

Fr. Dermot O'Colmáin R.I.P.

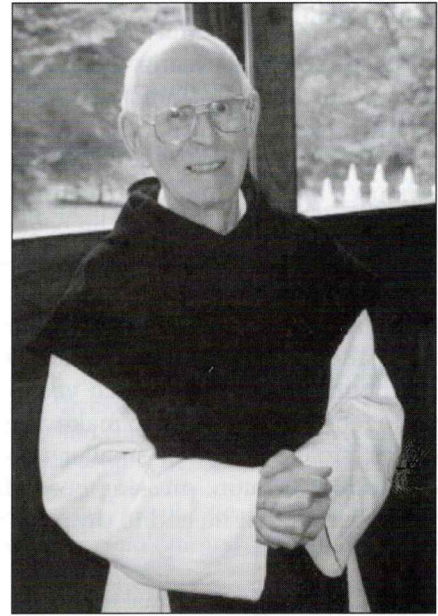
In recent times our Union has suffered the loss of some of its most eminent members – Noel Windle, Gerry Bates, Ignatius Houlihan – and, although it is strong enough to continue as healthily as ever, it has now lost its erstwhile supreme commander, Fr. Dermot, who after a long illness, has gone to his well deserved eternal reward.

The Lord Abbot assigns monks to various posts and duties and we know they accept gladly in the true spirit of their vocation, but in the case of the appointment of Fr. Dermot as General Secretary of the Union it was an inspired choice. No organisation has enjoyed more dedication, loyalty and service than he gave to it, and it is just as well that his leaving was a protracted one, for if it had happened when he was alone at the helm, the loss would have been enormously difficult to overcome. How blessed we have been to have had him introduce the inestimable Katherine Donovan as his assistant a few years ago which eased the transference to the new order.

I remember the year when I was given the honour of the Presidency. Noel Windle, in his inimitable way, would dispense advice on how to handle any situation that might occur. The piece of wisdom I remember most clearly was his exhortation never to go against Fr. Dermot's expressed wisdom, because, he said, he was the heartbeat of the Union and always knew what was best for it. Of course, Noel, as usual was right, and the years of Fr. Dermot's stewardship were among the most fruitful the Union has enjoyed.

He had his favourites. Whenever he thought trouble was looming on the horizon, he would call upon one of them to rally to his assistance, and sure enough, into a Central Committee meeting would come Gerry Bates or Frank Lynch to back him up. It was never really necessary, for there was hardly a policy of his that wasn't broadly accepted and implemented.

For all his Cistercian simplicity, he never lost his appreciation of the finer things the Lord has endowed the world with, and he had a sophistication and urbanity which, while not singular were not to be encountered on a large scale in a Trappist monastery. He enjoyed the annual Kenmare weekend very much, particularly when he was collected and driven there. I'm sure that Kevin and Lucy Dwan, Michael and Rosaleen Keohane, Kitty Bates and others who were among his favourites have happy memories of those days and of the warmth of his friendship.



His love for his family was always apparent and he spoke often of Abbeknockmoy and of Iona Road in Dublin where his beloved sister Rosaleen and her family lived before her death some few years ago; of his brother, Cól and his wife, Carol who had traversed the world and whose company he so enjoyed; of nephews in Hawaii, Galway, Dublin and Warrington whose progress in life he was delighted to recount in quiet moments. How profound must be the loss they all feel over his passing.

The amused twinkle was never very far from his eyes and he could be very witty, though sometimes his wit was tinged with an edge of sarcasm. Even when he bowed to the inevitable and the famous GPM mobile phone was passed by Central Committee, he could allow a wry smile to escape him and it always appeared whenever we gently ribbed him about it.

I have often marvelled at the level of intelligence and varied abilities of the monks in Mt. St. Joseph and wondered whether it was the monastery which attracted these bright individuals in the first place, or did the monastery imbue and develop in them their genius? We all know how many fine minds are there and Fr. Dermot had his share of ability. His successful silk worm project is the achievement for which he is best remembered. His magnificent silks of the most sumptuous hues and superlative quality are still in pristine condition in the monastery, a monument to his innovation and industry, and would

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Fr. Dermot O'Colmáin (1916-2003)

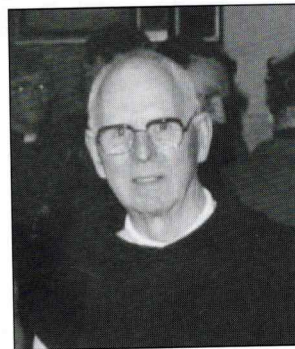
Fr Dermot died in hospital on the 17th July 2003. He was born in Dublin in 1916, entered the monastery in 1934, took first vows in 1936, final vows in 1939 and was ordained priest in 1942. He spent his whole monastic life in Mount St Joseph.

One of his first appointments was to care for the glass houses where he grew tomatoes and lettuce for the community. He was infirmarian for some years. It was probably his experience with growing plants in the glass houses that got him interested in mulberry trees and silk worms, so in the 1940s he began to grow mulberry trees and cultivate silkworms. Because the enterprise was unique in Ireland it attracted a fair amount of interest. He was a man of patience and attention to detail so after, maybe five years, he was producing a small amount of silk thread each year. Over the years he put together enough silk to make a small number of chasubles, stoles and other smaller items. His skills were required for more pressing needs in the community so he found that he had to drop the silk enterprise in the late 1960s.

He learned to design, and make liturgical vestments in the late 1940s. Added to that was his work in the College where he was spiritual director to the Children of Mary and where he taught Art for more than thirty years.

As General Secretary of the Past Students' Union for more than thirty years he was the link-person between pastmen and the college and monastery. Generations of

pastmen would have seen in him the warm interest and welcome traditionally associated with Mount St. Joseph. He was an efficient organiser and he enjoyed the work and the social contacts involved. The regard in which he was held was obvious at his funeral when so many former students were present.



When he was no longer energetic enough to teach Art in the College he began to administer the sacrament of reconciliation in the public church. His kind and gentle approach made him a popular confessor. He was generous in his devotion to this apostolate, and he continued to make himself available to the people who came for confession up to a few weeks before his death.

All who nursed him as the body weakened and the end approached were struck by the gratitude he showed at all times and by his undemanding attitude. Even during the last fortnight when he seemed to be in a coma in hospital, those caring for him could sense co-operation and acceptance each time they had to disturb him in order to make him as comfortable as possible. A fitting end to a long life in the monastery. He was surprised, but pleased, when he found himself the senior monk by profession in the monastery. Like St. Bernard he would never have been considered a physically robust monk.

We commend him and all of us here to your prayers.

Bro. Richard Purcell

Sixty-nine Years a Monk in Roscrea

Fr. Dermot was born in Dublin in 1916. He received his secondary education at Garbally College, Ballinasloe and was one of a number of Garbally pastmen to enter Roscrea in the 1930s.

He entered the monastery on September 24th 1934 and received the Habit on October 28th of that year. He made his First Profession on November 1st 1936 and Solemn Profession on November 6th 1939. On May 10th 1942, he was ordained.

Fr Dermot will be forever associated with the College. He taught Art to students for many years and was a keen landscape artist himself – Connemara being a keen favourite subject. He was also a keen photographer and his photographs adorned many a "Fiolar". He also encouraged boys interested in photography to develop their skills.

When the Junior Praesidium of the Legion of Mary was found-

ed in the College in 1950, he was its Spiritual Director. He was also Spiritual Director of the Children of Mary for a period and was Confessor in the Abbey Church for a number of years.

In 1969, Fr. Dermot became General Secretary of the Union and held the Office at the time of his passing. For over twenty years he edited the "Roscrea Review" and in 1978 he edited the monastic centenary edition of "An Fiolar". He was a regular attendee at Union functions.

The high regard in which he was held was shown by the large number of pastmen at his Requiem Mass. The Union representation was led by current Union President, Pat Crotty and there were nine former Presidents in attendance; Donal Taaffe, Gerard P. Maher, Aidan Mc Nulty, Conor Massey, Kevin Dwan, Pat O'Shea, Michael Houlihan, Frank Lynch & Larry Branigan. Also in attendance was Life Vice-President, Dr Barney Sherry, Union Treasurer, Liam Spooner and current Roscrea Review Editor, Pat Hanratty.

Present also were Dublin Branch Chairman, Ollie Byrne and Midland Branch Chairman, Dr Frank Thompson. The South East Branch was represented by Gearoid O'Brien and the South Tipperary Branch by Frank O'Meara. Messages of condolence were received from the London and North American Branches.

Sixty-nine Years a Monk in Roscrea - cont.

Many people also came to know him because of the Silk Farm. The first thousand silkworm eggs were acquired in 1944. Some were donated by an English visitor, Lady Hart-Dyke, who was an authority on sericulture. Mulberry trees, whose leaves are the staple food of silk worms, were planted - about half an acre eventually. In the war years there was little hope of getting modern machinery from abroad and Fr Dermot rigged up a primitive machine to get the silk from the cocoons. At one end was a basin of water with a heater under it and the treadle of an old sewing machine, at the other end was a skeleton reel, 14" in diameter by 18" in width. It had a brass stair rod as axle. Four pairs of spokes joined by smooth sections of brush handles formed the reel and the driving pulley was a cotton spool fixed to the axle. A stout cord from the sewing machine to the spool was the driving belt. The idea was to be able to sit at the basin with your hands free and be able to turn the reel at the same time with your feet. With this contraption all the main conditions were fulfilled. Despite the severe frost conditions of 1945, some 20 pounds of cocoons were obtained.

Later, in the monastery library he found an 1830 drawing in a book and used it to build an up-to-date machine using timber as framework and powered by an old pump. Early silks were sent out to a firm in Macclesfield for throwing and when these were returned there was enough to make ten or twelve yards of silk.

Fr. Dermot learned the craft of silk weaving and acquired a loom from a Dublin firm that was closing down. Production of silk was never large from the silk farm. Some vestments were made and Fr. Dermot wove the illuminated message on Roscrea Silk which Muintir na Tíre sent to Pope Pius XII in response to the Papal letter of approval and benediction for Muintir, which had come to the Rural Week in the College in August 1954. The illuminated message "*Bheirmid-ne, Muintir na Tíre in Éirinn, buíochas chroidhe d'ar Naomh Athair an Pápa, Pius XII, fé'n a litir aspalda rogradhmhar - S.M. Ó hAodha, Canonach*" was sent in a special casket designed by Andy Cody and carved in mahogany by Willie Costigan, both from Clonakenny.

Dom Laurence Walsh, Abbot was the principal celebrant of the Funeral Mass. Among the celebrants were Very Rev. Tony Cahir, P.P. Birr; Very Rev. Michael Collins, P.P. Roscrea; Very Rev. Pat Mulcahy, P.P. Dunkerrin; Very Rev. Frank Bergin, A.P. Shinrone; Very Rev. Sean Garland, P.P. Clonmellon and Rev. Martin Mc Garry, O.C.S.O. representing Bolton Abbey. The lessons were read by Pat Crotty, President of the P.P.U. and Aidan Ó Colmáin, nephew.

In the panegyric, Dom Laurence quoted from the Gospel "In my Father's house there are many rooms" and asked what kind of room has the Lord prepared for Fr Dermot. He went on: "It must be a gentle room, a quiet one. The staff in our infirmary unit in the monastery, to whom we owe so much for their goodness to him over his latter years and the staff in Nenagh Hospital, to whom we are likewise greatly indebted, all have spoken of what an undemanding patient he had been - of how gentle he was and how grateful. A quiet look at the gentle room would do us all good. It is a room where an attentive ear could listen to a story of trouble and sorrow, where an *Alter Christus* could give a quiet word of understanding and encouragement and raise a hand - Christ's hand - of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Of course, it is an Art-filled room, with beautiful paintings of Connemara, Kenmare and whatever. To have a God given talent is great - but to have shared that talent instead of burying it in the ground - to have passed on that love of things beautiful to generations of budding teenage artists - how wonderful that is. There are some silk hangings also in that room - unusual in that they are neatly stamped in one corner "Déanta in Éirinn".

And over the fireplace - that's the striking centrepiece of the room - the eagle, feet firmly planted on the ground as he gazes into the heavens, with the scroll of 12th century Cistercian, Alan of Lille's words "*Insidiat coelis animo sed corpore terris*" then the words: "Cistercian College Union" emblazoned underneath.

Might I take this opportunity of expressing to all of you past students who are present here and through you Mr President, to all members of the Union countrywide and world wide, the gratitude of us monks for your outstanding loyalty and commitment to your Alma Mater. Without meaning to reflect on others, it is well known that no school in the country has such a devoted past student body as we have. Thank you.

During his many years as your General Secretary, Fr Dermot has been the person who nurtured and ensured the health and strength of the bond between you and us. In fact, in him there was no you and us - we were all one - in our different ways through life to God.

Needless to say, we monks often joked about the way you spoiled him at your various functions. But now we want to thank you for that spoiling. Don't we all need a bit of it? We joked too about his absorption with the Union and its life, but we appreciated his role none the less, or should one say, the heart of your body. The greatest tribute you could pay to Fr Dermot's memory is to ensure your loyalty to the college and monastery continues undiminished; that what he stood for as a monk will always be an inspiration and an encouragement to each of you in your lives; that Christianity works when one is committed to Jesus and is ready to follow His way; and that our Catholic Church, despite its sinfulness, is more aware than ever of God's call to it to be a leaven in society and is more aware than ever that you are the people of God. St Irenaeus said way back in the second century: "Christians, recognise your dignity."

Fr Dermot is saying it now. Bashing the Bishops or Abbots for that matter won't get us or them anywhere, but being challenged by your faith in Christ and living it wholeheartedly will fill you and your dear ones with peace and joy - will help change the world. *Insidiat coelis animo sed corpore terris.*"

Following the Mass, the burial was in the community cemetery.

Liam Doran
Nenagh Guardian

A tribute to Fr. Dermot O Colmáin cont. from page 1

vie with the best materials the salons of Paris and Milan could offer. *Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest...?*

My happiest memories are of phone calls to the monastery and the shared confidences, his amusing scepticism, his straight-to-the-bone assessments of individuals, his sense of humour. In his last years, his voice failed considerably and it became a great struggle to continue with telephone conversations, but at the face-to-face level he never lost his spark or his little waspishness. He retained his intense interest in the Union to the very end. He was not a vain man and would certainly never have boasted of what he had done for us over the years, but he was the perfect General Secretary and supported individual members so wholeheartedly that the great achievers were given an unencumbered field on which to shine in pursuit of Union interests. He presided over the golden years of our Union and will be remembered by those of us he left behind with the greatest affection and regard, and with appreciation of the unparalleled contribution he has made as General Secretary.

Conor Massey

Union President Pat Crotty (CCR 1972-78)

Pat took over as Union President at the AGM on 24th May last. A long time stalwart of the South East Branch, he is also a CCR parent. Indeed this year Pat will have two chains to wear, as on 24th June he was elected Lord Mayor of Kilkenny, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Ald. P.J. Crotty and his father Kieran Crotty former Fine Gael T.D. for Carlow-Kilkenny.

We wish Pat well in this special year for him as he fulfils his own version of the "dual mandate." Perhaps the South East Branch will organise another function in Kilkenny and give us the opportunity of seeing him weighed down with two chains!

Pat and his wife Pamela (daughter of pastman Donal O'Brien and sister of pastmen Tim, Brian and Donal) have both been loyal supporters of Roscrea Union functions all over the world and particularly enjoy the North American Branch function which is to be held this year in Langans in Manhattan on Friday 21st November 2003. Pat and Pamela have attended the last two North American functions and have asked that as much support as possible be given to our brethren in the colonies again this year.



Photo shows Pat Crotty with outgoing President, Donal Taaffe after the handing over of the chain of office at the AGM on 24th May.

Donal Taaffe

A Message from the Union President

This year so far has been one of mixed emotions for the Union. Before he completed his term of office our then President Donal Taaffe lost his father after a difficult struggle with his health. Though not a pastman Fergus Taaffe was a great supporter of all things Roscrea and, with a little help from Noel Windle, he made a Roscrea man of Donal.

Then, in July, we learnt of the great loss to the Community and the Union of Fr. Dermot. He was an extraordinary servant of the Union, having served as General Secretary for over thirty years - keeping contact with pastmen all over the world through all those years. My personal memory is of Fr. Dermot the Art teacher, a man of serious study of his subject but with a ready smile and a great humour and patience. I am sure many generations will remember him thus. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dílis.

On a happier note, in May we witnessed the revival of the South East Branch of the Union, buoyed up by a new generation of energetic young men, not least the O'Shea clan from Kilkenny who celebrated the elevation of their father, Pat, to the highest position and honour the Union can bestow, Honourary Life Vice-President. He joins the other great servants, Barney Sherry and Conor Massey.

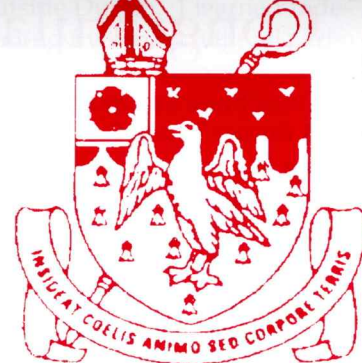
Now the Autumn is upon us and Union functions will come thick and fast - well heralded by the Editor in this Review. I hope that as many of you as possible will come out and support your own region at least - not just for the financial benefit it may bring the Union but for the renewal of old friendships and even the beginnings of new ones. I know from my own 25 year reunion last year that many lads hadn't met their contemporaries at all in the interim and they simply picked up where they left off. So get out there and make the effort.

I look forward to meeting many of you at these functions over the winter months as we celebrate a large part of what makes us what we are - Roscrea men.

Pat Crotty

Below are dates of forthcoming events! First up is the Abbot's Cup Golf competition and the other events of Union Weekend in September! Golfers, especially are urged to book their tee times now for the event!

The Kenmare weekend promises to be wonderful for those taking part. As mentioned in the Spring Review the hotel's new destination spa will be available for use of guests, as of course will the 18 hole Golf Course.



Saturday, Sept. 20th

LORD ABBOT'S 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) €30
Contact Aileen Spillane
Phone (0505) 23344 Fax (0505) 22066

Sat. / Sun. 20th/21st Sept. 20

25 YEAR REUNION (CLASS OF 1978)

Contact Pat Crotty Tel. 086-2331542
e-mail patcrotty@dol.ie
Schedule : Abbot's Cup Golf Competition
Reunion Mass in College Chapel : 5.00 p.m.
Sherry Reception in College : 6.00 p.m.
Reunion Photographs in Grants' : 8.15 p.m.

21st Sept. 2003

UNION DAY AT CCR

Union Mass @ 11.00 a.m. in the Abbey Church
Central Committee Meeting @ 12.30 p.m.
Buffet Lunch in Senior Refectory 1.30 p.m.
Past V Present Rugby Match @ 3.00 p.m.
Past V Present Hurling Match @ 3.00 p.m.

31st Oct. – 2nd Nov.

KENMARE WEEKEND

Enjoy a weekend in the luxurious surroundings of the Park Hotel in good company at half the usual cost. Contact Gerald McCarthy at gmccarthy@rkd.ie

Autumn 2003

(Date to be arranged)

DUBLIN BRANCH CHARITY OUTING

Shelbourne Park Greyhound Stadium
Date will be posted on union page of the College/Monastery website at www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph (Or contact John McManus at number below)

Saturday Nov. 15th

DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER (Black Tie)

Stephen's Green Club 7.30 p.m.
Contact John McManus 087 207 0824
Ollie Byrne 086 339 9577
Fergal Cox 087 639 2678
Email: jmcmanus@aspect.ie

Friday 21st November

NEW YORK DINNER

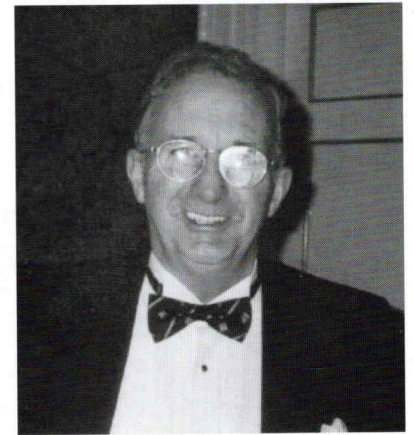
Langans', Manhattan
Details from Noel McCarthy, Tel. (203) 287-8631
Email cpnoel@sprintmail.com Fax (203) 287 2408

Congratulations to Pat O'Shea

Pat O'Shea was recently made an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Union. A former Union President, Pat first became involved in the Union when working in London in the early 1960s. On his return to Ireland, he was instrumental in setting up the South East Branch of the Union in the early 1970s. He was Chairman of that very active Branch for over 25 years, and regularly attends Union activities wherever they take place.

Pat's four sons Joe, Liam, Paul and Rob all went to Roscrea and are happily following their father's footsteps in terms of Union involvement. A keen golfer, Pat rarely misses a Union golf event and he and his wife Margaret take particular joy in their five grandchildren.

We salute Pat and thank him for all he has done for the Union and wish him many more years of good health and active Union involvement.



Midlands Golf Outing

Tullamore G.C. - 14th August 2003

The day after the Pro-Am in Tullamore was the day Frank Thompson chose, and did he choose well. After the disappointment of picking Election Day 2002 for last year's event and having to cancel because of unprecedented rain, it was a thrill to be in Tullamore this year when the sun shone continuously and the course was in absolutely brilliant condition.

A most enjoyable day's golf was had by all 40+ participants and several others joined for an excellent dinner. Union President, Pat Crotty, College President, Fr. Peter and Deputy Principal Hugh McDonnell were among the attendance.

Great credit is due to Frank Thompson and his fellow Committee members Andy Galvin, Seán Wrafter and Paul Fitzpatrick and of course to Margaret Thompson who made everyone feel very much at home.

As for the golf, the main prizes went to Pat Keegan and Séamus Murray – current and former parents respectively and to Fr. Peter and Stephen Thompson for the men and to Regina O'Regan (who had a score of 42 points!), Aisling Hackett and Martina Taafe for the ladies. Frank Thompson himself was a bit embarrassed when he discovered that he had won the prize for the best Gross score – you can't keep a good man down!

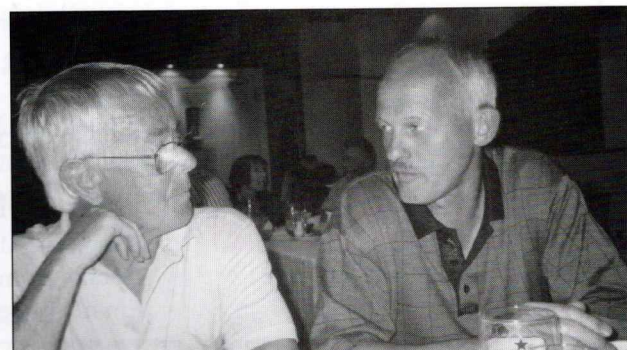
All in all a most enjoyable day, and now likely to keep its "revised" Mid-August place on the calendar for future years.



Top photo: The Organising Committee, back row left to right Tom Maher, Andy Galvin, Margaret Thompson and Paul Fitzpatrick. Front row: Frank Thompson, Pat Crotty and Shaun Wrafter.

Middle photo: Frank Thompson and Pat Crotty with Regina O'Regan who had a score of 42 points at the Midlands Branch Golf Outing at Tullamore.

Bottom photo: Sean Burke and Gerry Hayes picture after the recent Midlands Golf Outing.



Boarding Schools get on the ball

On 26th November last, The Irish Times ran a feature on boarding schools in general and included a short piece on CCR. For the benefit of those who missed it or are not tuned in to "www.ireland.com" we reproduce part of the article, with the kind permission of the Editor.

Irish boarding schools are under pressure as students, spoilt for choice, spurn the traditional menu of bleak dormitories and soggy school dinners.

The number of boarding schools in the State has been declining for several years. But, despite this trend, those who offer the best facilities – as well as the prestige associated with some schools – are thriving. Some even have their own on-site golf courses.

Irish boarding schools are popular with families from all over the world. They offer an education through English, with fees that are roughly half those demanded by boarding schools in Britain. They are also admired for their unique educational ethos.

Brendan Bracken is director of Bracken Public Relations and was a pupil of Cistercian College, Roscrea from 1959 to 1964. In a recent interview he gave his insights into Boarding Life saying:-

"I grew up in Dublin but was sent to board in Roscrea at the age of 12. It was quite a change of scene for a city

boy. There was a great mix of fellows there and I learned a lot about life outside Dublin. I learned independence too. After spending five years with all sorts of people, I grew quite relaxed in new company, as long as it was male. For my boarding years I had practically no contact with girls.

Boarding school was a very different place then. We used to rise at 6.30 a.m. and wash in cold water. It was tough, but we didn't know anything else. The monks from the Abbey used to make the most wonderful bread for us but the rest of the food was not so wonderful.

I wasn't sporty, but I developed a great love of books and theatre at school. We used to perform a Shakespeare play every year – a professional director would come down from Dublin. We dressed up the boys for the female roles.

By the time I finished school, I felt very independent – I had my own life. The Cistercian College was an interesting place. Dick Spring, Brian Cowen, Conor Brady and David Andrews all went there. Our Abbot, Dom Eugene Boylan, was involved in splitting the atom in Italy before he came to Ireland. He was quite stylish and used to wear suede shoes. The monks were surprisingly liberal.

I wouldn't send my own sons to boarding school as there were plenty of day school options close to home. Still, if circumstances were different I'd have no hesitation – they were very happy times for me."

Enrolment Sept. 2004

Places are now being allocated for the Academic Year commencing September 2004.

The College is particularly proud of its close links with pastmen and are always delighted to welcome sons of pastmen to maintain and strengthen those links.

Parents wishing to make an Application for a place in the College for the Academic Year 2004-2005, please note that a Live-in Assessment Weekend will be held on September 26th / 27th 2003.

Application Forms may be obtained from the School Secretary Ms. Aileen Spillane

Phone : (0505) 23344

Fax : (0505) 22066

Email : mtjoseph@iol.ie

Next Review – Spring 2004

Deadline 1st February 2004

Calling pastmen, present students, teachers, parents, members of the community – all who read the Review....contributions, short or long are always welcome! Feedback suggests that pastmen and their families near and far really do enjoy reading the Review, especially pieces by or about contemporaries in school or others they knew. It is, however essential that news items be brought to this Dublin based Editor some time in advance of going to print.

So please let's have copy with the ever-willing and hard working Katherine Donovan at the College or with me at han@indigo by 1st February next. Who knows, we might yet achieve a genuine balance of six-monthly intervals between Reviews!

The Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy and The Windle Cup for Ladies

MILLTOWN GOLF CLUB, DUBLIN 19th JUNE 2003

What a day! It was a scorcher – like so many days in the wonderful Summer of 2003 except that it was also extremely windy! Unfortunately, more often than not I arrive at these Golf outings in a rush – not giving myself the obligatory half hour preparation time that Jack Nicklaus always recommends. I had been told I would be playing with Connie Leonard and David Bannon – not recognising the names I figured they were either before or after my time. As it turned out they are two good Meathmen – despite my love-hate relationship with the county's footballers, those of us from Louth, Meath and other neighbouring counties seem to speak the same language and easily understand each other. I couldn't have hoped for two nicer guys to help encourage me round the course, but they couldn't stop the wind blowing like a hurricane into my face on the first tee, so much so that the ball nearly went backwards! Nor could they prevent me from hitting the ball very badly on several holes. Still, as I say on those days when asked at home how the golf was – "it was a great day to be out!"

Connie in fact did rather well – he played remarkably consistently and finished in 3rd place. He helped me keep up my good record in this event of always playing with winners! (Last year I marked Hugh O'Neill's card as he went on to win the trophy, and the other man with us was his friend Graziano Romeri who won the Visitors' Prize last year and the Back Nine this year!

The moral of the story is that if you want to do well in the Matt Hyland competition, play with me – you won't learn much from my golf, but you are statistically very likely to end up near the top of the leader board!

continued on next page



From left: Paul Kinirons, Brian Conroy, Noel Kinirons, Donal Taaffe, Sinead Foley, Cara Taaffe and Eileen Hassett.



Left to right: Oliver Byrne, Donal Taaffe, John McManus, Cara Taaffe and Fergal O Dubhagaill.



Above left: Ollie Byrne congratulates Connie Leonard.



Above right: Margaret Byrne r/up in the Windle Ladies Competiton receives her prize.



Left to right: Declan McNulty, Michael Coyle, Joe Bardon, Michael Brody and Hugh O'Neill.

great credit is due to Dublin Branch Chairman, Ollie Byrne and his committee, especially John McManus and Fergal Cox whose trojan work made it all possible. The winner of the Matt Hyland trophy was Eoin McCarthy with a fantastic score of 40 points. He thus became the first person to win it twice, having also won it in 1999.

Christina Windle presented the Windle Cup to an emotional Cara Taaffe who marginally overcame guest Margaret Byrne in second place.

The event was the first opportunity for most of us to see Union President Pat Crotty wear the Presidential Chain – we were then told that he was to have another one as Mayor of Kilkenny from the following Tuesday.

The captain of Milltown Golf Club, Gerry Coleman, paid tribute to the Roscrea Union and

on the many notable members both of Milltown and of the Roscrea Union. He pointed out that Milltown and Roscrea have many common members such as Jack Moloney, Joe Gallagher, John Gleeson, Michael Coyle, Mick Dwan and Tom Coman as well as common Past Presidents in Pádraig Mulcahy and Tom Ambrose. Gerry also said that Roscrea men were invariably contributors in the club with Union Past President Donal Taaffe as Chairman of the Milltown House Committee and Past Dublin Branch Chairman Simon Coyle as the Honorary Treasurer. Gerry was delighted to have won the front nine prize with 18 points on a tough day and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

(Pat Hanratty with additional material from Donal Taaffe)



Lean Hyland presenting the Matt Hyland Trophy to Eoin McCarthy



Winner of the Windle Trophy Cara Taaffe is presented with the trophy by Christina Windle.



Ollie Byrne with Christina Windle.

Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Winner | Eoin McCarthy |
| Runner up | Ger Gallagher |
| 3rd Place | Connie Leonard |
| 4th Place | Hugh O'Neill |
| Front Nine | Gerry Coleman |
| Back Nine | Graziano Romeri |
| Longest Drive | Brian Conroy |
| Nearest to Pin | Margaret Byrne |

Windle Ladies Trophy

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Winner | Cara Taaffe |
| Runner up | Margaret Byrne |

OBITUARIES

PETER MAC NEILL, late of Ordinance Survey, Phoenix Park, Dublin and living in Sydney for a number of years died in April 2003. Peter was a member of the Class of 1944.

DR AILBE O'MEARA (CCR 1932-'37) died on May 12th 2003. Until recently, he visited Roscrea regularly and over the years kept in touch with various monks in the college. Ailbe's father, Dr Jack O'Meara of Tullamore was also a graduate of CCR. Ailbe played rugby while in Roscrea and subsequently went on to play for Bective Rangers while he was in medical school in UCD and he also played at inter-provincial level. He practiced medicine abroad for most of his life as ship's surgeon of the Queen Mary for a number of years and later in California. He retired to Ireland in 1988.

DENIS P. SHAW (CCR 1944-47) died in August 2003. He founded Shaw Scientific Ltd. in 1969 and guided it to become a major supplier of scientific instruments, many of which were designed and produced by the firm in Ireland. A noted Rugby player he represented Leinster on 17 consecutive occasions in the 1950s and a Leinster Cap sat on his coffin during his funeral Mass. His sons Derry and the late Bill attended CCR during the 1970s. To his wife Ann and to Deirdre, Derry, Conor and Sinéad we extend our deepest sympathies.

News in Brief... News in Brief... News in Brief... News in Brief...

Abbot Laurence Walsh recently celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination. Union members all over the world unite in congratulating him and wishing him "ad multos annos!"

Fr. Liam O'Connor was recently ordained to the priesthood at Mount St. Joseph. Following last year's solemn profession of Bro. Richard this was another day of great joy for the community.

Leaving Certificate results in the College were excellent – we congratulate all concerned with the continued high level of academic achievement.

ATTENTION PASTMEN!

Are you receiving the "**Roscrea Review**" twice a year, posted directly to your present address? If not, or if the "Review" is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen. The details below will also help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions.

Name : _____ Year Entered : _____ Year Left : _____

Home Address : _____ Occupation : _____

_____ Business Address : _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone : _____

Mobile : _____ Fax : _____ Email : _____

College Contact Numbers : Phone : (0505) 21045 / 23344 Fax : (0505) 22066

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

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

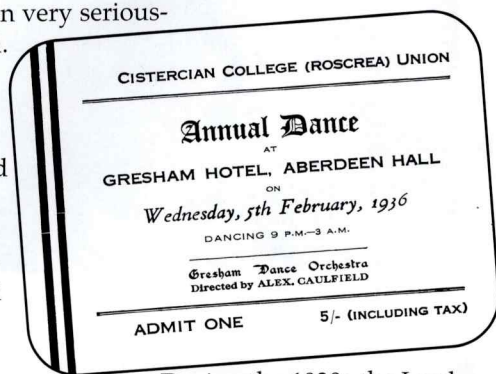
From the Archives:

They danced their way through the "Emergency"!

In early August, at the invitation of Abbot Laurence, I had the opportunity to go through some items in Fr. Dermot's room. What a treasure trove! There were old Minutes' Books from decades ago and records of Union finances meticulously recorded (for years he was both Secretary General and Treasurer!)

The crème de la crème had to be the Dance Committee Minutes Book which ran from 1935 to 1950. In those days as our parents or grandparents could tell us, ballroom dancing was huge and taken very seriously by all concerned.

So much so that the Minutes Book includes cuttings from the Social and Personal columns of the newspapers of the day describing the dances and what the ladies were wearing!



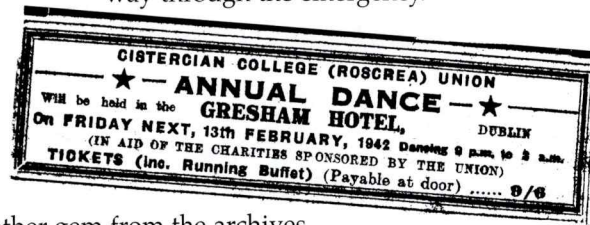
During the 1930s the Lord Mayor of Dublin seems to have attended nearly every Dance (for most of those years it was the legendary Alderman Alfie Byrne!)

Imagine the present day equivalent of the following: "Mrs. F.C. was wearing a becoming gown of olive green crêpe. Miss M. B. was in a flame coloured frock. Miss K.M. wore a picture frock of floral chiffon. Miss B.C. was in white crêpe. Miss N.M.'s gown was of duck-egg blue crêpe. Miss B.McG. chose oyster satin" – and the list goes on. I replaced the surnames with initials on the off chance that any of these people or their children or grandchildren might recognise the names and be embarrassed!

Calling all pastmen of the CLASS OF 1984

It has been suggested that now is the time to start planning our 20th anniversary reunion! If any pastman of the 1984 class would like to participate in the planning of this event, could they please make contact with Mark Redmond (Email : mark.redmond@ie.pwcglobal.com or Phone : 353 1 6626042)

According to the Minutes' Book the dances were held virtually every year between 1935 and 1950, usually in the Aberdeen Hall of the Gresham Hotel. As of now I am uncertain as to whether they continued much later – perhaps some of the older pastmen around could fill us in and tell us what it was really like as they danced their way through the emergency.



Another gem from the archives was the following letter from the Hon. Sec. of the London Branch to pastmen across the water in 1972:

Dear Pastman,

Your Committee has arranged our Annual Cocktail Party to be held at the N.U.I. Club, 13a Lower Grosvenor Place, London S.W.1 on Friday 28th April, time 8.0 p.m., cost – one guinea.

Those of you who have come along to the Cocktail Parties over the years will I'm sure agree, how wonderfully successful and enjoyable these functions are.

It would be greatly appreciated if you will let me know in advance the numbers you will be bringing along.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Two interesting thoughts – (1) That function would have been held only a few months after "Bloody Sunday" in Derry and the subsequent burning of the British embassy in Merrion Square, and (2) it took place more than a year after decimal currency was introduced in the UK and Ireland (February 1971), and yet they were still talking about guineas. My memory is that within days of decimalisation, guineas, half crowns and tanners etc. became distant memories in Ireland. Maybe the British (and the Irish in Britain) held onto the memory of the old currency for a bit longer!

Hurling Support Group GOLF CLASSIC

The annual HSG Golf Classic took place at Roscrea G.C. on 12th July last. Over 40 teams took part, and the winners were Dan Aherne's team followed by Séamus Hennessy's team in second place. Dan is the father of Barry Aherne, House Captain 1988-89. A founder member of the HSG, he included on his team his two sisters and a daughter – it was definitely a good day for the ladies!).

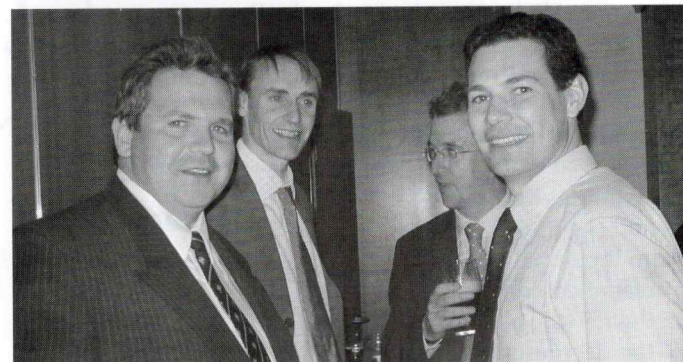
South East Branch Function - 24th May 2003

A most enjoyable Dinner was hosted by the South East Branch in the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny on 24th May 2003. The Dinner was preceded by the Union AGM at which Pat O'Shea was elected an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Union, and Pat Crotty took over as President from Donal Taaffe.

As the pictures show a great time was had by all, and the Branch hopes to have another one next year. Contrary to all reports, nobody left keys, mobile phones, cash or All-Ireland Final tickets in their cars. Stories that Ollie Byrne, the O'Shea brothers and Pat Crotty were seen driving their cars in pursuit of a stolen BMW through Kilkenny and the surrounding area while waiting for the main course were described by an informed source as mischief-making, probably by someone from Tipperary.



Aidan and Teresa McNulty, Fr. Peter, College President, Jane and John McManus.



Donal Taaffe, Brian Walsh, Adrian Deane and Anthony Delehanty.



Paul and Sharon O'Shea, Eddie and Rita Kiernan, Anthony Delehanty..



Fergal Doyle, Liam, Joe, Paul and Sharon O'Shea, Pat Crotty, Margaret and Pat O'Shea.



CCR parents Marie Keenan, Charlie and Ann Phelan, Willie and Ann Lennon with G.P. Maher.



College Development Officer Katherine Donovan with Des Warner.

A Notable Milestone – Mount St. Joseph Celebrates 125 Years

*Elected silence, sing to me
And beat upon my whorled ear,
Pipe to me pastures still and be
The music that I care to hear*

(Gerard Manley Hopkins – “The Habit of Perfection”)

One hundred and twenty five years ago a group of 32 monks left Mount Melleray Abbey in Waterford, to make a new foundation in the Midlands, a foundation made possible by the generosity of Count Arthur Moore, who suggested the idea of a foundation, and had provided the finance to acquire the Mount Heaton Estate.

It was fitting that the new foundation should be in Roscrea, an area steeped in monastic tradition. To Monahincha, a few miles from the town had come St. Canice in search of the peace and tranquillity he could not find elsewhere. St. Cronan himself came to Sean Ros close by, initially, before establishing his monastery beside the great Slí Dála, a monastery that would in the eighth century give us one of our great national treasures by the Moneen river, the bell tower of which forms the entrance to modern St. Cronan’s

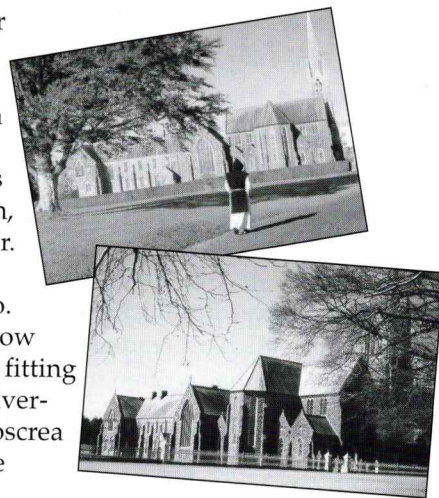
It was a great venture of faith for those founder monks to leave their home in Mount Melleray and start anew. Fr Camillus Beardwood, who would become Roscrea’s first Abbot in 1887, was an architect by profession prior to entering the monastic life and was sent by Dom Bruno to make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of those coming up from Mount Melleray. Fr Hilary O’Sullivan, one of the founders, writing shortly before his death in 1929 said “The principal operations were in the old mansion. The rooms on the top storey which open on the top corridor were turned into dormitories.

By the erection of couches in these rooms sleeping accommodation was provided for the community. On the lower storey or ground floor, the drawing room, which is at present a ladies dining room, was fitted up as the community chapel where the community Mass was to be celebrated and the Divine Office discharged. The corresponding larger room at the other end, which is now the gentlemen’s dining room was turned into a private chapel ... in the basement of the building apartments were found and fitted to serve as refectory, pantry etc...”

The new foundation swiftly took root. The first postulant arrived within a few months; the church was opened in 1884 and three years later the new foundation was raised to the status of an Abbey. 1905 saw the foundation of Cistercian College and as the Monastery grew, daughter-houses were established in Nunraw, Scotland in 1946 in Tarrawarra, Australia in 1954 and at Bolton, Co. Kildare in 1965.

As we rejoice with the Cistercian community on reaching this notable milestone, we can remember with pride the local connections – Nenagh men like the late Bro Camillus

O’Connor from Silver Street, the late Fr. Benedict Duff from Ballygraigue; Roscrea – Templemore gave the monastery monks like Fr. Francis Martin, Fr. Austin Sweeney, Fr. Bernard Kiely, Bro. Nivard Hennessy, Bro. Malachy Maher (all now deceased) ... and it is fitting that at this 125th anniversary the Abbot is a Roscrea native, Dom Laurence Walsh.



There has always been a close bond between the monastery and the surrounding parishes. Time passes; life changes; but for 125 years people have come here to pray and experience the uniqueness that is Mount St Joseph Abbey. It is fitting that we should rejoice with the monks on this milestone and give thanks for their presence and prayer over the past 125 years.

In our materialistic world, we get caught up in what Hopkins, himself a member of a great religious congregation, the Jesuits, in the poem quoted above, refers to as this “ruck and reel which coils, keeps and teases simple sight” But the monk in his vocation provides the opposite of that; in the elected silence of the monastery he seeks to “find the uncreated light... and walk the golden street and unhouse and house the Lord”.

Liam Doran

COLLEGE CENTENARY 2005

It’s not much more than a year away – this year the Abbey celebrates 125 years and in 2005 the College will be 100 years old. What an incredible amount of teaching and learning has taken place over the past 98 years! What memories people have – of teachers, fellow students, big occasions, matches, rainy days, an unexpected “call”, “getting out” and so on. Over the next few issues of the Review it would be great for pastmen to write about some of their very special memories of CCR in whatever decade(s) they were there. We are not asking for prize-winning essays – just genuine authentic memories which we can publish without fear of getting sued for libel!

Be big and brave! Write a piece – as short or as long as you like and send it to Katherine Donovan at the College or to me at han@indigo.ie. Share your memories with 3,000 others all over the world!

Pat Hanratty

Sermon for Br. Richard's Solemn Profession

Dom Laurence Walsh OCSO - 28/09/02

Shortly, my dear Brothers and Sisters, we will hear and see Bro. Richard read aloud the document of his profession. He has written it already by hand, on parchment, with indelible ink. After reading it aloud he will sign it on the altar and leave it there right through our Mass. It begins "I, Brother Richard Purcell promise my stability, my fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience until death...." They are haunting words "until death", written in indelible ink on parchment. Why would a talented young man with the world at his feet make such a commitment in a fragile community of elderly men? In all honesty, humanly speaking it makes no sense. But he is doing it, so we have to search elsewhere for the explanation.

It was he himself who chose the readings for the Mass. So presumably these readings are his way of answering our bewilderment. "The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli, it was rare for the Lord to speak in those days; visions were uncommon." For that read "The boy Richard was ministering to the Lord in Rathgar in the presence of Diane and John Purcell; it is rare for the Lord to speak in our days; visions are uncommon." How true all this is! And yet for a third time: "The Lord came and stood by, calling as he had done before: 'Richard! Richard!' And Richard answered back, 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening!'" And that's why we are all here today.

Now it's a great thing to hear the Lord call and to listen, but that is only the start. The second reading today develops the theme – that his life now has to be centred on God – on God's Son, Christ Jesus. "Let your heart, your soul be in heaven", as the Monastery motto puts it, while your body is on earth." Let your thoughts be on heavenly things in the way St. Paul has it, "not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God." Becoming a monk involves a death, death to the prospect of loving a wife and family, to the challenge and joys of a

career of great future, to the thrills and fun of world travel and indeed a thousand other things.

Later in the ceremony after having read and signed his document of profession, and sung his triple appeal to the Lord for life, full life he will prostrate, lie face down on the floor during the long prayer of blessing. This act of prostrating has a special meaning. It is a

symbol of death – the death that the full living of monastic life involves. And by the way that Solemn Blessing is a marvellous prayer. Give it your full attention when we come to it. You can't miss it, it is while he is prostrated on the ground. Pray it with me in your hearts.

Only yesterday we had lying, where Bro. Richard will be in a little while, the dead body of our late Bro. Bernard as we celebrated his funeral Mass. He had been 56 years in the Monastery – a gentle man, a holy man, a man greatly beloved. He was the grain of wheat to fall on the ground and die half a century ago, and yield a rich harvest of prayer, of love, of service to community and to all who had dealings with him, and now to be honoured by the Father in eternal life. Richard is today's grain of wheat falling on the ground and dying to one whole way of living, so that he, too, may yield a rich harvest in the most real sense.

Only last Tuesday our joint General Chapter of Cistercian monks and nuns from all around the world concluded a three week session in Rome. One of the areas that was given very special consideration was the recently solemnly professed of the order. A letter was composed to send to all these brothers and sisters of ours, one of whom Richard becomes today. A few snippets from it won't be out of place just now. The Abbots and Abbesses invited their young to "progressively live the maturation of your capacity to love, translating it into a capacity of acting according to the monastic charism, in a new strength, creative of life."

The Chapter went on to reflect on the precariousness of many monasteries today concluding that "when a community does not continually re-root itself in the salvation history of its people, it runs a risk of becoming first foreign and then anachronistic." The fathers and mothers of the Order pledged themselves to work with great urgency, alongside the younger members of the Order to bring about this inculturation of monastic life in our time. And our Abbot General concluded saying: "the generations to come will do better than we have done and will live the monastic charism more fully and more deeply than we have."

This, Bro. Richard is my prayer and my hope for you.



• NEWS OF PASTMEN •

MICHAEL BRODY (CCR 1963-68) is having a wonderful year as Captain of The Heath Golf Club. One suspects Shaws will not go any more "nationwide" as long as he is doing business on the Golf Course! The joy of seeing his adopted county beat Dublin & Kildare must have given him some consolation for Meath's loss to Fermanagh!

Other pastmen prominent in their clubs are **CHARLIE FLATTERY** (CCR 1964-69) from Trim who is captain of County Meath Golf Club and **RORY CULLITON** (CCR 1964-68) who is currently Vice-President and will be next year's President in The Heath G.C.

Whatever happens over the next few weeks, one CCR pastman will win an All-Ireland U-21 Hurling medal! When the Final takes place on Sept. 21st, expect **PETER GARVEY** to star for Galway, and **CONOR PHELAN** for Kilkenny. Indeed Conor also figures in the Kilkenny Senior squad who have stormed their way into the All-Ireland Final. Congratulations to both and also to **HUGH MOLONEY** and **JOHN O'BRIEN** who starred for Tipperary and were unlucky to be on the losing side in the recent epic U-21 Semi Final against Galway.

Also on the Hurling front, **AUSTIN MURPHY** is on this year's Kilkenny Minor panel which has, yet again won the Leinster Championship and will play Galway in the All-Ireland Final while **EAMON LEE** was on the Offaly team which played Kilkenny in the Leinster Minor Final.

Portlaoise's successful campaign in winning the Towns' Cup in Leinster involved a number of CCR pastmen. **BRIAN GEE** played in the Final, as did second half subs **JOE FLEMMING** and **DAVID GRAHAM**. **ALAN GEE** also received a medal even though he was not on the final panel due to injury. Portlaoise's victory margin of 20 points over Navan was the biggest ever in a Towns' Cup Final.

ROB O'SHEA recently became a father for the third time – another girl, a sister for Patrick and Ana.

One of our older past students recently had a surprise "This is your Life" style 90th birthday party. **JOHN STANISLAUS GUINAN**, born in Cloghan Co Offaly

on July 31st 1913, was educated at Mount St Joseph's and St Mel's Longford and qualified as a doctor in 1938 at UCD and is still practising, albeit on a part-time basis at Harrowside Medical Practice in Blackpool, Lancashire.

After qualifying, he emigrated to England and on the outbreak of WWII joined the Royal Army Medical Corps where he served in India, the Middle East (including Iraq), North Africa and Italy attaining the rank of acting Lieutenant Colonel. He then worked in general practice in Bury, Lancashire up until 1978 when he returned briefly to Ireland. His wife had died in 1977 and he found it difficult to settle and eventually returned to England to practise where he was later honoured by the awarding of a Fellowship of the British Medical Association.

Despite many decades in England he has always remained staunchly Irish and intensely proud of the training he received in Ireland.

BRIAN HOGAN (Class of 1992) from Rosslare, Co. Wexford got engaged recently to Therèse Reardon. Brian is working as a Pharmacist in Wexford town.

His Honour Judge **DESMOND WINDLE** (CCR 1946-'51), recently retired as a Judge of the District Court. A colourful character, he was never afraid to speak his mind, and if at times unpredictable, his departure from the Bench will be deeply regretted by lawyers, gardaí and defendants alike.

Desmond qualified as a solicitor in June 1957, and from his early days he was a champion of the underprivileged – and well able to cause the ruffling of feathers. But it was as a judge that his style brought him to prominence. Particularly memorable was his sustained campaign to highlight the State's abysmal failure in dealing with children who came before the courts, many of whom were victims of simple neglect on the part of the State which sought to prosecute them. He would be the first to admit that that neglect continues, but his efforts in highlighting it and calling the State to account over it are to his lasting credit.

Fourteen of his District Court colleagues joined him for a special sitting in Court 52 for tributes.

Though not on the scale or for as long as his late brother Noel, Des was for many years very active in the Union, particularly in the Dublin Branch on whose Committee he served for many years. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

continued on next page

Among 50 members of the 78th Cadet Class who were commissioned in a ceremony at the Curagh in mid-July was **BRIAN CONNOLLY**, son of 1980 Galway All-Ireland Captain Joe Connolly. Brian attended CCR from 1998 to 2001 and was on the College team that made history by winning the All Ireland Colleges "B" Hurling title in 2000. He also won a County Under 21 Medal with his Club, Castlegar and was on the Galway Intermediate Panel for the All-Ireland encounter with Tipperary that year. His grandfather, Jim Griffin won a North Tipp Junior Football Medal with Inane Rovers in 1952.

Minister for Defence Michael Smith TD, (brother of CCR Deputy Principal **DAN SMITH** and brother-in-law of South East Branch Chairman **FRANK O'MEARA**) told the newly commissioned officers that they take up duty at a time of exciting change for the Defence Forces. Under the first ever White Paper on Defence, a blueprint for change is being introduced with the aim of transforming the capacity of the Defence Forces to meet the challenges of the modern era at home and abroad. There is also a huge programme of investment in new equipment making the present time an exciting one to be involved in the Defence Forces.

OLLIE BYRNE (1986) has recently been appointed Financial Controller of Magna Donnelly Electronics

Naas Ltd. (formerly Donnelly Mirrors Ltd.). They are part of the Magna Donnelly group – the world's largest manufacturer of interior rear-view mirrors for the automotive industry.

JUSTIN KEHOE (CCR 1992-97) having completed his B.Sc. last year concentrated on his golf with great success this year. He shortly heads off to the Tour School. To help him on his way, Birr G.C. organised a Golf Classic on 20th August last. A team of four consisting of **HUGH MCDONNELL**, **PAT O'SHEA**, **FRANK THOMPSON** and **FRANK FAHEY** represented the Union on that occasion. We wish Justin every success with the professional game!

Also on the subject of golf, **NOEL KAVANAGH** is in his second year of a golf scholarship at East Tennessee University. On holidays this summer he posted some excellent scores in the Irish Amateur Open Championship and in the Inter Provincial Championship for Connaught.

DONAL O'BRIEN (Snr.) is a worthy inspiration to those of us grappling with the fairways, roughs etc. According to his son-in-law, Union President, **PAT CROTTY**, Donal will be playing in the Singles Final at Kilkenny G.C. on the day before the All-Ireland Hurling Final at the ripe young age of 77!

Last Word from the Editor:

There's not much left to say about Fr. Dermot – Conor Massey, Liam Doran, Pat Crotty and Bro. Richard have said it all, really. It is just incredible to think that for so long he was General Secretary and Treasurer of the Union AND Editor of the Review! A humbling thought!

Many thanks to all who have sent in Standing Order forms to help keep the Review in circulation. Thanks also to all who sent kind messages from near and far. Paul Robinson tells me the Spring Edition finally made Harare on 8th August and was read "ó bhun go barr!" It's nice to know what we write here in cosy little Ireland is appreciated six or more thousand miles away.

My thanks also to all who wrote pieces for the Review and who supplied data, especially Hugh McDonnell who follows the fortunes of our hurling and golfing pastmen with particular interest. If this Review seemed very golf-oriented, let's bear in mind that it was a marvellous summer and the next issue will, presumably have lots of more serious content, including lots of (serious) College News.

Finally, a big thank you to Donal Taaffe, David McDonagh and Bridget Hanratty who were my most willing and competent proof readers.

As always – keep the news coming!
Pat Hanratty.

