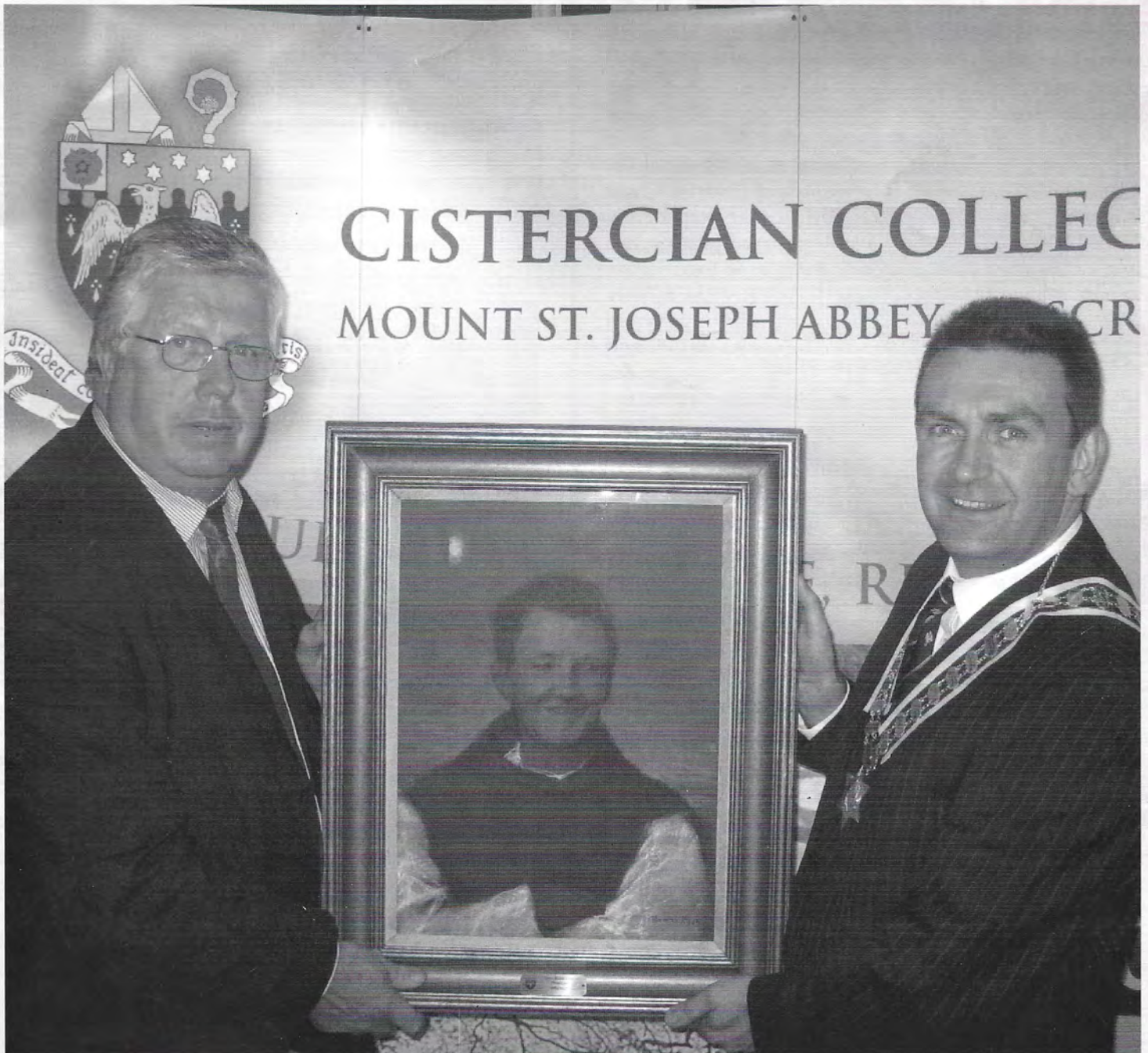




Presentation of Portraits



Union President Ollie Byrne presenting College President Dan Smyth with a portrait of Dom Kevin, one of eleven portraits of College Presidents presented by the Union in September 2007

Editorial

Welcome to this very late issue of the Roscrea Review. Because it comes so late, it actually includes reports and photos of almost all Union events held during 2007 as well as some College and Monastery events. 2007 saw a lot of activity, chronicled in words and pictures. As well as the usual variety of Union Dinners and golf events, the year also saw the imminent retirement of two outstanding pastmen: **Bishop Laurence Forristal of Ossory** and **Fr. Dermot McCarthy**, head of Religious Broadcasting with RTE. The Kilkenny and Dublin Dinners gave the Union an opportunity to honour the achievements of those men.

Also included is a calendar of events for 2008 – with as much detail as is available at the time of going to print. This information is also available on the College website, www.cisterciancollege.com which will be updated as the year goes on.

This past year has seen a record number of reunions of one form or another. The class of 1987 met up in mid-October, while a small number of members of the Class of 1957 met up at the “traditional” time of Union Weekend in mid-September. Their cause was hardly helped by the (*don't mention it!*) Rugby World Cup which is why my own year group will be getting together six months late on 1st March, while next September will see reunions of the classes of 1968, 1983 and 1988 – details of all events elsewhere in this issue. The classes of 1982 and 1992 helped swell the ranks at the Annual Dublin Dinner which was the best attended in years in its new venue the Alexander Hotel.

As the front and centre pages show, the ambitious initiative to supply the College with portraits of all eleven men who have served as President of CCR reached its conclusion last Summer and the portraits were presented to the College by Union President, **Ollie Byrne** on Union Day in September. Great credit is due to **Aidan McNulty** (*whose brainchild it was*), **John Sherry**, **Michael McNamara** and **Kieran Fitzgerald** who did the hard work and to the many pastmen, whose contributions small and large made the presentation possible. The portraits hang on the walls downstairs – apparently quite significant numbers of pastmen have been calling just to see them.

During the past few years, several pastmen have written very interesting articles for the Review. Wherever you are in the world as you read this, perhaps you would consider doing the same – be sure that you would have a world wide readership!

On a personal note, I want to thank most sincerely Union President **Ollie Byrne**, **Abbot Kevin** and the Community, **Dan**, **Marcelline** and all at the College and many pastmen of all generations for the great help and support we received during Bridget's illness last Autumn. It was a tough period for the family, but there was a real sense of

our having very definite visible and invisible support. The great news is that her operation was a success and though still receiving treatment, she resumed her duties in UCD in January. We have arranged that a Mass be said for all who supported us in any way over these months.

Every good wish for 2008 to all involved in the Union, the College and the Monastery!

Pat Hanratty

Message from Union President Ollie Byrne (Class of '86)

It was with great pride that I accepted the invitation to become 48th President of Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union. I extend a sincere thanks to my predecessor Kieran Fitzgerald (*Class of '79*). A tough act to follow, his tenure was characterised by his utmost integrity, his tremendous sense of occasion, his eloquent orations and most of all the genuine hand of friendship he extended to all pastmen and extended Union family during his term of office.



Kieran Fitzgerald hands over the chain of office to new Union President Ollie Byrne at the Union AGM last May.

Honoured as I was having been appointed Union President in May of this year, what followed was no small amount of trepidation as I fully appreciated that which had been bestowed upon me. To head our Union in its 78th year, with over 3,000 members, knowing its illustrious past and the pedigree of those who have gone before me, the hope that one will not ‘drop the ball’ is ever present. However, I look forward to the many engagements that I will attend during my term, to meeting many pastmen and friends, indeed, with such a vibrant Union, the year ahead will likely prove to be so very enjoyable that dropping the ball fades in the background.

It is no cliché to say that our Union is vibrant, to illustrate and give you a flavour of the full extent of activities in '07/'08:

- At least 3 annual golf outings (*Abbott's Cup, Dublin and Midlands branches*)
- 6 annual dinners/functions organised at Branch level
- The annual Kenmare Union Weekend Away at the Park Hotel in early November
- Several class reunions, including the classes of '57, '67, '82, '87, '83, '88, '92 and '97
- The annual Union Weekend / Mass in September (incorporating the Abbott's Cup)
- Participation in the College Careers' Evening
- The Union AGM

That's a substantial number of events and by my reckoning the cumulative attendance/participation is approaching 1,000 people throughout the year. That is significant participation when one considers that we have approximately 3,000 living pastmen and is testament to the values instilled in us all by the College and the Abbey, the cornerstones of our common association. This success of the Union is in no small part due to the sterling input of many pastmen and friends and I encourage all those who have not yet got involved at branch level to do so, particularly our younger pastmen for it is through our youth that we can ensure a sound future. Participation is hugely enjoyable and lasting friendships are made and age has proved no barrier to the friendships Union involvement has made! I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months at one or other of our functions.

I congratulate Michael Coyle (*Class of '68*) on his appointment as President-Elect of our Union. I look forward to working with Michael and the rest of Central Committee as I endeavour to further foster increasing participation in Union activities and to make the Union a meaningful experience for you all. Remember, I am President of YOUR Union and I make myself available to you during my year in office. Just drop me a note to oliverbyrne@vodafone.ie or call me on 087-9734333. I will be delighted to hear from you!

Oliver Byrne
Union President 2007/'08
Class of '86

Ollie Byrne

Ollie Byrne (*CCR 1981 – '86*) lives in Kildare but hails originally from Callan, Co. Kilkenny. His late father, Liam, who hailed from Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary attended CCR between 1930 and 1936. His mother Mary and his wife (also Mary) enjoy attending CCR Union functions, especially the now annual South East Branch Dinner in Kilkenny.

Ollie is the youngest of five brothers who attended Roscrea, Donal, Joe, Liam (*RIP*) and Eddie. He played hurling and rugby in CCR and was a very successful field athlete (*discus and hammer*) He was on the Irish Athletics Team (*Discus*) in 1984 and on the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team in 1987. He was a member of the CCR Student Council in 1986

After leaving school he did a B.Comm. in UCD qualifying in 1989 and later qualified as a management accountant with CIMA. He has worked with Guinness Ireland, IBM Ireland, Mark Anthony Group (*B.C., Canada*), Norton Pharmaceuticals and Mount Juliet Hotel and Country Club, and is currently Financial Controller of Magna Donnelly Ireland.

Ollie played hurling with U.C.D. and John Lockes, Callan and rugby with CYMS, and Bective Rangers.

He married Mary Scott from Portumna, Co. Galway in Sept 2000 and they have a daughter named Caoimhe aged 5. He has been actively involved in Union affairs for over 20 years. He has served as Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman of the Dublin Branch (*at different times!*), and since 2003 has been Joint Honorary Treasurer looking after the finances of the Union.



Cistercian College Roscrea Union: WHAT & WHO IS IT? The President Explains

In an effort to make the Union a more meaningful entity to all, I have promised at recent functions to set out in the Review in very broad terms what our Union is, how it is constituted, what it does and offer some contact names etc. of officers and some members of Central Committee.

continued on next page

Much of what follows is taken from our Union Constitution which can be viewed on the college website www.cisterciancollege.com. A copy of the Constitution will be mailed to you on request, please contact Katherine Donovan on +353-(0)505-23344.

Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union is the association of past students of Cistercian College, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Life Membership of the Union shall be conferred on Past Students of the College and on members (both serving and retired) of the teaching and residential care staff of not less than five years' standing in the College. Others may be conferred with Honorary Membership if proposed in general meeting.

The objectives of the Union shall include the following;

- To promote and maintain camaraderie, goodwill, friendship and fraternal relationships amongst Past Students of Cistercian College, Roscrea and between Past Students and the College, with concern for the welfare, both spiritual and temporal, of all members of the Union;
- To uphold the good name and reputation of the College;
- To promote amongst members of the Union a deeper understanding of Cistercian values;
- To assist, where possible, younger members in preparing for, establishing and developing their chosen careers;
- To communicate with Union members throughout the world by means of the current Roscrea Union publication or periodical and / or Web Site;
- To encourage Union members of all ages and in particular as many young Union members as possible to participate in the affairs of the Union.

The business of the Union shall be managed and controlled in accordance with this Constitution by the Central Committee. The Central Committee is made up as follows:

- The President of the Union, who shall be Chairman,
- The President - Elect,
- The Chairman, and one other member, of each Union Branch,
- The President of the College,
- The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the College,
- The Pastor of the College,
- The General Secretary of the Union,
- The Honorary Life Vice Presidents of the Union,
- The Editor of the current Union publication or periodical,
- The General Treasurers,
- The Past Presidents of the Union;
- The House Captain of the preceding academic year;
- Not more than six elected members

Broadly speaking the Union is organised on a Branch basis. On the table of contacts below you can see the branches thus far recognised by the Central Committee and also a contact name and number for each branch.

Selected events/functions that are organised by the Union/Branches each year are:

1. Golf:

Abbot's Cup Golf competition on Union Weekend in Roscrea

Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy and Windle Cup: Dublin Branch function

Midlands Branch golf outing in Tullamore

Union Weekend Away: golf in Kenmare at 'The Park Hotel'

2. Dinners/Functions:

Dublin Branch x 2:

following Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy and Windle Cup golf

Annual Stag Dinner

Midlands Branch in Tullamore following golf

Galway Branch dinner

North American Branch dinner – usually New York (sometimes San Francisco)

UK Branch dinner in London on the eve of the England/Ireland 6 Nations rugby game

South Western/Cork Branch dinner

South East Branch dinner

Union Weekend Away and Gala Dinner in Park Hotel, Kenmare

3. Class Reunions:

There are multiple class reunions organised each year, usually milestones such as 10, 15, 20, 25, up to 50 years out and more.

These can be organised in conjunction with any of the dinners/functions/golf mentioned above or can often be organised as separate dinners/functions of their own but are encouraged to take place on Union Weekend in conjunction with the Abbot's Cup in Roscrea.

4. Union Weekend in Roscrea

Incorporating the Abbot's Cup golf competition

Union Mass in the Abbey

Past vs. Present hurling and rugby matches

5. Other

College Careers Evening

Union AGM (usually in May – watch out for date in the Spring edition of the Review)

Each branch of the Union has its own committee/team that organise events at 'grass roots'. We encourage as many as possible to get involved: *'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few'*. If you would like to consider offering some of your time or organizational skills then please make contact with someone on the list on page 5. Perhaps you have some ideas that you think the Union should consider, e.g. something in furtherance of our objectives above!

Hopefully this article will give you a flavour of what and who our Union is. If it doesn't then give me a call!

Ollie Byrne

Union President

Class of '86

Some members of Central Committee – a full list is available on the College website:

Name	Role/Branch	Telephone
Ollie Byrne (1986)	Union President	087 9734333
Michael Coyle (1968)	President-Elect	087 2559509
Paul O'Shea (1987)	Treasurer	087 2357818
Joe Connolly (2007)	Immediate Past House Captain	087 6666147
Katherine Donovan	Union Administration	0505 23344
Fergal Cox (1992)	Dublin Branch	01 6701644
John Sherry (1965)	Galway / Mayo / Sligo Branch	091-525960
Michael Sherry (1969)	Limerick / Clare Branch	061 454376
Frank Thompson (1968)	Midlands Branch	057 9321710
Des O'Brien (1977)	North American Branch	— 1 – 212-8695482
Liam Spooner (1968)	North Tipperary Branch	087 2444437
Rob O'Shea (1989)	South East Branch	086 8389528
Frank O'Meara (1967)	South Tipperary Branch	052 33204
Gerard O'Meara (1969)	South Western Branch	087 9170849
Fergal Keane (1972)	UK Branch	+44 181 7651671

Dublin Branch Matt Hyland / Noel Windle Golf

28th June 2007

The 2007 Dublin Branch golf outing returned to Milltown on Thursday 28th June. It was a most enjoyable day, despite the unpredictable weather. The result of the Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy competition was anything but unpredictable, with Matt's daughter, Lean Hyland, presenting Maurice Phelan with the trophy for the second time in three years. I had the honour of playing alongside Maurice during the competition and his golf was a joy to behold, in stark contrast to my own game! Yvonne Malone won the Noel Windle Cup with 41 points, the score of the day, and Christina Windle was on hand to present the cup to a delighted Yvonne. The Comans dominated the team prizes with Pat, Geoff and Tom all figuring among the winners. All that was left to do was enjoy the dinner and retire to the bar for some after dinner beverages, which we did in style.

I would like to thank our sponsors once again, without whom this event could not take place. The 2008 Golf Outing will take place in Milltown Golf Club on Thursday 26th June. All are welcome.

Fergal Cox.

Results:

THE MATT HYLAND PERPETUAL CUP

Winner	Maurice Phelan	39 points
2nd	Ken Naughton	38 points
3rd	Geoff Coman	37 points

Guest prize

Winner	Tom Collins	39 points
--------	-------------	-----------

THE NOEL WINDLE CUP

Winner	Yvonne Malone	41 points
2nd	Helen Comerford	34 points
3rd	Joan Murphy	33 points

Team Prizes:

1st	Pat Coman	Barry Finlay	Geoff Coman
2nd	Tom Coman	Paul Shanahan	Donagh Cronin

Best Front Nine	Jennifer Coyle	20 points
Best Back Nine	Eoin Deering	18 points

LIST OF SPONSORS:

Aidan McNulty & Co.
 Anker's Bower Property Development
 Comans' Wholesale
 Cox's Pharmacy
 Dromod Golf & Country Club
 Foresthill Financial Planning
 Goodbody Stockbrokers
 Gowan Group
 Graph Print
 Michael McNulty & Son
 MMI Moneybrokers
 Multi Pharma.
 Netspeed
 Nico's Restaurant
 O'Callaghan Hotels
 Paddywagon Tours
 Peaksbody
 Shannon Developments
 Snap Print
 Telekurs Financial
 Terra Lift Ireland
 Two anonymous sponsors

Dublin Dinner

November 10th 2007

We thought the Wasps v Munster match last November was an epic encounter – that was until the January 2008 fixture which dramatically ensured Munster's unbroken tradition of qualifying for the Quarter Finals remained intact. Anyway, those who arrived early for the Dublin Dinner in its new venue, Noel O'Callaghan's Alexander Hotel, had the opportunity of savouring the exciting second half, neatly timed to finish a short while before the dinner was due to start. Those who arrived late for the dinner had probably been watching it in some other watering hole, while he who was very late and missed his dinner was actually in the RTE studio recording with Popey and McGurk. More about George Hook anon.

As the photos show, the attendance at the dinner included guys who were not long out of school, the settled, the ageing and the positively venerable. Every decade if not every year from the thirties on was represented. The Dublin Branch Committee under the excellent guidance of Chairman Fergal Cox did a huge job encouraging / persuading pastmen to come. and what a night we all had. Besides, the Classes of 1982 and 1992 used the occasion as an opportunity for reunions of sorts.

After a fine meal, the speeches and presentations began. MC for the evening was last year's Union President Kieran Fitzgerald who as ever performed his duties with the aplomb and wit we associate with him. Ollie Byrne gave us all to realise just how much he is enjoying his year as President in a *comprehensive* speech where he outlined the many Union events in the calendar and encouraged pastmen to get more involved.

It was indeed fitting that the retirement of Fr. Dermod McCarthy as Head of Religious Broadcasting in RTE, a legend in every sense of the word be marked with a presentation by the Union. Fr. Dermod then spoke warmly of his days in CCR, how he always enjoyed going back to Roscrea to his many friends there and of his career in broadcasting – the joys, the challenges, the occasional controversies but the immense satisfaction and sense of achievement.

Dan Smyth spoke next, as ever highlighting the good news stories emanating from the college, including the amazing academic results mentioned elsewhere in this Review. Finally, as the midnight hour approached, George Hook got up to speak and suffice to say captivated us for half an hour – no mean achievement that late at night, especially when he had to deal with such matters as the then open wound of Ireland's poor World Cup, his conviction that Roscrea were going nowhere, that a certain International Rugby Manager should be sacked and more. Then again, George was never afraid to court controversy. George also spoke about his youthful days, his career difficulties and of becoming an overnight success in his mid-50s when such exalted luminaries of punditry as Mick Quinn and Tony Ward were unavailable. Arriving for work very early on the morning of the match and then having to talk for a couple of hours on camera was the sort of experience that would come in handy speaking to and answering questions from knowledgeable, if well tanked up Roscrea men, who, naturally think they know their Rugby! All in all a most enjoyable speech – we could have listened to him for hours, but he did that very sensible thing that people are advised to do - *quit when you are ahead, or just before the crowd decide to throw things at you!*

Here's to the 2008 Dublin Dinner – it will be hard to top this year's event, but we know the new Dublin Chairman David Hernan (CCR 1983-'88) who will try!

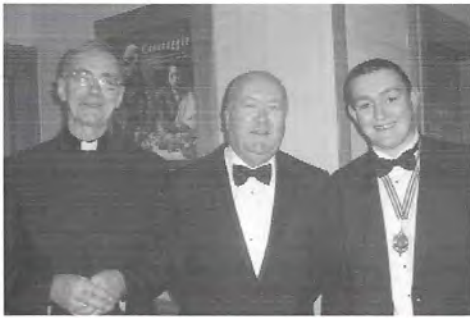


*Class of 1992 with their favourite English teacher: Back row: Declan McNulty, Mark McGrane, Edgar Byrne, John Ryan, Michael Pettit, Mark O'Byrne, Eoin McGinnity, John Monaghan, Barry McCormack, Geoff Barry, Shane McInerney, Gerry Maher
Front row: Michael Brannigan, Ronnie Kiernan, Brian Hogan, Fergal Cox, David Ryan, James Lee.*



Fr. Dermod tells us what it was really like working for RTE!

Dublin Dinner photo gallery



Dom Peter Garvey, Conor Brady and Fergal Cox



Conor O'Hara and Pat O'Shea



John F. Walsh and Pdraig Mulcahy



Tommy Ambrose and Barney Sherry



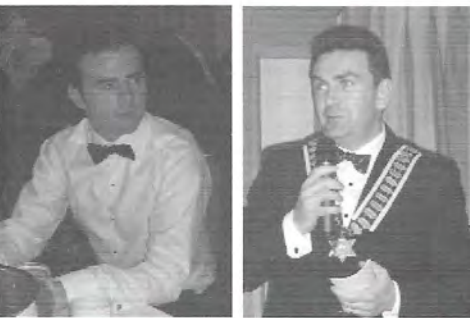
Kerry Kehoe and Kevin McNiff



Andrew Sherry, Brian Kirwan and Damien Coffey (Class of 2006.)



Dom Kevin Daly and Fr. Dermot McCarthy



Gordon Ross listens while Union President Ollie Byrne addresses the troops



Johnny Dolan, Gerry O'Meara, Michael McNamara and Liam Spooner



Katherine Donovan and Simon Coyle



Kieran Fitzgerald watches as Fergal Cox makes a presentation to Fr. Dermot



George Hook telling us all how he really wished Roscrea had played in Munster and given CBC a hammering!



Gerry Moloney and Tim Lane



Judge Vivian Lavan and Kerry Kehoe



John Brady and Joseph Hogan.



Conor Lynch, Tom Keenan and Alan McIntyre (Class of 2006.)



David Moore, Niall Miller and Conor Phelan (Class of 2006.)



Some of Leitrim's Best and Brightest! Brian McManus, Liam Nicholl, Fr. Dermot McCarthy, Mel McCarthy, John McManus and Fergal Cox.

The Return of the Rustic Boy

By Michael Creagh (CCR 1971/'76)

On 28th May last, Michael Creagh, from Rathdowney launched his second book of poetry *"The Return of the Rustic Boy"*. This is a book of 40 self-penned poems, some touching on life in and around his native town of Rathdowney and some more general such as the one about a man Michael greatly admires, John Hume. The launch took place in the serene setting of Rathdowney Library. About 200 people including Michael's family and friends attended. Michael's sisters and cousin opened the evening with some lovely close harmony singing. Michael himself then read about 10 of his new poems. The girls then rounded off the evening with a few more songs including one written by Rathdowney native Danny Haverty entitled *"Lovely Rathdowney"*.

Michael now gets requests to read his poetry in all sorts of places including schools, libraries, festivals, etc. One happy reader who bought a copy of his first publication informed him afterwards *"Mick your book is very good, I keep it in the toilet!"*

If you wish to contact Michael to purchase either of his books or book him to do a reading, you can contact him at 087-9407573 or at his email address: merrymick@eircom.net

Here is a little taste of Michael's poetry. This is a poem from his 2nd book. It is a poem entitled *"My Rhymes"*.

My Rhymes

*Sometimes the rhymes I like to write,
they might say very little,
just a way to mark a day,
fluffy, light, and brittle.
They never may change history's course,
nor change a single mind,
they're the gift for when I'm gone,
the gift I'll leave behind.
But if they give a little lift, to just a single soul,
to me you see that seems to make them weigh the weight of*



Dom Kevin Daly and Dan Smyth admiring CCR Art teacher, Chris O'Donohue's excellent "aerial" painting of the College and its surroundings.

OUT OF (IRELAND INTO) AFRICA

The idea to write this note came after a chance encounter with a fellow volunteer, and fellow CCR pastman, Paul Brett. We were on a plane to South Africa to build houses within a township or 'shantytown'. Our 1,375 fellow volunteers shared many of the same reasons for their mission. At every encounter, where possible, I asked my co-workers 'why did you come?' I wanted that answer, the many witness statements, to bolster my understanding of why I was there - my faith.

The facts were simple. We had to build 200 houses in six and a half days to house approximately 1,500 people, selected by the local township council.

The location, Freedom Park, Mitchel's Plain, was about 40 km from the centre of Cape Town. Similar projects had been taken on over the previous number of years in Cape Town by the Niall Mellon Township Trust - our banner also.

A few days later I was 'cornered' on the building site by a Canadian radio reporter. Suddenly the tables were turned as questions were fired at me. 'Why are the Irish coming to South Africa to build houses?' 'Why have 14 other nationalities joined this crew of Irishmen, under the same banner?' 'What will the new houses mean to the occupants?' 'Do you feel proud of what you are doing?' The last question threw me and I did not answer it directly but did admit in my ultimate sentence that for me it turned to being a bit of a spiritual experience. I had felt the hairs on the back of my neck stand up as, led by a bagpiper, a fellow volunteer, we all marched into the building site to the tune of *Amhran na BhFiann* on the first day. By the end of the week, if I was asked a question on how I felt, I would have answered, ...humbled, ... blessed, ... privileged, ... exhausted.

All volunteers had to raise money, so many more were involved in the project. Indeed the '32 county' volunteer representation reminded me of the Roscrea ethos. Skill sets were appropriate for the building industry; block layers, plasterers, scaffolders, carpenters, roofers, electricians, plumbers. There were of course the unskilled also. Each contribution was invaluable to the construction of each housing unit. There were no lines of demarcation, only mutual affirmation and goodwill. Tools, equipment and materials were freely shared among the workers. I re-learned how important it was to ask for help and to offer help in the environment in which I was placed. Acceptance of others and oneself was also absolutely necessary. There was no room for egos or selective cliques or 'friendships'. The co-operation and diligence in work was driven by zeal to meet the targets for the common good.

Earlier volunteers, spanning 5 year vintage to the current year rookies, were offered the chance to visit the adjoining 'shack' residents, some of whom would be allocated the new houses being built. 'Clay and wattle' is not a bad description of the shacks. The materials range from scraps of timber, iron sheeting, brick, plastic, and motor tyres to keep the roof in place. There is little privacy internally or externally, at least through our eyes. On our trip around, we found digni-

ty, courage and of course, gratitude for the volunteer work. We saw a woman weep as she answered our question 'What does the new house mean to you?' Another told us that the humble materials, her shack, were being folded up and passed on to the less fortunate. Of course crime, AIDS, drugs and all kinds of abuse are rife in these townships too to add to the collective misery.

Previous volunteers not only worked at building houses but also provided support to an orphanage, sponsorship of children's education and indeed built an extension to a school and fitted it out with computers. (This was built by the volunteers after their full days work, each evening).

Our visit to the school, 900 pupil strong, was also inspiring. Many volunteers brought gifts including their local county's football or hurling 'strip'. We heard from the school principal how 70% of the parents do not pay the €15 per annum education fee per child.

I was still interested in why volunteers came to work in this project. Many said they were inspired by the witness of others who had gone before them. Others felt that they 'wanted to give something back.' There was a span of about 60 years between the oldest and the youngest and one family was represented by three generations. For all volunteers the motivation seemed to have a common ground. The Mass of 'All Saints' was celebrated in the building site on Sunday morning.



Paddy Cunnene and friends.

The work was gruelling. Nobody shirked, giving his or her, utmost. Well planned organisation and individual and team effort brought the achievement of 203 completed housing units at the end of the week. The hand-over to the local township council on Friday afternoon was an emotional occasion. It was held at the Garden of Hope, a specially constructed and designed

area for the children to play and for the community at large to meet. Here one was struck by a female dominated township council, articulate, strong, and yet reflecting the great emotion of the day. As they spoke families were waiting to move in. The great symmetry was that each volunteer, 1,375 strong, had contributed to housing about 1,500 persons.

A community hall, adjoining the Garden of Hope, had a 'caman' and 'sliotar' fixed to the wall and under the banner of 'Teach Oisín' it was natural that these symbols of friendship, not colonialism, would be there including the shamrock tastefully painted on some of the walls.

Soon we were marching out of the site, once more to the tune of the bagpipe. As always, the exit road was lined with young and old Africans. Each day there was always plenty of food to distribute from generous lunch boxes provided by the hotel. Today was also the final day to bring out the 'extras'. For some this meant footballs, clothes or even the 'hard hats' or 'tools of the trade'. For others it was hand to hand, eye to eye, word to word that expressed the mutual gratitude. My son, who worked alongside me for the week, expressed his thanks by giving away his working boots and walking to the transport area in his stocking feet.

The memories will always be there. Strong men and women at work in genuine friendship coupled with the dignity, hope and gratitude of the township people, including the school children, will always remain with me. Most volunteers had a final question for one another, 'Will you be back next year?'

P Ó Coinín (CCR 1958-'63)

Abbot's Cup 2007

Report & photos

September 2007 was a great month for Kerry and Kilkenny, so maybe it was fitting that the Abbot's Cup, and the Union President's Prize were won by Alan Landers, (CCR 1985-'89) from Killarney, with Kilkenny man Liam O'Shea (CCR 1980-'85) very close behind. Alan had been threatening to win for some years and was very happy to make off with the coveted trophy with a score of 36 points, just ahead of Liam who came second and won the CCR President's prize. Frank Thompson, (CCR 1963-'68) a Laois man in exile in Tullamore came third with 34 points.

Scoring by the ladies was equally good, with Jacinta Joyce on 36 points and Marcelline Cody just a point behind.

This year's event will again be held on the last Saturday of September. Please make a date in your diary, and make an early booking with Katherine Donovan (Details on page 17). Roscrea Golf Course is at its loveliest in early Autumn and always presents a most enjoyable challenge.



All smiles as Alan Landers holds the Abbot's Cup alongside Dom Kevin and Ollie Byrne.



Runner up Liam O'Shea with Ollie Byrne, College Principal Marcelline Cody and College President Dan Smyth.



From the mid 60s - Gerry Curran, Jim Keating, Donal Hogan and Aidan McNulty at the Abbot's Cup Dinner.

Top Notch Grades at Cistercian College Roscrea - Junior Cert student achieves highest result in the country

Last year's Leaving Cert and Junior Cert results saw CCR retain its high standard in academic excellence with over 17% of boys achieving 500 points or in the Leaving Certificate examination. Those results speak for themselves, but in some ways more outstanding was the achievement of Michael McCrohan from Mountmellick in obtaining the highest Junior Cert 2007 results in the country. Michael achieved 13 As in higher-level subjects, which included taking the optional subjects of Music and Art. The majority of students at CCR who sat the Junior Certificate exams this year in a broad range of subjects at higher level, achieved excellent results. Students with special learning needs have also been well rewarded, achieving top class results in the Junior Cert Exam. The achievement of outstanding marks in such a broad range of Junior Certificate subjects, demonstrates CCR's commitment to academic teaching across all disciplines, excelling in science, business and the humanities. The College Principal, Ms Marcelline Cody, congratulated Michael on his outstanding achievement. Acknowledging all the staff, she thanked them for their continued dedication and commitment to the students at Cistercian College Roscrea.



Abbot Kevin along with Marcelline Cody and Dan Smyth congratulate Michael McCrohan on his sensational results in last year's Junior Certificate examination.

Commenting on the results, Mr Dan Smyth, President of the College said, 'We are very proud of this year's Junior Cert class. There is no doubt that the Junior Cert Exam requires hard work and dedication. It is a difficult test on mental strength and for many students it is their first experience of real pressure. Michael's result is one of a number of high achieving results, with which we are thrilled. Michael is an exceptional student, and benefited from the well rounded education, which is part and parcel of CCR life. In addition to playing Rugby, he upholds the College's long and proud tradition of public speaking and is a talented and mastered musician, playing the piano and violin and is a member of both traditional ensembles and youth orchestras. He has participated in the World Fleadh and is a recipient of numerous Fleadh na hEireann awards. Michael really embodies what CCR stands for in the development of the person in every part of life. CCR's top results reflect the benefits of a strong traditional boarding school model.

The College strives to be an educator of students from every academic background, meeting them where they are at, and assisting them to reach their full potential. This constitutes a structured study routine, even at weekends, with continuous support and guidance from the staff. A commitment to a holistic and well-balanced education forms the core of the College's ethos, evidenced in the state of the art facilities for sports enthusiasts and a full programme of cultural and extra-curricular activities, such as drama, music, debating and public speaking in order to give each and every student plenty of scope for fulfilment and personal development.'

We salute the Junior and Leaving Cert Classes of 2007!

'EUROVISION MASS' at Mt. St Joseph Abbey

Pentecost Sunday 27th May 2007 saw Mass from Mount St. Joseph Abbey beamed across several European countries via Eurovision. The event came about through the good offices of Fr. Dermot McCarthy (CCR 1954-'59), Head of Religious Broadcasting at RTE, then on the cusp of retirement.

The usual monastic choir was augmented for the occasion by students from the College and by choirs from the locality, all under the able guidance of Fr. Richard Purcell.

A good number of pastmen attended the Mass which was both a most uplifting and moving occasion spiritually and a huge success technically. Once more, Fr. Dermot put Roscrea on the map!



Above: The invited musicians and choirs.



At guest house – after the Mass:

*BACK ROW : John Devane, Matthew O'Connor, Sean Burns, Neil Collins, Noel Heavey & Kieran Fitzgerald
FRONT ROW : Peter Ormond, Fr Dermot Mc Carthy, Aonghus Cody, Brian Corven, Dom Kevin Daly, John Hanamy & Dom Colmcille O'Toole.*



Dom Kevin and the other concelebrants during the Mass.



Outside Broadcast units outside the Monastery Church.



Relaxing after the work was done: Fr. Dermot McCarthy, Niamh Savage, broadcast coordinator RTE, Valerie Kennedy, assistant producer RTE, Wilfred Kemp, Dutch language commentator and Michel Demierre, French language commentator.



Minister Cowen explains how he and his colleagues pulled off yet another election victory three days earlier.

Portrait Presentations

The Union has many very committed pastmen but few more so than Aidan McNulty (CCR 1960-'65). Countless times he has made the journey from Portmarnock to CCR for events of all kinds. Central Committee meetings usually include lunch in the "ref." and over the years an idea germinated in Aidan's mind as he looked at the giant portrait of Fr. Ailbhe, the iconic long serving CCR President who was in charge from 1916 to 1949.

Aidan, who had overseen the commissioning of portraits by Thomas Ryan RHA of Abbots Colmcille and Laurence, wondered if the Union could rise to presenting portraits of all eleven College Presidents from Dom Justin McCarthy to Mr. Dan Smyth. He discussed it with some fellow pastmen, then brought it to Central Committee which formed a Sub Committee of four – Aidan himself, John Sherry, Michael McNamara and

Kieran Fitzgerald to raise the funds. To their credit and due to the generosity of pastmen they achieved this objective in little more than a year and the portraits were painted last summer. Come to the College and see for yourself, though photos of four of them are included in this Review.

The portraits were presented by Union President to College President, Dan Smyth at a ceremony in the College on 30th September last. They now hang on the walls of the downstairs corridors in the College as an enduring reminder of the men who guided (and in Dan's case continues to guide) CCR students through the all-important years of secondary education, and a visible reminder of the Cistercian ethos which has imbued and continues to imbue the College.

Accepting the portraits, Dan paid tribute to the work of Thomas Ryan and to all who made it possible for us to have eleven portraits to grace the hall of CCR. Future generations as yet unborn of CCR students will applaud and appreciate the foresight of Aidan McNulty, the dedicated work of the committee and the generosity of those who contributed to the project.

Images from the presentation of portraits of all eleven CCR Presidents on 30th September 2007.



Fr. Patrick



Fr. Declan



Fr. Peter



Pictured after the presentation of portraits are the last four College Presidents: Dan Smyth, Dom Peter Garvey, Patrick Cronin and Dom Kevin Daly.



Union President Ollie Byrne with Dan Smyth and Marcelline Cody.



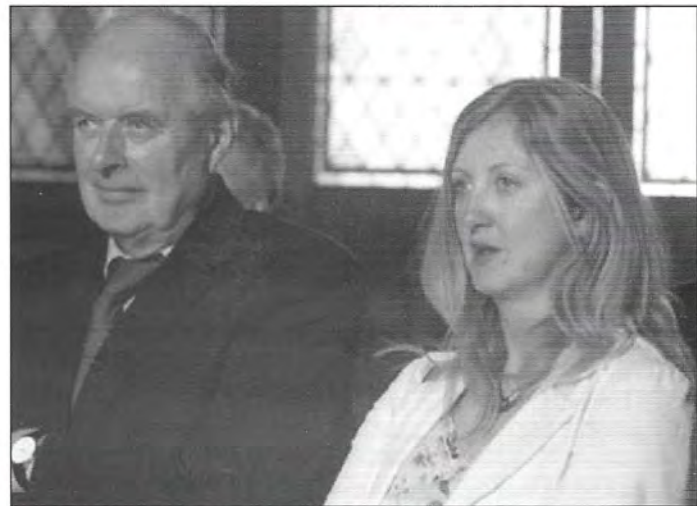
Colin McCormick, Senior Housemaster.



Seamus Hennessy, Junior Dean addressing the gathering.



From left: Robbie Ennis (House Captain), Michael Coyle (Incoming Union President), Jonathon Cody (Student Council), Marcelline Cody (College Principal), Liam Hyland (2nd House Captain), Laura Kelly (Board of Governors) and Chris Ferriter (3rd House Captain).



Peter McCarthy (CCR 1950-'55) with College Development Officer Katherine Donovan.



Michael McNamara (CCR 1965-'70) with Christina Windle



Artist Thomas Ryan making a point with humour.



Dom Laurence and John F. Walsh.



Artist Thomas Ryan in conversation with Aidan McNulty..

South West Branch Dinner 24th May 2007

Last year's South West Branch dinner was held in the Officers' Mess in the Haulbowline Naval Base. It was an ideal venue to follow on from the Centenary Dinner, which was held in Ballymaloe House. It is not normally a venue for such occasions but seeing as CCR pastman, Commander Richard Ryan is based in Haulbowline, it was an opportunity to be seized.

The historical Haulbowline base is inextricably linked with Cobh across the River Lee. Many of the staff live in Cobh and there are ferries travelling back and forth all through the day. Indeed, some of our Dublin guests Kieran Fitzgerald, Aidan and Teresa McNulty were able to use public transport all the way to Haulbowline – Train from Dublin to Cork, Suburban Train to Cobh, drop the luggage off at the nearby Commodore Hotel and walk down to the quay to take the ferry to Haulbowline. Pat and Margaret O'Shea of Kilkenny joined the East Cork pastmen in travelling from Cobh. Like all other first time users of the ferry, they were very taken by the panoramic views of the harbour.

Before the dinner, the gathering was addressed by Union President Kieran Fitzgerald, College Principal Marcelline Cody and South West Branch Chairman Gerry O'Meara. Gerry told us lots of fascinating information on Cobh and its chequered part in Irish history.

"The proper name for Cobh is Great Island, Cobh, (as distinct from Little Island). Great Island, Cobh, is accessed by Belvelly Bridge. Having worked there for many years, I am aware of how conscious Cobh people are of their Island status – somebody whose Grandfather came "over the Bridge" still has to fight for his citizenship rights. I found it hard, however, to reconcile this with the surnames of some of my Cobh colleagues – Staviarnos, Leonardi, Rasmussen, Wolki, Schulte, Aga and Jago not to mention the distinguished Alcock and French families

The older generation were more familiar with the name, Queenstown. I remember asking my grandmother about any memories passed down about the impact of the famine in Tipperary. She said that most people managed to get by. However, they were often asked to give shelter to people from Connaught walking to Queenstown.

Cobh is also the location of "The Holy Ground" as per the song "We'll see again the girls we love and the Holy Ground once more". Seeing as the song is to do with sailors getting some well-earned diversion after a long period at sea, this may very well be a misnomer.

Apart from being the departure point for so many of our forefathers, Cobh has other claims to shipping lore. The last port of call for the Titanic (sank 14th April 1912) on its maiden voyage was Cobh. Some passengers got a tender from Cobh out to the ship. A fortunate few, disembarked at Cobh. These included Fr. Frank Browne S.J. who took the last surviving photographs of the Titanic.

Ten years later, after the Beal na Mbláth ambush Michael Collins' remains were transported to Cork. The remains were embalmed in the Shanakiel Hospital. Because of the general unrest throughout the country his remains were taken by ship to Dublin. When the ship passed by the then British Naval Base in Haulbowline the British Admiralty lined all their ships astern. The crewmen appropriately attired in very sombre uniforms stood to attention on deck. The ship proceeded down the Harbour to the strains of the Last Post played by the British Navy – they obviously appreciated a good soldier."

After Gerry's background history lesson, only half of which is included here, the pastmen and their guests adjourned to a delightfully exotic meal served up by Commander Ryan's staff. As well as the usual meat and fish the extensive menu included goose, duck and ostrich – not an everyday eating experience.

The evening ended with a presentation of bouquets to our honoured lady guests, Ms. Phil Smyth, Ms. Marcelline Cody, Ms Kay O'Meara and Ms. Commander Liz Ryan (nee Alcock) of Cobh.

The good news is that we can avail of the same venue for our 2008 Dinner which will be held on Thursday, 22nd May.



Cuimin Doyle, Tom O'Callaghan and Sean Walsh.



Fresh from their ferry crossing from Cobh are: Back Row: Theresa McNulty, Donal Cantwell, Dan Smyth, John Kenny, Richie Ryan, Kieran Fitzgerald, Margaret O'Shea, Pat O'Shea, Gerard Ryan, Katherine Donovan, Liz Kenny, Phil Smyth, Aidan McNulty, Sean Walsh, Liz Ryan, Tom O'Callaghan and Michael McNamara. Front Row: Mary O'Callaghan, Marie Walsh, Bridget Hanratty, Pat Hanratty, Sheila Ryan and Marcelline Cody.

A CCR man in East Anglia on how to get hooked into the crazy world of marathon running.

Donal Farrell (CCR 2000-'05)

The summer of 2005, when I left CCR after my 5 year sentence, doesn't seem that long ago, but a lot has happened since. I decided to set sail from the coast of Ireland (well with a low-fares airline) and attend university in Norwich, at the University Of East Anglia (UEA). I thought it was for bigger & better things, but one week in I was brought back to reality on meeting not one, but two past students of CCR and numerous other 'adventurous' Irish students who had chosen UEA as the 'place to be' – for whatever reason, be it to get as far away as possible from whoever or whatever back home, but mainly (I think) for their chosen course.

I settled into the hustle & bustle of university life as quickly and as smoothly as can be expected from a graduate of CCR – cooking your own meals, washing your own clothes, cleaning your own room, lying in at the weekends, eating whenever hungry & generally making independent choices which were soon up to par with the rest of the student population. All joking aside, however, my time in CCR certainly served to make the transition from home-life to life as a student in the UK easier not only for me, but I would guess for my family too.

On the university course front, it will suffice for me to say that I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge of a modern medical degree and am very glad that I decided to 'cross the water' in the few months after leaving CCR – despite the fact that much less contact has been kept up with the lads from CCR as I would like (but I'm told from 'wise' folk that that's just how life goes).

Sporting wise, without my local GAA club, I soon joined the medics' soccer & basketball clubs and continued to swim and play tennis and badminton. But it was during a

short 15 minute run prior to a 'friendly' Sunday League soccer game during my 2nd year that I challenged myself to a marathon (for no particular reason only that I thought it would feel great to finish one. Besides, I couldn't bear the notion that I 'wouldn't be able' to complete such an event – an idea that keeps many from achieving anything worthwhile at all).



So following 12 weeks of marathon training – which test one mentally more than physically in my view – I was on my way to Edinburgh for the 26.2 mile race. The training, the fundraising (for Médecins Sans Frontières or Doctors Without Borders) and the words of encouragement (plus upbeat tunes on the MP3 player) ensured that I would not only finish the marathon (in just over 3 hours 35 minutes), but would really enjoy the whole event – the adrenalin rush on completion wipes out all memory of the wet, cold & long training runs & aching muscles and joints. The natural 'high' on completion is addictive, meaning that it isn't long before the next marathon is being organised – so who knows what's next on the sporting front, but whatever it is I'll make sure it's at least as tough as that 26.2 miles.

South West Branch Dinner 24th May 2007



Commander Richie Ryan who made it all possible!



Peter Sommerfield, Michael McNamara and Sean Walsh.



Pat Hanratty, Fergal O'Gara and Liam Kelly (all CCR 1962-'67).

1987 Class Reunion

STEPHEN Roche was on en route to winning the Tour de France and U2 still hadn't found what they were looking for when the CCR class of 1987 disbanded for the final time in June of that year.

The recently returned Haughey administration was initiating cutback surgery to public services while, internationally, Ronald Reagan was exhorting the Soviets to tear down the Berlin Wall and Margaret Thatcher swooped to her third consecutive victory for the Tories in that same June.

The world of cold showers, illicit Monty forays, the video guru, hurling in Ballyskenach, the physics lab, bunking down the woods, and fraternal battles on the rugby pitch was revisited when 51 members of the '87 class regrouped amidst the autumnal idyll of CCR a quarter of a century after the first entrance through the hallowed gates, and 20 years after bidding them farewell.

The singular and determined effort of Peter Hynes, and his wife Bernie, resulted in a massive turnout for the weekend, which included wives and partners, and the centrepiece of which was a banquet in Racket Hall on Saturday night, October 20.

A collection of erstwhile souls braved the initial Friday night, with a particularly extravagant pub crawl undertaken by Charlie Monahan, Eamon O'Flaherty, Des Berry and John Walshe, encompassing such memorable landmarks as the Black Bull.

The festivities commenced on an informal basis mid-afternoon on Saturday in Roscrea, with copious libations offered to the five years in CCR, and the anecdotes and extensive network of enduring friendships it gave rise to.

The proceedings eventually repaired to Racket Hall where the chasm of the 20 year interregnum was bridged through a long night of renewed friendships and celebration.

In attendance were Abbot Kevin Daly, College President Dan Smyth, Hugh McDonnell, Brendan O'Rourke and Eddie O'Sullivan.

Peter Hynes, who shouldered the workload of organising the event over a two year period, thanked everyone for making the effort and noted the importance of the inclusion of wives and partners as an integral feature of future reunions. He also paid tribute to his wife Bernie for her help and support.

John Bates and Mark Ledwidge, in turn, thanked Peter. Speakers from the College included Dom Kevin and Dan Smyth. Following the speeches the revelries continued well into the early hours, with many memories, and even some urban myths, resurfacing.

Sunday saw a gradual return to the College for a more physical and leisurely jaunt down memory lane, and some much needed air!

The Class of '87 went their separate ways once again on Sunday evening with a target date of five years time for their next meeting.

Pat Somers



Michael Ryan, Evan Dunne, Matt Peters and Niall Murphy.



Michael O'Grady.



Richie Power and Conor Kerins.



David Kruse, Mairead Power and Tom Finlay.



Brian Cahill, Stephen Crehan and John Walshe.



Peter and Bernie Hynes with Paul Foley enjoy a morning after stroll around the guesthouse.



Eamon O'Flaherty, Pat Somers and Charlie Monahan.

Calendar of Union Events 2008

LONDON BRANCH DINNER - Friday March 14th

(Eve of Eng v Irl.)

Venue: RAF Club, Piccadilly

Contact Fergal Keane: gfk@gfkaccountants.co.uk

N.B. Fergal needs to have names of those attending by 6th March.

SOUTH EAST BRANCH DINNER - Saturday April 19th

Venue: Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny

Contact: Rob O'Shea, 086-8389528

SOUTH WEST BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER -

Thursday May 22nd 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.) To confirm your reservation,

please contact: Gerard O'Meara at (087) 917 084 9.

HURLING SUPPORT GROUP GOLF CLASSIC -

Friday May 23rd

Venue: Roscrea Golf Club

Contact: Ann McIntyre (087) 2688052

UNION AGM - Sunday May 25th in the College

MATT HYLAND / NOEL WINDLE GOLF OUTING -

Thursday, June 19th 2008

Venue: Milltown Golf Club

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

MIDLANDS BRANCH GOLF OUTING

Midlands Golf outing will be held in Esker Hills Golf Club on either

Thursday or Friday 21st / 22nd August 2008 - TBC

Contact Frank Thompson, 087-2854169

ABBOT'S CUP GOLF COMPETITION - Sat., September 27th

Venue: Roscrea Golf Club

Contact: Katherine Donovan (0505) 23237 *for both Time*

Sheet & Dinner Bookings

REUNIONS: Classes of 1963-'68, 1978-'83 and 1983-'88

(See right hand column for details)

UNION DAY - Sunday, September 28th

KENMARE WEEKEND - October 31st - November 2nd

(N.B. Gala Dinner on Saturday night is Black Tie)

Contact: The Park Hotel, Kenmare (064) 41200

DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER - November 8th

(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

NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH DINNER -

Friday 21st November

Venue: Langans, Manhattan

Contact Des O'Brien: (212) 8695482

langans@earthlink.net

Class of 1962-'67 Reunion

The Class of 1962-'67 is planning their slightly belated Forty Year Reunion for Saturday, March 1st 2008 in the College and later in Racket Hall Hotel. By now most people have been contacted, but anyone seeking more information contact the Editor at (01) 4947724, (087) 2731904 or by email at pathanratty@gmail.com

Class of 1963-'68 Reunion

The Class of 1963-'68 is planning their Forty Year Reunion on Saturday, September 27th 2008 - venue Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.

Contact:

Jim Keating: 086-8177597

jkeating@icsmember.ie

Rory Culliton: 087-2569987

rculliton@eircom.net

Michael Brody: 086-8624444

michael.brody@shaws.ie

Class of 1978 - '83 Reunion

The Class of 1978-'83 is planning their Silver Jubilee Reunion on Saturday, September 27th 2008 at the College and Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea.

Contact: Brian Conroy: (087) 9517717
brian.conroy@ida.ie

Joe O'Shea: (087) 8100365 / (056) 7790100
joe_oshea@prochem.ie

Class of 1983 - '88 Reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their Twenty Year Reunion on Saturday, September 27th 2008 in the Radisson Hotel, Limerick.

Stephen Hanley, Manager of the Hotel,
(061) 456200 or (086) 858720

Pierce O'Leary: (086) 2559649 pierceoleary@02mail.ie

Tom Duggan: (087) 2523865 or

Harvey O'Brien (087) 2800964

Harvey.O'Brien@ucd.ie

The Organising Committees of all the above reunions are trying to contact all pastmen who spent time with those classes at any time during the five years. If you have not already received communication from the Committee, please forward your contact details to one of the pastmen named above.

Gavin Duffy presents jerseys to Junior & Senior Rugby teams

On 16th January last, Gavin Duffy visited CCR and presented their jerseys to the Senior and Junior Rugby teams. Not so many years ago Gavin himself was playing for CCR and was part of the famous team which reached the Senior Final in 1999. Now he is an integral part of the Connacht set up with high hopes of qualification for next year's Heineken Cup.

Gavin had mixed emotions last Autumn. Getting a cap for your country should always be a great honour, but coming on as a late replacement against Argentina at a stage when our World Cup campaign was over was hardly one to savour. Gavin is, however determined to keep himself in the frame for consideration.

As this issue of the Roscrea Review goes to press we eagerly await the Junior Semi Final against Belvedere. We congratulate our Junior team – regardless of the outcome they have done us proud., as did our Seniors who got to the Quarter Final only to lose narrowly to Belvedere.



College Principal Marcelline Cody presenting a plaque to Gavin Duffy.



Above and left: Gavin Duffy with today's CCR Rugby stars.



An introductory morning for 6th Class students preparing for secondary school in 2008 will be held in the College on Saturday 8th March 2008

For details contact
Admissions Secretary 0505/23344
admissions@cisterciancollege.com
www.cisterciancollege.com

Limited number of places available for
Transition Year and 5th Year

Union Day 2007

Dinosaurs return - Class of 1957

Our first reunion – September 1957 - Anyone remember? 50th anniversary of the first class to “Graduate” in the year of our lord 1907 – they produced a gaggle of oul’ fellas and we clapped . I really felt they deserved it – 50 years out and walking !!!!! Weren’t they something!

1957 - Dublin airport was Collinstown – We Dubs were fairly used to it then – four or five planes a day.
1997 -We had the glorious 40th– feels like last week!

I went out on Saturday 28 September 2007 to collect Dick Queally – something like 20 flights per hour. Utter chaos! And I spotted him – a bit grey fit looking . 40 years in UK. You can take the man from the ... but you can’t take the ... from the man – the accent was Dungarvan, not Kent.

To the Golf club in Roscrea after the mandatory hour on the M50 – arrive 1.50 p.m. Man fighting with caddy car in car park – Ciaran Kelly - who else? In the bar Matt Duffy - and again, accent almost unchanged, Mick Rooney (he did talk nice even if Mr. McGarry didn’t fall for it – 800 years of oppression etc), big Pat Hogan as always a quiet rock of sense, Paddy Lane drove all the way from the real capital, Doc (Cyril) Hackett, Mick O Dwyer -Thurles is the address but scratch the surface – Sandymount

Golf? 6 played and after that we dined – and dined not wisely but well - at all times decorum being maintained by Jim Egan – still as then the class rock of sense. A couple of *elderly* gentlemen joined – two from ’56 Mick Fenelon – brother of Jack and Peter.

And third prize by just 2 shots by your scribe representing the 20th century - presented by the good Abbott. Ah yes, but we knew him as Martin Daly our Junior Dor prefect - now again with quiff (the tonsure didn’t suit). All ages in the Racket Hall Hotel thereafter. The hours passed and we stuck with the youngsters of the last half century including one whose lineage was clearly O’Shea of the line Johnno and Pato, and some of the staff - too young to be teachers - and Katherine of whom too much cannot be said.

Circumstances prevented us meeting Fr Eanna our dear friend, and Fr Colmcille – Dean of Studies and friend.

A few hours heavy sleep, then up and Mass in the Monastery. Timeless. The huge stone walls not threatening but almost protecting the memories . We were all there - you could feel the air and walls and roof held still our youth and that of all who shared our unique



From the class of 1957. Back row Jim Egan, Mick Rooney, Brendan O’Dea (with third prize humbly accepted on behalf of the early 20th century), Cyril Hackett.

Front from left Mick O’Dwyer, Ciaran Kelly, Dick Queally and Paddy Hogan .

experience before and since, and like some gigantic computer was storing the something of the young lives of the present pupils - including the inevitable messers – as it did ours **. We were there with our classmates no longer of this place – Moss Murray , Mick Curley , Ger Hogan , Pat Callinan and others.

Absent friends who for one or other reason couldn’t attend – George Geraghty, Martin Harney, Mick Munnelly , Mick Hoey, Bernie Finnegan, Sean Garvey, Peter Farrell and those we couldn’t contact— we tried not to let you down . Please note September 2012 now – we’ll make it 5 yearly from now on. Next time we will again meet and chat and maybe win the Abbott’s Cup.

** But none smoking as some I can recall .

Brendan O’Dea (CCR 1952-’57)

Pastmen... remember

London Dinner: Fri. March 14th

South East Dinner Sat. April 19th

Contact details - page 17

South East Branch – Celebration Banquet

14th April 2007

This year's South East Branch function was a major success with pastmen and parents coming from all parts of the country, while the College, the Monastery and Bolton Abbey were very well represented.

The Banquet for approximately 130 guests was preceded by a champagne reception which set the tone for the rest of the celebrations over a five course dinner and a feast of speeches.

As part of the occasion, the imminent retirement of Dr. Laurence Forristal, Bishop of Ossory (CCR 1944 – 1949) was celebrated in style. Dr. Forristal, by achieving excellence in his Ministry as Bishop of Ossory over 25 years, has brought honour and distinction, not just to his family and diocese, but also to his Alma Mater, to the CCR Union and to the Community of Mount St. Joseph Abbey. A suitably engraved Kilkenny Crystal Chalice was presented to Bishop Laurence by the Chairman of the S.E. Branch, Robert O'Shea, while Dr. Barney Sherry, the senior pastman in attendance presented a cheque on behalf of all well wishers including those unable to attend.

The attendance at the banquet included pastmen and parents from Kilkenny, Wexford, Carlow, Dublin, Cork, Galway, Laois and Offaly and of course the Limerick born Union President Kieran Fitzgerald and Evelyn.

A presentation was also made to Mr. Hugh McDonnell, former Principal who retired in 2006, in recognition of his many years of service and for being a prime motivator in the successful development of Hurling at the College.

A special word of thanks is due to those contemporaries of Bishop Laurence who made such an effort to be with us on the night – these include Dom Kevin Daly, Dom Peter Garvey, Dom Ambrose Farrington, Fr. Martin Garry, Bolton Abbey; Fr. Denis Foley, Fr. Martin Dwan, Jim Fogarty, John Stokes, Jack Dwan, Paddy Conroy and Mary, Denis



Pictured at the Cistercian College Roscrea Union Dinner in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel were, from left, Pat O'Shea, Kilkenny, Organiser; Joe Connolly, former captain of the Galway Hurling team, HSG member and CCR parent; Brendan McIntyre, Kilkenny and Robert O'Shea, Chairman, Kilkenny Branch, CCR Union. Picture: Michael Brophy.

T. O'Grady and Patricia, Dr. Barney Sherry and Trilby, Donal O'Brien and Betty, John Lanigan Ryan, Larry Brannigan and Adeline, Tom Hastings, Sean and Ann McCarthy.

The Hurling Support Group were also very well represented by Ann, Helen and Brendan McIntyre, Tom Garvey and Jean, Joe Connolly and Cathy, Donncha Cody and Marcelline.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The committee of the S.E. Branch wish to thank sincerely all those who came and supported the function and in particular many thanks to those very kind and generous ladies and gentlemen who forwarded supplementary cheques to help subvent the cost of the presentations. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Next S.E. Branch Function will be held in mid April 2008. We trust as many as possible will be able to join us for another enjoyable evening at the next South East Branch Dinner on Saturday 19th April 2008.



Bishop Laurence Forristal (CCR 1944-'49) is pictured with pastmen from his era (give or take a few years!) at a banquet in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel where he was honoured by the South East Branch of the Union. Back row, from left, John Stokes, Fr. Denis Foley, Pat O'Shea, Gerald McCarthy, Sean McCarthy. Centre row, from left, Tom Hastings, Larry Branigan, Jim Fogarty, Donal O'Brien, Fr. Martin Dwan, Pat Conroy, Pat O'Carroll, College President Dan Smyth. Front row, from left, Dr. Barry Fitzgerald, Dom Ambrose Farrington, Jack Dwan, Abbot Kevin Daly, Bishop Forristal, Abbot Peter Garvey, Fr. Martin Garry, OCSO and Kieran Fitzgerald, CCR Union President. Picture: Michael Brophy.



A group from Kilkenny including pastmen and parents of past pupils of the Cistercian College, Roscrea pictured with Bishop Forristal (CCR 1944-49) at a banquet in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel where Bishop Forristal was honoured by the South East branch of the Union. Picture: Michael Brophy.

Cistercian haven of Peace

Dom Peter Garvey

Monasteries have been commanding quite a lot of space in the wider media recently. Practically every week now one or other of the national papers features an article focussing on those men and women who "leave all to follow Christ" in the Monastery. As our society becomes ever more materialistic, those who choose such a radically different lifestyle seem to hold an ever increasing fascination for people.

A recent Prime Time RTE Programme looking at the lifestyles of five sets of people in different parts of the country in our new wealthier Ireland of today, may well hold the answer. In County Kildare, for example, a man who is leaving his house at dawn to catch a bus to Dublin where he works explains "I don't see my children in the daytime except at weekends". His wife leaving shortly after him, drops off their two small children in a crèche before driving the almost two hour journey to her job in Dublin.

I couldn't help but draw an analogy between this couple and the different lifestyle of the Monks, also living in County Kildare in Bolton Abbey, whom I spoke with recently and set to thinking that for anyone who may believe that they have a vocation to the monastic life, there would certainly appear to be a lot of plusses for the latter lifestyle in today's stress-ridden Ireland. Not for an instant taking from the fact that the life of a Monk is certainly a great sacrifice, but one can see the benefits when compared with the lifestyles of those living in a country that has made money it's God.

"As we work ever harder are we reaping any real benefits? Are we cash rich and time poor?", wonders one of the contributors to the Prime Time Programme, who says he would love to spend more time with his family and get involved in his community but just does not have the time!

The Cistercian Bolton Abbey Monastery, which is situated in County Kildare, is presently home to ten Cistercian Monks, who manage to run a Guesthouse and Farm in addition to their daily monastic cycle centred on the Mass and intermittent Offices of Prayer of the hours.

Father Eoin Waldron of Bolton Abbey explains what the Cistercians' life is about:- "A Monk or a Nun is a Christian who had received a special gift from God to remain unmarried in imitation of Christ himself. St. Pachomius was the first to gather Monks together to live as a community. Monks were to serve God and one another in love and this would show the world that they were Disciples of Christ. In the sixth century, St. Benedict wrote the "Rule" for Monasteries, which expresses very well the Christian ideal. The following are some of Benedict's Rules:-

- * To carry out God's commands fully every day
- * To apply oneself frequently to prayer
- * To suffer wrongs patiently
- * To do what is useful to the other rather than to yourself
- * To prefer nothing whatever to the love of Christ who will bring us all together to life eternal

An important part of the "Rule" is that we gather to pray together several times a day. We sing Psalms and Hymns and celebrate the Eucharist. This prayer in common is truly the centre of our lives.



Another rule is to receive all those who come to visit us. We allow them to stay for a few days and encourage them to take part in our common prayer.

Benedict said that we are truly Monks if we earn our own living as did our Fathers and the Apostles. So we have a farm here with a dairy herd. Some Monks work on the farm and others work in the kitchen, guesthouse and library".

Father Waldron relates some of the history of the Cistercians. "In the year 1098, three Benedictine Monks founded a new Monastery at Citeaux (*Cistercium*) where they sought to live a stricter observance of the Rule of Benedict. That is why we are called Cistercians. St Bernard sent some Monks to Ireland and there were about forty houses here until the suppression in 1540. St Malachy, a friend of St Bernard was instrumental in bringing the Cistercians to Ireland.

Another reform took place at La Trappe in France in about 1680 which is why we are sometimes called Trappists. Many Irishmen went to join those Monasteries in France. In 1831, at a time when France had a dispute with England, thirty Irish Monks were expelled from the Monastery at Melleray in France, being regarded as British subjects.

They came to Ireland and founded the Monastery of Mount Melleray in County Waterford. In 1878 Mount Melleray, whose numbers had grown enormously since their arrival in Ireland, founded a new Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. This in turn founded Bolton Abbey in 1965. The property was donated by the family of Dr Robert Farnan who will be known to history as a friend and confidant of Eamon de Valera.

Since the Monastery was founded the reforms of Vatican II were launched. This means that we now have the Office in English. It is a very demanding task to keep up a good standard of singing, to produce suitable books and to encourage the laity to participate in the Liturgy. It means that we ourselves need to know the Scriptures well, to make them part of our lives and to help our visitors to appreciate the Bible also.

The Guesthouse is a very popular place for a retreat or a short time of quiet, but because we are not well known, sometimes it is not used as much as we would like.

The farm is an important source of income. We try to keep best farming practices, to treat animals well, to protect the environment and to work closely with our neighbours".

Bolton Abbey is between Moone and Castledermot on the main road from Dublin to Carlow. "Athy is to the west and Baltinglass to the east", explains Father Waldron. Bolton Abbey can be assessed at: www.boltonabbey.ie or by writing to Father Eoin Waldron, Bolton Abbey, Moone, Co. Kildare.

Dom Peter Garvey, former College President is currently the Abbot of Bolton Abbey. This article appeared recently in The Irish Catholic and is included here with that paper's permission.

BOOK REVIEW

James Joyce's Painful Case

By C oil n Owens

Published by University Press of Florida, 272pp
HYPERLINK "http://www.upf.com" www.upf.com
US \$ 59.95

I first met C oil n Owens when I was twelve years of age. It was September 1956, and we both were starting out in CCR. Even then C oil n was remarkably studious, shining in the A Class, and winning a top three in Ireland award in the (then) Intermediate Certificate. Since then he has had a brilliant career in Academia, and is now Professor Emeritus of English at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Apart from his love of his wife and two sons, his next great love is anything to do with James Joyce. He has delivered dozens of lectures on him around the world, and has written numerous learned papers. Now, after years in gestation, he has published this fantastic wide ranging 'case-book' on one of Joyce's short stories in *Dubliners*. To quote a couple of phrases from the Foreword by the Series Editor every possible angle from manuscript study to religion to music to the influences of nineteenth century literature and philosophy, is given a thorough and definitive treatment and again this is a book anyone would want for their bookcase: one can only hope that the Owens treatment for the other fourteen stories in *Dubliners* is not far behind.

I knew C oil n was writing this book, but wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Like very many CCR pastmen, I'd read *Dubliners* a few times, and thoroughly enjoyed Joyce's stories. (Inevitably, perhaps, my favourite has always been *The Dead*). However I found, like many others, I suspect, *A Painful Case* to be not that interesting a story, apart from Joyce's description of Mr Duffy as a rather detached sort of person. But C oil n's insightful perspective in this casebook has changed all that for me. I really liked his description of the story as a deceptively simple story of disappointed love.

The story itself derives its name *A Painful Case* from a headline Mr Duffy reads over his evening newspaper in an eating house in George's Street (presumably of the South variety) where a lady by the name of Mrs. Sineco, has been hit by the Kingstown (then) to Dublin train as she crossed the railway line at Sydney Parade Avenue. He had known Mrs. Sineco, but rejected her when he thought that she had amorous notions for him. Joyce's story has the twist that the real painful case in all of this is Mr Duffy himself.

C oil n's book is the definitive forensic analysis of the story. He starts with a description and implications of the contents of Mr Duffy's bookshelves in his room in Chapelizod 'the dream of spiritual perfectibility inculcated in his school days and which pursued him through his second score years now dogs him through the routines which he has in his adulthood settled: his days at the bank and evenings of solitary leisure'. But where I think C oil n is it at his best is in his deconstruction of Mr Duffy's character in failure of the heart: in the first place to respond to God's love, and in the second to respond of that of Mrs. Sineco.



C oil n Owens and his wife Julie, with the Editor at their home in Alexandria, Virginia last Summer."

His analysis outlines what he regards as the three themes of the story: the historical and biographical bearing on its composition (including Joyce's bother Stanislaus's role), the voice of the detached narrator (Mr Duffy), and finally, Mr Duffy as he sees himself.

When C oil n reaches his 'Conclusion' he states that Mr Duffy 'has the distinction of being Joyce's only mature celibate intellectual', and later adds 'He is sufficiently endowed with intelligence and feeling to view with detachment his social formation.' I particularly liked C oil n's highlighting the fact that the last word in *A Painful Case* is "alone". Mr Duffy, the celibate intellectual, recognises, perhaps for the first time in his life, is indeed alone"

This is a 'must read' book for serious teachers and students of Joyce, in my case, even for closet Joycean anoraks! A masterpiece, which contains great period photographs.* C oil n's book is a labour of love. Indeed C oil n mentioned to me in an email about a year ago when he was obviously labouring over this book that his good lady wife had remarked to him (presumably in her frustration with his inattention) 'can you not get a life?' to which he responded to me 'but this is my life'. But C oil n, can you manage to apply the same discipline to your studies of Joyce's other fourteen stories? I for one certainly hope so.

Incidentally CCR pastmen will be glad to know that C oil n, in his acknowledgements in this wonderful book, pays tribute to two very famous colleagues, the late Professor Gus Martin 'who started it all' as he puts it, and Dom Colmcille O'Toole OCSO (our then Dean of Studies in the late '50s) 'for exemplary teaching'.

Yes, as Molly B put it, YES. C oil n, thank you.

Gerry Moloney

**By way of a sidepiece, C oil n emailed me some months ago. His photographs of the level crossing at Sydney Parade Avenue had not survived his Uncle Sam's X RAY security check on C's recent visit. Could I take some more and mail them on? Yes, of course. But I was not happy with my output - something to do with DART overhead wires, yellow boxes on the road crossing, and all of that. Having done a bit of internet surfing, I found a shot of a steam engine dated around 1900 about a mile away (Merrion Gates) which I thought would be ideal. C oil n, the perfectionist rejected this - the train that I had identified, was heading to and not from Kingstown.*

OBITUARIES

Rev. Edward Sherry (CCR 1924-'29), St. Columban's Mission, Victoria, Australia died on August 18th 2006. Originally from Bolton, Lancashire he was ordained in 1935 by the founder of the Columbans, Bishop Edward Galvin. He spent nine years in China, including four years as Bishop Galvin's secretary in Hanyang. Later assigned to the order's Australia-New Zealand region, he worked for almost fifty years at their central house in Essendon in Victoria.

Joe Mellotte (CCR 1962-'68) one of the colourful characters of his time in CCR died of respiratory complications brought on by secondary cancers in October 2006. On leaving CCR in the Swinging Sixties, Joe went straight into the clothing industry in London. Having worked very successfully for a number of firms, he "retired" some years ago and set up Madam George Dry Cleaners (called after the Van Morrison 1968 hit) in Hampstead and Swiss Cottage. He was just 56 years old.

Gerry Meehan, 19 Threadneedle Road, Salthill, Galway (CCR 1947-'52) died May 22nd 2007. Gerry was well-known in both Dublin and Galway where he worked as a dentist for many years.

Michael O'Gorman (CCR 1985-'89) from Kilkee, Co. Clare died during last summer.

Former State Solicitor **Maurice Power** (CCR 1936-'40), died last July, just two months before his 85th birthday. He was predeceased by his wife Una and is survived by his children John, Valerie, Mary, Una, Elaine, Stephanie and Ann, his sister Kitty, grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

A huge crowd assembled for his Requiem Mass. People from all walks of life including the legal profession, the political and sporting worlds as well as members of the community from Kilmallock and surrounding areas came to pay their respects.

Mr Power followed in the footsteps of his father John Power who became the first State Solicitor for County Limerick following the foundation of the State in 1922. He took over the role from his father in 1949 and held the position until 1989. His son John succeeded him in the Post.

Many tributes were paid to him for his great legal mind, his deep religious faith, his keen interest and participation in so many sports, his generosity and good humour, and his being simply a gentleman and a man of the people.

Mr Power had a huge interest in all sport and was a well known National Hunt race horse owner, his best known race horse being Haki Saki. He was a former President and Captain

of Lahinch Golf Club and was very involved with Kilmallock Lawn Tennis Club. He also had a great interest in Greyhound Coursing and played Rugby in his younger days. Businesses and shops in Kilmallock closed their doors as a mark of respect during his funeral and there was a minute's silence in Newcastle West Court.

Joe Kiernan (CCR 1926-'29) Tubbermacormick, Moyvore, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath died last year. He was one of the oldest pastmen present at the launch in CCR in 2005 of *Cead Bliain Faoi Rath*.

Rev. Fintan Keegan (CCR 1925-'27) who at 98 years, nine months and one day was the longest living Columban ever, died peacefully on 5th November, 2007, at St Columban's Nursing Home in Bristol, Rhode Island, USA. He entered Dalgan in 1927 and was ordained Dec. 21, 1933. He spent his entire missionary life in the United States. After ordination, Fintan was assigned to teach at Silver Creek, New York. He later worked in Milton, Massachusetts. In Omaha, Nebraska and later still in San Francisco from 1972 to 1992 when he retired to Bristol. A detailed obituary giving more details of his remarkable life can be read at http://www.columban.com/fintan_keegan_rip.html

Gerard F. McGovern (CCR 1936-'40) Cork and originally Co. Leitrim, former Director of Henry Ford & Son, Cork and past District Governor of Rotary Ireland died peacefully on December 5th 2007 and is survived by his wife Phyllis, and sons Phelim and Fergus who were both CCR students in the early '70s.

Sean Fitzgerald (CCR 1960-'65) died on 27th December 2007 in Chicago where he and his wife Catherine had lived for over 30 years. Sean, originally from Mountmellick loved getting CCR news via the Roscrea Review, which according to Catherine he always read from cover to cover.

William Burke (CCR 1939-'44), Malahide, Dublin, died on January 3rd 2008. He was originally from Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Michael John Buckley (CCR 1956-'60) died on January 15th 2008. He was living in Nenagh but hailed originally from Courganeeen, Roscrea.

George O'Connell (CCR 1966-'71) of Claragh, Scraggan, Tullamore, died on 22nd January 2008. He was originally from Westport.

John Fitzpatrick, (CCR 1929-'31) Martello Rd., Bray died on January 24th 2008. He was Union President in 1953-'55.

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.

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>

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

News of Pastmen - Pastmen in the News

Congratulations to **Aodhan Glynn**, Oranmore, Co. Galway (CCR 1998-'03) who was recently awarded a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences (Physiology) Upper Second Class Honours from University of Aberdeen.

Des Hernon, Mallow, Co. Cork (CCR 1998-'03) received First Class Honours in his Business & Legal Degree in UCD, while his brother, **Paul** (CCR 1998-'04) also received First Class Honours in his Finance Degree in UCD.

Ciarán Joyce, Kilkenny (CCR 2004-'07) recently received an Ad Astra Entrance Scholarship to UCD to study Science and Engineering while classmate **Conor Kinsella**, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (CCR 2001-'07) also received an Ad Astra Entrance Scholarship to UCD to study Business & Law.

John Ahern, Mallow, Co. Cork (CCR 1998-'04), who is in 3rd Year Dentistry was recently awarded a Trinity Foundation Scholarship.

Tom Fitzpatrick (CCR 1996-'01) completed his degree in Theoretical Physics in Trinity College, Dublin in 2005 and is now studying for his Ph.D in Oceanography in Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California.

Ted Fitzpatrick (CCR 1998 - '03) who has just completed his studies in Pure Applied Maths in Trinity College, Dublin has been awarded a scholarship to study in Lady Margaret's College, Oxford. Ted won a number of other scholarships while attending Trinity.

RTE Executive Producer, **John O'Regan** from Cork (CCR 1978-'83) was honoured recently by being voted Cork Person of the Month to mark his work in creating the "Reeling in the Years" TV Series in particular and his body of work in television in Ireland and the U.K.

Brian Houlihan (CCR 1990-'95) from Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare recently married his long time Spanish girlfriend, Esther, in Alcalá near Madrid.

Former All Ireland Hurling Champion, DJ Carey of Kilkenny presented Joseph & Mary McGrath and their son **Seoirse** (CCR 1988-'93) with Waterford Crystal at the Quality Milk Awards lunch in Glanbia House, Kilkenny. The McGraths, who farm a 160 cow herd near Arklow are liquid milk suppliers to Glanbia's Ballytore plant for the Avonmore brand. They were overall winners of the Glanbia Quality Milk Awards for 2007.

Brendan Hayes MPSI (CCR 1971-'76) of Hayes and Hayes Pharmacy Portumna, was last year appointed President of the first Pharmacy Council of Ireland under the new Pharmacy Act.

Brendan has made a huge contribution to pharmacy in the Western Region, in Ireland and at EU level over the years. He is also a very talented musician and plays music around Ireland and Europe as an adjunct to his career in pharmacy.

A new book by acclaimed Limerick author and poet **Desmond O'Grady** (CCR 1950-'54) was launched during the Cuisle Poetry Festival last October. Entitled "My Alexandria", the book takes its name from the Egyptian city, in whose University he once taught.

The author of 35 compilations of poetry and prose described his time in the city as "a very satisfying affair while it lasted". While he befriended Samuel Beckett in Paris during the 60s and also lived in Rome and Cairo, Alexandria has always had a special attraction.

The 125-page compilation of poems, drawings and memories of his time in Alexandria represents a continuation of his 1989 publication "Alexandria Notebook" and is dedicated to his former colleagues at the University of Alexandria.

The book details Mr O'Grady's love affair with Egypt's second largest city where he lived for two years in the 1970s and made a return trip in 1993 to begin writing his memoirs of his time there. It is, he says, "the birthplace, home and the stage of the poetic theatre of the Greek poet Constantine P. Cavafy", whom Mr O'Grady admired.

Ultimately, the book details the beginning and the end of his love affair with the city founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. The first poem in the book simply titled "Alexandria" reveals the magic and charm of the city:

*"You, Alexandria, shine now my last city of all,
last of the many I've waxed and wasted in, wandering.
Some of us go through arrivals,
lives, departures while others dread to move for downfall.
Witness of so much dazzle and destruction in wounding and curing time,
yet still today sustainer of any prodigal with your achieved,
apparently innocent, serenity.
I realize now that you're the city I've journeyed to all the time.
In you I begin again, not end, city of imagination".*

But in the final poem in the book, "Goodbye Alexandria", he reveals that the city's "jaded ways no longer raise my fancy. Here I am ageing, Alex, dying. My hour has come to sail. Tomorrow I weigh Anchor".

Desmond has always paid tribute to his English teacher in CCR, the legendary Tom Cole (who also taught him Physiology, Chemistry and Art!) for the inspiration he gave him towards reading and, later writing poetry. In a piece on the he website...

<http://www.galway.ie/en/Services/Library/ReadingMatters/DesmondOGrady/> he describes how Mr. Cole's classes in CCR led to his spending time in Limerick City

Library delving into the works of poets like T.S. Eliot, Dylan Thomas and Ezra Pound – not the usual diet of 16 year olds on holidays from school!

John O'Loughlin (CCR 2001-'06) must be one of the most versatile young GAA stars in the country. According to a piece by in the Irish Independent last April he was wanted for the Leinster minor hurling clash with Kildare in Clane at 3 p.m. one Saturday but was also wanted in Roscommon by the county's Under 21 footballers for their All-Ireland Semi Final against Mayo at exactly the same time. John played for the footballers who won that game and he went on to play in the Final against Cork some weeks later. He played very well despite finishing on the losing side.

Up to April of last year, John had played Freshers Football and Hurling for UCD, where he was also on the Sigerson Cup Panel. According to the Independent article he was centre-back on the Laois U/21 Football Team and also on both the Laois Minor Football and Hurling Teams. At Club Level, he is a member of the Mountmellick Minor, U/21 and Intermediate Hurling Teams and the Minor, U/21 and Senior Football Teams. That made 12 different squads which extended to 13 when he was called up for the Laois U/21 Hurling Squad. And as if that hectic schedule were not demanding enough, he is also studying Agricultural Science in UCD.

He has been awarded the Laois Young Sports Star award in the annual Leinster Express People of the Year Awards which takes place in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise on Saturday, February 9.

At the same event, **Gerry Culliton** (CCR 1947-'54) will receive the Hall of Fame Award.

The Awards will also be attended by the Paper's News Editor **Pat Somers** (CCR 1982-'87) and its Sports Editor **Steven Miller** (1996-'02).

Bill O'Brien (CCR 1963-'68) was the subject of a very interesting feature in the Farmer's Journal last October. It told the fascinating story of how Bill who earlier in his career had been Commercial Manager of the fertilizer division of ICI and later of Premier Dairies, had decided he wanted a change and to run his own company. So he had to find a company! After a lengthy search he met up with Ossie and Mary Brady from Straffan, Co. Kildare who in 1978 had started their own business "Brady Family Ham" in their own kitchen. After twenty years of hard work building up the brand, they were keen to sell. Under Bill's guidance the firm which had a turnover of €3 million in 2001 had more than trebled that by 2006, as outlets such as Centra and Supervalu started stocking the product.

According to Bill, Brady Family Hams is the only national ham brand that carries the Bord Bia Quality Assurance Origin Ireland Label. Bill says the mark is a help to the business but comes with a cost. "We pay more for our legs, as all the young pigs we buy are reared and slaughtered in Ireland and everything is fully traceable; it's a closed circle between farm and fork". He says the concept of the Bord Bia Label is important and consumers want to see it. He says, however, that more needs to be done to increase consumer awareness of the Label. "It needs continual promotion so that consumers know exactly what it means: a guarantee of quality Irish produced food". We wish him well!

Brady Family Ham is now very much a family affair for the O'Briens – Bill's wife Trish is a partner in the business and his son **John** (CCR 1992-'98) is Sales Manager with the company, while **Niall** (CCR 1998-'2004) is studying at the University of Limerick.

Stephen Lucey (1992-'97) received lots of coverage in the media and appeared on TV often as Limerick made their epic journey to Croke Park last year. It was great to see him feature in the GPA team of the year! A bit like the Oscars, there's nothing like getting the accolade from your peers!

Sean Loughnane (CCR 1963-'67) claims to be at least semi-retired as MD of Loughnane Concrete, Birr. Last September saw him feature in a local newspaper allowing the beard he started growing while at UCG to be finally shaved off for charity. Those of us heading for our reunion in March await with bated breath what we will behold!

Neil Johnson (CCR 1973-'78), Chief Executive & Director of Fundraising with Croi was recently chosen as Galway Person of the Year by a panel form among many candidates nominated by the public. And in the same week the western region of the Marketing Institute of Ireland named him Marketing Person of the Year.

Originally from Co. Limerick, he studied psychology at NUI Galway taking a masters degree. He spent a number of years in alcohol and drug education before being appointed first Chief Executive of Croi, the west of Ireland Cardiology Foundation based at University College Hospital, Galway dedicated to pursuing and attaining the highest level of Cardiovascular Health Care for the people of the West of Ireland.

Neil has been active in Galway life for many years, and rose to become President of Junior Chamber Galway in 1993. That same year he became the first Irishman ever to win the World Junior Chamber Public Speaking Award and also took up his post with Croi.

Croi leads the fight against heart disease in the west of Ireland. Neil has overseen the growth of the foundation over the years to become a leading charity in all areas of cardiac care from prevention, through diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation.

A fully equipped regional cardiac surgical centre with two consultant cardiothoracic surgeons opened at University College Hospital, Galway last year and is now fully operational and will cater for heart patients from Limerick to Donegal.