun and make a lot of money.

It was indeed fun for a couple of years but when it became clear to me that the U.S. partner had a plan to exit the business, I began planning my own exit strategy. When our Turkish chairman asked me to use company funds to pay for a bribe he had paid a Turkish judge I refused. It was agreed that our philosophies were incompatible and that led to a negotiation on the terms of my departure. When that was concluded to my satisfaction I was ready for Hollywood.

My contemporaries at Roscrea will doubtless fail to remember my brilliant performance as The Player King and Third Soldier From the Right in a production of *Hamlet*. They will likewise not have followed with bated breath my roles in Guinness commercials, while a student at U.C.D. and will be totally unaware of my many stage performances while at

Cambridge. I believe Hissoner Vivian Lavan, a classmate of mine, must have caught one of my performances as lead singer and comedy relief for The Maglory Dengluch (*you Gaelic scholars figure out from what that is corrupted*) because I distinctly remember his asking "Are you not ashamed of yourself to be playing the stage Irishman?". "Not when they are paying me for it" I replied.

Over the years I had done a good deal of stage acting, though work and travel demands had curtailed my theatre activities for about 15 years. Part of my early retirement plan was to get back into theatre work. The other part was to get into education, primarily to engender a love of Maths in girls (*I have daughters*) before society taught them to abandon it. Maths is something that has given me enormous pleasure in my life and I remember with gratitude the time spent by Fr. Emmanuel and Mr. Coady in helping me to enjoy it. How many students get a gift of Maths puzzle books to work on over the holidays?

On landing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, I launched myself by going to the local piano bar, where I found the 7000ft. altitude made the long notes a bit more difficult to carry. The regular pianist, having determined that I was not after his job, gave me some leads on the local theatre scene. I toured the theatres and was cast, within the week, in a production of *The Tempest*. One thing led to another and pretty soon I was a regular on local stages. I now help to run a theatre, do much of my acting there but also perform on other local stages.

Santa Fe attracts a lot of Hollywood people who want to escape the hassle of that city. Ali McGraw, Shirley MacLaine, Gene Hackman, Julia Roberts, Alan Arkin and Wes Studi (*remember the scary Indian chief in The Last of The Mohicans?*) all live here. I have worked with some of them in the theatre but have never actually been on stage with any of them. I showed Ali McGraw to her seat, calmed Alan Arkin down backstage when he was having pre show jitters and, while I was on stage, had Wes Studi stand up in the audience and take a compensatory bow for not getting an Oscar nomination for Mohicans. Ah how heady these interactions with the rich and famous are!! I expect they will mention me in their memoirs.

My big breakthrough came when a local playwright and political activist wrote a play called *A Nation Deceived* and invited his buddy Ed Asner (*Lou Grant, The Mary Tyler Moore Show etc.*) to play the lead role. The play is a courtroom drama in which the Bush administration is accused of high crimes and misdemeanours for its conduct of the Iraq war. Ed played the prosecuting attorney and I played the judge - with a Tennessee accent (*I have lived in Tennessee twice so am practically a native*). We played to packed houses. Santa Fe is a liberal enclave in a sea of conservative states and people will pay to see Bush bashed. I got to chat with Shirley MacLaine backstage and promised her a role in my next movie.

Ed Asner was great to work with. He modestly introduced himself to everyone, as if we had not, for weeks, been anticipating meeting him. He was professional but had a sense of humour about his work, which was helpful when I told him I was tired of carrying the show and suggested he get his finger out. The show was filmed and put on the internet. It was used as a fundraiser for the Democratic party prior to last November's elections. I like to think it contributed to the Democratic victory in both houses. I have, however, sent a note to the White House letting them know I am available to do a show for their side before the next election if the price is right. This is a business after all.

On the education side, I qualified as a high school teacher and taught gang members for a summer in the public schools. That caused me to despair of the bureaucratic incompetence in the system and I moved to teaching in a private school for a year. The headmaster was a Brazilian misogynist with "control issues" as we say here. In addition to teaching Maths and Logic I was conned into helping with the administration. There I got to see the financial books and saw that Daddy-in-law, who actually owned the school, was subsidizing it to the tune of a million dollars a year. I explained to the crazy Brazilian that he needed to double his enrolment to break even and that expelling every student whose parent dared to ask a question of him was not the best strategy for achieving that. At the end of the year I moved on - one of the joys of not really having to earn a living.

Recently the Brazilian nut was fired and I have been approached to run the school. I have agreed to discuss the possibility but am reluctant to take on full time employment that would interfere with my Oscar quest.

Meanwhile I teach Maths and Statistics at a local college and am working with a group that proposes to start an all boys' school here. Some years ago it was found that girls were lagging behind boys in learning in the public school system in the U.S. and action was taken to make teaching more "girl friendly". That clearly has been successful because boys now lag girls. When I was going through my teacher training I complained to the instructors (*all women*) about the "girlyfication" of the approach to education. I was roundly abused for my contrarian views. I came to realize that what I

was objecting to was the total rejection of anything that smacked of competition and to the adoption of teaching methods that have been found to work for girls but are known to be boring for boys. Since all public and most private education in the U.S. is co-educational and since the vast majority of teachers are women, it is probably to be expected that education has shifted in this direction.

I attended a meeting recently to discuss the topic of single sex education. Most of those present were educators and one



Ed Asner achieves a lifetime ambition and meets Kerry Kehoe

school head said he was reluctant to pursue fads such as single sex education. I was able to tell him that this particular fad has been alive and well in Ireland for some time. While my educational odyssey has brought me to being part of a thrust for a school solely for boys, I do not see that as being inconsistent with my initial interest in teaching girls to love Maths. I think girls will do better in a single sex learning environment also. I was interested to read in *The Sunday Telegraph*, on a recent trip to France, that the British school system is struggling to halt the slide in boys' educational results and is proposing a move to single sex education.

So here I am, indulging myself in my avocations for pay (*not a lot to be granted*) and all of it thanks to Roscrea. I got the basis of the scientific and public speaking skills there that allowed me to have my first career. I got the love of theatre and education there that let me know I wanted to change careers while young enough to pursue my other passions. I bet Ed Asner has never had it so good.

I have to get back to my screen play. It is about an Irish immigrant who quits a big corporation and wins the Nobel prize for education and an Oscar on the same day. I have considered Liam Neeson and Pierce Brosnan for the lead but I feel neither of them has quite the charisma necessary.

## Class of '86 Reunion

Kilkenny, September 8th and 9th, 2006

The Class of '86 held their 20 year reunion in Kilkenny on the weekend of September 8th and 9th. A terrific weekend was had but in particular the evening of September 9th is noteworthy as it saw 43 class members come together. This must rank as one of the best supported class reunions of recent times. No fewer than 5 guys came home from abroad, Doug Greally and Frank Motherway from the U.S.A., Rory Doyle and James O'Kelly from the U.K. and Mark McCormack from Singapore and the other 38 came from the length and breadth of the 32 counties – even Caoilte O'Connor left his Kingdom! Apart from the obvious unforgiving aging process, it was remarkable how little everybody had changed. The same personalities were obvious and the class dynamic was very much apparent even after 20 years. We are sad to report that one member of the class has passed away. Tim O'Shea from Dalkey died a number of years ago and his passing was acknowledged on the evening. A letter has been sent to Tim's family.

Not every member of the class was there on the night. Some genuinely couldn't attend and unfortunately there were those who could not be contacted in the first place and to these people our apologies. If any of you know of the whereabouts or have contact details for any of the following then please give Ollie Byrne a call on 087-9734333 or e-mail on [oliverbyrne@vodafone.ie](mailto:oliverbyrne@vodafone.ie): a) Albert Doorly (*Banagher*) b) Kevin Gardiner (*Wexford*) c) Richard Hourigan (*Galbally, Limerick*) d) John O'Callaghan (*'Tractors' from Rathcormac, Waterford*) e) Joe O'Connor (*Greystones*) f) Tom O'Brien (*Toomevara*) We were delighted to welcome Dom Peter Garvey, Dan Smith, Eddie O'Sullivan and Pat Carroll as our guests from the College.

Nine guys turned up on the Friday evening for preliminary drinkies and to warm up for Saturday's festivities. Paddy 'Tulla' Murphy regaled us with hilarious stories from his hospitality experiences and invites you to join him whenever you're passing Lahinch at his imbibing emporium appropriately named 'Paddy Murphy's Pub and Grub'. If it's a flight you're after, Alan Grimes was there to share his flight anecdotes – next time you're with Aer Arann it could be him in control! Congratulations to Alan who has since got engaged. Friday night was a great laugh and made all the more interesting with the banter from Ken Geraghty down from Belfast getting a well earned break from his property business flanked by Neil Slattery from Gorey who would gladly auction anything Ken would develop.

On Saturday evening we heard from Mark McCormack, Doug Greally, Mick Finlay (*Ballacolla*) and Mick Kennedy all of whom accepted the offer from MC Ollie Byrne to address the gathering. Indeed Mick Kennedy was cute enough to use the opportunity to try to sell a car to the monastic community by inviting Dom Peter Garvey to consider visiting Birr next time the community needed to change car! Frank Motherway having made the trip from New York held court with Jasper Murphy and Ben Cronin et al – plenty of 'points of order' there.

The highlight of the evening was at some early hour of Sunday morning on the front steps of the Ormonde Hotel. A caucus group of smokers was gathered and the group launched into a memorable rendition of 'Salve Regina'. This merely cleared the throats for the most remarkable airing of the 'Credo' that has been heard in Kilkenny. The group at large began the Credo but it was Caoilte O'Connor who stunned all present with his word perfect, full length rendition. Caoilte bellowed it out to the amazement and enjoyment of all including several passers-by who stopped and marvelled. Well done Caoilte – the Kingdom for it! On the dancing stage it was Mattie O'Brien and Karl Roche who excelled while James O'Kelly read his Gold Medal winning debate from 1986 titled 'The Cat Misses the Hormones from his Milk'. Well done to Stephen Malone, MJ Berry and Ollie Byrne for organising the evening. We will doubtless have another reunion in a few years. Our advice to other classes considering a milestone reunion is to go for it. It is well worth the effort and all who attend will thoroughly enjoy the event.

# Reunions 2007

## CLASS OF '57

Class of '57 - any pastmen of this or adjacent years - contact Brendan O'Dea re a Reunion on 29th Sept 2007 to celebrate the class's 50th anniversary . We may reread our Leaving Cert "*Cicero - de Senectute*"- just to check out his theories in the light of experience."

Class members are asked to email Brendan at [partsclean@eircom.net](mailto:partsclean@eircom.net) or to contact him at Williamstown, Kells, Co Meath. Tel. 087 2448762

While Brendan has written to all for whom he has an address, any help in updating contact details will be very welcome.

## CLASS OF '67

Because of the Rugby World Cup, it has been decided to postpone our 40 Year Reunion to Spring 2008. To facilitate communication, anyone who spent time with the class of 1962-67 is asked to send an email address and current phone number to:

Pat Hanratty, 087-2731904  
[pathanratty@gmail.com](mailto:pathanratty@gmail.com),

Liam Spöoner 0505-21063  
[liam.spooner@spooners.ie](mailto:liam.spooner@spooners.ie)  
or

Frank O'Meara 052-33204  
[omearafr@eircom.net](mailto:omearafr@eircom.net)

**BUT PLEASE DO IT NOW!!**

## CLASS OF '87

REUNION  
Saturday, October 20th

Venue :  
Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea

Contact :  
Peter Hynes  
(087) 2053545

## CLASS OF '97

The class of '97 is holding its 10 year anniversary in the Wyatt Hotel, Westport on Saturday 9th of June. The organising committee is trying to contact all pastmen from this year. If you have not yet been contacted and are interested in attending please contact one of the following for further details;

Mark O'Boyle	086 1953042
Ray Hanniffy	086 8912654
Mark Kavanagh	087 2867206
Mark Finlay	087 9864079
Tomás Sheehy	087 9128797

## Kenmare Weekend 2006

Having seen numbers rise in 2005, due to an unfortunate clash with the Dublin Dinner the attendance was down this November. This however did not detract from the enjoyment of the faithful who came and who included College President **Dan Smith** and his wife **Phil**, Chairman of the Board of Governors **Conor O'Hara** and his wife **Carmel**, **Larry and Adeline Brannigan** , and **Pat and Margaret O'Shea** . No Park Weekend would be complete without **Dr. Noel McCarthy** and honorary CCR man **Dr. Bosco Cardozo** who despite having to come from the US are normally first to get to the bar at the Park from where they greet all new arrivals.

Leaving Moone Abbey after Matins **Dom Peter Garvey** arrived on the first tee at Kenmare Golf Club on Saturday morning as day broke but in time to win the Fr. Diarmuid O'Colmain Cup. Golfers took different forms of solace after their exertions on the course, some indulged in the Samas Spa while others took the more traditional relaxation in the clubhouse.

The Gala Dinner was addressed by **Dan Smith** who told a very positive story of increased student numbers and impressive academic results. The weekend concluded as is customary with mass in the hotel said by **Dom Peter** on Sunday morning.

## And now the plug for Kenmare Weekend 2007!

The Park continues to offer the Union extremely attractive rates. The upcoming weekend, Nov. 2nd and 3rd will cost €385 per person for two nights B&B, and two dinners including the Black Tie Gala Dinner on Saturday. (1 night B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday Night costs €225 per person.)

The Park makes an excellent venue for those who want to have a mini-class reunion or small group get-together. An alternative for those who don't want to drive from Dublin is a train to Killarney or a plane to Farranfore with a hackney to the hotel. The hotel can organise this. Early booking is necessary as the Samas Spa is now a major attraction and the hotel is full most weekends. Previously we were the only group in the hotel on what was the last weekend of the year but the new facilities have changed all this. We need your support to keep the Kenmare weekend on the Union calendar.

Gerald McCarthy



# Thoughts on Bloomsday 2006 and CCR in days gone by

The Editor suggested to me that I should pen some stuff about Bloomsday (*16th June*). I'm a bit puzzled as to why – after all, I was only ever in the halfpenny place - there I go again, but it was in the 50s that I first wandered lonely as a cloud through The Gleaming Eagles at the Gate. Pace, **Tom Cole** and **Alex Semple**. Funny, but it's only in later life that I realise that these guys were actually TEACHING me something (*in their cases: art, life, and language and art, life and music, respectively*).

James Joyce's Bloomsday '06. I recently came across a piece by my much more articulate Joycean classmate in the RR – **Cóilín Owens** – some years ago. He then described Leopold Bloom as "*Joyce's Irishman. He's odd like each of us is privately odd. We get to know him better than any other character in literature, perhaps even ourselves. As we get older and look back, we all remember the Stephen Dedalus we once were. We learn to accept the Bloom we have – in our ways – become*". **Cóilín**, quite, so perceptive. As the comedian Eric Morecambe used to put it, "*there's no answer to that!*"



But, I head off on a tangent – must be something to do with my CCR Maths teachers – **Gerry Moloney (CCR 1956-'61)** **Jack Murphy, (???) McGarry**, or could it have been **Fr (Rubber) Emmanuel OCSO** – great line "*would the chap at the back cogging his exams, please close the door from the outside?*"

Bloomsday 2006 was of course messed up by the passing away of the Squire of Kinsealy – choose as he did not only to die on the same date but also to be buried on the same date as Paddy Dignam (*in Ulysses*). Upshot? The James Joyce Centre in North Great Georges Street closed, and various wandering minstrels seeking diversionary antics like myself had to look elsewhere.

I ended up in "*The Tower*" in Sandycove, where I attempted to amuse attendees with a version of Brendan Kennelly's "*The Dinner*" (*Of course this was after Barry McGovern had moved on – I think I'm still too young to die*). I think I succeeded but was rather thrown by a subsequent comment by Robert Nicholson, its Curator, that I gave it a "*trenchant delivery*". (*For those into trivia, check out Chap 6, line 147*). But it was all good fun.

However to end on a more insightful note, I'm drawn back to **Cóilín's** aforementioned article, where he talks of being on an extremely boring Stateside bus journey with **Gus Martin** many years ago – a long run in Nebraska – featureless prairie – odd grain elevator etc. Then **Cóilín** states that "*Gus turned to me and said – you know there's nowhere in Ireland, nowhere, even at the far end of an overgrown Leitrim boreen, that's as remote as this place*". **Cóilín** concluded his contribution with the comment "*Existentialism be damned, I thought. Imagination, like faith, needs a background*"

CCR, you gave me both fifty years ago this year as it happens, when you accepted me into Class 1B.  
Thank you.

**Gerry Moloney (CCR 1956-'61)**

## From a Previous Kenmare Weekend



Owen Fox with Gerald and Noel McCarthy



Adeline Branigan, Cora Fox and Margaret O'Shea

# Dublin Branch Annual Dinner November 2006

This year's Dublin dinner reverted to its November slot on the calendar and was held as usual in the Stephen's Green Club. Guests of honour on the night included retired Minister **David Andrews**, who gave an inspiring speech in his capacity as Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, and recently retired Principal **Hugh McDonnell** who was presented with a travel voucher by Union President **Kieran Fitzgerald**.

For the second successive year there was a very good turn out of new pastmen, i.e. this time the Class of 2006 who were most welcome. A very enjoyable night was had by all, even if the bar did close earlier than many would have liked. The Dublin Committee is very conscious of this and hopes this will not be a problem with the November 2007 event.



Stephen Mulvaney and James Duggan (1993-'98)



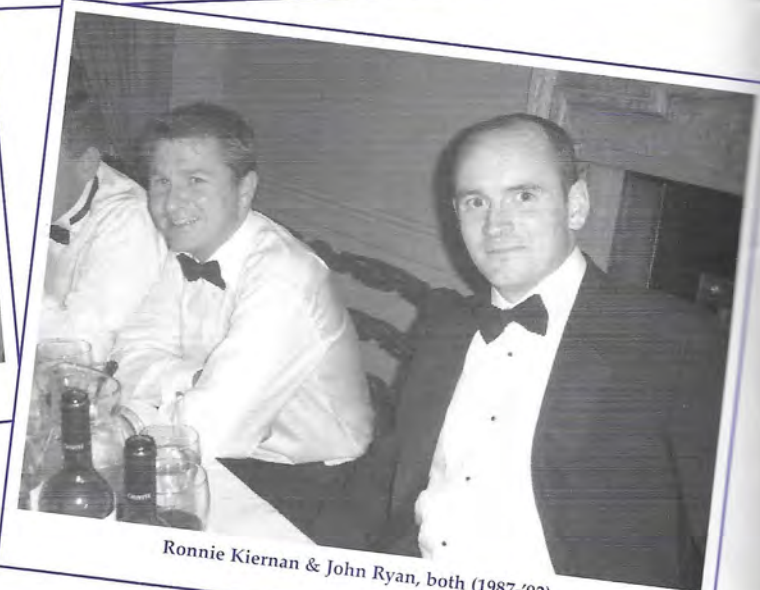
Peter Murphy (1993-'99) and Patrick Ryan (1997-'99)



Larry O'Dwyer, Sean O'Donnell and Tony Cahalan (all 1993-'98)

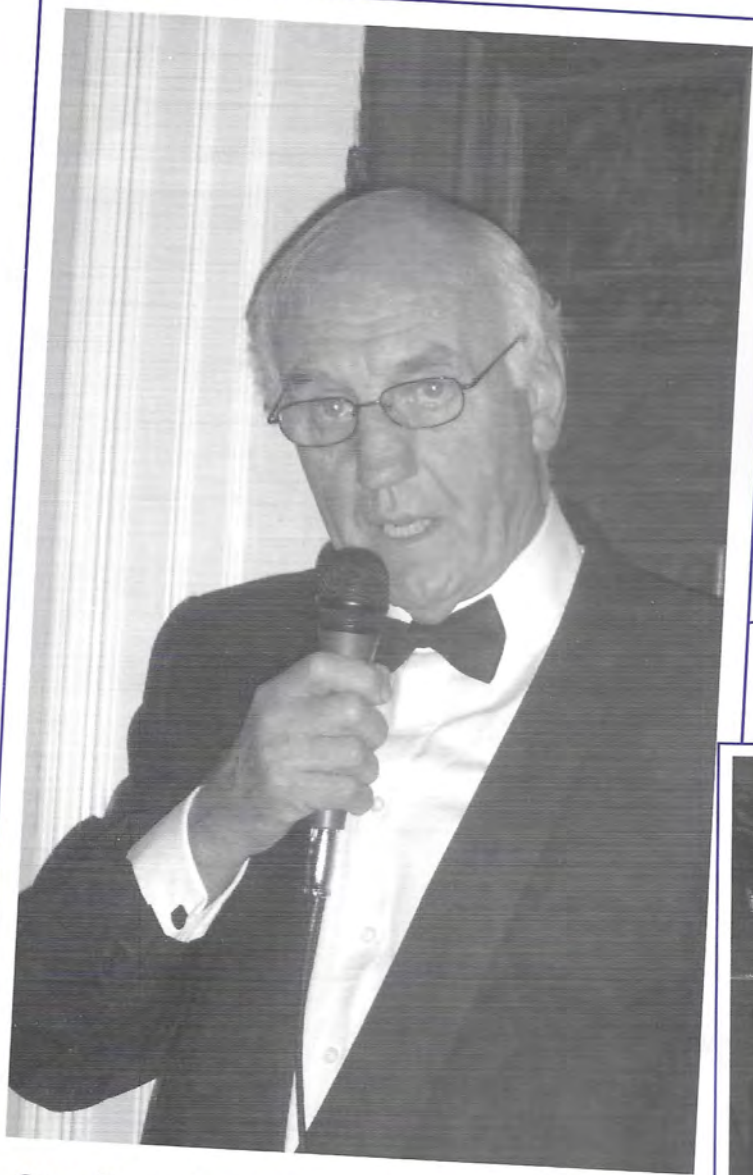


John Bradley (1993-'98) & John Brady (1993-'99)



Ronnie Kiernan & John Ryan, both (1987-'92)

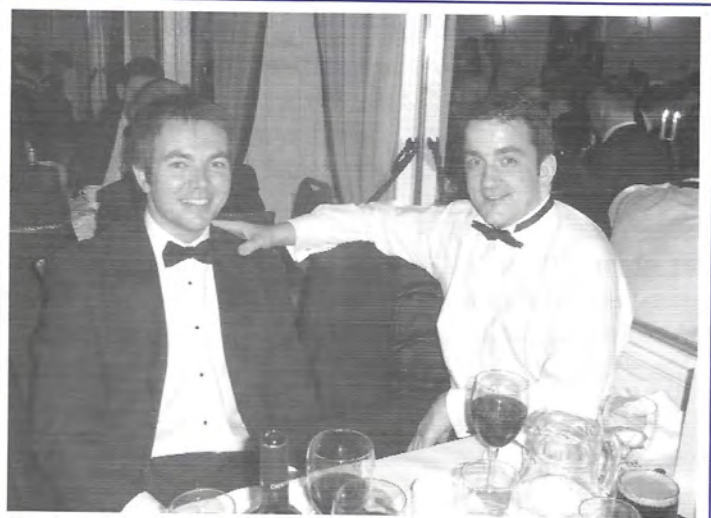




Guest of honour David Andrews addressing the Dublin Dinner



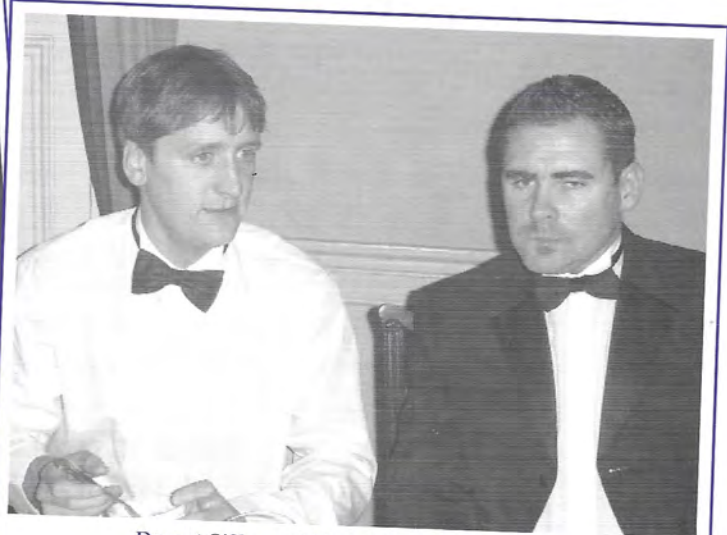
Cormac (1974-'79) and Shane O'Loughlin (1969-'74)



Daragh Hanratty (1991-'93) & Eoin McDonnell (1988-'93)



Diarmuid O'Loughlin (1970-'72) with his father Joe (1941-'46) and Fergal Keane (1967-'72)



Dermot O'Shea and Mark O'Byrne both (1987-'92)

# Class of '56 Golden Jubilee Reunion 2006.

The class of 1956, led by their former house captain, returned to the college during the weekend September 15th-17th 2006 to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion.

Having checked in at Grants' Hotel Roscrea the celebration began with dinner on the Friday evening at the exclusive Fiacri Country House Restaurant at Boulerea, Knock, Roscrea. As dinner progressed, the wine flowed and the spirits moved into sparkling reminiscences which were continued into the early hours back at Grants' Hotel, spontaneously triggered by Micheal Cullen, Conor O'Hara, Owen McEnroe and Cyril O'Loughlin. Those capable of playing joined the Abbot's Cup Golf Competition at the Roscrea Golf Club on the Saturday morning. For such mature gents, there was a creditable performance by all with Brendan Galvin, John Cahill and Conor O'Hara ranking highly in the overall winners' enclosure. Some who didn't play golf spent the afternoon exchanging recollections in the magnificent ambiance of the new club house; others went on a tour of the town and got lost! Yet another few went on a walk about at the college.

*Cistercian College, Roscrea.  
Class of 1956 - Golden Jubilee Reunion - 2006*



*Photography by Redmonds of Roscrea*

*Front 1 to r: Fr. Eanna, Dan Smyth - President, Abbot Peter Garvey - Bolton Abbey, Donal Monks, Abbot Kevin Daly, Patrick F. O' Shea, Michael Meagher, Dom Colmcille, John Cahill, Dom Ambrose - Bolton Abbey.  
Middle 1 to r: Fr. Bonaventure, Aidan Sheeran, Owen McEnroe, Patrick Claffey, Brendan Galvin, Cyril Hackett, Terry Ashe, Gerald F. McCarthy, Cyril O'Loughlin, Jim McGuinness, Fr. Ciarán.  
Back 1 to r: Lewis Clohessy, Conor J. O'Hara, Jim O'Shea, Dom Laurence, Patrick McIntyre, James Egan, Donald F. Flynn.*

## The highlights of the weekend were:

- the assembly in the college on the Saturday at 5.00pm for the Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving which was celebrated by Abbot Kevin Daly in the College chapel followed by
- the wine and finger food reception in the Centenary Room (*The Old Billiard Room*) and
- the gala dinner which was held in the Thatch Restaurant at Birr



**John Cahill and Donald Flynn**

recently appointed Abbot of Bolton Abbey who was well known to us as a student up to 1955, Dom Laurence (*former bursar of the Monastery*), Fr. Nivard (*current Prior of the Monastery*) and Fr. Ciarán all in attendance.

In response to Dan Smyth's address of welcome to the class of 1956, Pat O'Shea thanked the President for his very warm welcome and the monks for their turnout in such large numbers. He also complimented the Community under the former

Following the Abbot's address of welcome at the Mass, Michael Meagher, Donal Monks and Conor O'Hara read the Readings while Pat O'Shea led the bidding prayers on behalf of the class which included prayers for deceased parents, classmates, staff and monks of the 50s era together with deceased family loved ones. There was a special prayer for all classmates and family loved ones who are presently ill either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

After the Mass, the walk along the corridors to the centenary room was the real beginning of our stroll down memory lane.

To be greeted by so many monks at the reception was a tonic for misty eyes. We were deeply honoured by such a turnout led by Abbot Kevin Daly (*former prefect of Kids' Dor in 1952*) with Dom Colmcille (*our former Dean of Studies*), Fr. Eanna (*our Múinteoir Ghaeilge and latterly Junior Dean*), Dom Ambrose (Senior Dean who later became Abbot of Bolton Abbey), Fr. Bonaventure (*known to us as Mick Melvin, a classy full forward in 1952*), Abbot Peter Garvey the

leadership of Dom Colmcille and the former College Presidents of the day, in particular Kevin and Peter for their vision in:

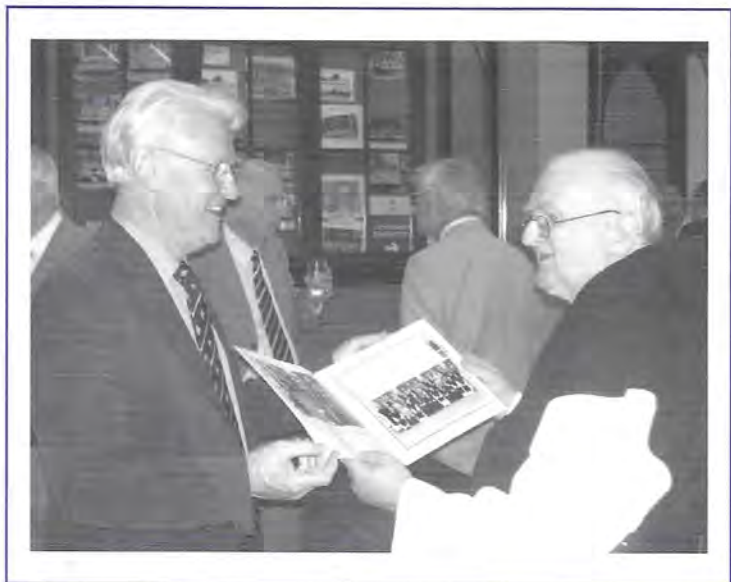
- overseeing the continued development of the College
- restructuring the Management of the College in line with the needs of the future
- setting up the Board of Governors which is charged with the responsibility of directing the college into the future "at arms length" from the Monastery.

*"These were major decisions which required courage and a lot of soul searching during difficult times. Also the significant contribution of funds by the Monastery towards the development of the College must never be forgotten. So, we salute the monks and the staff for their achievements to date and we wish Dan Smyth, President of the College, under the guidance of the Board of Governors, every success in the future".*



**Abbot Peter Garvey (class of '55) with Cyril Hackett and Jim McGuinness**

Despite the passage of time, as the reception rolled on, nostalgic memories started pouring out. The banter, the craic and the laughter, filled the room. The decibel level must have reached 100. It was indeed a fun filled get together and yet the celebration was only beginning. Alas, at 8.00 p.m., the Monks had to retire for evening prayer and they gladly joined us for a group photograph before taking their leave. The farewell handshake with the monks was a nostalgic moment - never to be forgotten.



**James Egan and an tAthar Eanna**

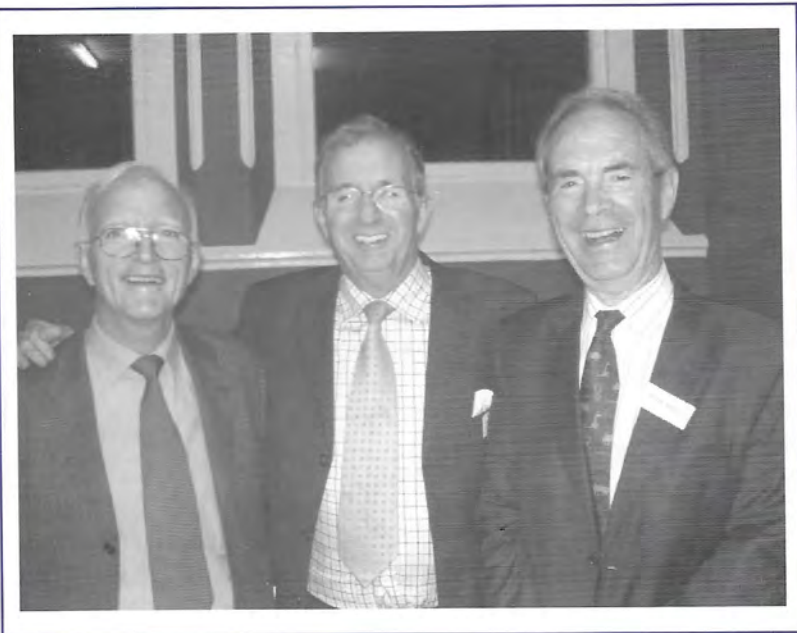
Individual reminiscences were interspersed between courses. Pat O'Shea gave a full report on the whereabouts and apologies of 16 classmates who were unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances and who wished us an enjoyable reunion and who would love to have us meet again.

Abbot Peter in his few words spoke of how well the class of '56 had done and remarked how the class had produced:

- Two priests who are presently active in their ministry (*John Hogan and Terry Twohig*)
- Two chairmen of the Board of Governors (*Ger McCarthy and Conor O'Hara*)
- Two Presidents of the Union (*Ger McCarthy and Pat O'Shea*) and
- 4 classmates of '56 sent their sons to the College.



**Patrick Claffey**



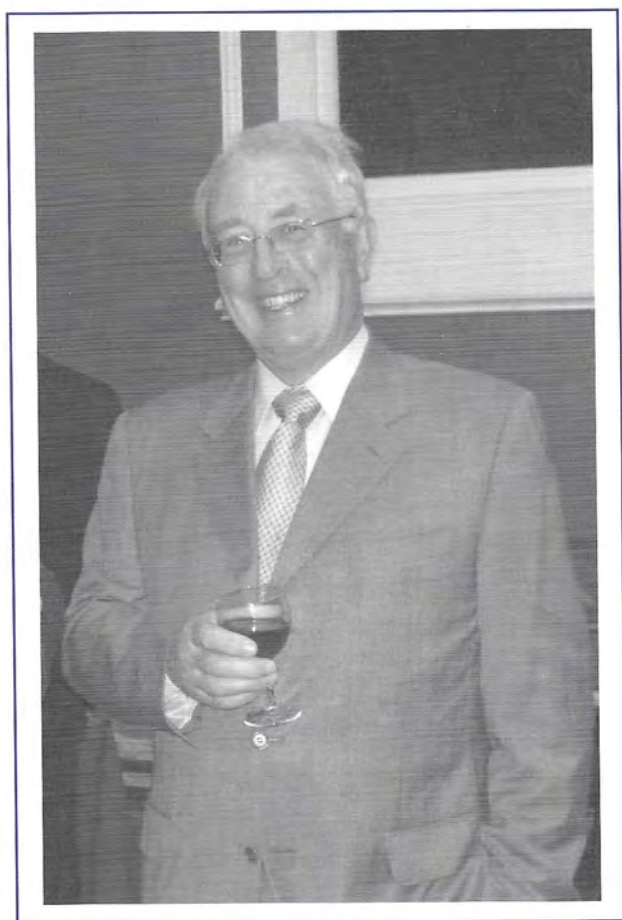
House Captains, Donal Monks, Pat O'Shea and Michael Meagher



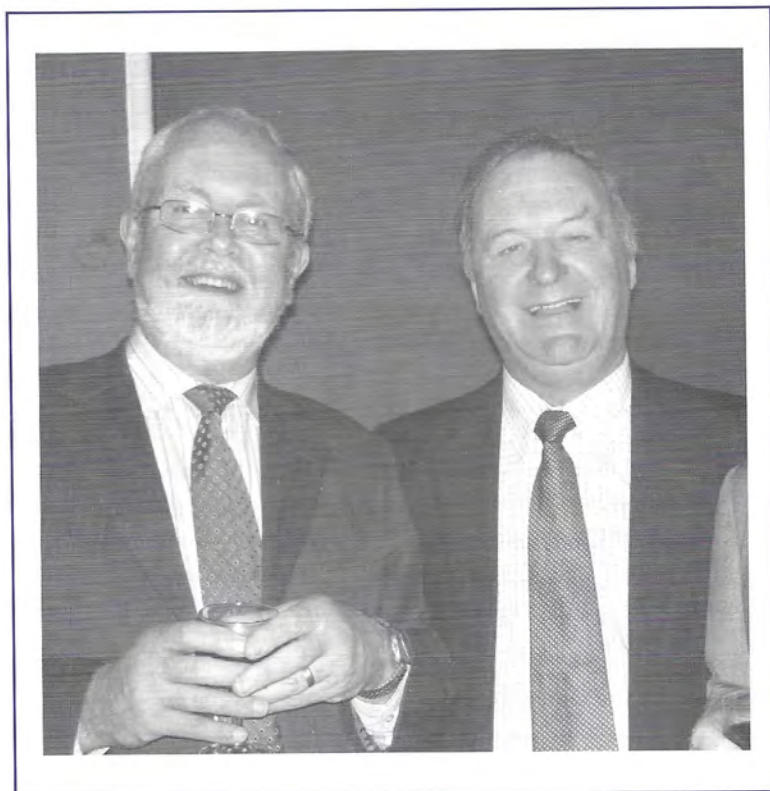
Terry Ashe with Dom Ambrose, Bolton Abbey

A most enjoyable evening was had by all and the unanimous conclusion was that we should arrange to meet again in 5 years time God willing - say September 2011, i.e. 60 years since we entered the hallowed front hall for the first time. Let's look forward to that, D.V.

PFOS



Jim O'Shea



Lewis Clohessy and Owen McEnroe

# Calendar of Union Events 2007/2008

(See Page 6 for contact details for Reunions)

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## South West Branch Annual Dinner Thursday, 24th May 2007, 7.30pm

**Venue:** Officers Mess, Irish Naval Base, Haulbowline, Co. Cork.

Travel to Haulbowline by car or by (*free*) river launch from Cobh (*opportunity to view Cork Harbour.*)  
Civilians rarely get an opportunity to visit the naval base so we are very fortunate to be able to hold the function in this historic location - thanks to CCR Pastman, Commander Richard Ryan.

To confirm your reservation, please contact:

**Gerard O'Meara at (087) 917 084 9.**

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## Pentecost Sunday 27th May 2007

10 a.m. Mass from the Monastery will be televised by RTE and broadcast via Eurovision to 34 million viewers

Also Sunday 27th May - Union AGM - 12.30 p.m.

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## CLASS OF 1997 REUNION – Saturday, June 9th 2007

**Venue:** Wyatt Hotel, Westport

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## MATT HYLAND / NOEL WINDLE GOLF OUTING - Thursday, June 28th

Venue : Milltown Golf Club

Contacts : Dave Hernan (087) 4105446; Fergal Cox (087) 6392678

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## HURLING SUPPORT GROUP GOLF CLASSIC – Friday, July 13th 2007

Venue : Roscrea Golf Club

Contact : Ann Mc Intyre (090) 6457171 or (087) 2688052

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## ABBOT'S CUP GOLF COMPETITION – Saturday, September 29th 2007

Venue : Roscrea Golf Club

Contacts : Time Sheet – Aileen Spillane (0505) 23344

Dinner Bookings – Katherine Donovan (0505) 23237

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## UNION DAY – Sunday, September 30th 2007

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## Class of 1957 Reunion – Union Weekend September 29th – 30th 2007

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## CLASS OF 1987 Reunion – Saturday, October 20th

Venue : Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea

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## KENMARE WEEKEND - November 2nd & 3rd 2007

(See details on page 6)

(N.B. Dress Code for the Gala Dinner on Saturday night is Black Tie)

Contact : The Park Hotel, Kenmare (064) 41200

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## DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER – November 10th 2007 (*venue to be confirmed*)

(N.B. Dress Code for the Dublin Dinner is Black Tie)

Contact : Dave Hernan (087) 4105446, or Fergal Cox (087) 6392678

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## NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH DINNER Friday 16th November 2007

Langans, Manhattan. Contact Alan Mangan: apmangan@gmail.com

## Tales of a Wandering Monk Part 2

Here we continue Fr. Peter's account of his travels in various parts of the world during 2005-2006. In the last Review he told us of his sojourns in Jerusalem and Minnesota; now he takes us through his travels to Australia and the long (punctuated) journey home to his present post as Abbot of Moone.

### AUSTRALIA

Having completed the courses in Minnesota in May I should have been heading back to Ireland, but thanks to the extreme generosity of the parents of the students of CCR and the deft organising skills of Cathy Connolly and Ann Sherry, I was then funded to fulfil a lifelong ambition and travel to Australia to visit Roscrea's daughter house in Tarrawarra. On the way I broke my journey in New Zealand to visit and spend a week at the Cistercian monastery of Kopua in the North Island which was founded from Mt. Melleray, also in 1954. I was met at the airport by past student Fr. Maxime (*Eoin Palmer 1952*) who had gone on the Tarrawarra foundation and was now in the Kopua community. The present abbot, Dom Brian Keogh is also a former monk of Tarrawarra and attended the Centenary celebrations at the College in October 2005. Many were the tales of the College and of staff and students that Eoin Palmer and I exchanged and these in turn were a prelude to those exchanged with the monks in Tarrawarra.

I arrived at Melbourne on May 17 to be met by Abbot David Tomlins and brought to the Abbey. It was a reunion of a lifetime as David and I had been theology students together in Rome during the early 1970s and his warm whimsical hospitality is one of the most cherished memories of the weeks spent there. Likewise to meet and chat to the seven monks who had gone out from Ireland in 1954, at that time convinced that they would never see Ireland again, was an inspiring and at all times entertaining experience.

I met and talked to Fr. Carthage (*Paddy O'Dea 1945*), the senior member of the great O'Dea clan, who is now the only living past student of the College in the community, and who attributed a neck ailment to playing in the kids' leagues back in 1942. I also prayed at the graves of pastmen Fr. Cronan (*Brendan Sherry (1936)*), founding Superior of Tarrawarra, Fr. Finbarr (*Michael Linehan 1932*) and Fr. Robert (*Denis Sheeran 1927*) and had long conversations with Dom Kevin (*Patrick O'Farrell, (1936)* who was Abbot of the Community for 30 years (1958-1988), and who sadly died recently on September 25. He was my novice master in Roscrea and has been one of the great abiding influences in my life, and I consider meeting him again and touching his holiness during what was to prove his final illness as one of the highlights of the whole year.

Three days after I arrived at Tarrawarra the phone call came from Dom Kevin Daly informing me that I had been elected Abbot of Bolton Abbey and during the subsequent weeks, the conversations with Dom Kevin and Dom David, as well as living with the community were providential sources of preparation for the Abbatial ministry ahead. Six of the Irish founding monks are happily living still in Tarrawarra, but now the backbone of the community is the Australian group of monks and in recent years a group of monks from far eastern countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Tonga have joined, and together they form a vibrant, united, warmly hospitable monastic community, a shining light in the Cistercian Order and a living tribute to the monks who went from Roscrea to found the monastery, and to its two abbots, Dom Kevin and Dom David.

While at Tarrawarra I visited Sydney where my nephew John was working as a backpacker – and Sydney lives up to its reputation as the most exciting, cosmopolitan, scenically stunning of cities. I also visited the beautiful cities and countryside around Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne where I was graciously hosted by members of Dom David's family. And a glorious reunion in Melbourne with past students Fr. Andy Fennessy (1952) and my former student Kieran Hanley (1973) again brought home the bonds that link us and the fact that no matter where you go in the world, you will meet Roscrea men proudly upholding their identity as ex CCR students. Australia is a wonderfully open, welcoming society and it is no surprise that it is a Mecca for Irish youth in modern times as it was for our forebears in more difficult times. And the impact that the Irish have made on the country is quite amazing, helped of course by the gradual distancing of the continent from the crown and Britain.

## HOMeward JOURNEY

On July 5 I flew from Melbourne to Beijing on the first stage of my journey home with a heavy heart, but with a tremendous sense of privilege at being able to visit Tarrawarra and Kopua. I had been invited to stop off in Korea by four of those who had been fellow students of mine at the Ecce Homo course in Jerusalem, and spent a most memorable week there immersed in an Eastern culture that is both ancient and tenacious and beautiful. I was led to reflect that in the midst of an explosion of prosperity and inventiveness redolent of our own Irish celtic tiger, Korea has managed to preserve and cherish its native culture, and that in the face of a strong ongoing US military presence since the Korean war in 1953. The vibrancy and strength of the Christian faith was also awesome to see, and one of the abiding memories of that exciting visit was to be present at the ordination of 36 young priests for the diocese of Seoul on July 7, by the Cardinal Archbishop of Seoul, with a congregation of 14,000 from the parishes of the ordinandi, packed into the Olympic Stadium, because no Church could accommodate the crowd. Another highlight was a visit to the



The ordination of 36 young priests at Olympic Stadium, Seoul

house of the Irish Columban Fathers in Seoul, where an honoured place in their annals is reserved for CCR pastmen Fr. Tony Collier (1940), martyred by the communists, and Bishop Tom Quinlan (1914), hero of the Korean death March in 1952. And it seemed to me that the suffering and blood of the martyrs of the communist period, and the thousands of Korean martyrs of the 19th century whose bones I had the privilege of venerating, is the source of the wondrous outpouring of grace and vibrant spiritual life so evident in present day Korea.

So to the final journey to my new community at Bolton and ministry as their Abbot. On the way home I officiated at the wedding of my eldest niece Fiona in Barcelona and

met up with all my family (*including six past students*) and the family of the groom from Belgium. Even there I had the opportunity of a memorable and emotional meeting in Seville with past student Pascual Riesco (1977) and his sisters who also came to school in Ireland. Pascual is professor in the Engineering faculty at Seville University, and is surely one of the most brilliant students ever to grace the academic halls of CCR. The year of travel and study has come to an end and it has been mind blowing in the experiences and opportunities it has opened up for me. It strikes me that travel also has its risks in the sense that the total focus has to be on yourself, making sure that all your travel preparations have been done, and concentrating on getting yourself through all the complicated procedures of packing, airport security, airport connections and accommodation, and sightseeing plans. No doubt travelling alone heightens these risks, though equally it affords great freedom of planning and movement.

Another observation which probably reflects my personality is that while the hundreds of places I have visited made deep impressions on me, it is rather the people I met there and the relationships established that have made the biggest impact and that will remain in my memory the longest. And at the most sacred sites in Israel and the Middle East, it was always the family and the friends at home that I brought first to those places in prayer and intercession.

If I had known this time last year that the Lord had ministry as Abbot in mind for me, I could not have chosen a better preparation than the biblical studies course in Jerusalem, the monastic theology course in Minnesota, and the extended stay in the Tarrawarra community. To the Lord and all who have facilitated that wonderful year, especially those parents who funded my trip to the Antipodes, I am eternally grateful.



Fr. Peter with members of the Tarrawarra community

## On glancing back.....

### - some thoughts on his time in CCR by Manus Moran (CCR 1940-'45)

It was in September 1940 that I first saw the spire of the Abbey church of Mount St Joseph rising above the trees as I approached the Cistercian College from the town of Roscrea – a vision I was to see again and again and which still remains enshrined in my memory some sixty seven years later.

The golden eagles gazed impassively down as I passed through the gates into a new world, very different from the protective and indulgent environment of home where I was important and where my needs and aspirations were free of all competitive elements. I knew then that all this was about to change. I was torn between the wish to return home and the realisation that this was a new and unavoidable phase in my life's journey. I got some gratification from seeing other boys, newly arrived, and obviously fearful and apprehensive of what "going away to school" would hold for them. The fatherly welcome, the warmth and intuitive realisation that here was one who cared and to whom I could resort in time of need, from the President of the College, Father Ailbe, did much to reassure, and I entered into the life of the school resolved to make the best of things.

Little did I realise at that time what a profound effect my days in Roscrea would have on me and on later life and of the enduring friendships I would make.

In 1941, the Second World War was in its early stages, and the whole world was reeling. There were widespread food shortages from which Ireland was not immune. Feeding the boys was a constant worry for the College authorities, particularly in those areas where rationing was involved. The fact that the monks contributed to the college from their own meagre rations and provided essential financial support was, at the time, not fully appreciated by the boys, or, I suspect, their parents, not least because the knowledge was characteristically, not revealed.

Such generosity, however, sows seeds which germinate many years later and have, I am sure borne fruit in many pastmen as they travelled through life and reflected on their days in Roscrea.

Before coming to Roscrea, I had two long periods away from school; the first as a result of a perforated appendix, giving rise to peritonitis, which in those days, in the absence of antibiotics, was a very serious illness. Some months of recuperation followed my rescue from death's door, and subsequently, following an injury to my left foot which required surgery and which left me incapable of walking for some considerable time. So my concerns and anxieties on starting at Roscrea revolved also about my ability to "catch up" with the crowd as I had missed out on much of my basic work so essential to mastering a number of important subjects.

I need not have unduly worried as I found in Roscrea a way of life to which I could adapt – rules there were, the observance of which I did not find difficult. The discipline itself, always, in my experience, sympathetically applied, was a framework within which I felt secure and fulfilled. Individualism was permitted, provided it could be accommodated within the system, exhibitionism never.

The early coming together of like minds and the beginning of friendships all contributed to a feeling of security. Although there was, I suspect, no precisely formulated educational strategy, certainly not as expressed in any declaration of aims and objectives, nevertheless the presence of many priests from the Monastery who taught and exercised disciplinary functions had a very significant leavening effect. The combination of detachment from the world, yet with a fascination for those parts that go to furnish that world, and with their perception of creation as a reflection of the Almighty, cultivated and encouraged a continuing curiosity into the meaning of life and of our Catholic inheritance. In a few well remembered instances this was intertwined with the history of our country and against a background of intense nationalism.

After some weeks I had come to the conclusion that I and opportunity had met. I was encouraged in this belief by the perceived adaptability and flexibility exercised by those in authority and the air of freedom from prejudice and an amiability of manners which prevailed.

This aspect of what I might refer to as higher education, is not given in school as such, is not to be bought in the market place, but is wrought out in each one of us for himself. It is the silent influence of character on character, encouraged and facilitated by the touch of noble natures and dedicated spirits. I think it was Dr Johnson who remarked that "ambition was usually proportionate to capacity" and it was to increasing the boys' capacities over a broad front and drawing them out to their full potential, that the teaching in Roscrea, in the absence of any preconceived stratagem, instinctively turned. A declaration of intent which one sees so frequently displayed in firms, schools and even in church organisations, would, I think have appeared inappropriate and unnecessary as there was an all-pervading and all-embracing order – a set of rules, if you like – which instinctively one knew had to be observed, a way of life which emanated both from the physical presence of the Monastery and more particularly from the interaction with the monks themselves – the ultimate aim of which was never in doubt, expressed as it is in the school's motto, "While your body is on earth, let your mind be in heaven".

The lay teachers, in most instances, like the students, were influenced in the same way, though undoubtedly some were characters in their own right, some even idiosyncratic. One felt secure and valued, not because of any expertise or capability, rather the opposite applied, but as an individual with particular problems and ambitions searching for a way forward, and for that tranquillity of spirit which, for me, seemed eminently attainable there.

To be educated by men of God in such a spiritually rich environment was a wonderful and rare privilege for which I am





eternally grateful. This intrusion, and I use the word in its geological sense, of the monastic tradition into the life of the College must continue in whatever form is possible in present day circumstances, as without it Roscrea would soon become just another boarding school irrespective of how well it might be run and administered.

Various aspects of life in the College stand out in the memory; the masters with whom I identified particularly, their encouragement, their ability to convey the excitement of the use of words, the purple passages remembered, the language of poetry, one's striving to be a Latinist as Fr Placid, the Dean would have it, the religious teaching, the pursuit of mental prayer as developed by Fr Eugene Boylan who "*allured to brighter worlds that led the way*". The passing of the rugby season into the athletics season, with the inevitable highs and lows, the building of the tennis courts, looking with awe at those proficient in handball, and those who could use a hurley with the flair of a conductor and the precise delicacy of a neurosurgeon. The excitement of getting a free day, the long walks led by Fr Joseph into territories previously unexplored, the jelly and blancmange awaiting us on our return and the evening film, a rare treat indeed. The casting and rehearsing for the annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera, the ever present problem of the sudden breaking of voices and the transition overnight of maidens into young men and the unforgettable figure of the Mik-ado from Killaloe". The leaving for and returning from holidays, and the very occasional visit from parents and the joy of being taken out for a meal in the town, the rapidity with which season gave way to season and year to year, and the sober realisation that life in Roscrea had almost run its course.

Perhaps one event stands out particularly, and that is the election to Children of Mary. To be chosen by ballot by one's peers and schoolboys can be very analytical and judgemental, was a compliment indeed, and conferred on me an obligation to be an exponent of all that Roscrea held most dear, an early lesson in the exercise of responsibility and yes, of humility.

A good school must have a dual function, to teach and to think. In any progressive school the changes, of necessity, come slowly – the pace may not be perceived by those most involved, but as the old order changeth, happy are those who change with it, and this, I think, has been the case with Roscrea. A school that does not look beyond the College gates in its selection of staff may get good teachers but rarely good thinkers.

Inevitably the time came for me to leave Roscrea and to take my place in society. I was going to UCD to read Medicine; my family was moving to Dublin and great changes were taking place both in the College and in the country at large. My best friend was entering the Monastery, as I always suspected he would and I rejoiced for him.

As I slowly travelled down the avenue and through the gates into the next phase of life's cycle, I could have sworn that one of the eagles winked ever so slowly as I passed through. Funny the tricks that one's mind can play.

M.F.M.

## More Undelivered Reviews!

The Autumn 2005 issue contained a list of pastmen whose Reviews came back with "*Return to Sender*" on them for various reasons. Since then, many more have been sent back. The sticker attached usually has "gone away", or "no longer at this address" ticked, although in some instances "*insufficient address*" is the reason given.

Below are the names of pastmen whose Reviews have been returned at some stage since Autumn 2005, including some for whom the most recent Review posted in December 2006 was returned undelivered. If anyone can help by either telling them that they need to contact Katherine Donovan (details on page 19) or by simply informing us directly of their precise address it would be greatly appreciated.

*Brian & Glenn Adams, New York; John P. Blake, Thurles; Colm Bowler, Killarney; John Bradley, Naas; Edmund Burke, Port Elizabeth; Thomas Byrne, Stillorgan Wood; Enda Carthy, Galway; Andrew Cole, Turloughmore; Ned Comerford, Surrey; Ambrose Connaire; Brendan & Kenneth Creed, Cloughjordan; Dermot Cunniffe, Tullamore; Ian Curley, Paris; Donagh Curtin, Co. Waterford; Joseph Curtin, Manor Park, London; Liam Dalton, Banagher; Anthony Delahunty, South Croydon; Michael Devaney, Galloping Green; Denis Doorly, Galway; Brian Duggan, Beckenham, Kent; Kevin Dwan, Clongour, Thurles; William Dwan, Coolmore Stud, Fethard; Con Egan, New York; Leslie Faughnan, Blackrock, Dublin; John Fennessy, c/o UNRWA, Vienna; Kenneth Forde, Scarsdale, New York; Frank Gleeson, Switzerland; Conor Hardiman, British Columbia; Jeremy Hennessy, Glenageary; Patrick & Ross Hennessy, Corbally, Thurles; John Hickey, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick; Maurice Kelliher, New York; Fergus & Thomas Kelly, Rosslare; Paul Keoghan Middlesex; Noel T. Kerins, Ballyjamesduff; Colm Kieran, Bellinter, Slane; Mark Ledwidge, Cobh; Fergus Liffey, Shinrone; Jim Lyndon, New Jersey; Sean McCann, Killough, Holycross; William McCann, Bray; Diarmuid McCoy, Adelaide; Michael McDonagh, Gloucestershire; Rev John McEvoy, Monterey, CA; Oliver McGinnitty, Dundalk; Fergal McGovern, Chicago; Michael McGovern, Douglas, IOM; Fintan McMahan, Monkstown, Dublin; Ian McNamara, Richmond, Surrey; Timothy McTiernan, North Bay, Ontario; James Meehan, Waterfall, Co. Cork;*

*Kieran Moran, Sydney; Keith Murphy, Rosslare Harbour; Peter Murray, Seattle; Aidan O'Beirne, Kensington; Jim O'Connor, Sutton; Gearoid O'Flaherty, Canterbury, Kent; Adrian O'Gara, Castleknock; Michael O'Gara, Massachusetts; David O'Kelly, San Francisco; Brian O'Loughlin, Warrenpoint; Anthony O'Meara, Mullingar; Tony O'Rahilly, Ontario; John O'Rourke, Glenageary; Brian Perrott, Geneva; Niall Rafferty, Florida; Albert Reynolds, New York; Garrett Roche, Dublin 8; Martin Skehan, Washington; John Spencer, Portroe, Nenagh; James Walsh, Sutton; Patrick Walsh, Patrickswell; Rev. Frank White, South Africa.*

As I write this, I don't have the database to hand, so it is conceivable that some of the above pastmen may have since contacted the College with details of a change of address, in which case they should receive this and future Reviews.

Pat H.

# Photos from the Class of '86 Reunion



Kerry O'Shea,  
John Cole,  
Stephen Malone,  
Jim Dwyer,  
Pat Murphy,  
M.J. Berry and  
Alan Grimes



Darragh Quinn,  
Paul Hyland and  
Paul Sherry



Brian Duggan and  
Brendan Doogue



Diarmuid  
O'Connor and  
Mick Kennedy



Mike Finlay and  
Mark McCormack



James O'Kelly and  
Mattie O'Brien



Shane McGuckin,  
Paul Hyland,  
John Quinn and  
Alan Johnson

# Photos from the 2006 New York Dinner



John Sherry with  
Con Foley.



Paddy Boland and  
his wife Ann



Peter Kehoe, Des O'Brien, Union President Kieran  
Fitzgerald and Paddy Boland.



Honourary CCR  
pastman Bosco  
Cardozo with Ken  
Forde



Paul  
Murphy  
(centre)  
with his  
wife and  
Alan  
Mangan.

## 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](mailto:mtjoseph@iol.ie) Website : <http://www.cisterciancollege.com>

**WRITE FOR THE REVIEW!** Send us a piece on your experiences, travel etc. We want to hear from you!

## OBITUARIES

**Thomas A. Duffy (CCR 1934-'37)** who was Union President during 1962-'63, died in March 2006. Though born in Limerick, he spent his youth in Sligo. After his time in Roscrea when he spent more time playing soccer than the College's preferred choice of games in those days, he became one of the first pastmen to become a chartered accountant, and spent his early working days in Dublin. Seeing a job advertisement which offered travelling expenses, he and his wife Maureen journeyed to Limerick with no intention of staying - and then proceeded to work for Morgan McMahon Timber Suppliers in Limerick for some years. He then became a partner in the very successful firm Williams, Duffy, Sheahan & Co., later Wallace, Duffy & Co. He attended the early stages of the EBS Building Society where he worked at night, writing up the pass books, getting an insight into the Building Society business, and subsequently built up the Postal Service Permanent Building Society, which he later sold to Anglo Irish Bank. He is survived by his wife Maureen and eight grown up children.

**Felix Cronin (CCR 1963-'68)** from Lorrha passed away in early January 2007. An immensely popular, though quiet and unassuming figure, his untimely death came as a shock to the class of 1968 who were very well represented at his obsequies. Among those attending were former Tánaiste Dick Spring, Centenary Committee Chairman Bill O'Brien, Noel O'Callaghan of O'Callaghan Hotels, Dr.

Frank Thompson, Sean Leyden, Jim Keating, Liam Spooner and Brian Grogan.

**Gordon Lovell, Co. Longford (CCR 1979- '84)** died recently.

**Brendan Mc Hugh, Clonegannan, Dunkerrin (CCR 1975-'80; House Captain 79-'80)** died on Friday, March 9th causing much sadness to all who had the privilege of knowing him. Although he had been in failing health for some time, news of his death was received with much shock. Only in his early 40s, his untimely passing leaves a void in the lives of many people. Brendan's remains were removed to St. Cronan's Church Roscrea and following Requiem Mass he was laid to rest in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery.

Brendan was the youngest of three brothers from Mullingar, who attended the College and sympathy is extended to John (CCR 1973-'78), Eoin (CCR 1974-'79) and his mother Una on their sad loss. Our sympathy and prayers are also offered to Brendan's wife Mary, son Joseph and daughters Megan, Alanna and Lucy. May he rest in peace.

**Enda Nolan (CCR 1972/'77)** from Park, Tinryland, Carlow passed away during Easter 2007.

Our sympathies go to the families of all the above deceased pastmen and to College Principal, Marcelline Cody on the recent death of her father, Jimmy O'Rourke R.I.P.

# • NEWS OF PASTMEN •

Last June, French Cabinet Minister, Dominique Perban, decorated former Minister, **David Andrews (CCR 1950-'54)** with the medal of the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur France's most prestigious national order, at a ceremony in Paris. He described David Andrews as *"not only a great Irishman, but also a Francophile and one of France's most distinguished friends"*.

He went on to say of Mr Andrews who was Foreign Minister at the time that *"without his faith in the future, experience, character, charisma and open mind, the Good Friday Agreement would not have happened"*. Mr Andrews has also served as Ireland's Defence and Marine Minister and as Minister of Justice. He is quite simply, Mr Perben asserted, *"a Statesman"*.

In his "thank you" speech, Mr Andrews said he has *"always held France and its glorious heritage in the highest regard"*. Ireland's republican tradition *"owes its very inspiration to the French revolutionary ideals of liberté, égalité and fraternité"*, he added.

Summarising his own role, Mr Andrews said he has *"been privileged to make some small contribution on some very important matters"*. He was particularly proud of his role in seeking the freedom of Irish Citizens wrongly imprisoned in Britain.

During his two terms as Foreign Minister and now as Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, he said *"I have helped to highlight the terrible consequences of humanitarian crises in such places as Somalia, Darfur and East Timor"*.

Mr Andrews closed the ceremony with a tribute to Charles Haughey and the late Taoiseach's friendship with President Francois Mitterrand.

*"He would have approved of my being presented with this honour"*, Mr Andrews said.

**Edmond Condon (CCR 1968-'73)** recently obtained a PhD in Project Management from the University of Calgary, where he resides with his wife Deb and three sons, Thomas, Niall and Liam. He works for Nexen, a Senior Independent Oil & Gas Company.

**Gavin Duffy (CCR 1994-2000)** who recently returned to the Connacht fold has said he is delighted to be going back to Connacht after several good seasons with Harlequins. *"My first priority will be to secure a place and then start playing regularly and well and hopefully that might lead to getting back into the International set-up"*. We wish him well.

**David Healy (CCR 1981/'86)** a Green Party Councillor, recently made the news with his proposal that Fingal County Council introduce rubber footpaths which save trees, knees and the environment. He proposed the rubber footpaths after reading about their success in Washington DC. Roots can cause concrete to crack but rubber merely bends, he said.

They are also more forgiving on the knees of pedestrians and joggers. The American cities in which rubber is used have reported a reduction in compensation claims.

*"There are fewer cracks, so less chance of tripping and if you do fall, it's a softer landing"*, he said. Nice idea, but will it ever catch on? Your editor is resisting the urge to add all sorts of puns here!

**Ray Hernan (CCR 1979/'82)** is the Financial Director of *"Brown Thomas"*

**Eoin McDonnell (CCR 1998-'93)** who recently was the subject of a detailed article in a national newspaper sent us some details about himself and his work.

He graduated from Coleraine with a BSc. in European Studies and German, worked as National and International Marketing Manager with Potterton Myson, Irl. and travelled the world for the following 6 years. He completed an MBA at UL and after a six month period surfing the waves in Australia and New Zealand, went into the international property market and opened the doors of MD Property International. Eighteen months later Eoin changed direction completely and started into the area of personal development and life coaching, which he says is the most interesting and motivational area of work he has ever encountered. Since 2005 he has been heavily involved with personal, business and youth coaching throughout the country ([www.oaktree.ie](http://www.oaktree.ie)). In 2006 he started a personal development course in Roscrea with TY students which he believes they found beneficial. This has been rolled out to other schools now throughout the country including Clongowes Wood College. In the near future, he will be studying for a diploma in Sports Psychology and moving further into the realms of personal growth. He currently lives in Newbridge, plays Junior Hurling with Moorefield and, in his own words has no known kids or claimants! Yet! He wishes all an enjoyable summer.

Congratulations to **Declan Mc Nulty (CCR 1987-'92)** on his recent engagement to Tanya Flynn from Foxrock, Dublin.

Congratulations also to **Dr. Niall O'Brien (CCR 1992-'97)** who recently announced his engagement to Dr. Gillian Lally.

**John Reynolds (CCR 1976/'81)** is currently living in Hawera, New Zealand with his wife Donna Marie and their seven children. John worked with the Cistercian Monks at the Southern Star Abbey for a few years before purchasing his own farm.

**Peter Reynolds (CCR 1980/'85)** is currently living in Italy with his wife and 3 children.

**Mark Ryan (CCR 1974-'77)** is country managing director for Ireland for Accenture, the world's largest management consultancy company, which employs 1,600 people in Ireland, 600 of whom are engaged in outsourcing for a wide variety of companies.

**John Yurkey (CCR 1957-'62)** is an award winning architect in London, specialising inter alia in affordable housing.