



ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 101 - NEWSLETTER OF THE CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA UNION

Autumn 2019

A New Dawn for Mount St. Joseph

Ordination of Dom Malachy Thompson OCSO on 9th June 2019



Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe laying hands on Dom Malachy.



**Barney Sherry R.I.P.
Passing of a
CCR legend**



Dom Malachy with Bishop Monahan and his parents Elizabeth and John Thompson.

In this issue...

- Galway Races
- Dinners in Dublin, London and New York
- Dublin Golf and Abbot's Cup
- Business Lunch
- Reunions and lots more!

EDITORIAL



Welcome to this edition of the Roscrea Review which showcases both the year of Fergal Keane's Presidency and the beginning of Conor Brady's tenure in that office. It is wonderful to be able to bring news of a very substantial growth in numbers in the College and of some wonderful events in the various branches of the Union.

Alas, several notable CCR pastmen have gone to their reward in the past year or so - none more sadly missed than that absolute legend of the CCR Union, Barney Sherry at the tender age of 98. For help with some of the obituaries I have to thank Conor Massey, Ronnie Owens and Cathal Bredin - as ever getting the information about a pastman's death is important. Indeed in some cases we have received the information from the families of the deceased.



This issue also details events such as the very successful Business Lunch with Clongowes past pupil and current CCR parent Willie Burns doing the honours, the second Annual CCR Ball in March and the third Day at the Races in early August, as well as the Dublin Dinner which broke new ground this year by commemorating CCR men who had fought in World War One and in the War of Independence.



One of the highlights of the year in CCR has been the ordination of Dom Malachy to the priesthood. His story is a fascinating one - how he left a successful career with a big company car and plenty of foreign travel to join the Monastery. A detailed account of his journey, written a few years ago can be read on the Monastery website <https://msjroscrea.ie/vocation-stories-brother-malachys-story/>

Dom Malachy has a huge involvement in the College - he is on the Board of Management and at different gatherings through the year he spelt out the vision for the College, including both academic excellence and that the whole of campus become carbon neutral over the next few years.

A lot of the vision for the next few years is presented in the recently launched booklet Project CCR 2025. We salute the great work being done by the staff of CCR, and behind the scenes by the Board of Management under the guidance of Chairman Ronnie Culliton. *Onward and upwards!*

*Pat Hanratty – Editor
pathanratty@gmail.com*

MR LIAM SPOONER (CCR 1962-'68)

Liam has recently been appointed as CCR's Development Officer on a part time basis. Liam has a long history of involvement in the College and the Union and was Union President in 2017-'18.

Here is a brief message from him..



The really good news as we start into the College's first term of the 2019/'20 school year is that we are very pleased to announce an increase in enrolment to 220 students, including 38 boys who started in first year. Last year was the first in a decade where enrolment increased - now we are well on our way to numbers that will be sustainable in the long term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents and Guardians for sending their boys to CCR.

There is a lot of great work taking place within and outside the College which has resulted in this great increase in enrolment and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of those involved.

There is a very positive atmosphere in the College and it is quite evident that the boys have settled in quickly and appear to be very happy.

As part of ongoing improvements to the College's facilities, showers were installed in the Senior Residential Area in the summer of 2018 and in the Junior Residential Area on the top floor this summer. The latter was part of a significant face lift of the entire Top Floor.

An ambitious Strategic Capital Expenditure Plan was launched at the Western Branch's Annual Day at Galway Races on 3rd August by sharing a detailed Brochure outlining the "One Campus" concept between the College and the Abbey and the exciting Green Campus 2025 initiative. This ambitious and innovative Redevelopment Plan is named Project CCR 2025.

To deliver Project CCR 2025 we depend on the generous donations from Pastmen,

Parents, Grandparents, Parents of Pastmen and Friends of the wider CCR Family. So hopefully you will all play your part in this Fundraising Campaign.

We thank those who have already donated and some who continue to do so.

If you would like additional information on Project CCR 2025 or if you would like to contribute to our Fundraising Campaign please contact me at the College:

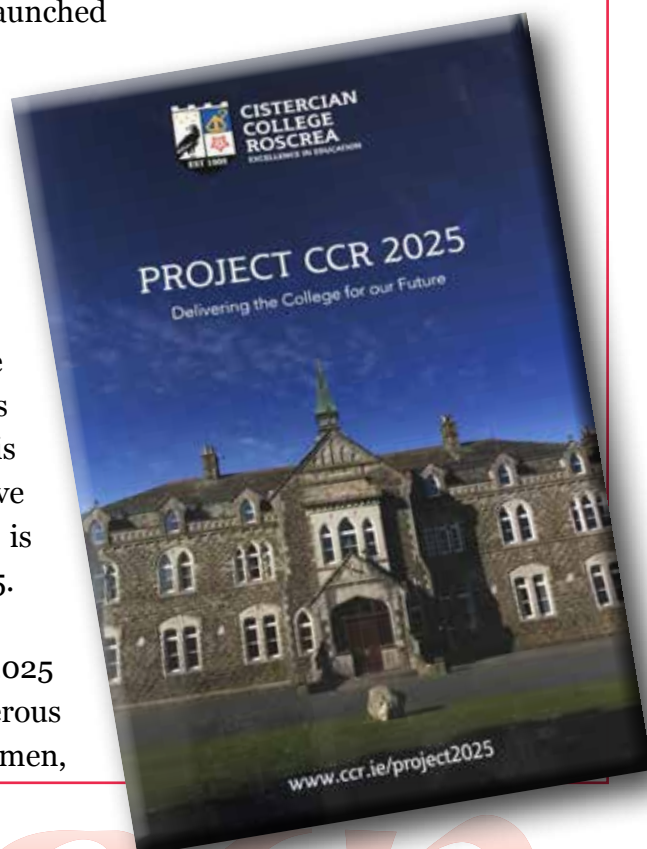
Tel: + 353 505 31203

Email: liam.spooner@ccr.ie

Website:

www.ccr.ie/project2025

*Liam Spooner,
Head of Development, CCR.*



Cistercian College Roscrea Past Pupils' Union



There are about 3,000 of us who have had the privilege of being formed and educated in the very special place we know as Mount Saint Joseph, or Cistercian College Roscrea.

More than 2,200 are known to the Past Pupils' Union, in that the database held at CCR by the Union Liaison Officer, Katherine Donovan, has either email or postal addresses for us.

The Union is the link between pastmen and the College. It facilitates class reunions; it publishes *The Roscrea Review*; it maintains the website www.ccrunion.org with news of pastmen and developments at the College; it sponsors the Union Gold Medal for excellence, awarded annually; it provides a resource to the boys in forming career-guidance panels; it co-ordinates the activities of the various branches around the country, in the UK and in North America.

Ours is a vibrant Union, sustained by the enthusiasm and loyalty of Roscrea pastmen everywhere. Alumni of other schools frequently remark on the great bonds of friendship among Roscrea men and their ties of affection to their Alma Mater.

But fewer than 200 of us make any subscription to the Union. As a result, its finances are problematic, making it impossible for it to do some of the things that would be very desirable, such as establishing a small benevolent fund and publishing *The Roscrea Review* more frequently.

It is my belief, from talking with many pastmen, that they are unaware of this. They do not know much about how the Union functions. They do not realise that they may, if they wish, contribute to its operation. Not a few, I have discovered, don't even know if they are making a contribution or not! But

almost everyone I have spoken to has expressed a willingness to help.

So I am taking this opportunity, as incoming President of the Union, to ask for your financial support in a modest way, in order to enable it to continue its good work. I am suggesting a subscription of €50 a year, although some may feel they would wish to put in either more or less. Every subscription will be warmly welcomed and acknowledged quarterly.

To subscribe, go to www.ccrunion.org and click on "donate." Payment can be made on-line by card, by electronic transfer or by cheque. The Union's banking details are set out on the page. The website also has contact details for the current officers of the Union and the various branches.

None of the pastmen serving as officers of the Union are beneficiaries of any financial consideration. Any expenses incurred, such as travel, accommodation or subsistence are borne by themselves. Thus you can be assured that your donation will go entirely into sustaining the activities as set out above.

I would stress that this appeal is not being made as part of the College development programme, PROJECT CCR 2025. The development programme is the business of the Board of Management and the Development Office. My message here is solely concerned with the functioning of the Union. Although it goes without saying that it is a primary aim of the Union to be a facilitator and a support for the Development programme.

I trust that we may count on your generosity and support. Please don't put it off.

Go to www.ccrunion.org now.

Yours sincerely,
Conor Brady (CCR 1962-'66)
Union President 2019-2020

Dublin Branch Business Lunch

It was a sunny, chilly Friday 19 October, 2018, when a group of industrious pastmen and their illustrious guests gathered in the Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club for our annual Business Lunch. Taking an early opportunity to exchange ideas and business cards, many arrived well in advance of the anticipated 3pm kick-off time to take advantage of easy networking in the bar.



Guest Speaker Willie Burns with the then Dublin Branch chairman Liam Nicholl (CCR 1965-'70)

On time as always, we advanced to the dining room where, in the absence of Dom Malachy, it fell to our newly-anointed Union President, Mr Fergal Keane to say grace and kick off our delicious four course meal. Groups settled into their business discussions, while salmon, soup, beef and apple pie were served, while our speakers sweated over their notes and furiously scribbled an extra anecdote or two.

The speeches began with the President leading from the front, filling us in on developments in the Union and on how his succession to the chain of office had staved off a Brexit-like schism in the Union, at least for the foreseeable future. He offered words of encouragement to the younger members and business people in the room, encouraging them to get involved in the event and to encourage our UK-based members to make contact and to get involved. Chairman Liam Nicholl, of this parish, then gave a spirited speech extolling the importance of networking events, and this one in particular, in the hope that we could generate ever more interest

among younger members of the Union. He suggested that we ought look at this as an opportunity to create a direct link to senior pastmen in their industry or profession to help them in their upward progress through professional life. He stressed the importance of using these and other Branch events to expand your network, and praised our main speaker, Mr Willie Burns, for his uncanny ability to build and exploit his networking ability through the years, and leverage it into his spectacularly successful career.

We were truly honoured to have Mr Willie Burns an old Clongownian but current CCR parent as Guest Speaker, fresh as he was from his retirement from his role as National Development Manager at Aviva 7 days earlier, and he extolled the virtues of a broad, personal network in pressing upward through his career. Willie was hooked on the Clongowes team that won the Leinster Cup in 1978, and later starred for Lansdowne, and he regaled us with many stories of how his ability, and more particularly his willingness to connect with people had driven his success, and also gave the younger members many valuable nuggets to take home with them and mull over in consideration of building their network for the future.



Host for the evening Sean O'Sullivan (CCR 1998-2004) addressing the gathering.

Having been filled with the wit and wisdom, we retired back to the bar for more anecdotes from Willie and a few more serious conversations with an eye to business, where a few details were exchanged and deals struck before we all headed off in the Dublin evening.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Willie Burns for agreeing to be our keynote speaker, the staff at the Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club for their usual excellent service and attention to our every need, and to thank all the attendees for their engagement in what was, once again, a very fruitful afternoon for the CCR Business Community.

This year's Business Lunch took place at Fitzwilliam LTC on Friday 19th October with John O'Brien (CCR Class of 1998) as our speaker. John is the Managing Director of O'Brien Fine Foods whose products include Brady Family Ham, and he gave an excellent presentation. The next issue of the Review will contain a report.



Shay Garvey (CCR 1967-'72), Gerry Moloney (CCR 1956-'61) and Liam Spooner (CCR 1962-'68).



Tim Foley (CCR 2009-'15) and Simon Meagher (CCR 2010-'16), successive SCT Captains.



Willie Burns informing and entertaining the audience in equal measure.



Shane Kelly, Mathew Mellott and Sean Cody (all Class of 2012).



Union President Fergal Keane (CCR 1967-'72).



John Devine and Daniel Lavelle (both Class of 2014)

CCR Union, Dublin Branch, Annual Dinner

8th March 2019

CCR pastmen started arriving at St Stephen's Green Hibernian Club from 7.0 p.m. all cutting a dash in their smart black tie attire. The atmosphere in the bar started rising to reach a crescendo as the gong rang for dinner at 8.0 p.m. A 60 strong platoon of able bodied CCR men and three supporting lady guests streamed into the dinning room to the strains of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary".

A warm welcome was extended to all present by the then Chairman Liam Nicholl, particularly to those who had travelled - Patron of our Union Dom Malachy Thompson from the monastery and college, Union President, Mr Fergal Keane, from London and Alumni Officer and Union General Secretary, Ms Katherine Donovan from Roscrea. A welcome was also extended to our guest schools representatives from St Michael's, St. Mary's, King's Hospital, Gonzaga, CUS, and Terenure. Congratulations were also extended to both Gonzaga and St Michael's on reaching the Senior Cup Final on St Patrick's Day.

First to take the floor was Dom Malachy who gave an update on the good progress being made at the College with increased numbers, good results and a full programme of academic and sporting activities. He also outlined an exciting and innovative project at the monastery and farm to make the entire campus at Mount St. Joseph's carbon neutral. Then, before dinner, as an introduction to the theme of the evening, Dr Ina Kelly, Tyrellspass, a guest of our Union played a slow Irish Air on her uilleann pipes as a tribute to our past students of CCR who served in WW1. Ina's grand uncle, Cornelius I. Kelly (CCR 1909-'11), Portumna, was shot down over Flanders and killed, aged 19. Her grandfather was also a past student.

After a standing ovation for Ina, the buzz of conversation throughout the room rose in intensity as all engaged in good conversation and enjoyed the quality food and excellent "Own Label" Cuvée CCR Union wines.

Next up was our very own Gerard O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70), resident CCR expert on all the wars, who recounted, in just 12 minutes, aided by Power Point photos, remarkable stories of our CCR pastmen who served in all areas of the armed forces. These included stories of pastmen who served in the Royal Flying Corps (precursor of the RAF), e.g. Major Tim Killeen (CCR 1911-'14), Miltown Malbay, who was shot down by the Red Baron, survived but died in later life of war wounds.

Gerard also told stories of pastmen who served with the Royal Navy with it's big naval base in Cork, to an intrigued audience. These included Patrick Harrington (CCR 1916-'17), aged 17 who, when home on holidays from CCR, took the place of a mate who was ill, on board the HM Clifton, a minesweeper, but sadly it inadvertently hit a mine shortly after leaving Cork Harbour and he was killed.

Some CCR pastmen were taken as Prisoners of War by the German army, e.g., Henry E. Hall (CCR 1908-'11), who, after the War became a leading light of Irish Industry and from 1942 to 1945 served as



Gerry O'Meara, Liam Nicholl, Ina Kelly, Fergal Keane and Sean Boyne.



Padraic Ó Máille, Kieran Fitzgerald and Brendan Phelan (all Class of 1979).



Honorary Life Vice Presidents Gerald McCarthy and Conor Massey.



Mary Claire and John O'Malley. Mary Claire is a grand niece of Michael Collins, close friend of Emmet Dalton.

CCR Union, Dublin Branch, Annual Dinner

8th March 2019

President of our CCR Union. Other survivors went on to have successful lives after the war, e.g., William Keegan, Co Laois (CCR 1906-'07), who went on to become head of the Board of Works in Hong Kong. Sadly Gerard told us of other casualties, e.g. Robert and Joseph Cussen (both CCR 1909-'11) from Co. Limerick and Patrick Dundon from Limerick City who was among the very first tranche of students in CCR in 1905.

The second theme speaker, Sean Boyne, biographer of probably our most illustrious CCR past student of the period, Emmet Dalton (CCR 1913-'14), focused his talk exclusively on Emmet. Dalton served at rank of captain in WW1, was decorated for bravery (Military Cross) and was with Tom Kettle when he was killed at the battle of the Somme. He became a Major General in the Free State army after the war, developed a close relationship with Michael Collins and was with Collins during treaty negotiations in London and later at Béal na Bláth where Collins was killed.

Dalton, a scratch golfer, helped CCR win one of the early inter schools golf competitions, was instrumental in setting up our CCR Union both in Ireland and London and in fact preceded Henry Hall as Union President. Remarkable photos of past students of the period were displayed and one could hear a "pin drop" during both presentations.

The final speaker on the night was our London based, Union President, Mr Fergal Keane. Fergal spoke of the importance of the relationship and interdependencies between Ireland and UK and a need for friendship, now more than ever, at this time in a Brexit conflict. Our President pointed out that many CCR past men have developed very successful careers, without hindrance, in the UK since the establishment of the college. He thanked and complimented the Dublin branch for their innovation in staging the event, a tribute to our fellow past students "that was well overdue" in his own words.

In summary, as a CCR pastman, it was a night to be proud of for our fellow pastmen who had served in a tragic period of history. We saluted them, for the first time on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, a remembrance that is well deserved.

Liam Nicholl
Chairman
Union, Dublin Branch



**Ray Hernan (CCR 1979-'82),
Peter Dunne (CCR 1982-'87) and Andrew Cody (CCR 1977-'82)**



**Union President 2019-'20 Conor
Brady and his classmate from 1966,
John Woods.**



**Paul Heron (CCR 1998-'04) and
Ciarán Herlihy (CCR 2001-'04).**



**Dom Malachy addresses the
gathering.**



**Aidan McNulty, Eamonn Tansey and
Jimmy Coffey (all Class of 1965).**

Galway Races Gallery



For the third successive year, the first Saturday in August saw CCR folk descend on Ballybrit for the penultimate day of the Galway Races.

With Brendan O'Rourke giving excellent advice as tipster, many went home with their pockets embellished.

Two presentations were made by Barry McCann on behalf of the organising committee: to Willie Mullins a mounted photograph taken at the 2017 meeting featuring himself, Brendan, John Sherry and the then Union President Pádraic Ó Máille, and to Brendan, a photo of himself interviewing the legendary jockey Lester Piggott.

Annual South West Dinner

18th May 2019

Yet another very successful Dinner was held by the South West Branch in the Mardyke Sundays Well Tennis Club, Mardyke Walk last May. The Branch was honoured by the presence of Union President Fergal Keane and his wife Marion who flew over from London for the occasion.

Before the meal, we were given a presentation by Gerry O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70) on the theme of honouring and remembering the CCR men who fought in World War One - this was similar to the one he gave at the

Dublin Dinner, to a very appreciative audience. Gerry included details of Emmet Dalton in his talk – Sean Boyne, author of 'Emmet Dalton' had given a presentation on Emmet Dalton at the Dublin Dinner.

Afterwards a presentation was made to Dermot Cronin whose coach hire business is legendary in the Cork area. Dermot and his family have been great supporters of this event, down through the years.



Gerry O'Meara with a captive audience.



Conor and Carmel O'Hara and Pat O'Shea.



Joan O'Gara with the Union President



Marion Keane with Gerald McCarthy



Tom Coughlan (CCR 1988-1993) and his wife Kasia.



Fergal O'Gara (CCR 1962-'67) in relaxed mode.

Annual South West Dinner



Union stalwarts Michael McNamara, Aidan McNulty and Conor O'Hara



Dom Malachy just about three weeks before his ordination to the priesthood.



Gerald McCarthy addresses the gathering.



Fergal Keane presents a drawing of Mount St Joseph to Dermot Cronin.



Neans McCarthy presents a bouquet of flowers to Kay O'Meara.



Liam Spooner and Dermot Cronin.

Golf Events 2018 and 2019

The last edition of the Roscrea Review appeared just before the 2018 Dublin Golf for the Matt Hyland/Noel Windle/Dom Peter Garvey trophies.

The Matt Hyland Cup was won for the second year running and for the third time in all by Hugh O'Neill, a staunch supporter of the event who, along with Aidan McNulty brings a host of visitors to it every year.

The Windle Ladies Cup was won, for the second year in a row by Barbara O'Mara and the Dom Peter Garvey Trophy (for those with handicaps 18 or over) was won by John Sherry.

In 2019, the Matt Hyland Cup was won by Michael O'Sullivan (CCR 1993-'96) with a score of 37 points, beating Aonghus Cody (CCR 2002-'08) on a countback. There was consolation for Aonghus as he and colleagues David McGovern and Seamus Hennessy (also class of 2008) won the team prize of 3 very fancy Breville sandwich makers donated by Mick Dwan of the Gowan Group.

The Windle Cup was won by Angela Cirillo with 34 points and the Dom Peter Garvey trophy was won for the second year in a row by John Sherry.



Dublin Golf Winner 2019:

Michael O'Sullivan (CCR 1993-'96) with the Matt Hyland Cup for 2019 and his father Donal who won the prize for Nearest the Pin at the 6th hole. Michael is a brother of the new Dublin Chairman Sean O'Sullivan (CCR 1998-2004).



Dublin Golf Winner 2018:

Hugh O'Neill (CCR 1964-'69) accepting the Matt Hyland Cup for 2018 from Union President Liam Spooner.



Dom Peter Garvey Trophy 2018:

Kay Garvey presenting the Dom Peter Garvey Trophy for 2018 to John Sherry (CCR 1960-'65).



Noel Windle Cup 2018:

Liam Spooner presents the Noel Windle Cup for 2018 to Barbara O'Mara.

The Abbot's Cup 2018 and 2019

In 2018, Eamon (Ned) Maher, using all his local knowledge built over the decades, won the Abbot's Cup for an unprecedented third year in a row, prompting comparisons with the current Dublin footballers and the Kilkenny hurlers of a decade ago. Indeed while congratulating Eamon on his success, Pat O'Shea made a solemn declaration that there would be a serious challenge in 2019 from Kilkenny to prevent Eamon winning four in a row. This made

Eamon all the more determined to win it again until a trip to America put paid to his hopes of defending the trophy. Alas, the Kilkenny challenge didn't quite make it as Gary Morrison from Cahir kept the Cup in Tipperary and in doing so played his part in helping his Class of 1994 team, who this year were celebrating their 25 year reunion win the Fr. Dermot O'Colmain team trophy for the second year in a row.



Abbot's Cup Winner 2018:

Eamon Maher accepting the Abbot's Cup which he won for the third year in a row in September 2018 from Dom Malachy Thompson, as Union President and fellow Roscrea native Liam Spooner looks on in delight.



Team Prize Winners 2018

The Class of 1994 team who won the Dermot O'Colmain Cup in 2018 and repeated the achievement in 2019. In the photo are Gary Morrison, Union President Liam Spooner, Simon Hall, Jamie Gibson and Diarmuid Crowley. The winning team in 2019 consisted of Gary Morrison, Diarmuid Crowley, Seamus Kennedy and Arthur Spring.

Our thanks as always to the sponsors of our golf competitions. In the case of the Dublin Branch these are Comans' Wholesale Ltd., Commtech, Compu-fast Software Elm Park Golf and Sports Club, Gowan Group, Graphprint, Indaver, Matheson, Mason Hayes and Curran, Michael Collins Solicitors, Nicos Restaurant, Donal O'Brien, Mark O'Byrne (Goldcore), O'Callaghan Hotels, Tom O'Connell, Justin Owens, Paddywagon Tours and Three Rock Capital Management and Yamamori. This year's Abbot's Cup was sponsored by Fergal Cox and Ronnie Culliton.

Dublin Branch Networking Evening

11th April 2019

Mason Hayes and Curran's beautiful office in Barrow St., Dublin was the venue for a Careers' Evening with the theme: "Start Ups...the How To", with five guests (three of them CCR pastmen) who've all "done it" speaking for a few minutes and then engaging in a Q & A.

There was a healthy quorum of young CCR pastmen present, all of whom benefitted from the occasion. Coffee and canapes were laid on by our very generous hosts, Mason Hayes and Curran.

Those leading were Shay Garvey (CCR 1967-'72), *Founding Partner, Frontline Ventures*; Greg Swift (CCR 1972-'75), *Head of Economic Development and Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Dublin City*; Peter Cleary, *Innovation Manager, Leaders of Tomorrow Programme, Accenture Ireland*; Claire Nicholl, *Co-founder, Compensave* and Fergal Cox, (CCR 1987-'92) *Chief Operations Officer, Three Rock Capital Management*.



Brothers James (CCR 2009-'13) and Tim Foley (2009-'15) with Dublin Chairman, Liam Nicholl.



Richie Lavery, Simon Meagher, Mark Dowley, Ciaran Duff and Paddy Duggan



Cinead Tynan, James Corcoran, and Liam Crowley.



The panel: Fergal Cox, Peter Cleary, Claire Nicholl, Greg Swift and Shay Garvey.

A Year in the life of a Union President

Fergal Keane - 59th President of the CCR Union

I must say I was very surprised when I was asked by a former Union President of the Union if I would consider being President for the year 2018-19. After my initial shock, I was honoured to accept the invitation. What an honour it has been to represent the Union and my second home at all the functions I attended.

As soon as I accepted the invitation Katherine (our hard-working Secretary) got to work and provided me with the dates for the various functions that I would be invited to attend. Then it was a case of fitting them into my work diary, booking flights, ferries and accommodation.

The first function I attended as President elect was the Central Committee meeting on 9th September 2018 in the College Boardroom where I was installed as President. It was an emotional experience being considered worthy to follow in the footsteps of so many great former Presidents. It was also a very humbling experience to be the first Union President to take office who was not living in Ireland. It shows that the CCR Union represents all Pastmen wherever they live be it in Ireland or abroad.

The reason why we Pastmen attend Union functions, whether they are Branch Dinners or class reunions is I believe that we enjoyed the time we spent at CCR. We had good experiences. However, we all

know of someone who for whatever reason believes they did not have such a good experience and consequently do not want to have anything to do with the College and hence the Union. The Union is not the College and the College is not the Union. I would like to ask everyone who knows of some such person and we all do is to try and get them to come to a Union function and try and reconnect with their classmates and other Pastmen. Communication between Branches and Pastmen is a very important part of the Union.

I was very surprised that a lot of Pastmen did not know that the Union has its own website which lists an extraordinary amount of information – including functions and photo galleries that have taken place and a list of future functions. The website address is “ccrunion.org”. It is well worth a visit.

Wherever I went as President of the Union, whether it was a Branch Function (in New York, Ireland or London) or a Class reunion I received a very warm welcome. I have been privileged to meet many Pastmen from various years when I attended these functions. The stories and tales that were regaled were all very similar with the exception that they all came from different decades.

I have always been proud of the fact that I was educated at CCR but it was so inspiring to see the enthusiasm and pride that

Pastmen have for the College – from the students of the 2019 year graduation to the Pastmen who left the College in 1945 and earlier.

As any past President will tell you that to do this job you need the lots of support. I am particularly grateful to my family and those Pastmen who were willing to go out of their way to assist me by representing the Union on my behalf when I was unable to attend a function.

During my time as President I attended the following functions on behalf of the Union

- 5 October – Class of 1968 - 50 year reunion,
- 19 October – Central Committee meeting followed by Dublin Business Lunch,
- 16 November – North American Branch Dinner,
- 16 December – Central Committee meeting followed by CCR Carol Service in Abbey Church and Presentation of Union Gold Medal to James Dunne,
- 2 March – CCR Gala Ball
- 3 March - Central Committee meeting,
- 8 March – Dublin Branch Annual Dinner,
- 12 April – CUS PPU Annual Dinner,
- 17 May – Graduation Mass, Dinner & Presentation of Union Ties to 6th Year Class – our newest members,

continued on page 18

Fergal Keane, Union President

59th President of the CCR Union

In September 2018, Fergal Keane became the 59th President of the CCR and the first who lives outside Ireland, though you wouldn't think it considering the number of events he attended during the year.

A native of Dublin, the family later moved to Trim where his brother Pat, the Union Treasurer resides. Both are successful accountants -

Fergal has his own practice built up over many years in London.

Fergal has been Chairman of the London Branch for many years and with others organises a dinner every even year the night before Ireland play England.

His has been a very active Presidency, proof positive of the wisdom of his being proposed for the Office.



Union President Fergal Keane and Dublin Chairman Liam Nicholl with guests from other school unions at the Dublin Dinner.



A blessing for the President



At the AGM



*With his immediate predecessor
Liam Spooner*



In New York



Fergal and Marion Keane with North American Branch Chairman Roger Healy and his wife Catherine.



New Union President with Cental Committee after AGM 2018

A Year in the life of a Union President

continued from page 15

- 18 May – South West Branch Dinner where a presentation was made to Dermot Cronin,
- 9 June – Ordination of Dom Malachy Thompson,
- 3 August – The Galway Races,
- 23 August – London Summer Social on the eve of the England V Ireland warm up match for 2019 RWC. A match best forgotten!
- 14 September – Abbot's Cup and Dinner,
- 14 September – Reunions for Classes of 1969, 1989, 1994 and 1999.
- 15 September - Central Committee meeting followed by the installation of Conor Brady as Union President for 2019-'20.

During my travels as President of the Union I experienced all kinds of weather from rain to snow and sunshine. Let me explain:

When my wife, daughter and I went to New York to attend the North American Branch Dinner we decided to do some shopping, sightseeing and to get our bearings for the following day (as it was our first time visiting New York). We left our accommodation in Brooklyn in the morning in glorious sunshine only to experience a blizzard later in the evening (the like of which I had never seen, which even

stopped the traffic: an unheard-of event for New York), which curtailed the numbers attending the Dinner the next day. In Ireland on 3rd March after the Central Committee Meeting, we went into lunch in sunshine only to come out to find a couple of inches of snow and then drove to Galway to find no snow at all. When we attended the Galway Races on 3 August the weather during the meeting was reasonably good but there was a downpour as we were leaving. However, the weather did not distract from the enjoyment of the events.

I believe the following could sum up the experience of many CCR Pastmen –

- CCR was the place where we played, made our mistakes and grew up,
- CCR was our spiritual home,
- CCR was the place where we felt safe,
- CCR was the ground where the seeds of later life were sown,
- CCR was where we cemented who we were and what we would become,
- CCR was where we experienced stability in education and recreation,
- CCR was where we did not have to show off,
- CCR was where lifelong friendships were shaped,
- CCR is engrained in our soul and body.

Finally, I want to thank my family particularly my wife Marion – the First Lady for her inspiration and

encouragement who always made sure that everything was correct for all my/our trips making sure that the bags were packed, tickets booked on time and that the chain of office was always safe and secure.

Secondly, to my chauffeur who happens to be “the brother” and Union Treasurer. Without him, the First Lady and I would not have arrived in the style and comfort to the events we both attended. He has always been there as a guide and sound listening board.

Thirdly, to The Union Secretary – Katherine Donovan who has kept me informed as to the possible dates the Central Committee Meetings should take place, but was always willing to change the date so that the meeting could coincide with a College or Union events.

The highlight of my year was the Ordination of Dom Malachy. It was an honour to witness the ordination of a monk from Mt St Joseph Abbey - the first in several years. I am sure that with Dom Malachy at the helm and Patron of the Union we the Past Pupils are certain that the College and Union will go from strength to strength.

I want to wish my successor the current President of the Union – Mr Conor Brady every success in his year of office.

*Fergal Keane (CCR 1967-'72)
Union President 2018-'19*

REUNIONS!

REUNION OF CLASS OF 1963



Back Row: Tom Mulherin, Mick O'Neill, Conor Guiney, James Quain, Desmond Houlihan, Phil Hourican, Freddie Kirk and Liam Burke

Front Row: Donal Sheedy, Pat Cunneen, Tony Bardon, Tom Grennan, Frank Canavan, John Mulligan, James Bardon and Joe Doyle

The classes of 1963 were one of the first year groups to have a reunion in Roscrea. We had a 21st year reunion in 1984. We are proud to have initiated this tradition which has become a must-do for so many classes since then. We followed up our 21st with a 30th and a 50th year reunion. The next logical step would have been a 60th, but we felt if we left it that long there may not have been so many of us around to celebrate.

So, at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 15th September 2018, 16 of us gathered in the former Billiard Room for tea and biscuits hosted by Katherine Donovan.

As we shared reminiscences and more recent happenings, we were joined by John Shanahan our former Irish teacher. While not our sole surviving teacher, he is one of very few and we were delighted to see him.

We should have been 17 but at the last minute our usual scribe Ger Lyne, renowned author, had to drop out due to ill-health. Thankfully, he has recovered since then, but it does mean that that this report will be without the usual poetic references, seanfhocail or

literary illusions. (*Ed. note - alas, Ger since passed away - see obituary elsewhere in this Review*)

After our informal reception, we were taken on a tour by David Ormond who is a fairly recent graduate of the college and a part-time housemaster. We marvelled at some of the changes which we could not even have envisaged during our time. We were particularly impressed with the sophistication of the college restaurant and with the Sixth Year dormitory facilities.

Whereas on earlier reunions, we had used the services of local hotels, on this occasion we decided to use the guesthouse which turned out to be an inspired choice. We were welcomed by the guest master Father Kevin. While he was not around in our time, he has had such a long association with the college and with many of our family members that he made us feel completely at home. He also celebrated a Mass for our deceased classmates which re-connected us with the tradition of daily mass when we were in the college. A memorial candle was lit for each of the deceased members and their names were called out.

At 7.00 p.m. we had a short reception in the guesthouse parlour where we were joined by the Prior, Dom Malachy Thompson.

This was followed by an excellent meal in the refectory prepared by Pat Walsh and his staff. After the meal, we were addressed by our House Captain Tom Grennan, who reminded us that, while we led a rather isolated existence behind the walls of the College, there were momentous events taking place in the outside world between 1958 and 1963. John XXIII's papacy spanned those five years. John F Kennedy was elected in 1960 and the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 did seep into our consciousness giving us all a sense of the fragility of life.

The most tangible intrusion of the newly emerging modern age which we experienced was the arrival Des Houlihan's rather bulky transistor radio in the early sixties which gave him the status of a minor cultural icon

The next part of the evening came about as a result of a suggestion by Jim Keating, who runs a Speaker's Forum in Toronto but was unable to be with us on this occasion. While still seated at the dinner table, each participant made a five-minute contribution on what was important in their lives today. This proved to be an inspired format and we had many profound and wonderful contributions. Most of us were still living very active and fulfilled lives. Some are still involved in

gainful employment while others derive great pleasure from interacting with their grandchildren or pursuing their special interests and hobbies. Many have had successful careers and other have had difficult times which they shared with us. For about an hour and a half, we listened to the highs and lows that made up the lives of our colleagues over the years and at the end of the session we were a much closer-knit group than had sat down to a celebration meal earlier in the evening.

By then it was time to return to the guesthouse parlour, where we shared some late-night drinks, a few songs and more reminiscences before retiring.

Despite the lateness of the night before for some, nearly all attended a relatively early breakfast. There we shared more memories, further interests and our impressions of weekend before returning home.

There was a consensus that notwithstanding our reduced numbers and our advancing age that this had probably been our best reunion and there was much enthusiasm to meet again sooner rather than later.

There was also high praise for the Guesthouse as a venue for reunions such as ours where the numbers are relatively small.

We'll be back!
Tony Bardon.



CLASS OF 1963 – '68

50 YEAR REUNION

The 50 year Reunion of the class of 1963-'68 took place on Friday 5th October, 2018 in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.

This was a Reunion that I thought I might never see due to a major stroke I suffered in early May but was encouraged strongly by the Committee members to carry on with the preparations and thankfully it all went ahead as planned. As I was unable to drive for some time it was a great help that members travelled to Tullamore for our meetings which eventually culminated in our gathering in Portlaoise.

Earlier on the day, seven pastmen including: Union President, Fergal Keane took part in a very pleasant Golf competition in the Heath Golf Club. Then 26 guys turned up on the night, with apologies received from Nicky Ryan, Frank Brandon, Michael O'Donnell, Pat Salvadori, Noel Burke, Kevin Croke, Noel O'Callaghan and Vincent Egan, but all wished us well for the celebrations and asked to be remembered.

We had left a sheet on the table for each classmate to take away with them, which gave a brief synopsis of

where each of the pastmen who were unable to be with us, were living & what had happened to them since our 40 year reunion back in 2008.

Dom Kevin Daly was a guest of ours on the night, as was the Union President, Fergal Keane, who had graciously travelled over from London to be with us. Former teachers Vincent Leahy and Seán Burke were unable to attend for various reasons.

After Dom Kevin had said Grace, a minute's silence was observed as Michael Brody read out the list of the 11 deceased men from our year: Aidan Collins, Felix Cronin, Jim Downey, William Doyle, Jim Fallon, Niall Gaffney, Jamesy McGowan, John McGowan, Joe Mellotte, Frank Reynolds, and (only recently deceased), Pat Blake.

Michael Brody did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies as he had done at our 40th.

Dom Kevin made a short speech saying he was glad to see us all again and hoped to see us at our 55th which might possibly be held in the Guest House. Union President, Fergal Keane was next to speak, finishing with the words 'Gentlemen, CCR made us what we are.'

It was only when dinner was finished that I was



Seated: John O'Connor, Dick Spring, Jim Keating, Fergal Keane, Fr Kevin, Peter Hogan

Middle: John Keane, Jerry O'Leary, Bill O'Brien, Willie O'Connell, Liam Spooner, Gerry Brown,

Ralph Keane, Des Hanrahan, Frank Thompson, Brian Grogan, Sean Leyden

Back: Rory Culliton, Michael Brody (behind Jerry O'Leary), Leo Crehan, Jim Ryan, John O'Dwyer,

David O'Brien, Tom Hunt, Paddy Carroll, Pat Keane, Peadar Cox, Sean McCann

overwhelmed when Jerry O'Leary made a presentation to me on behalf of the classmates, of a beautiful Galway crystal which was much appreciated, and totally unexpected.

I was ably assisted by committee members – M. Brody, D. O'Brien, J. O'Leary, P. Keane & R. Culliton in 'shepherding' the assembled pastmen into the Reception area for the group photograph. Then having retired to the Bar we really got to know each other again, *Jerry O'Leary informed me they stayed in the bar till 4.30a.m!*

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

The following morning accompanied by Fergal Keane

and Jerry O'Leary we walked around Portlaoise where I pointed out where the class mates had lived in the town: Tom Wilson, Gerry Browne, Kevin Croke and my own home place of 8 Bridge Street, now sold, I believe to someone from Latvia!

Finally 15 of us travelled to the College for the customary "Meet & Greet" reception in the Billiard Room followed by Mass in the College Chapel, celebrated by Dom Kevin. Delighted to see that Mr. Kilbane & Mr. Shanahan arrived to join us.

My very special thanks to Tom Hunt, who had travelled from California, to be with us (never forgotten, Tom).

At Dick Spring's suggestion we agreed to meet again in five year's time for our 55th., - possibly in the Guest House?

*Until we meet again
Best wishes
Jas Keating
1963-1968*



Back row: David O'Brien, Brian Grogan, Jim McIntyre, Pat Keane, Raphael Keane, Peadar Cox, Jerry O'Leary, Tom Hunt, Sean Leyden, Michael Haugh, Rory Culliton, Pat Kilbane, Gerry Grealish.

Front row: Sean McCann, Dom Laurence Walsh, Jim Keating, Union President Fergal Keane, Dick Spring, John Shanahan and Liam Spooner.

CLASS OF 88 REUNION

The class of 1988 were invited back to the college for their 30-year reunion on 29th September 2018. On what was a lovely Autumn afternoon, a number of the classmates took the opportunity to play golf in Roscrea, before meeting up with others at the College for a short reception. It was wonderful to see the changes that have happened to the College in 30 years, to listen to Dom Malachy give an insight into the monastic community and to hear Gary Halpin talk about life within the College in contemporary times. Ronnie Culliton gave the class an insight into the issues being faced by the college, and the ambitious plans for the future. It is good to know that the College is in such collectively capable hands.

It was especially nice for the students to meet with some of the now retired teaching staff from their own time, most notably John Shanahan and Pat Kilbane both of whom would still strike “the fear of God into you”! So much in the College has changed in 30 years, yet there are still so many things the same, that one can imagine still being a student in CCR.

Moving on from the College, classmates had a few aperitifs in the Racket Hall Hotel before dinner. The class was delighted and honoured to be joined by fantastic guests of honour, Pat Sheedy and Brendan O'Rourke. Both men were amazing in how they could recall events from our time in the College and paid a lovely tribute to Hugh O'Donnell who was great friend of theirs and also held in the highest regard by the Class of 1988. Hugh had attended previous class reunions and was sadly missed on this occasion. Whilst absent friends were missed from the evening, it was heart warming to meet some classmates who were unable to make previous reunions and others who had travelled across continents to be present. You know who you are – thank you for coming!

In keeping with the tradition of this class, the festivities continued late into the night where memories were relived, stories embellished and friendships rekindled. Great fun was had by all.

The class would like to thank the College, and especially Katherine O'Donovan for the invitation, and for all the assistance afforded in organising the event. We are grateful and hope that we will be invited again in 2023!



Front row left to right: Francis Harrington, Eoghan O'Callaghan, John Shanahan, Donnagh Verling, Fr. Kevin Daly OCSO, Kevin Keegan, Frank Stokes, Pierce O'Leary, Dom Malachy Thompson, Pat Somers, Tom Duggan, Darragh O'Connor.

Second Row left to right: Niall Doogue, Derek Campbell, Dave Hernan, Vincent O'Hara, Gerald Grace, Ronnie Culliton, Shane Slattery, Tony Shorthall, Pat Kilbane, Edward Russell, Carl Kiernan, Erik Barry, William Smyth, John Hackett, John Cleary.

CLASS OF 88 REUNION



Members of the Class of 1988 imagine what it would be like to be back on stage!



Shane and friends are glad to be back!



It's good to be back!

CLASS OF 1993 – 25 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1993 which includes such legends as Barry Egan, Michael Moroney and Brian Doran held a very enjoyable 25 year reunion on 13th October 2018.

In common with other groups we all met in the College around 3.0 pm for a reception in the Senior Refectory. Katherine Donovan had tipped off the 1993 teaching staff that we were coming and we were delighted to have Brendan O'Rourke, Norman Davy and John Shanahan – we really appreciated John coming all the way from Rathkeale to be with us. Dom Lawrence luckily was also able to attend.

Chairman of the Board of Management, Ronnie Culliton was on hand to bring us up to speed on developments in the College and give us a gentle reminder why we should all be sending our sons to CCR.

Gary Halpin gave us a feel for the day to day activities of a CCR student in 2018. (They have it easy compared to the us in 1993!) Gary then gave us a tour of the College - several of us hadn't been back since leaving in 1993 as we had previous reunions in Kilkenny, so it was great to see the developments that have taken place.

On leaving the college we headed to the County Arms in Birr for our reception. Brendan O'Rourke and Pat Sheedy attended the dinner and regaled us with stories of pastmen. Sincere thanks to both for attending. A very pleasant meal with lots of wine and good memories lasted until quite late.

Of the 65 on the class, we were in touch with 55 of them in the organising phase of this reunion and 35 attended on the day. A specific welcome to the few men who attended their first reunion after 25 years - you know who you are!

Eoin O'Carroll.



Left to Right: William Murphy, Michael Culleton, Michael Haverty, Ronan Gleeson, Eoin O'Carroll, Ronan Ryan, John Hickey, Brian Adams, Brendan O'Rourke, Brian Doran, Shane Taggart, Barry Egan, Reamon Canavan, Ronan Byrne, Thomas Coughlan, Brian Dempsey, Eoin McDonnell, Colin Mernagh, Scott Walkin, Brendan Muldoon, David Bourke, Darragh Hanratty, Mark O'Flaherty, Eoin Ryan, Garry Palmer, Mr. Shanahan, Norman Davy, Ronnie Culleton, Dom Malachy, John Hogan.

2018 North American Dinner

The annual North American Branch dinner takes place in New York on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving. Last year's date was Friday 16th November. As in past years it took place at Delmonico's Kitchen on West 36th Street.

A total of 6 Pastmen (including the Union President) were in attendance. Also attending the Dinner was Honorary CCR Past man Bill Fahey. The Branch Vice Chairman – Roger Healy was accompanied by his wife Cathy. He welcomed all attendees particularly the Union President, his wife and daughter and thanked them for attending the function. Roger advised that this was the 50th annual North American Branch Dinner. He apologised that the Branch Chairman – Des O'Brien could not attend

due to other commitments. He advised that if anyone knows of Pastmen in the local area to make contact with the Union and the local Branch Committee. Up to date contact details are of prime importance. He went on to explain that due to the unexpected blizzard of the previous day a number of would be attendees were unable to travel.

After a very fine meal all adjourned across the road to the Irish bar – The Pig and Whistle to reminisce about our days in CCR and discuss the hopeful outcome of the match against the All Blacks taking place the following day in Lansdowne Road.

Fergal Keane



Kieran Dunleavy (CCR 1983-'88), Daniel Ryan (CCR 2012-'14), Roger Healy (CCR 1984-'89), Fergal Keane (CCR 1967-'72), Garrett Lawlor (CCR 1991-'96) and Glenn Adams (CCR 1987-'92).

News of Pastmen

Alasdair (Ali) Browne (CCR 1972-'78) is a Leadership Coach working in Ireland and internationally. He now lives in Bray.

John Connolly (Class of 2017) is currently studying Business and Politics in Trinity College, Dublin.

Brian Cullinan (CCR 2011-'17) is studying Law in UCD.

James McKeon (CCR 2011-'17) is studying History and Politics at UCD.

Eamon Maher (CCR 1972-'78) has had yet another collaboration published, entitled *Recalling the Celtic Tiger*, which he co-edited with Brian Lucey and Eugene O'Brien. It was formally launched in the Trinity College Business School on 11th October 2019.

Tiernan McCloskey (Class of 2017) is studying Business and Economics at TCD. He will be studying in Hong Kong from January to May 2020, and currently works part time at KBC Bank.

Andrew Richardson (Class of 2007) is a solicitor working with the firm of Eugene F. Collins, Burlington Rd., Dublin 4.

Garrett Verling (CCR 1998-'04) recently moved to the Cayman Islands to work at Campbells' Law Firm.

John Verling (CCR 2002-'07) works in Management Consulting with KPMG, a firm which recently welcomed Ciarán Gaffney who not that long ago was an outstanding player with the SCT.

David Walsh (Class of 2008) recently moved back to Ireland from Canada and is currently studying Management Consultancy at UCD.

RUGBY SUPPORT GROUP DRAW 2020

It's that time of year again! The Rugby Support Group is working away, making great efforts to provide everything needed to achieve success in school's Rugby. While it seems like only yesterday that the SCT was winning the Leinster Cup and the Juniors were unlucky to lose their Semi Final against Terenure College, the reality is that the first years of 2014-'15 will be doing their Leaving Cert next June and there will be no students in the College who will remember their exploits!

The Annual Grand Slam Draw for excellent prizes will be held on the last Sunday in January 2020 and while tickets are available from a variety of sources, pastmen are encouraged to contact the Editor at athanratty@gmail.com to arrange speedy dispatch or allocation of tickets.



Photo shows last year's ticket when the top prize went to Paul Wrafter (Class of '71) with a ticket sold by and randomly pulled out of the drum by yours truly.

THEN AND NOW



Michael Milne, now in his second year in the Leinster Academy made a number of successful appearances for Leinster in the Pro 14 when the senior players were away at the World Cup, and scored tries in the matches against Ospreys and Edinburgh.

Our other photo shows him with members of his family after CCR's match in Donnybrook in 2016 when they beat Clongowes to reach the final for the second successive year.

In the photos below we see Fineen Wycherly walking off the field after CCR beat Newbridge in the March 2015 Semi Final replay on their way to winning the Cup, and in the red of Munster where he is now a well established part of the squad.



OBITUARIES

In these pages are details of pastmen who have gone to their reward mostly in the past year or so. Several of them led extremely illustrious lives and we are grateful to those who sent details of their lives for use in these pages. They are an inspiration to those of us who follow in their footsteps.

OLLIE (PJ) BYRNE (CCR 1959-60)

Ollie died on 27th July 2018. He had been living in Monaghan but was originally from Tramore. He had an engaging and good humoured personality, as well as having a thoughtful and reflective side. He joined the class from Tramore for the Leaving Cert year and with these characteristics quickly became very popular. His classmates will hear of his passing with deep regret. We offer our sincere sympathies to his wife Patricia and his family.

Cathal Bredin (CCR 1955-'60).

John Corcoran (CCR 1942-'45)

Died 29th June 2019

An outstandingly successful businessman and one of the men behind the extraordinary success of the Paddy Power brand. In fact it was the arrival of the big UK multiples into the Irish market in the 1980s that galvanised the coming together of Stewart Kenny, Richard Power and Corcoran to merge their interests and go for market share as against short term profits. The result is the Paddy Power / Betfair chain we know today which is valued at €8 billion.

John was also instrumental in the setting up of Green Property, one of the state's most successful companies. Though obviously a very wealthy man, he had little time for the ostentatious spending of money. According to his great friend, trainer Jim Bolger, he was the ideal owner - a great winner, but also a good loser.

Bishop Laurence Forristal (CCR 1944-'49) who died on 10th October 2018 was Bishop Emeritus of Ossory and former Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin.

Born in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny in 1931, he was educated locally at Mercy Convent Primary School and the Boys' National School in Thomastown. In CCR he was a contemporary of, among others Vincent Cowen (Fr. Andrew oco) and

Matt Finegan (Fr. Anthony oco). He studied for the priesthood at Clonliffe College, Dublin, and studied philosophy at UCD.

He pursued further studies at the Propaganda Fide College in Rome and was ordained there as a priest for the Diocese of Ossory in 1955. He was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop in Dublin in 1980, and a year later on the death of Dr. Peter Birch, he was appointed Bishop of Ossory.

There was certain irony in his becoming Bishop of Ossory. According to an article in the CCR Centenary Book, C ad Bliain Faoi Rath, when the young Larry Forristal decided he wanted to become a diocesan priest, and applied to his local seminary, he was refused because he hadn't attended St. Kieran's, the Junior Seminary! This was the policy in several dioceses in Ireland - different times alas!

On the advice of College President Fr. Ailbe, he applied to the archdiocese of Dublin - in Fr. Ailbe's words, "They'll accept anyone in Dublin!" In time, he became Parish Priest in Finglas where he always said he was happiest.

There was further irony in that it fell to him as Bishop to close the diocesan seminary in 2007 due to falling numbers.

To mark his retirement in 2007, the South East Branch held a dinner in his honour, which was very well attended, showing the esteem in which he was held.

Scott Fredericks (Freddie Wehrly) (CCR 1956-'61)

Freddie died on 6th November 2017 in his home town of Sligo after a prolonged illness.

Those who shared his years in CCR hold vivid memories of his stage performances in the Shakespearean productions directed

by Gate Theatre actor, the late Dermot Touhy, particularly his impressive *Horatio* in *Hamlet* (December 1960). He also featured prominently on the Senior Rugby team, as wing forward.

After Roscrea, he studied gemmology in London, qualifying to join the long-established family jewellery business. But Freddie's love of theatre soon found him returning to London, to accept a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA). He had a successful acting career, commencing on the stage at Chesterfield, Northampton (under Peter Brook), and onto the West End, where he played *Mark Anthony*, *Henry II* and in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. There followed roles in many TV and film productions of the 1960s and '70s, including *Crossroads*, *Dr. Who*, *Dixon of Dock Green*, *John Halifax Gentleman*, *Dad's Army*, *The Rise and Rise of Michael Rimmer* (with Peter Cook) and *See No Evil* (with Mia Farrow).

In 1973 Freddie returned to Ireland, playing leading roles for several seasons at the Gate under Hilton Edwards and Micheal McLiammoir. Later in the '70s he appeared in popular BBC TV series such as *Z Cars*, *Blake's Seven*, and *Last of the Summer Wine*.

In the 1980s he toured with a self-devised one-man stage show *Yeats Remembers*, for which he was nominated for an Evening Herald Theatre Award, while also continuing to appear in roles on the small and large screen (*Triangle* (68 episodes), *The Enigma Files*, Keith Waterhouse's *Charteris and Caldicott*, *Crossfire*, *Caught in a Free State* (RTE) and *Cal*) and on the stage (e.g., Mary Halpin's *Semi-Private*). In 1982 Freddie became a contract Radio Drama Director with RTE. He will be remembered for RTE Radio 1's long-running series *Harbour Hotel*, other radio drama productions and a role in *Fair City*.

He also represented RTE at the prestigious 1997 Prix Italia Awards.

In the 2000s he continued to feature in further film and TV roles such as *Prince William*, *Sherlock Holmes* (with the late Jonathan Pryce) and *Rock Rivals*.

As Freddie's professional colleagues have written, "his was a career of over 40 years, a gifted actor gracing stage and screen with talent and dignity". While his latter years were visited with serious illness, he was fortunate to have returned to again reside in his beautiful Sligo. There, he so enjoyed the surrounds, in the renewed company and care of family and friends. He is survived by his sons, Mark and Paul, their mother Mary, daughter-in-law Natalie, brother Tony, sister Irma (Morgan), sister-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

PS. CCR was well represented at the Requiem Mass in Sligo Cathedral by Donal McGlynn (1959), and *Classmates of 1961 - Michael Keohane, Joe Doherty, Ray Gibbons and Tom Garvey.*

Seamus Gohery (CCR 1953-'58)

from Mullagh, Loughrea but living in Ashbourne, Co. Meath died on 25th February 2019. He was predeceased by his brothers Sean and Michael. All three were in CCR in the 1950s.

Philip Guiney (CCR 1959-'64)

It is with a deep sense of loss that the class of 1963-'64 mourns the passing on 6th December 2018 of Philip Guiney our House Captain. A genial man who practiced inclusiveness, friendliness and compassion without preaching, whilst retaining a moral steeliness. Students and adults found this reassuring and endearing.

His determination on the rugby field and other sports (inherited from his father, also a CCR man, (1932- '36), who was capped as a wing forward for Ireland in 1945 and '46 and was uncompromising as he played front row for CCR and Bective Rangers and minor football for Meath.

Love of song and music acquired honestly from the Abbeyfeale hinterland influences of his mother and father was always a central cultural asset. As a student at concerts he effortlessly charmed his peers into the 'otherworldliness' of *'By the*

Shortcut to the Rosses'.

Always a community and family man he was 'at home' with himself and the world. We extend our sympathies to his wife Lesley, sons Brendan, Philip and Patrick, his sister Nuala, brothers Conor (CCR 1958-'63) and Jack (CCR 1960-'65), step brothers Rod and Dave, step sisters Nessa and Ciara, cousin Mundy Prendiville (CCR 1963-'65) and his extended family.

*Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.
Ronnie Owens (CCR 1959-'64).*

We were informed in a short email from his daughter Annette that **Paddy Lowry (CCR 145-'48)** died on 17th March 2017. Her email stated simply that he loved the place!

John B Lynch (CCR 1950 - 55)

John B. Lynch passed away 1st March 2018 and although the last Roscrea Review contained an obituary of him, some of the information was incorrect. We offer sincere apologies to his wife Marie and the family, and include this correct obituary in its place.

John B Lynch of Mallow, Cork died peacefully at Cork University Hospital on 1st March 2018. John and his twin brother James (CCR 1950 - 55) born 3rd February 1938 at the White House Kileady, Co Limerick moved to Mitchelstown, Co. Cork where their father was CEO of Mitchelstown Creameries.

While in CCR John and James were awarded the gold and silver medal for outstanding academic results during their final year. John and James studied at U.C.D and as students resided at Nullamore until James's sudden death at the age of 21. John trained as a dentist and established a prominent practice in Mallow, Co. Cork which is still in operation today. As well as practicing dentistry he also lectured in UCC. In 1965 he married Marie Fitzgerald and they had 4 children. John was an avid supporter of Mallow's growth and development. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Mallow Chamber of Commerce and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International named him a Paul Harris Fellow. He was President of Mallow's Rotary Club, Golf Club and Bridge Club and rarely missed a race meeting at Cork Racecourse, Mallow. He played Senior Cup golf and was a champion Bridge player. John was extremely sociable and greatly enjoyed

chatting to friends and new acquaintances. John and Marie were strong supporters of the South West Branch of the Union of which at one stage he was Chairman. John's son, Garvan Lynch is also a CCR pastman (1987-'89).

GERARD LYNE (CCR 1961-'63)

He didn't start in the regular five-year cycle of school but on arrival assumed a top decile position in the A class, excelling in languages and history. He was a *cum laude* student He won the first prize for a nationwide schools essay competition, held in 1963, featuring his own school's trip to the Aran Islands and Dun Aengus Fort.

After graduating from UCD he held a number of teaching posts, and a sub-editor role in the Irish Times before he joined the National Library. Here he excelled in a number of roles before holding the prestigious role of Keeper of Manuscripts. He developed a rapport with literary figures thereby extending the Library's collection of valuable contemporary papers. He revitalised the National Library Society and increased its membership by offering an attractive program of lectures and annual outings. He wrote two books; *The Landsowne Estate* in Kerry under *W.S. Trench and Murtaí Óg*. The former book was awarded the National University of Ireland biennial prize for published research in History (2001). The latter book, also a historical work, was published in 2017 after many years of toil. The book was completed during a period of failing health. As a proud Kerryman, from Lauragh, Gerard contributed extensively to the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Journal and also extended his work to include his parish's Tuosist Annual Newsletter.

He was surely one of Mt. St. Joseph's great scholars.

We knew him well as a past pupil in our organising committee. He captivated in reviewing our four reunions, with prose that flattered, indeed exalted his class mates. We marvelled as he recorded the weekend reunions with inclusiveness and humour. He played no small part in the success of our reunions, in consolidating friendships.

For all his achievements Gerard was an extraordinarily modest and humble man. He never boasted of his exploits. He had the great gift of gentleness in his soul. We hear of some store of poetry, unpublished

, which we hope will see the light of day. He also had started his 'life story' which sadly was perhaps the 'unfinished symphony' of this great genius.

It was fitting that a Roscrea Alumnus had a role in his Memorial Mass held on Sat 29th June 2019, held at St Francis Xavier's (Jesuit) Church Gardner St, Dublin, about 4 weeks after his untimely death. Fr Peter Ahearne, his classmate, concelebrated the Eucharist with Fr Tony Gaughan, the well-known Kerry historian. The Mass was attended by many of his loyal friends from The National Library, the academic and literary world, his Roscrea confreres and his family and many friends. The tribute at the Mass was delivered by Donall O'Lunaigh (CCR 1956-'58) a past pupil and former colleague of Gerard's at the National Library.

Gerard who died on 5th June 2019 will be sadly missed by all and most especially by his sister Annette, and his brother Vincent (CCR 1954-'59)

Togha Fir, scoláire den chéad scoth. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.

*A Dhia, déan trócaire air.
Pat Cuneen July 2019*

Dan McInerney (CCR 1940-'42)

originally from Scariff, Co. Clare died on 30 Sept 2018. He played a major role in the fortunes of the McInerney family construction business which grew from very small beginnings to become one of the largest in Ireland, with a huge footprint in the UK and the Middle East.

The youngest of eight children he had a keen Mathematical brain and went on to do a degree in Engineering at UCD in 1946. He was an outstanding hurler and was on the Clare team that won the National League in 1946 and won Clare County Championship medals with Scariff in 1946, 1952 and 1953.

He spearheaded the Company's development in the UK and fittingly, when the downturn caused by the 1973 oil crisis caused major losses to the firm, he turned difficulties into opportunities, expanding this time into the Middle East itself, with McInerney Properties becoming one of the very first Irish companies to operate in Gulf markets, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar, completing a wide

range of projects including roads, schools, housing and even palaces for Arab princes.

An obituary in the Irish Times described him as an exemplar of a particular kind of Irishman who both metaphorically and, in his case, almost literally, helped build the modern Ireland.

Joe Moran (CCR 1955-'60),

originally from Co. Westmeath, died surrounded by his family in Galbally, Co. Limerick on 23rd August 2018. A keen hurler, he spent time with the African Missions before pursuing a career as a commercial pilot in East Africa. On one occasion he rescued Ken Rutherford, co-founder of the Landmine Survivors' Network whose car struck a landmine when working with the International Rescue Committee in Somalia. Joe's decisive action probably saved Rutherford's life and he has gone on to be a great international advocate in the campaign to ban landmines.

Joe was delighted to attend the 55 year reunion of his class in 2015 - he had never been to one before and was looking forward to their 60th in 2020.

Cóilín Owens (CCR 1956-'61)

Died 9th July 2019

Cóilín Owens, though born in Roscommon was a Meathman at heart and loved to follow Gaelic Football from afar especially when Meath were in their prime. From his earliest days in CCR when his English teacher Tom Cole singled him out with the prophetic compliment: "this man can write", an illustrious academic career was always on the cards. He earned degrees from the the University of Notre Dame, University College Dublin (now NUI Dublin) and Kent State University. He was Professor Emeritus of English Literature at George Mason University, and published a number of books and articles on Irish literature.

CCR classmate Paul Robinson writes:

Cóilín Owens' life reflected his upbringing – very Irish, family oriented, Catholic and educated. Indeed his parents, both teachers, were probably the most educated and respected in their community. Cóilín's schooling at CCR was literary, classical, musical, sporting and fun-filled. His third place in Ireland in the Intermediate Certificate Exam, at the age of 16, showed promised of future academic greatness. But he was no nerd and excelled athletically.

His religious development at CCR, nurtured by Cistercian monks, saw him following his two uncles, Frs. Tom and Pat Peyton, CSC. to university and seminary at Notre Dame University, Ind. where I accompanied him (for two years only) and envied his early entry to the Dean's List with the privilege of attending lectures at will, whereas I laboured under 'three misses and trouble'. Cóilín's subsequent passionate academic career, publications and fame are legendary and well documented.

After we both married and Cóilín settled in US and I in Africa we stayed in close contact and met on numerous occasions – one being overlapping again in formative, student years for post-grad work at UCD where Cóilín took his MA in Anglo-Irish Literature.

Cóilín's religious schooling, his education in the classics – Latin and Greek, – his deep love of Ireland and the fact that he lived abroad was much akin to James Joyce's development. This equipped him admirably as a devoted scholar of the life and works of Joyce for which he is internationally renowned. (Just Google his name and you will see what I mean.) I stayed with him and his wife Julie for a week in 2014 just after the publication of his second work, "Before Daybreak" ("After the Race" and the origins of Joyce's art). Prominent among our conversations was his telling of the four years spent in researching and writing the book. It absorbed his body and mind, the meticulousness of which is evident on every page. Cóilín was well known among his classmates of '61 for his specialisation in the works of Joyce and in 2004, the hundredth anniversary of Bloomsday, Cóilín, Gerry Moloney and I contributed an article for the Roscrea Review entitled "Bloomsday on Three Continents". I must add, however that Cóilín was no great devotee of "The Joyce Industry". He also attended many New York Roscrea Union functions.

And so, Cóilín's life reflected his deep family values, his profound Catholic development, deeply entrenched love of all things Irish and his continued contact with the experiences and friends of his youth. To these he was committed throughout his very productive life.

He was a man of great humour with respect to the ridiculous and of great

intensity with respect to the serious. He was ever the champion of the underdog. That he enriched my life and that of many others, both close and distant, goes without question. It has been a privilege to have known and learned from him and to have been his friend. Was he perfect? Of course not! He was just as wonderful and normal as the rest of us only more so.

Paul Robinson (CCR 1956-'61)

Another of Cólín's classmates, Paddy Boland sent this report of Cólín's obsequies last July.

While we mourned his passing we also celebrated Coilin's spectacular life. To us who knew him, it was no surprise to hear what a kind and caring human being he was at his University, his local community/church and most of all at home. While I had a vague idea of his vast scholarly contributions to English literature, I was not aware of the huge impact he had in cultivating Irish culture in the Virginia and surrounding areas. There was a lengthy eulogy delivered in the church, trí Ghaelíge (I only understood bits of it, but of course Cólín would have understood it all). This was followed by a beautiful performance of Faure's Requiem by Julie's very talented nephew. We had an Uilleann pipes recital at the Owens home. Several people at the memorial service told me how they loved to visit Cólín in order to discuss Celtic mythology, Irish language and Irish history. Peter Kehoe and I represented our class. Coilin's brothers, Ronnie and Fergus, Peter and I did our best to represent the College and the Union. Of course Coilin's home Study is peppered with CCR artifacts which were clear for everyone to see.

"I shall not look upon his like again."
Paddy Boland (CCR 1956-'61)

Patrick Reynolds (CCR 1950-'51) Died 21 May 2018

A native of Co. Cavan, he only spent a year in CCR, but according to his daughter Karina it was a most important year for him and he spoke about it very often. In fact, he met his two best lifelong friends there: Tom Ambrose and Michael Hayden. Having studied engineering at UCD he worked for General Electric in Schenectady, New York, and then took a master's degree in electronics engineering at Purdue University, Indiana, where he graduated at the top of his class. This allowed him to join Bell Laboratories, one of the most advanced

telecommunications research groups in the world, at that time.

His love for Ireland brought him back in the mid-60s and by the start of the 70s he had launched his own business, Reynolds Electronics, close to his new home, in Dundalk, Co. Louth. He took great joy in seeing the business grow and pride in being able to employ so many people at a difficult time for the Irish economy - at one point, there was close to 100 people working with him. He created his own brand of Reynolds radios, then record players, and finally TVs before securing the Samsung agency for Ireland.

In the '90s, he moved back to Dublin and made his home in Blackrock for the last 30 years of his life. There was nothing that he enjoyed more than seeing his children and grandchildren, and enjoyed sharing in their challenges and successes. His close band of friends from school and university were a joy to him, all through his life, and his widest smiles were seen whilst he told stories about their pursuits and antics together.

He lived his life by the sacred second commandment: "Love your Neighbour as Yourself" and he cared a great deal more about others' comforts, challenges and achievements than he did his own. Yet he never stood down a challenge himself. His beliefs ran deep and he loved the Church. Being kind came naturally to him and he took much greater joy in giving than receiving. In recent years he had settled into a happiness that rounded out his final days. But even still, others' happiness remained more important to him than his own and he often commented that he wasn't wanting for anything. He died suddenly and unexpectedly after some of the most content years of his life.

Pat is sadly missed by his wife Joan, his daughter Karina, his sons, Sean, Patrick and Kieran and his grandchildren, Katie, Jack, Hugh, Ruth, Jane, Homer and Daisy. We would like to share this piece "Where are you now?" written by his daughter, Karina, the week he died:

Today, all I can feel is endless peace everywhere around me and the strangest feeling of not being altogether here....as though part of me is off somewhere else, in another dimension. Somewhere soothing, restful, supportive, warm and easy. A place where the air is soft and everything

else just shapes itself into a fluid yet cohesive whole.

Last night, I felt the presence of my Dad when I woke in the middle of the darkness and again, as the early morning light filtered into the room, I felt that his energy was right beside me. There was light and warmth. Perhaps this feeling inside and all around me, a sort of spaced out thing, perhaps this is what happens when every cell just finally lets go. There is nothing else to do.

Now, I feel more connected to my lovely Dad than ever before and yet, I can't see him or talk to him or be with him. But I feel and see him everywhere. He was there in the burning sun as it sank between the hills outside Virginia as we went homewards after the burial; in the swallow that darted out flashing and switching hyper and fast between me and the mountains whilst I wondered where Dad had gone; in the delicate pink clematis that peeped out at me after a long and torturous climb from the darkness of the shady woodland undergrowth to the light at the woods' summit. And last night, the ancient tower at Monasterboice was illuminated by a disc of the brilliantly red setting sun as we drove past on our way home from his house to ours.

This morning, I needed to open the window to let the air in so it could wrap around me as I floated through the early hours a little dazed with peaceful gratitude for my father's last days, weeks and months. As I did, my senses were enveloped in the soft whisperings of wind through the gently swaying trees and the pink camellia..... and then, a hare moved slowly and silently from the garden out into the freedom of the fields beyond the fence.

Then, I knew. You are here, in this paradise... this place captured in the photograph we found only yesterday that you had tucked up on the shelf opposite your place at the table. You are here in this paradise....and there, beyond the cairns by the lakes of your birthplace.... and there too amongst the symbolism and in the sanctuary of your favourite church. And so, I know. We know. You're in heaven.

Barney Sherry (CCR 1935-'40)
See back cover.

Class of 1978 Class Reunion

Fifteen years after our last reunion and forty years since we left CCR, 56 of us turned up for a Reunion on 17th November 2018, conscious that we are living in a very different Ireland, one which our children wouldn't recognise! When we departed CCR in 1978 there was no Magaluf binge; such was unthinkable and no one had the money. The closest we got was a gang of us camping in the garden of James Duggan's mum's house in Tralee for the Rose festival!

Early in 2018 a small committee had convened, set a date, communicated with the College and booked a hotel. Next task was to contact everybody - a huge task but it is believed that all the class, including early leavers had been contacted (with the accidental omission of Mark Kinirons, who would surely have been there otherwise). Jim O'Connor in particular performed wonders.

Sadly we learnt that four of our class had died over the 40 years: Pádraic Grennan, Brian Foley, Michael Hewson and Noel Kerins and they were remembered both at Mass in the College Chapel and in the after dinner talks.

We convened in the old Senior Ref. in the afternoon. We were greeted by Liam Spooner, Brendan O'Rourke and Gary Halpin the recently appointed Head of Boarding. Ronnie Culliton addressed us on the recent fundraising efforts to save the college and of future plans. There was no shyness or awkwardness, but a real sense of joy to reconnect with old friends and comrades. By contrast with the 25th reunion the emphasis was on how people were doing, not what they were doing.

We took a short tour of the College - many changes and improvements were noted but the essential air of the place is still the same, except for the absence of the monks, so many good men, now gone to their eternal reward.

On then to the County Arms in Birr. A fine meal was laid on for us and we set to the business of the event: serious chat. There were a few, very short, speeches and the entertainment was ourselves. Old photos were circulated and commented on. No wonder our children think we lived in a different country! We remembered our absent and deceased friends and teachers. People moved around from table to table and the chat went on late into the small hours. It was a wonder to realise how close we all were and how we remembered each other. One feature of the evening was how we tended to stay away from the old groupings, instead recollecting and relating with men we saw less of in School and after. While some drifted to bed (we are getting on) after midnight, a dedicated cohort burned the fires - there was so much to talk about, to catch up upon.

Next day some intrepid souls went for a long cycle to clear the heads; others played Golf. As it happened there was a gathering of the Garvey family, our classmate Gearoid among them, at the Abbey to mark the 5th Anniversary of Fr Peter's death. Fr Peter was College President throughout our time there - a quiet, gentle humorous man who for the most part guided and encouraged self examination rather than exercising the more traditional ways of discipline.

And so to the next reunion. We won't wait 15 years, there is still much to catch up on and our numbers certainly won't be increasing! Our sincere thanks to the College and the Abbey especially Fr Kevin. Thanks also to Katherine Donovan and our organising committee, Martin Kelly, Pat Crotty, Ali Browne, Ciaran Carty and the Mark Zuckerberg of our class, Jim O'Connell.

Brian Sherry.



Front Row, L to R :

*Ciarán Carthy
Jim McNamara
Brian Rafferty
Colum O'Connor
Fr Kevin
John Walsh
Paul Walsh
John McHugh
Brendan O'Rourke
Liam Spooner*

2nd Row, L to R:

*Jim O'Connor
Adrian Brady
Pat Crotty
Ambrose Connaire
Pat Gibbons
Carlos McCambridge
Martin Reidy
Richard Cahill
Liam Williams
Michael O'Flynn*

Back Row, L to R:

*John Curtin
Eddie Byrne
Pádraic Ó Máille
Pearse Bergin
John Ball
Kevin Devver
Tom Phelan
Sean Conroy
Ronnie Culliton
Michael Quinn*

*Martin Kelly
Gearóid Garvey
Michael Grace
Martin O'Boyle
Brian Sherry
Martin Lynch
Gerry Collins
Donal Kennedy*

Not in the photo but also

attended:
*Alasdar Brown
Eamonn Stack
James Kavanagh
John Coman
John McGrane
Michael Fitzgerald*

Dom Peter Garvey Memorial Lecture

On Wednesday night 27th February 2019, the Fr. Peter Garvey Memorial Lecture was the latest major event in the school calendar to take place in the Cistercian College Recreation Hall, when the late Abbot of Bolton Abbey and Cistercian College President Fr. Peter was once again commemorated by a moving and impactful guest speaker.

This year Tomi Reichental, a survivor of the Holocaust, was invited as guest speaker. Tomi was captured by the Nazis and sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944 when he was only 9 years old. He survived along with his mother, brother, aunt and cousin. Thirty five members of his family perished. He has lived in Ireland since 1959. Tomi addressed the packed Cistercian College Recreation Hall for over two hours and all were very

moved by his personal journey. His key message was that atrocities like the Nazi Holocaust begin with whispering, bullying and racism. He also said that we must educate our students so as to stop our society from becoming a toxic one and also to educate our youth to not become bystanders in the face of persecution, whatever its form.

Many members of the Garvey family attended the lecture along with members of the Mount St Joseph monastic community, past and present staff, Cistercian College students and parents . Thank you to Andrew Cody, past student and member of the Cistercian College Board of Management for making the initial contact with Tomi and to all who contributed to the collection on the night for the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland.



Gerry Grealish, CCR Principal , Tomi Reichental, CCR Deputy Principal Catherine Smyth and Andrew Cody.

CCR Gala Ball

The County Arms, Birr was the scene in March of the second CCR Gala Ball with the elegance and style befitting the occasion.

A hardworking committee of parents and past students put in a huge effort and a most enjoyable night was had by all.



BR. OLIVER AND BR. JOHN RIP

Roscrea's brown bread has a special place in the hearts of CCR pastmen of many generations. Alas, two men who for years laboured at the Monastery's mill passed away within days of each other, Br. Oliver Tyrell on 6th November, and his great friend and confrère, Br. John McDonnell on 12th November.



RUGBY NEWS

After a tense campaign in the League, CCR have booked their place in the last 16 and will go into the draw for the 2020 Leinster Senior Cup. Details of the draw will appear in the national media in the New Year.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Billy Foley from Bantry who received an Entrance Scholars Award from UCD.

The UCD Entrance Scholars are first year students recognised for their academic achievement in achieving 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate.

Billy is studying Actuarial and Financial Studies in UCD. His two older brothers James (LC 2013) and Tim (LC 2015) also attended CCR. Tim also received an Entrance Scholarship from UCD. All three brothers were actively involved in the sports programme in our College – Tim captained the team that won the Leinster Senior Cup in 2015.

Billy was presented with his award at a ceremony in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD on Wednesday 13th November. Mr Gerard Grealish attended the ceremony and accepted a commemorative plaque on behalf of the College.



Careers Morning - 19th Jan 2019

The College hosted its Annual Careers' Morning in the Recreation Hall on January 19th last. Past pupils shared their insights into their careers with our senior students during one to one meetings with them. This information greatly helped the Leaving Cert students in their course selection when completing their CAO forms. A sincere thank you to all the past pupils for giving up their Saturday morning to facilitate this event.



Back Row (L to R): Frank Hughes, Dara Waldron, Tommy Butler, Fergus Mahon, Andrew Cody, Graham Ross.
Front Row (L to R): Mark Carey (Career Guidance Counsellor), Barry Mc Cann, Pierce Byrne, Aonghus Cody, Joe O'Shea, Ronnie Culliton.

BARNEY SHERRY

CCR UNION HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT

1920-2019

Thomas Bernard Sherry, known by one and all as Barney, went to his eternal reward in February 2019, the last of a distinguished generation of his family which name is synonymous with Mount St. Joseph. His deep and abiding love for Roscrea was like a constant flame throughout his long life and was undimmed as he lived out his final days in the care of his devoted family, with his twinkling eyes and sense of humour undiminished.

Barney was born in Foxford, Co. Mayo where the famous Woollen Mills had been founded by the legendary Irish Sister of Charity, Mother Agnes Morrogh-Bernard, after whom Barney was named. It had to overcome many difficulties in its early years and finally reached its maximum efficiency when Barney's uncle Frank Sherry was persuaded to migrate from Co. Tyrone to take over the running of the mill. Barney's father James later joined him in Foxford. He was a man of integrity and independence of mind, and much to the disappointment of the Bishop of Achonry who was an admirer of the man and his achievements, he chose CCR for his sons' education rather than St. Nathy's in Ballaghaderreen, the Diocesan College. St. Nathy's loss was Roscrea's gain as his sons went on to thrive there and burnish the Sherry name in the annals of the College with Barney himself serving as House Captain in 1939-'40.

After qualifying as a medical doctor in UCD, he started his career in England before returning to Ireland to take up a position in the village of Kealkill in West Cork, where he spent an extremely happy few years, honing his skills at the deep end - the nearest hospital being in Cork city about 50 miles away - and becoming a veritable one man A & E department. When a vacancy arose in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, his father persuaded him leave his beloved Kealkill and move closer to home.

While his sojourn in Strokestown never reached the heights of Kealkill, it was, however, where romantic lightning struck when he met the beautiful and wondrous Trilby Sheridan from Oldcastle, Co. Meath. Following their marriage they began life in Dublin and were blessed with four children, Eoin (CCR 1971-'76), Brian (CCR 1973-'78), Margaret and Rachel. For decades Barney practised in Palmerstown and Ballyfermot and such was the affection in which he was held that several people from there came to his funeral, even though he had long since retired to Donnybrook.

Barney played an enormous part in the activities of the Dublin Branch of the Union and was an ever-present at all its functions and was hugely instrumental in its development.

When the position of Honorary Life Vice President was created, Barney was the first to be so honoured and was widely acclaimed as the most deserving of all to be elevated. To further underline the esteem in which he was held, he was the first pastman appointed to the Board of Governors when it was constituted.

Throughout his life in Dublin, he was an ardent supporter of Roscrea's rugby teams and was always to be seen at Donnybrook until his health deteriorated and he was confined to watching the matches on afternoon television. When we won the Senior Cup in 2015, he was accorded a singular gesture of respect and affection by the then President of the College calling personally to him in his home to show him the Cup and have his photograph taken with it - a photograph that will be forever cherished by his family and the College itself.

His mortal remains rest with those of his beloved Trilby in the sacred soil of Mount St. Joseph in the peace and tranquility he so richly deserves.

Conor Massey.



A very happy Barney photographed with the Leinster Senior Cup, shortly before it was handed back in 2016



Barney with three of his Sherry nephews, John (CCR 1960-'65), Brendan and Peter (both CCR 1970-'75) at the 2011 Dublin Dinner.