

# ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 74

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Autumn 1999

## Finally

March 17th - the big day had arrived at last. The gap of 58 years was about to be bridged and let's face it; a win would be a bonus. But what a prospect ... the last Schools' Senior Cup Final of the Millennium and John Phelan strolling up the steps to accept the Fr. Hanson Trophy on behalf of the CCR team... yeah, what a prospect! The boys were certainly physically and mentally prepared for the occasion.

The team left the College just before 10.00 a.m. as the rest of the house were making their way to the Abbey Church for Mass. Discmans, Walkmans etc abounded as each member of the panel used his own form of music etc. as part of the preparation. The media circus and hype of the previous week was now banished to the part of the brain labelled "file for later".

Mid-morning traffic was light, and we encountered no St. Patrick's Day Parades. By 11.45 a.m. our party had established its customary foothold at Naas R.F.C. where we were joined by team coach Kevin West. After a gentle warm-up the team were joined by the past students from last

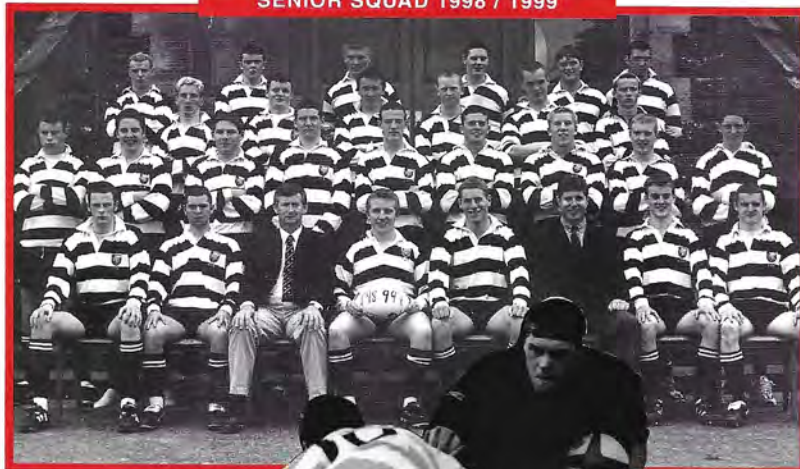
year's panel and the two groups merged for some pre-match talk and psychological fine-tuning. Light refreshments were provided for all and once the Kiwi declared himself satisfied with the situation, we resumed our journey in search of the "Holy Grail".

Traffic on the run-in to Lansdowne Road was expected to be problematic, as parades would be in full swing. The unseasonal heat would also attract more people out in cars etc. Mobile phones at the front of the coach seemed unusually busy and the wonder grew. Why was Mr Fitzgerald so preoccupied with his latest gadget? The answer to this burning question soon became clear as two Garda Siochana motorcycles came into view at Baldonnell. The

bus pulled over and a short discussion ensued. The instructions to the driver were simple. "Lights and hazard lights on at all times... follow the bikes... don't stop". Soon traffic lights, one way systems, road signs etc. were of concern to ordinary mortals (but not for the CCR entourage!) as the Metal Mounties guided us safely through

all potential obstacles and onwards towards Lansdowne Road. Even the "Rock" supporters were visibly impressed as the screaming sirens cleared all before us through Merrion Road and Ballsbridge to the entrance of the West Stand. By now a slight problem had emerged -the Garda escort had been so efficient that we were now 40 minutes ahead of schedule and the extra time would not be helpful to preparations if spent at the Stadium. Enter the ever-resourceful

SENIOR SQUAD 1998 / 1999



## inside ROSCREA this issue







SEAN BYRNE LEADS THE ROSCREA ASSAULT ON THE BLACKROCK LINE

Kevin West again, who now took the panel on an unplanned tour of Sandymount for fresh air and casual ball practice. Then onward to the dressing rooms at Lansdowne Road where the team and subs changed and moved across to the area in front of Lansdowne RFC Pavilion. It was difficult not to be affected by the atmosphere of the masses of CCR supporters who had secured the use of the pavilion for the day of the big match.

The clock ticked agonisingly slowly 3.00 / 3.05 and finally the team was once again in the dressing room where Kevin West made his final pre-match delivery. Team captain, John Phelan then took over. His message was simple "we are here because we have earned the right to be here, we are good enough to win but everyone must perform to absolute potential". 3.25p.m. arrived and match referee Mr. Tony Redmond called both teams to the pitch. The match itself is a matter of record -Blackrock won the lineouts convincingly, the scrums were equally contested and CCR dominated the loose forward exchanges. "Rock" however, inflicted the crucial damage out along the back line.

Full-time Score -  
Roscrea 9 Blackrock 17

"Rock" had done it again, but victory had been hard earned. Presentations and speeches followed before the teams could retreat to the sanctuary of the dressing rooms. Tears inevitably followed in the Roscrea dressing room but they soon gave way to the realisation that down to the last player the team had given its all, that Blackrock had fashioned victory in spite of a massive mauling by the CCR pack in particular, and that for the supporters of CCR Rugby there were many major achievements in spite of not capturing the coveted Fr Hanson Trophy. Words followed from a number of speakers but when Kevin West rendered his version of the Maori Haka, the rehabilitation had well and truly started.

Now, the wider constituency had to be faced, the thou-

sands of supporters who had contributed significantly to the greatest sporting occasion in the college's 95 year history. The team was treated to a rapturous reception in Lansdowne Clubhouse. Neutrals would genuinely have been easily convinced that this was the winners' entourage. Such were the scenes of pride in the Black & White machine and all its trappings that even Fr Hanson would have been proud to be there!

The team party were obliged to leave for the Alexander Hotel at about 7.15 p.m. to attend the formal post match function and another gathering of about 200 people waited to pay their collective tribute to the team of '99. After everybody had eaten sufficiently, the formal speeches were delivered, signing the praises of team and management alike, the heroic deeds of yesteryear and fittingly, the amazing contribution of former S.C.T. coach, Mr Sean Burke to Rugby in CCR over a period of some 35 years. The remainder of the night and much of the early hours of Thursday were spent making new friends, renewing old acquaintances and of course, the occasional pint! It was a night that will be difficult to equal for emotion and atmosphere.

Thursday morning, breakfast, packing bags etc were attended to slowly as weary and bleary-eyed bodies came to terms (slowly) with the reality of having to return to the College. Mssrs. Kelliher and Fitzgerald were left the task of organising the 10.00 a.m. departure - some chance! The bus finally set out from the Alexander Hotel at 10.45 a.m. and with the news that T. na G. were to be at the College to film the homecoming, we could have done with the Garda escort again. Fortunately, T. na G. are as punctual as CCR Rugby teams and our belated arrival at 1.00 p.m. was perfectly timed. Filming and more speeches followed as the euphoria continued unabated. Finally, at about 1.30 p.m. the boys were released from the limelight for the first semblances of private reflection of what had been and what might have been.

Roll on next season!





## THE MEDIA 1998-99

**Irish Independent - March 9th 1999 (Writer: Tony Ward)**

**Topic:**

### **CCR Victory by 13 pts to 12 over Newbridge College**

*Showing tremendous courage in adversity, Cistercian College Roscrea over-turned a 12 point deficit at Lansdowne Road to qualify for their first Senior Cup Final since 1941.*

*Roscrea booked their final place in a dramatic Coca Cola Leinster Schools Semi-Final and few will begrudge them their long over-due place on the finest schools' stage of the lot at Lansdowne Road on March 17.*

**Irish Times - March 15th 1999 (Writer: Johnny Waterson)**

**Topic :**

### **PRE-FINAL WRITE-UP**

*Today, the media have arrived to ask the Mount Saint Joseph Abbey and Cistercian College to offer up some of its mysteries.*

*Ushered in, under the imposing Gothic arches of the main building, there is a buzz about Rugby in the place that fizzes around the high ceilings, the marble stairs and out through the tall chimney stacks and spires.*

*Lansdowne Road on St. Patrick's Day, has become a day of intense pride for the tight-knit college. Every word is uttered with the glory of the final, against Blackrock College in mind.*

*New Zealander coach, Kevin West, has shaped one of the strongest teams in the Province. West has brought purpose to the team and encouraged afterwards an ethos of defence in the face of bigger and more powerful opponents.*

*Although the rhythms of the community in the Abbey and School have been gently knocked out of line by the attention of the media, the pace of activity remains relatively tranquil.*

**Irish Times - March 17th 1999 (Writer: Gerry Thornley)**

**Topic:**

### **THE FINAL**

*"For Roscrea, a first final in 58 years is such a source of celebration in itself that past pupils are coming from all over the world".*

*"Roscrea have their strenghts, and seven of this team were hardened by last season's semi-final defeat. Their strong mobile loose-head, Sean Byrne is one of the best in the competition ; their line-out maul is exceptional",*



**Sunday People - March 14th 1999**

**Headline :**

### **Rugby Mad Minister to miss his old Schools Tie**

An Irish Government Minister, flying out to represent the country abroad on St Patrick's Day admitted last night; "I'd rather stay at home". Health Chief, Brian Cowen, says he would rather swop the warm air of France for the green fields of Ireland. And it's all because of his love of Rugby!

For his old school, Cistercian College Roscrea, has reached the St Patrick's Day final of one of the country's most famous Rugby competitions for the first time in 58 years. A spokesman for Minister Cowen said last night that the county Offaly born Politician would prefer to be shouting on his old school.

### **AFTERWARDS**

**Dick Spring**

"They did us proud from the start to the finish of a great Cup Campaign."

**Dermot O'Loughlin (house captain)**

*For Cistercian College to reach the Leinster Schools Final during my time in Roscrea will always be a treasured memory for me. My only regret is that I could not be involved. However, to be a student in the Stand on the day was probably the next best thing. The hype and media coverage that preceded the match caused all studies to be forgotten as flags were designed; black & white jerseys were organised and songs were composed*



and rehearsed. The whole day was brilliant and the team's valiant display on the pitch was matched only by the Roscrea Supporters in the Stand. For a school of 310 students, it was a fabulous achievement and I look forward to the day we win the Cup. I'm sure it's not too far away!"

**"What did March 17th 1999 mean to you?"**

"Was Lansdowne Road part of the lands owned by the Cistercian St Mary's Abbey in the 12th century? Cistercian historians can be in no doubt that, in 1999 on this day, Lansdowne Road belonged to the Cistercian family of Roscrea: present students of the College, parents, College President and staff monks of Mount St Joseph Dom Colmcille in the lead - and probably the largest gathering of pastmen in the history of the College, one great, united, happy family. We savoured every moment of the game. We gloried in the exhibition of "rugby excellence and rugby honour" (thank you, Kevin West) provided by the team. Our congratulatory cheers for all the members of the squad will ring out in our collective memory for a long time to come."

Laurence F Branigan,  
Immediate Past President of the Union

**RESPONSE**

"Not only was I thrilled to see our Senior Team taking to the pitch in Lansdowne Road in their attempt to win the coveted trophy for the first time but I was also impressed by their sportsmanship and their fight to the finish effort. It was also great to meet so many past men young and old. Some I met from my own school days of over 50 years ago, others from the days when I travelled with the teams to be generally beaten in the first round. In all it was a great day."

Fr. Ambrose Farrington,  
Abbot, Bolton Abbey, Moone.

"The "Leinster" Schools Cup finally living up to its title - no more the "Dublin" Schools' Cup" or even the "Pale" Schools' Cup! CCR in all its guises and glories availing of the opportunity to "Strut our Stuff" on the big stage!

The joy of full-blooded participation in the concerted pursuit and achievement of excellence, and the sense of pride accruing from honourable self expression"

Jim Glennon

*Sound Bites*

**CCR CUP CAMPAIGN  
1998/99 SEASON**

**BARNEY SHERRY**

"March 17 1999 was the grand finale of a great campaign that started with the 1998 Semi-Final. Thank you boys. You gave us a wonderful season. Thank You CCR. Thank you Rugby Development Group and Thank You Kevin West. Bill Long, quoting Louis Carroll, reminds us that "it's only a poor sort of memory that looks backwards" Here's looking forward to 1999-2000."

**GERRY CULLITON**

"What impressed me most, was the manner in which the boys and the school accepted defeat. We all wanted to win, but sport must always accept that some-one loses. I thought the team's attitude in the Alexander Hotel summed up the best qualities of CCR Rugby."

**ATHLETICS**  
*in Cistercian College 1999*

**SENIOR HAMMER**

Leinster & All Ireland Schools Championship  
1 Barry Mc Cann (in both competitions)

**INTER HAMMER**

Leinster & All Ireland Schools Championship  
1st Peter Tierney (in both competitions)

2 John Phelan in Leinster & 4th in All Ireland

**JUNIOR HAMMER**

Leinster & All Ireland Championship  
3rd Cian Fitzgerald (in both competitions)

Peter Tierney was selected on an Irish B.L.O.E. Team (Under 17) which competed in Warsaw, Poland. Although he did not finish in the first three, he competed very well. He was also selected on an Irish Schools Team, which competed in the British 3 A.A.'s (held in Sheffield) and finished a very good second in the boys Hammer on August 17th.

**WELL DONE BOYS!**

-  
Pat Creagh (Coach)





## Cistercian College Union President.

Cuimín Doyle

## roscrea review - Address from Union President

**I**n common with the thirty nine Presidents of Cistercian College Union who preceded me I feel privileged to add another name to the chain of office. My thanks to all for your trust in me.

**T**hinking back over the 95 years of the life of the College one is reminded that it was the promise of the Cistercian Monks to their benefactor, Count Arthur Moore, that brought the College into existence and it is the continued support of the Community which ensures its success. Likewise it is the interest of all of us, past students, in one another and in our school which sustains the Union. Consciously or unconsciously during our formative years in CCR we acquired such values as concern for our neighbours' welfare, both spiritual and material, as well as loyalty to our school and a sense of responsibility to protect its unique reputation. Now, in turn, the Union supports and encourages the College in pursuing the goal enshrined in its motto "insideat coelis animo sed corpore terris".

**A**s this century draws to a close we are witnessing momentous changes. In recent years the Abbot and monastic community financed an expensive improvement in student accommodation. Currently an ambitious expansion of educational and sporting facilities is in progress, made possible by the generous contributions of pastmen, as well as parents of students and many friends. In a real way this is a monument to the love and goodwill of people who have been associated with CCR. Your continuing support is vital.

**D**uring the past few years also development and support groups for various sporting activities have been initiated with the approval of the Board of Governors and the President. I sincerely encourage you to be involved. You are reading the Roscrea Review. In it you will find news of the College and the varied activities of the students - academic, sporting and cultural. Monastery news is included. You may find your name or news of your friends of other days in the 'social and personal' column. A direct debit of as little as £10.00 per annum will ensure its twice yearly delivery through your letter box.

**A**t the graduation dinner last June sixty four new members joined our ranks. Failte mór rómhaibh uile! On the same occasion Sean Burke retired from the teaching staff after over forty years of dedicated service from which many of you have benefited. We wish him many years of enjoyable retirement.

**I** look forward to meeting many of you during the coming year, especially those of you who may not have been to a Union event since you left the College. A pocket-sized calendar of events for your attention is included with this Autumn issue. Bain sult as comlilúadar do chird at a Branch dinner. Bi liun ar La' Sport or Union Day. Above all, bi gníomhach ar son a ceile in ar ghlann mór Cisteirseach. Beannacht De' oraibh go leir.

**Brief C.V.** Left CCR in 1952. Graduated in Medicine from UCD in 1958 and in Science in 1960. Postgraduate training in Pathology. Married Lena McMahon from Kilkenny in 1963. Five sons the oldest and youngest of whom are past students, Feargal 1981 and Fiachra 1998. Consultant Histopathologist in Cork since 1969. Professor of Pathology in UCC since 1978. Now retired - almost!

## '17th March 1999'

On 17th March while Lansdowne Road was filled with excited and tense CCR supporters I was some 10 hours ahead fast asleep in the Cistercian Abbey of Tarrawarra 70km east of Melbourne.

I was among Roscrea men - Fr Kevin O'Farrell, Fr Maxime Palmer, Fr Mark Ryan and other monks from many parts. At breakfast on Thursday morning we wondered about the result and looking at the vineyards on

the horizon through the Guest House window one could only think of the celebrations if we won. By all accounts it was a wonderful Roscrea occasion in Lansdowne Road while in Tarrawarra CCR was toasted with the best Yarra Glen wine and traditional Cistercian hospitality. Congratulations to the '99 Senior Rugby Panel. You did CCR men proud where ever in the world we were on the day.

- Cuimín Doyle



# The Worst of Times or the Best of Times?

We are coming to the end of the Millennium. The end of a thousand years of history, of achievement and of failure, of glory and of wretchedness, of enormous leaps forward in all fields of human endeavour. Some of the failures should shame us - for example our failure to deal with poverty and famine across the world, while in the West we pay people to produce less food.

The danger at the end of the Millennium is to indulge in nostalgia - looking back to the good old times. There is no Golden Age and there will not be one in the new Millennium either. But each one of us has golden moments in our lives and we must thank God for them! That statement of Dickens about the time of The Revolution "It was the best of times and it was the worst of times" is always true. And it was particularly true maybe of our Millennium which is now ending. We saw horrendous things, not simply in the Millennium, but in our own lifetimes. But we also saw so much that was good. The League of Nations, a first dream of a worldwide union for peace, failed. But it was succeeded by the United Nations with its splendid Declaration of Human Rights, which has set the programme for the genuine desire on the part of so many to give every individual in the world the right to a decent life.

As we come nearer to that magic year 2000 let us not think that these are the worst of times, for nothing could be further from the truth. We have seen Pope John XXIII, a man of historic importance in the history of the Church, who saw what changes were needed and realising that he would never bring them about single-handed, said, to the astonishment of his advisers and of hierarchies all over the world "Let's have a Council"!

And we had - and it was a splendid and wonderful event. I was in Rome at the time, and can remember the excitement and the feeling that there was something new, every day. One day Karl Rahner came and lectured us on "The Concept of Mystery" After talking in his Germanic Latin for over an hour, he paused and said reflectively "What we have said is very short and rather obscure..." And the whole Aula roared with laughter and he looked at us in astonishment - had he said something funny? And Biblical Criticism came under fire from the conservatives, so a group of us drew up a paper about it and we presented it to the Irish Bishops. We felt that we might be influencing Church History as we invited Archbishop Morris of Cashel and Bishop Rodgers of Killaloe to tea in our house one Sunday afternoon, and talked about it. And who is to say we were not?

These small personal memories are lights for me in the darkness that has come down on us here in Ireland. I do not believe at all that the Council with all its dreams and hopes has died or been forgotten. Nor do I believe that the faith is being lost because fewer people go to Mass. We have made mistakes. The battle over contraception has been lost but the war has not. The clerical scandals have done huge harm. Backward looking clerics (we have a fair number in the Order, lest anyone think I am criticising the diocesan clergy), afraid of change, longing for the old time religion, have done little to help the Church in Ireland take the steps

forward it must take if it is to live. But the seeds sown by the Council have taken root and have germinated. The leaven of the Council has been working slowly and quietly in people's minds and hearts, and we have moved from being one kind of church to being another.

From being a homogeneous Church of believers who for the most part not only accepted everything they were told but never really questioned anything, and rarely if ever contradicted the priest and asked him where he got that particular idea, we have become something else. From being a church whose religion was almost totally practice-based, we have become a Church in which there is a big fall-off in Sunday observance. No longer can we refer to that extraordinary figure, the highest in the world, where 90% go to Mass on Sunday. Now it is down to 60% and falling.

We have become a Church of individuals. The Church leader who can see that is the one who will bring his Church into the future with faith intact, full of worshippers who are there because they want to be there, and who have heard the word of the Council: "To the extent of their knowledge, competence or authority, the laity are entitled, and indeed sometimes duty-bound, to express their opinions on matters which concern the good of the Church... the pastors should recognise and promote the dignity and responsibility of the laity in the Church... they should assign offices to them in the service of the Church, leaving them freedom and scope for activity".\* This is the dream and it will come. It has started - a slow and uncertain start, but a start.

We are too downcast in Ireland at present with the bad news about the Church, and it is bad. Make no mistake about that. But it will bring good. It is now 45 years after the close of the Council and there is change in the air. You can sniff it. People are talking. They won't any longer accept something simply because the priest says it. Seminaries are closing, and religious communities are fewer. We piously pray for that panacea "An increase of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life". That prayer won't be answered, because it is a prayer for a return to the past. That sort of church is gone. We are heading into a different kind of Church.

What is ahead is a Church in which the laity will take their place and new associations will emerge to serve new needs, and as the Council put it: "Each individual lay person must be a witness before the world of the Resurrection and Life of the Lord Jesus, and a sign of the living God".\* Does this seem Utopian? It is Utopian - not a doubt about it! But it was the Lord Jesus himself who talked about faith that would uproot a tree and plant it in the middle of the ocean. What we need more than anything else today is the reminder that Jesus Christ is with us all the way, as he promised he would be. Some days we might think we are living in the worst of times, but our times are in his hands, and so they truly are the best of times.

Fr Nivard OCSO

\* both quotations are from *Lumen Gentium, the Constitution on the Church*





## The Place We Love

MARY HEATON - WILLIAM ARMSTRONG  
MOUNT HEATON - FARNEY CASTLE

FR. LAURENCE WALSH, OCSO

Since Griffith's Valuation in 1851 documentation of officialdom consistently uses the format Mornitheaton in rendering our townland name. This too was the format used by Francis Heaton from the earliest extant document up to one

of 1 July 1713 when the Mount Heaton format makes its first appearance. Thereafter both forms appear, suggesting that there was not any firm decision on the matter, though after 1739 Mount Heaton or occasionally its abbreviation, Mt. Heaton is always used except for a few occasions when we find phonetic renderings, Mount Eaton and Mount Headon, and in a copy will of 1791 Mount Heaton. We will follow the current usage of the various periods.

Our last contribution to this series dealt with Francis Heaton. In March 1732 Francis, his wife Elizabeth and sister Grizell moved to Dublin "to the dwelling house wherein the Bishop of Kilmore then dwelt situate on the north side of Stephen's Green in the suburbs of the city of Dublin, together with the backyard, coachhouse and stables. "Francis had divided his possessions more or less equally between his four daughters, Sarah, Elizabeth, Grizell and Mary. The home place is part of the inheritance of Mary, the youngest of the four: Mount Heaton and "that part of Lisnageerah adjoining Mount Heaton which lye between the stone wall and the River Brusna commonly called the Warren". To the present day the wood which runs along the esker from the old poultry houses to the stone wall on our boundaries is known as the 'Warren Wood'. It is still thickly populated with rabbits.

In March 1732 after a very business-like marriage settlement, Mary married a William Armstrong of Farney Castle in the Holycross area of Co. Tipperary. These Armstrongs came from a place called Wolivvia, Cumberland, N.W. England, just south of the Scottish border.

There are indications that William may not have moved permanently to Mount Heaton after his marriage as he was High Sheriff for Co. Tipperary in 1738, and Colonel of the Tipperary Militia and M.P. Perhaps he had a foot in both camps. In 1734 he bought 75a of Clyduff together with the "Mansion House". This is almost certainly the area around past-student, Martin Donovan's house and adjoining the Mountheaton estate to the west. He bought this from Trevor Lloyd for £152 and a yearly rent of £11-10-0 and "one half" hundred of new Milk Cheese". Another deed of the period grants the liberty to "Fish Fowle Hunt and Hawk", giving us some insight into the sporting life of a gentleman.

On the eve of his death in May 1736, Mary's father, Francis Heaton, assigned to his son-in-law, William, the "Tythes of Ballyskenagh and Cloncracken". It is interesting to note that the name Ballyskenagh was still in use.

Mary and William had two children, John and Mary junior. John was born in 1734.

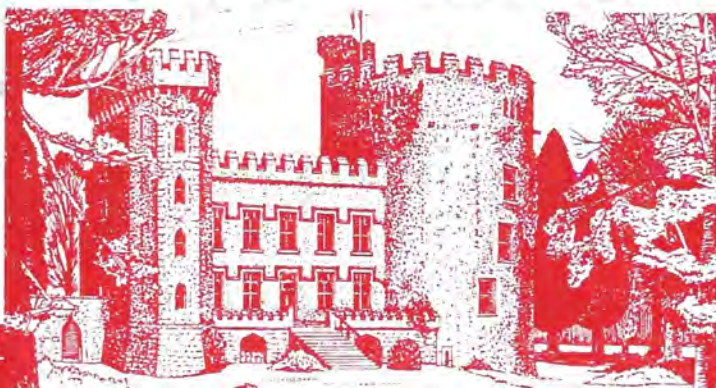
We don't know the date of Mary's birth.

While we do not know anything first hand of life in Mount Heaton in the 1740's and 50's we are fortunate to have an administration

account of the estate of William Vaughan of nearby Golden Grove, Roscrea, covering the years 1748-1760, which give insights into life of the ascendancy class in the vicinity. Vaughan's son, Billy, and John Armstrong, who was four years his elder, were both tutored by the Rev. Mr. Gruebere, Rector of Athlone. Gruebere, of Huguenot extraction, was school master of Banagher in 1739 and later Rector of St. Mary's, Athlone, and in 1754 became Headmaster of the Royal School in Armagh. So John had a top class tutor. It was common for clergymen to keep a few private pupils who lived with him and his family and who paid well for the privilege. Billy Vaughan's fees averaged around £40 per annum. At the time sheep sold for 6/- a head (30p.) and a cow £2-14-0. On going to school Billy had a wig costing 1 1/4, a watch, a new hat (5/5) and two pairs of stockings (5/8), a new pair of shoes (3/-). Ann Thellwell charged 15/- to make his coat and the accounts give a small insight into the curriculum: "Paid for Caesar's commentaries .... 6/6". The journey to Athlone was by stage coach (13/-). The first public conveyance from Dublin to Limerick via Roscrea was not introduced until 1760, when the coach journey took four days.

When he was fifteen, John Armstrong was sent to Trinity College, Dublin. He entered College 12th July 1749. College dues and those of a couple of private tutors had to be paid in advance. A gown and linen sulphice formed part of the student's paraphernalia. Chambers had to be purchased in the college - Billy Vaughan's cost £60 - but was sold again on leaving College. Bed, bedding and other furniture had to be procured, as well as books, an odd doctor's bill paid and even "Billy's nurse", as well as the apothecary. At the end of his 2 1/2 years at Trinity Billy Vaughan had run up an account for "wine delivered him during his residence in the College - £44-10-7 1/2"! So college life was pleasant for the sons of gentlemen, as was vacation time with its riding and hunting. A good "chestnut horse" cost £21, but £11 could buy "a horse". Vaughan's Golden Grove demesne had red deer. Undoubtedly the "Deerpark", the portion of Mountheaton Estate north of the Warren Wood, was a genuine description.

Like his brother Billy, Mary Vaughan was sent away to further her education, payments were made to Mary French on her behalf and £120 to Mrs. Warburton for three years board and lodgings. There was a Rev. George Warburton in Birr at this time. Possibly it was his wife who is in question, and that Mary Armstrong too was under her tutelage. The Rev. George had formerly been chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant and so well acquainted with the 'best' society, a suitable household for the education of a young lady.







Undoubtedly the elegant young daughter of William Armstrong M.P. had many admirers. Her marriage on 12 September 1755 to Rev. George Thomas must have been a gala occasion at Mount Heaton. The Rev. George was 41 at the time of his marriage - a widower with one son. Mary was about 19. Born in Dublin, George was educated at Cashel, where his father also a clergyman, was Vicar Choral.

Two years before Mary's marriage her brother John received his B.A. at Trinity and shortly afterwards entered Lincoln's Inn, 2 June 1753. On 3 May 1759 he was admitted as a Barrister after he had taken "the oath of Abduration and Allegiance against the further growth of Popery."

With her husband an M.P. as well as holding other high offices, and her two children well established, one would expect Mary Armstrong senior to have been a very contented lady but such was not the case, for we read in the Protestant History of

Killaloe that "Mary Armstrong, wife of William Armstrong, of Mt. Heaton, prays for a separation from bed and board on account of cruelty of her husband, but he challenges the allegations through his Proctor." We cannot date the request nor do we know the results. But we can confirm infidelity on William's part from the will of their son John: "I leave William Armstrong the natural son of my father by Mary Mason the sum of Fifty Pounds. I leave Mary Mason who was many years a faithful Servant to my dear Father thirty pounds a year during her life." From another point of view the bequest demonstrates the affection John had for his father and also his own generosity to Mary Mason and her son.

William Armstrong died 1 January 1767, his wife Mary having pre-deceased him. He died intestate. Administration was granted to his son John the following month.

## Results of the 1999 Matt Hyland Golf Competition

### MATT HYLAND CUP

- 1st Eoin McCarthy
- 2nd Donal Taaffe
- 3rd Andy Galvin

- 2nd Barry Finaly
- 3rd Stephen Comer

### THE WINDLE CUP - NEW

- Perpetual Ladies Trophy
- 1st Margaret O'Shea
  - 2nd Mai McGrane
  - 3rd Cara Taaffe

### CATEGORY III: 19 AND UPWARDS

- 1st Brian Cleary
- 2nd Noel Quinn
- 3rd Bruno Coughlan

### BEST GROSS

- Johnny Dolan

### FRONT 9

- Conor O'Hara

### CATEGORY I: 0-6 HANDICAP

- 1st Mark Lucey
- 2nd John Monaghan,
- 3rd Kevin Kelly

### BACK 9

- Pat O'Shea

### NEAREST THE PIN

- Jim Hamilton

### CATEGORY II: 13-18 HANDICAP

- 1st Jim Hamilton

### LONGEST DRIVE

- Paul O'Shea



CONOR MASSEY ENJOYS A CONVIVIAL MOMENT DURING THE GOLF DINNER - MILLTOWN



DUBLIN BRANCH CHAIRMAN ADDRESSING THE GUESTS AT THE MATT HYLAND GOLF DINNER



NOEL WINDLE PRESENTING THE INAUGURAL "NOEL WINDLE TROPHY" TO MARGARET O'SHEA WINNER OF THE LADIES' SECTION OF THE MILLTOWN GOLF



EIOIN MCCARTHY RECEIVING THE MATT HYLAND PERPETUAL TROPHY FROM LEAN TEMPLE LANG, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE MATT HYLAND.





# Rugby Achievement Awards 1998/1999



LEFT TO RIGHT: BACK ROW:  
MARK RYAN, DONAL TAAFFE, JIM GLENNON, FRANK DINEEN;  
FRONT ROW: BARNEY SHERRY, DIARMUID FITZGERALD, SEAN BYRNE,  
PAT MCCARTHY, GAVIN DUFFY, KEVIN WEST, SEAN BURKE



IRISH SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL. GAVIN DUFFY IS PRESENTED WITH HIS CCR RUGBY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY FR. KEVIN



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
SEAN BYRNE, PAT MCCARTHY, GAVIN DUFFY

## CCR UNION - Calendar 1999-2000

### September 18th

#### Lord Abbots Cup Golf Competition

Venue: Roscrea Golf Club  
Tee Times available from 9.00 a.m.  
(All Tee Times must be pre-booked)  
Entry Fee Golf (including Green Fees) £25  
Contact: Gerry Hayes/Aileen Spillane  
Phone (0505) 23344 or 087-2224253  
Fax (0505) 22066

#### Dinner £20

Dinner Bookings only through Liam Spooner (0505) 21063  
Venue: Roscrea Golf Club

#### Accommodation

A limited amount of accommodation is available in the local area. Please contact Katherine Donovan to confirm same (0505) 21045

#### 25 Year Reunion (Class of '74)

Grants Hotel, Roscrea  
Contact: Joe Chambers (065) 9051629  
40 Year Reunion (Class of '59)  
Grants Hotel, Roscrea  
Contact: Andy Galvin (0506) 21893  
Reunion Mass in College Chapel @ 5.00 p.m.  
Sherry Reception in College 6.00 p.m.  
Reunion Photographs 6.45 p.m.

### September 19th

#### Union Day at CCR

Union Mass @ 11.00 am in the Abbey Church.  
Central Committee Meeting 12.30p.m.  
Opening Of Sports Hall @ 2.00 p.m.  
Reception @ 2.45 p.m.  
Past v Present Rugby Match 3.30 p.m.  
Past v Present Hurling Match 3.30p.m.

### October 2nd

#### North America Branch Annual Dinner

Carnelian Room, Bank of America Headquarters  
555 California Street, San Francisco  
Time: 7.00 p.m. Cocktails & Dinner \$75  
Contact: Dr Noel Mc Carthy, 460 State Street, North Haven, CT 06473  
Tel (203) 287-8631 Fax (203) 287-2408  
Email; cpnoel@sprintmail.com

### October 15th

#### Limerick/Clare Branch Function

The Brazen Head, O'Connell Street Limerick 8.30 p.m.  
Contact: Michael Sherry (061) 314788 or Gerry Casey (061)410488

### October 22nd

#### London Branch Informal Reunion

Kavanagh's Bar in Jury's Hotel, South Kensington 6.00 p.m.  
Contact: John Yurky 0044 171 2670481

### Friday, October 29th to Sat. Oct. 31st. Kenmare Weekend

Venue: Park Hotel, Kenmare  
2 nights B&B (with Gala dinner) £170pp.  
1 night B&B and Gala dinner £108 p.p.  
Extra night, dinner, B&B £95 p.p.  
(Early booking essential as places are limited)  
Contact: The Park Hotel (064) 41200

### Saturday, November 13th Dublin Branch Dinner

Hibernian United Service Club, Stephens Green, Dublin 7,30 p.m.  
Contact: Michael Mc Namara at 29

Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2  
Phone (01)6765257 Email: ma@tinet.ie

### February 4th

#### London Branch Annual Dinner (venue to be finalised)

February/March  
Annual Dinner - hosted by the Midlands Branch  
Date to be confirmed

### Support CCR Rugby and Hurling Cup Campaigns

Information from the College (0505)23344

### April 21st

#### Good Friday Reunion & Liturgy

Meet at Guesthouse 11.00 a.m.  
Talks & Discussion Groups  
Good Friday Ceremonies in Mount Saint Joseph Abbey @ 3.00 p.m.

### Friday, May 19th

#### South Western Branch Function

Venue: Mallow Racecourse  
Races commence at 5.00 p.m. followed by Dinner at 8.00 p.m.  
Contact: Seamus Mulherin (021)277670

### Saturday, May 20th Annual General Meeting of the Union

Meeting @ 6.15 p.m.  
Dinner 7.30 p.m. (Booking: 0505 23344 or 21045)  
(Overnight accommodation can be arranged on request)

### Sunday, May 21st Sports Day at CCR

All are welcome!



# THE MA

OR. . IF IT'S ON TELEVISION, IT HAS G

I left Roscrea in 1950. It was a relatively unsophisticated time. Back in my native Co. Limerick farmers still took milk to the creamery on horses and carts. Even donkeys and carts were common. The bus to Limerick city twenty miles away passed twice a week and the journey cost 1s 9d (if you had 1s 9d...) while the highlight of the week was a trip to "the pictures" in the local hall where the audience sat on benches and waited patiently while film reels were changed three or four times during a two-hour show. Moving pictures fascinated me.

While in Roscrea I had got even closer to the moving picture and rapidly promoted myself to chief projectionist when a brand new Bell & Howell sound film projector (a gift from an American past student) arrived in (I think) 1948. This was followed shortly afterwards by a rather ancient 16mm. camera and suddenly I had found my vocation! Several epics were committed to film including 'The Bohemian Girl', 'The Pirates of Penzance' and a long-forgotten documentary entitled 'Nix at C.C.R.' when the titles were stuck to an infirmary window and filmed so that they could be read against the background of snow outside - hence the 'nix' in the title. This will only be appreciated by classical scholars!

Subsequently, four years in U.C.D. did nothing to blunt my interest in the moving picture but it became very evident in 1954/55 that the future in motion pictures in Ireland seemed to have certain limitations at that time and that experience would have to be sought overseas. It would have to be Hollywood or London. At that time the air-fare to California was about £50 whereas the air-fare to London was £8. So London it was!

Slow mix to Alexandra Palace, North London in 1927. Several engineers are studying a flickering screen. There are vague images on it. The images are originating in a small studio several hundred feet away. The excitement is palpable because this is the birth of a new medium - a medium conceived by Scotsman John Logie Baird. This was television. It was an engineering and electronic miracle. It was crude, unsophisticated and (according to many senior engineering figures) an experiment which didn't seem to have much future. Many of them were probably even grateful that the second World War halted developments on these crazy experiments. But they resumed very rapidly in 1945 and, when I joined BBC Television in 1955, the medium was already an instant glorious black and white success!

I will always remember the first morning on which I reported for work as a probationary T.T.O. (Television

Technical Operator) in Lime Grove Studios at Shepherd's Bush in West London. This was a new world of show-business and communication. It was a supremely technical world; the engineer reigned supreme above all others. Programme-makers were definitely relegated to second place! But they were learning fast.

Meanwhile, I learned to be a cameraman, a sound boom operator, a vision control operator. The B.B.C. ran a splendid training department (including a residential training college at Evesham in Worcestershire) where a three year university course in vision/electronics/sound was crammed into six months. All this time I was paid (monthly, in arrears...) the then magnificent sum of £37 15s 0d (after tax). There was a final examination at the end of the Evesham Course and, if you failed, you were fired. This helped to concentrate the mind enormously! I was fortunate and so it was back to London and some real work on real television programmes.

Technical operators in BBC Television back in 1955 were a dedicated group. We were the acolytes at the altar of a new god; we were envied and we worked seven days a fortnight. Admittedly they were long - 14 hour - days but the advantage of having seven days OFF in a fortnight was not to be sneered at either! An then there was the glamour of show business - working on programmes such as "The Billy Cotton Band Show", "This is Your Life", "Juke Box Jury", "Six-Five Special", "Handcock Half Hour" and "Dixon of Dock Green". The list now reads like an early history of real television.

Back in the mid 50's, Independent Television had just gone on air in England. There was a vast exodus of experienced television staff from BBC to ITV where it was not uncommon for operators to double their income overnight. I resisted the temptation and was rewarded by rapid promotion in an organisation where your race, accent or creed was irrelevant as long as your approach to your work was professional.

But now there were stirrings of





# GIC BOX

**GOT TO BE TRUE...** by Denis O'Grady. (Roscrea 1945-50)

television in Ireland. Many people along the east coast were already able to watch dull, grainy, undependable black and white pictures from Welsh transmitters but the message became clear to the legislators in Leinster House - the country had to have its own service. That service, to be called Telefís Éireann, would need to recruit experienced staff rapidly and so it was that in November 1961 I walked for the first time onto the building site that was to become the Montrose Television Centre half a mile from Donnybrook Village.

There I was a Sound Supervisor - no longer committed to 14 hour days but to 18 hour (and sometimes 20 hour) days in the chaos, crisis and consternation of meeting a first transmission deadline of December 31, 1961. And, as the television commentators are wont to say. .. the rest is history.

Within eight months I had become a Producer/Director and the new medium had become a demanding master. Working seven days a week was commonplace. We were short of studios, facilities, money, personnel and patience. But deadlines had to be met. New programmes had to be devised and older readers will possibly have vague memories of some of my early assignments - "Quicksilver", "Jackpot" (with a boyish Terry Wogan), "Teen Talk", "Watch and Pray", "The Person in question" (when the first 'person' was the late Cardinal Conway of Armagh).

In its early days, Telefís Éireann (to its credit) was generous in its allocation of time to religious broadcasting. One of the highlights of 'its first day on air' was the televising of Benediction from the smallest (and only operational) studio in the Montrose complex. Benediction was given by the late John Charles McQuaid, then Archbishop of Dublin. It was a live broadcast and, as transmission ended, His Grace turned to the Floor Manager (a young Englishman whose knowledge of television was only exceeded by his LACK of knowledge of matters religious...!) and asked: "How did that go, my son?" At which the young Floor Manager gave him a broad grin, an enthu-

siastic thumbs-up sign and replied: "Oh, swinging', Vicar, swinging'!" Regrettably, His Grace's reaction is not recorded. But, for many months afterwards, the weekly broadcast of Benediction became known rather irreverently as "The Swinging' Vicar Show"!

And it was to the Religious Programmes Department that I next moved - a Department which I headed for over eight years and I managed to persuade the powers that be, that a weekly broadcast of Mass or a Service would be an important part of a Public Service Broadcasting remit. And so it is to the present day and hopefully will continue.

There are highlights in every television Producer/Director's life and for me there were several outstanding ones - coverage of the late President Kennedy's visit to Ireland in 1963 a few short months before he was shot in Dallas; direction of the coverage of the Pope's Mass in the Phoenix Park and his visit to Maynooth College; President Ronald Reagan's visit to Ballyporeen. And for several years I directed a show called 'Trom agus Eadrom' and one stands out - it came from Cistercian College, Roscrea from the very "rec. hall" where it all began with a 16mm camera and a projector many years before!

For the past ten years I have retired from full-time broadcasting but I still take on the occasional assignment and spend some hours each week being an 'acceptance viewer' for Radio Telefís Éireann when I sit before a television monitor and assess some of the many bought-in programmes which help to fill every television service's schedule. Sometimes I am depressed at the banal levels to which much programming has sunk. I often wonder at the wisdom (or lack of it) of afflicting the audience with so much inconsequential and downright meretricious material. But a community tends to get the sort of television service it deserves and only the eternal vigilance of that community and its readiness to vehemently inform the broadcast authorities of their shortcomings will help to maintain some standards in a business which is notoriously fickle and prone to 'dumbing down' to a level designed simply to deliver the maximum number of potential customers to the advertiser. Make no mistake, television is here to stay despite some possible inroads by the Internet and Video Games. Over the next few years television will proliferate enormously but it will be up to viewers to decide if that proliferation will be quantity or quality driven. Television is a powerful means of communication. But the control of that power must be vested in those with the best interests of the community at heart.







## Cistercian College Roscrea Development Office

Thanks to your support and generosity Phase II of our Development Programme is now nearing completion.

Last February, we opened our Information Technology Centre, which boasts 30 Pentium II Computers linked to a Central Server. Each user has access to Email and Internet and a wide range of Multi-media Software. It is our aim that every student be fully computer literate on leaving the College. This will be achieved through formal computer studies classes, specific training in Word Processing, File Management, Database Construction and Internet Usage and the implementation of ECDL qualification for Transition Year Students.

September 19th will be a memorable day in Cistercian College Roscrea when we invite you to join us for the Official Opening of our Sports Complex at 2.00 p.m. The Sports Complex will be a tremendous asset to the students in offering facilities for a more varied sports programme, and will provide excellent indoor training facilities during inclement weather.

### THE SPORTS HALL WILL PROVIDE

- ... numerous indoor sporting activities, such as Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis and Soccer
- ... a Weights Room
- ... facilities for an evening sports programme
- ... additional Changing Rooms and Shower Areas
- ... accommodation for 11 Table Tennis Tables & 5 Billiard Tables
- ... Meeting Room, Viewing Area, Referees Changing Room, Sports Directors Room & Store Room

This is an exciting period in the evolution of Cistercian College Roscrea as we aim to upgrade our current facilities and accommodation to meet the demands of the new Millennium. Our next project is the upgrading of the Dormitory Accommodation. These plans will include structural restoration to roofs and floors, improved ventilation and modernisation of the sleeping areas and shower facilities.

On behalf of the College and Mount Saint Joseph Abbey we would like to thank everyone who has supported our Development Programme. The generosity and encouragement of so many has helped us to stay focused on our goals and remain strong in our resolve that CCR should continue to make a significant impact on Irish Secondary Education, as it has done since 1905. It is our ambition that when the College celebrates its centenary in 2005, we will have invested substantially towards the improvement of our facilities and that our students will continue to enjoy the legacy, which the Monks of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey have established, nurtured and enhanced over the years.



## South West Branch Dinner

The South West Branch annual dinner organised by our Chairman Liam Kelly (1967) was held in the Maryborough House Hotel on Friday 14th May 1999. This very convivial gathering of pastmen with their wives and friends was attended by the President of the Union, Larry Branigan and his wife Adeline, Fr Kevin from the Monastery and by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Gerald McCarthy and his wife Nance.

Among the thirty or so past students spanning the decades was one of the most senior members of our Branch Fr Peter Dempsey OFM Cap who left CCR 68 years ago in 1931! The honour of being the most senior member goes to Peter Dempsey's older brother Michael who left CCR in 1929. Still a practicing solicitor in Cork, Michael is a staunch supporter of the Branch subscribing to the annual dinner even when he cannot attend.

Fr Peter Dempsey now in retirement had a distinguished academic career as the founding Professor of Applied Psychology at UCC from 1964 to 1983. He pioneered the practical application of psychology to industry for which he gained an international reputation. He also devoted much time and energy to problems of maladjusted children. That extraordinary lively spirit for which he was well known on the UCC campus was again evident on the night of the dinner.

Liam Kelly handed over the mantle of office to Seamus Mulherin (1969) who as our new Chairman is assured of the support of a lively Branch membership. We thank Liam for his work over the past two years and for organising two very enjoyable dinners. It is the hope of all SW Branch members that Peter and Michael Dempsey will join their more 'junior' colleagues at Cork Racecourse, Mallow on 19th May 2000 for a very special SW Branch Millennium celebration with races at 5.00pm followed by dinner at 8.00pm.







# Tribute to Sean Burke

BY FELLOW STAFF-MAN PAT KILBANE

A Aithreacha agus a dhaoine uaisle, tá áthas orm agus is mór an phroibhléid cúpla focal a rá ar an ócaid speisialta seo. Tá brón orm freisin go bhfuil an t-am so tagtha, an lá ar a bhfuilimid chun scaradh le Sean ón scoil in ar chaith se na blianta fada ag múineadh agus ag tabhairt aire do na daltaí agus dúinnse chomh maith. Is as an ghaeltacht sinn, a Sheain agus caithfear é sin a cur in iúl do na daoine thar Shionnann anois is arís.

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the kindness, hospitality, care and concern shown to me by Sean and his late wife, Anne when I arrived in Roscrea. At that stage, I was a vulnerable and impressionable young fellow from the far west. Sean's home was a pleasant and relaxing place in which to stay and I have great memories of that.

Unfortunately for Sean, David, Maria and Brian and for all of us, Anne was taken from us at an early age. We all felt for you then, Sean and we grieved with you. Ar dheis De go raibh a h-anam dilis.

After 41 years of outstanding and devoted service to the College, Sean is one of the first to be mentioned wherever CCR comes up for discussion. At a recent function in Thurles, I overheard the parent of a boy currently at school here express her great regret that "that born gentleman" Sean Burke had decided to retire.

Physics has been his principle subject and this he taught with distinction and great success over the years. However, it was through Maths that Sean and I would have most contact especially during the arrival of the "New Maths". I always found Sean to be a clear and logical thinker and this he brought to class. He had great success sometimes with the "A" Class where he put us all to shame but his real forte was with the weaker students. He was always able to identify some strength in the pupil's knowledge of Maths, then work on this, build up the pupil's confidence and take him on to other areas. His achievements in this area made him, in my view, the number one anywhere.

As in Physics and Maths, when we come to Sport, I think that Sean had a look at the College Crest and took that part of the motto about keeping the feet on "terra firma". With his teams, he took stock of the abilities and capabilities of the players and as in his teaching, worked on these.

Sean had considerable success with both junior and senior teams. This was way back in the sixties and seventies, when we did not have Transition Year or 1B Class to boost the ages and power of our teams. The development of the capabilities available, together with a sprinkling of surprise moves and his "first man up over the ball" policy, as it was then allowed, enabled our teams to compete with and beat teams with vastly superior resources. Later in the eighties, Sean got us to four senior semi-finals in five years.

Sean was held in high esteem by the boys and retained their respect in all activities. We have only to think back to that prolonged, generous and spontaneous applause given to him when his retirement was announced to the students to realise this. At the post-match Dinner after this year's rugby final, there was one Standing Ovation and that was for Sean Burke.

Sean also retained the respect and loyalty of the staff during his various posts of responsibility and even when as Deputy Principal he arrived with those S.V. and Redeployment lists, no one headed for the phone booth or the toilets to avoid him. If he said I need you to jump, the answer would have been "where and how high".

Here in the school, he represented us on many delegations. From experience, I can say that he could always analyse the issues, see the wider field and search for the solution most likely

to accommodate every-one. This was appreciated by the staff and by the Abbot, President, Deans of Study and Principal with whom he dealt.

Just in case you think that there was no life outside of CCR - you'd be mistaken. Sean had wonderful success in Rugby with the town from under age to senior. He was the only coach to win a major competition with the town and this he did twice - The Towns Cup in 1975 and 1980. This was long after Sean had inveigled me to try my hand at Rugby. It was the same story as with the college - if you could jump, he got you to jump; if you could push he got you to push; if you could think he was, well, sceptical!

Our training sessions afforded us an opportunity to catch an occasional fleeting glimpse of Sean himself in action. He had been an Interprovincial Wing in his younger days before a bad knee injury put paid to a promising career. A few times, when we were short on numbers, he stood in at out-half and such a fleet-footed will-o-the-wisp, you have never seen.

He also refereed with great success throughout Leinster and a number of us can recall the excellent referee he was in the Boys versus the Teachers matches - we never lost a match. Those matches with the Boys grew from a report in the Vex on a fictitious match between the Boys and the Teachers where as a true physicist; Sean was described as scoring "with remarkable velocity and acceleration."

It was always a pleasure to play Golf with Sean who was a keen competitor and won a lot of competitions particularly in the early part of the season before he had time to get too involved with the theory of the game. Win or lose - a good time was had by all on all occasions. Later, he tried his hand at Bridge but found it a bit slow moving.

I arrived in Roscrea to discover that Sean was part of a group who could set the scene alight in Roscrea or further afield. Clare was a regular haunt for this group. They could arrive in a pub in the back of beyonds at half past ten or thereabouts complete with Bowrans, Tin Whistles, Jews Harps etc. and get to work. This was of course - half past ten in the morning - and that was the end of the day's work for the locals.

Culturally, Sean was very well balanced and took part in many Operas. A duet with Kathleen Leahy really brought in the crowds. He was also a member of a very elite group in the area. I tried for years to become a member but failed. I refer, of course, to the Birr and Roscrea Film Society, which was guided and inspired by the "professors" of CCR. These meetings (get-togethers) were always very proper and correct - the cup of tea after the show, invigorating discussion, critical analysis. I could go on - it was also the only place that you could view X-rated films at the time!

Deirtear nach dtagann an chiall riomh an aois. Teann Bridie agus mise arstrae i Ros Cre fós anois is arís. Go minic is i Olive agus Sean a bhíos ag faire amach orainn. Tá an fáilte, fial, glaitheamach le h-arreachtaíl ina dtig i gconáí. Téigheann Olive agus Bridie, Sean agus mise i bhfad siar.

I now wish, on my own behalf and on behalf of the staff to thank Sean for the way in which he has enriched our lives with his hard work, commitment, friendliness, sincerity and especially his courtesy to all. We wish him and Olive many years of happiness in his retirement.

*Fad saol agat, a Sheain, a Chara.*





Funny things begin to happen to you towards the end of your term in Roz. Slight changes in perception allow you to see the school from an entirely different angle. The notion, completely implausible just four short years ago, that the place may not be so bad after all, slowly begins to form itself against a resistant consciousness. One by one hardened sixth years succumb to the grip of nostalgia. It seems that no sooner have we entered into the real world which we have craved for so long than we succumb to a chronic form of selective memory, which transfigures this, inarguably fine, establishment into something altogether more heavenly. So, before I too lose what remains of my objectivity in a rose-tinted haze, I thought I'd cast a critical eye back over my days in C.C.R.

Of all the time I spent in Roscrea, first-year will forever remain the most vivid in my mind. Nobody ever forgets first-year. Finding your place amid a group of 300+ adolescent males is an experience quite unlike any other, and doing so under the constraints of a system of discipline so eagerly enforced by a group of omnipresent housemasters makes it one which is unlikely to slip your mind. The year was, in a word, terrifying. But, it was through the shared bond of fear that friendships were formed, which, at the end of the day, allowed us to carry on. This meant that while it wasn't the easiest nine months one could ever hope to pass, it certainly proved rewarding in many ways. Above all, it marked the beginning of a love/hate relationship with the college which would in all probability continue on (albeit in a slightly imbalanced fashion) for the rest of our lives.

C.C.R undoubtedly means many things to many people. Five years ago, these three letters symbolized for me a collection of dark rambling halls where evil seniors lurked around every corner, waiting to stomp on you at the slightest provocation; where everything that happened to you was likely to be either unpleasant or unenjoyable. Thankfully, their meaning has now mellowed a little. (Although the overpowering smell of disinfectant which greeted our nostrils on our first arrival at the college still holds the power to cause involuntary shudders.) Those letters are no longer quite synonymous with winter evenings spent in damp

study halls, or junior rugby leagues "played" in six inches of mud. I tend to think of the college now more as a collection of people than a collection of buildings, an entity that has somehow succeeded in becoming greater than the sum of its parts.

It is, of course, a completely unique experience for every individual, and ultimately you make of it what you want to. It could just as easily be a paradise as a prison. (Although at times it does seem to possess a certain inherent disposition to one over the other.) And, although it would be heresy to suggest as much during my time as a student, I can now assert with reasonable confidence that the vast majority of my fellow students look back at their five or six years with fondness. Could it be that this is perhaps not all owing to selective memory after all, but that the "good times" in C.C.R. naturally out number the bad?

Whatever your opinion, Roscrea continues to work its magic. As I collected my stunning past-pupils' tie last June, I left behind me a college which has finally found the momentum to propel itself from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first. The magnificent structure of the sports-hall has risen gleaming from the all-weather, and two rooms of cutting-edge computing power proclaim the school's resolute commitment to its place at the forefront of modern education. As if echoing this prevailing sense of progression, the Senior XV marched the black & white back into the cup final, embodying in their fighting spirit and disciplined play all that is good about C.C.R. Now, as never before, the slumbering college has been awoken to its full potential.

I often think that an education in Roscrea serves somewhat as an immunisation against the "big, bad world", or at least against many of the difficult situations it is prone to send our way. By encountering and dealing with the minor disasters which spiced up our lives in Roz on a daily basis, we developed skills which must surely stand us in good stead later. It would be naive in the extreme to claim that C.C.R. prepares its students for everything the world could throw at them, but it must be conceded that it does an excellent job trying. It provides a stable backdrop to our own development, allowing us to constantly reassess ourselves against a static set of values.



# 5 years a growing

JUSTINO HANLON (CCR '94-'99)



*So what exactly is Cistercian College Roscrea then? A spiritual journey?? Er,... not quite. An experience not to be missed?- Definitely. It never pretends to be more than it really is, and therein lies the secret of its success, and a lesson we could all benefit from learning. For five years it was our home. In a way it still is. And we don't need a tie to remind us of that.*





NOTES FROM THE

# Athletic Support Group

—  
FROM

CURRENT CHAIRMAN  
*Aidan Mc Nulty*

**A**thletic Sports Support Group had its inaugural 'meeting on the 3rd' June last in the Montague Hotel Portlaoise to discuss the further promotion of Athletics in the school with the aim of excellence and participation in all track and field events. To have in addition our boys and men at the forefront of National athletics as they have in the past and as they currently enjoy under the tutelage of Pat Creagh.

**O**ur congratulations go out to Barry Mc Cann who took first place in the Leinster and All Ireland Senior Hammer title.

**O**ur congratulations also to Peter Tierney who took first place in the Leinster and All Ireland titles in the Intermediate Hammer.

**O**ur congratulations to Cian Fitzgerald who won third place in the Leinster and All Ireland Junior Hammer.

**P**eter Tierney was selected to represent Ireland in the quadrangular against Scotland England and Wales and was also selected by B.L.O.E. under 17 Irish team to compete in Warsaw in Poand well done Peter. Keep up the great work Pat.

**E**xplanatory Meetings continue with current committee members Oliver Byrne Secretary, Liam Maloney, Pat Creagh, Gerry Hayes, Liam Spooner, Frank Thompson and Noel Windle. Any others who wish to contribute are most welcome and should contact any of the committee members above.

**W**e invite all past students to the formal opening of the new sports hall at the college on Union Day, Sunday the 19th September. We look forward to seeing you there.

## ATTENTION PASTMEN

Please detach and return in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

### 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 Tel: ..... Work Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Mobile: ..... Fax: ..... E-mail: .....

What generation Roscrea are you? 1st 2nd 3rd Other..... Family at CCR: .....

Have you attended or been informed of a PPU Function in the past year? Yes No

Do you know who are your regional PPU representatives? Yes No

Would you like information sent to you regarding the "Abbot's Cup"? Yes No

WRITE FOR THE "REVIEW"! SEND US A WRITING ON YOUR EXPERIENCES, TRAVEL, ETC. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!  
Reach us on E-mail at [mtjoseph@iol.ie](mailto:mtjoseph@iol.ie) Web sit: <http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph> **THANK YOU FOR A PROMPT RETURN.**





## CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA

# HURLING SUPPORT GROUP

During 1998, the group decided to commemorate its founding and inspirational chairman, by establishing a perpetual trophy, to be awarded annually to the college student considered Hurler of the Year. On 2nd June 1999, the inaugural presentation of the John Comerford Cup was made by Helen, to Sean Ormonde, this year's College Senior and Offaly Minor hurling team captain. A very special thank you to Helen for coming to the college that evening, and congratulations to Sean, with best wishes for his future in studies and sport!



HURLING GOLF CLASSIC, ROSCREA GOLF CLUB, 1999  
THE "PHELAN DYNASTY"

Under the then chairman, Cuimin Doyle, on 15th Feb. 1999, the group adopted a development plan for the game in the college, after an excellent job of research and preparation by Dan Ahern, Matty Kennedy, and Hugh McDonnell. The challenge of pursuing implementation falls to a committee appointed at the June 2nd A.G.M., consisting of Tom Garvey (chairman), Ann McGuckin (secretary), Lian Ahern (treasurer), Niall Doogue, Mattie Kennedy, Tony O'Grady and Dan Treacy, working with the support of the College authorities and team management, including Hugh McDonnell, Pat Sheedy and Mark Carey.

Work on improvements to the top pitch commenced on 8th July, with the financial backing of the support group. On 6th July Dan Ahern joined a project team, recently established for the development of new pitches, for both hurling and rugby, on additional lands which the Lord Abbott and monastery community very generously made available. It should be acknowledged that a great deal of work had previously been done on this project by Frank Dineen and the Rugby Development Committee.

The 1999 golf classic held in Roscrea Golf Club on Saturday July 10th proved to be an outstanding success. Forty three teams of four enjoyed excellent weather, the course was magnificent and the scoring was high. Tomas Duggan (Capt. S.H.T. 1988) led the winning Ballingarry team with a score of 99 pts. Second also on 99 pts. was a team representing Leinster Colleges G.A.A. Third prize went to Frank Quaid (class of '58) and his team.

The day again proved a great social occasion, and it was wonderful to see so many past senior hurling captains attend, including Donal O'Brien 1945/46, Pat O'Shea 1955/56, David Tarpey 79/80, Tony O'Grady 84/85, Tom Duggan 87/88, Jim McDonnell 97/98, Sean Ormonde 98/99, Simon Hall 93/94 and Ultan McGuckin

94/95. Helping-out, despite his injured hand was Barry Ahern, vice-captain 1997/98, with the support of Fiachra O'Dubhghaill.

Our thanks to all who participated, in particular, Helen, Eoghan and Brian Comerford, to all who sponsored prizes, tee-boxes and greens and congratulations to the nine teams who collected prizes.

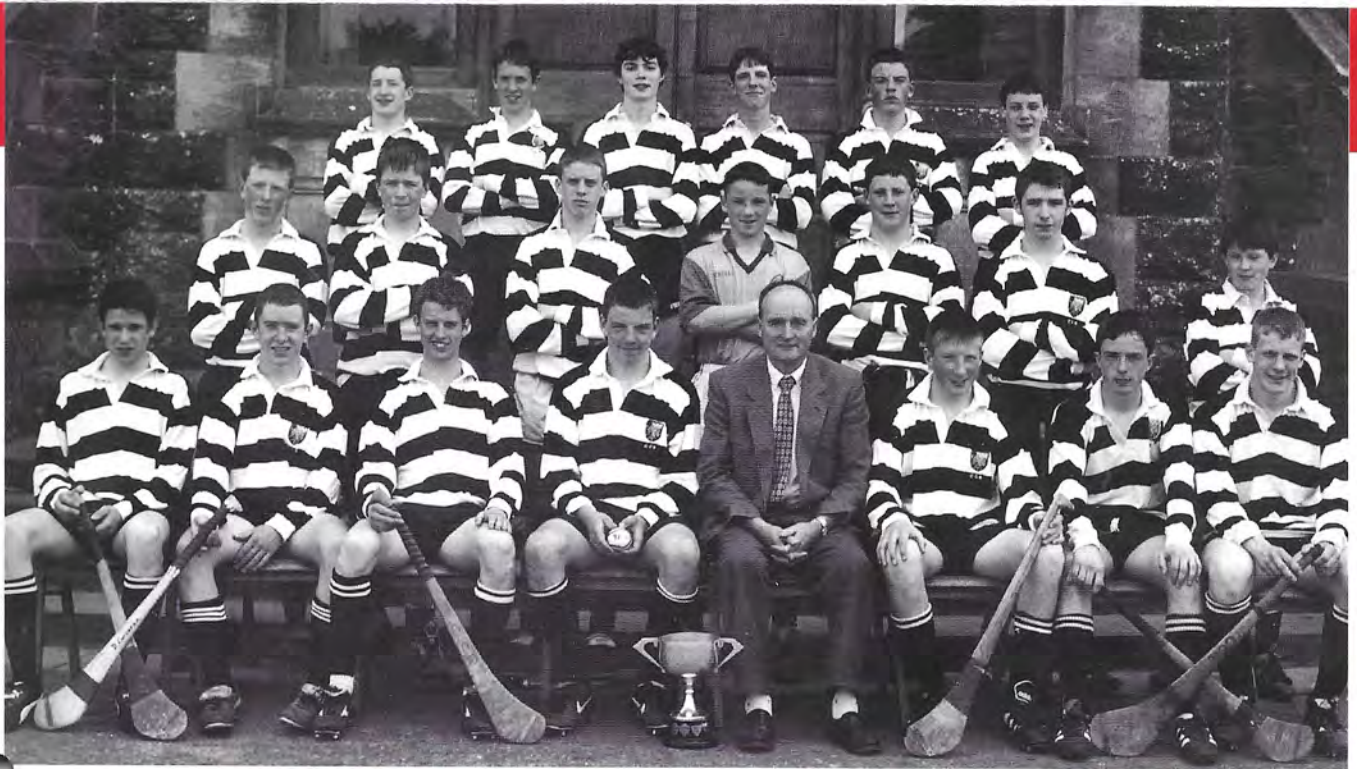
Niall Doogue was the driving force behind the classic and once more proved his organisational abilities, as a most enjoyable day was had by all. We thank Roscrea Golf Club, for putting their course at our disposal on a Saturday at the height of the golfing season. Next year's date for our classic will be Saturday July 8th in Roscrea Golf Club. Hurling enjoyed a great season. The senior team of 98/99 reached the Leinster sem-final when they were defeated by F.C.J. Bunclody in Bunclody. The under 17 team won the Fitzgerald Shield for schools in Co. Tipperary. The under 15 team were victorious in the Hennessy Cup for Co. Tipperary schools.

Sean Ormonde (Offaly), John O'Brien (Tipperary), Redmond Barry (Wexford), Peter Garvey (Galway), Pat and Thomas Walsh (Carlow) represented their counties at county minor level. Four of the above players will still be in the college next year, so we are looking forward to further success.

Best wishes to all our former hurlers and particularly to Ryan Quigley (class of '90) who represented Wexford in this year's Leinster Championship and League Campaigns, Paddy O'Brien (Tipperary) and Stephen Lucey (Limerick) who are playing on the under 21 county teams.

*"Ní neart go cur le cheile"* – HUGH McDONNELL.





**CCR Under 15's Hurling Team - which beat Carrick-On-Suir CBS on the score 4-5 to 1-7 in the Hennessy Cup Final (Tipperary Schools Under 15)**

**Back Row (Left to Right): Alex Eivers, Conor Glynn, Pat McIntyre, Niall McInerney, John Phelan and Christy Molloy;**  
**Middle Row: John Purcell, Edmund Hearn, Hugh Maloney, Frank Hegarty, Jody Milne, Eoin Murphy and Des Heman**  
**Front Row: Ivan McCarthy, Diarmuid Corcoran, Nigel Purcell, Conor Phelan (Captain), Mr Pat Sheedy (Coach), Pat Fleming, Peter Brady and Liam Meehan**



**Roscrea Junior Hurling Team - which won the North Leinster Final beating St. Marys CBS, Mullingar, in the final on the score of 3-11 to 3-9.**

**Back Row (Left to Right): Andrew O'Brien, Hugh Maloney, Killian Liston, Pat McIntyre, Niall McInerney, Conor Phelan and Christy Molloy**  
**Middle Row: John Purcell, Conor Glynn, Alex Eivers, Frank Hegarty, Brian Connolly, John Phelan, Eoin Murphy and Des Heman;**  
**Front Row: Ivan Murphy, Diarmuid Corcoran, Nigel Purcell, Mr Pat Sheedy (Coach), Cormac Loughnane (Captain), Pat Fleming, Peter Brady and Jody Meehan**





## Obituary Notices



**Pastman, James Doyle** died on August 1st 1999 after a brief illness. His son Eoin is a recent pastman.

**Sympathy is extended to pastmen, John Oliver, James and Joseph Flynn** on the death of their father John, who died on March 28th 1999.

**Pastmen Conal and Seadna Ryan** lost their father Eamonn on August 8th 1999.

**Sympathy is extended to the family of pastman, Dr Paddy Fitzgerald,** who died on June 19th 1999.

## Priest's Golden Jubilee

by LIAM DORAN

Very Rev. Brendan M. Donlon, Pastor Emeritus of St Bernadette's, Walsall, celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination recently.

Fr. Brendan, born in October 1924, is son of the late James and Mae Donlon, Birchgrove, Roscrea. There were four boys in the family, all of whom became priests. Kevin is a Redemptorist, and for many years editor of Reality; Aidan is a Pallotine, out in Wichita Falls Texas, while Aengus, the youngest is Parish Priest in Holy Family, Holbrooks, Coventry.

Fr. Brendan received his secondary education in Cistercian College from 1937 to 1943. He then went to St. Kieran's Kilkenny to study for the priesthood, moving to St. Mary's Oscott, in 1946. On July 10th, 1949, he was ordained and his first curacy was in Stone, Staffordshire. He became curate in our Lady's Wolverhampton, in 1954, and the following year curate in St. Ambrose, Kidderminster. In 1963 he was appointed PP of St. John Vianney, Bishopton Close, Coventry. He spent ten years in the parish, then in 1973 became PP of Our Lady of the Rosary, Saltey, Birmingham.

By co-incidence, a predecessor in Saltey was the legendary Mgr. John Power, also a past pupil of Cistercian College, (1905-07). He had built the church in Saltey only to have it destroyed by bombing during the war, and had to rebuild it again. Fr Brendan was in Saltey until 1983, when he moved to St Bernadette's, Brownhills, Walsall. He retired in 1997 and now resides with the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Joseph's Home in Birmingham.

## School Enrolment 2000/2001

Parents wishing to make an Application for a place in First Year for September 2000, should note that a live-in Assessment Weekend will be held in the College on Friday, November 8th.

### Class of 1959 - 40 Year Reunion

Saturday, September 18 1999

Venue: Grant's Hotel, Roserca

Contact: Andy Galvin 0506 21485/21893

Tom Maher 0506 21663 /0882548996

Conor Massey 01 2804603/4533333

### Class of 1974- 25 Year Reunion

Saturday, September 18 1999

Venue: Grant's Hotel, Roscrea

Convene at the College at 4.30 p.m.

Over-night Accommodation available

Contact: Joe Chambers (065) 9051629  
(065) 9051897





# Cardinal Hume

So much has been written about him since his death that further tributes and reminiscences may appear superfluous. But it seems a pity that we, who are monks would not pay tribute to this remarkable monk who clearly has changed the aspect under which most people in Great Britain seem to have seen and judged the Catholic Church, and who has been an inspiration to us all. From the day of his ordination as Archbishop of Westminster when Benedictine monks sang Vespers in Westminster Abbey, having gone in procession from the Cathedral, once seen merely as the headquarters of "The Italian Mission", to his death, his life was one long example of how the Gospel should be lived. A photograph of him immersed in conversation with the Chief Rabbi and the turbaned leader of the Sikh Community, all three giving the impression that they were unaware of the photographer's presence, says more about the man's attitude to Ecumenism than any words could.

He came to us here in Roscrea in (1986) and put everyone at ease with his natural charm. He was interested in everyone, spoke to the staff and to the boys, and chatted easily with everyone whom he met. He said he always felt at home in a monastery and doubly so in one with a school. No doubt it reminded him of his own monastic home at Ampleforth.

Towards the end of that visit he was standing talking to some of the teachers around the front hall, and then he disappeared. Everyone presumed he had gone to get ready for leaving as he was due to do so within a few minutes. When he did not come back someone went looking for him and found that he gone to the kitchen to thank the staff there for the excellent dinner he had enjoyed. I think perhaps this made more of an impression than anything he said.

I was present at the installation of Bishop Kevin McNamara (formerly a priest of our own diocese of Killaloe, and then Bishop of Kerry) as Archbishop of Dublin. The Abbot was in Australia at the time so I had the pleasant job of being flag bearer for Roscrea, so to speak. At the reception afterwards in the Clergy House of the Pro-Cathedral I found myself beside his Eminence from Westminster. Carefully balancing the cup of tea and the sandwich in one hand, I introduced myself and he immediately spoke of our sister house of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in England which he knew. Then we chatted about this and that and he told me a story about another community of monks (which shall be nameless) to whom he had given a retreat when he was Abbot of Ampleforth. Let him tell the story in his own words:

Well, you know about half way through the retreat I gave a talk about death and dying, which would be usual enough. There were the brethren all sitting in front of me in rows, and I was emphasising that we know not the day nor the hour when the Lord will call us. And I was doing so with suitable gestures for emphasis - and I concluded by saying 'It could be any one of us, dear brethren, this very night! We never know!' Well, you know what happened? One of the monks sitting there in front of me did die that night - upon my word when the Abbot came to me the next morning and told me that one of the brethren had died, I got a bigger fright than the community did! And I'll tell you something - I never did it again!"

Apart from ceremonial occasions, he was very rarely seen in formal dress of any kind. He always wore his Benedictine habit and it was a usual sight both to the priests of the diocese and to the people around Westminster.

He wrote several books, the last one bearing the title "Basil in Blunderland". Believe it or not it is about prayer and the spiritual life. He never took himself too seriously, never appeared as one who knew it all, and so was all the more effective as a teacher of spirituality. In one place he says that "There is in each one of us an unacknowledged struggle between the agnostic we could so easily become and the believer we would like to be". How many priests, not to mention Bishops, have you ever heard talk like that about themselves? One of my favourite quotes from him is taken from a radio interview (BBC if I remember rightly) when the interviewer asked him about how much time he spent at prayer each day, and then asked "What happens when you pray?" After a moment's thought he answered - "Well, nothing much, really".

When his cancer was diagnosed he wrote to the priests and through them to the people of the Archdiocese to tell them, including in the letter the statement - "And it is not in its early stages". He knew he was dying and he spoke easily of death and said goodbye to all who came to see him. He phoned some from his deathbed to say goodbye. When one priest said he would come at the weekend to say goodbye in person, the Cardinal replied "I won't be here at the weekend" and he wasn't - he died on Friday.

Someone will follow him and will do it differently and perhaps as well as he did. But we can be certain of this - that we are all the richer for his life and the poorer for his passing.

FR. NIVARD KINSELLA

*He was a truly great man.*





JAMES GAVIGAN WITH HIS SONS,  
FROM LEFT ALBERTO, TADGH, CARLOS AND DAREN.

**Congratulations to Dick Spring** on his appointment as the ESOP Director to the main board of Telecom Eireann. His appointment became effective on May 19th 1999. Dick Spring is Chairman and non-executive director of a number of companies and is International Counsel to the Washington/Boston Law Firm Mintz, Levin, Cohen, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo.

**Congratulations to Adrian O'Gara** on his recent marriage to Maria Carmody. He is at present a Doctor in St James Hospital in Dublin.

**Pastman Randal Mc Carthy** now lives at 32 Sherry Lane, Wesley Hills, New York 10977. He is married with one child. He has completed a Masters Degree in Pharmacology and is presently studying for his Doctorate.

**More wedding bells. Pastman Pat Cantwell** recently married Ann Coffey while Adrian Kelly married Geraldine Tracey on August 7th 1999.

**Pastman, Michael Garvey**, brother of Shay and the late Eugene has left his base in Tokyo and has moved to Beijing to head the Enterprise Ireland operation in China.

**Congratulations and best wishes to Killian O'Grady** who got married in August.

**Pastman, Dr John Geary** was recently co-author with Professor Bill Roche of a new report from the European Foundation entitled "Useful but unused - group work in Europe". John is presently attached to the Michael Smurfit Centre for Graduate Business Studies at UCD.

**Congratulations to Michael O'Connell** who was called to the Bar in July of this year.

**Patrick Geraghty** has been appointed to the position of Art Director with "Young Advertising". He is a graduate of Design Communications from Dun Laoghaire College of Art & Design, and also holds a Diploma in Advertising from the Dublin Institute of Technology.

**Pastman, Donal Chambers** was recently appointed a Director of the Boyne Valley Group. He left AIB in 1998, having been Managing Director of AIB Corporate Banking Ltd. He is currently a non-executive Director of Ryan's Hotels Plc and Sherry Fitzgerald Plc.

**James Gavigan** is currently a Technology Policy and Strategy Analyst based in Seville, Spain. He is married to Pepa and the couple have four young children.

**Pastman, Joe Murray** was recently appointed as Information Manager with the Irish Forest Industry Chain. He attended the College from 1950-55. His father was himself a past pupil and his grandfather was College Doctor in the early years of the school.

**Michael Dwan**, BBS ACA, has been appointed Finance Director of Gowan Group Ltd. Michael was previously Finance Director at GE Capital Woodchester Bank.

**Don Harrington** is now a Director with Davy Corporate Finance. He recently addressed a private conference organised by Davy Corporate Finance on the topic "Realising Value and raising Capital for Irish Technology Companies".

**Congratulations to Raymond O'Boyle**, who married Glynis Armstrong at St. Georges Church, Kenagh on July 9th.