

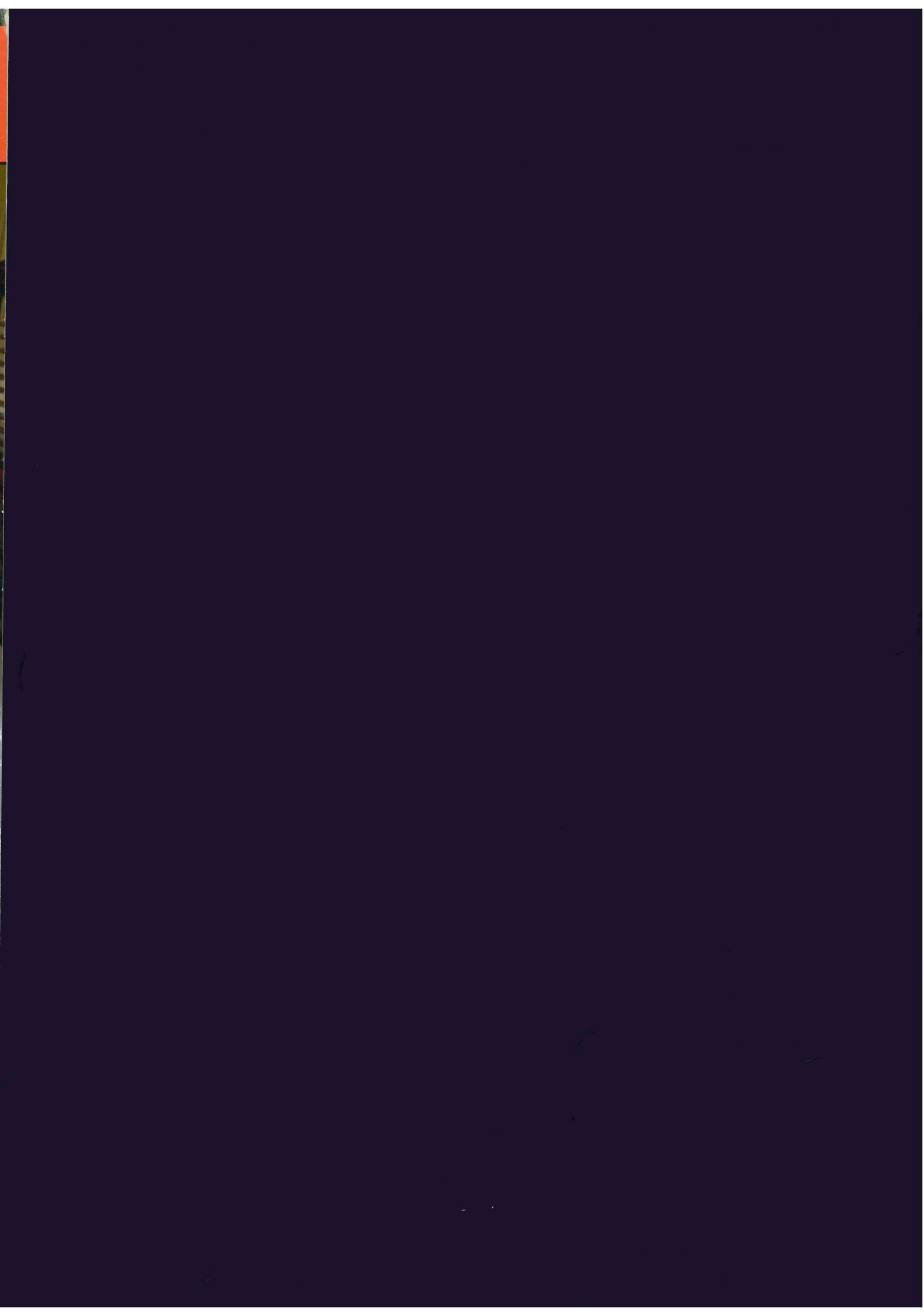


THE ABBEY WAY

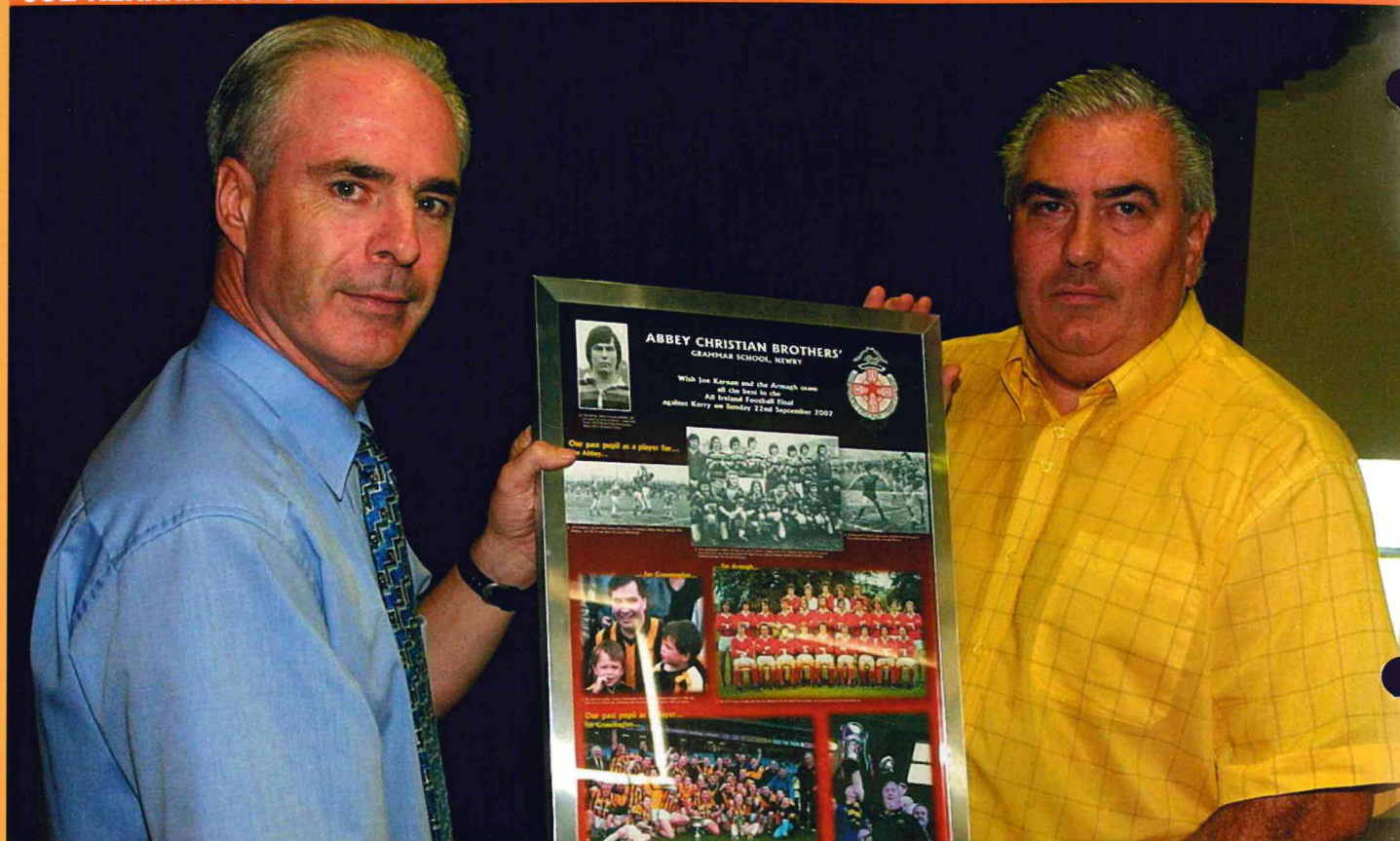
ABBAY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY



Drug Awareness • Sex Education • Bullying Issues • Zambia • Abbey Life
ESAT Success (Technology & Biology) • Joe Kernan at The Abbey
Pupils Visit Stratford • Abbey Meets the President • Sports • Letters
and Much, Much More...



JOE KERNAN VISITS THE ABBEY



Headmaster, Mr McGovern, presents Armagh manager, Joe Kernan, with some framed memories to inspire his team - it seems to have worked!

FEVER - PITCH

It may not have been the World Cup in June, but the reception and the atmosphere generated by the appearance of Armagh manager Joe Kernan prior to Armagh's All-Ireland final was simply unforgettable. Even ardent Down fans could not fail to be moved in some small measure by the fervour and

sense of anticipation we witnessed. Perhaps Joe himself was somewhat overwhelmed by the feeling of destiny in the gymnasium that day, and we all left feeling that two days later Armagh would indeed be named All-Ireland Champions. Abbey connections in the Armagh camp have run deep for many years

and below we can see the men who have all worn the Abbey colours with great pride. Some of our pupils were moved to put pen to paper and reveal their deep emotions on such a memorable occasion. Not all of them were of a similar disposition.

ARMAGH POEM

We travelled in thousands,
By train and car.
Some stayed in hotels,
Some went for a jar.

The tickets were scarce,
There were none around.
But we all made the trip,
And in Dublin some were found.

McGeeney our captain,
We have heart and soul.
Kernan our manager,
To win Sam is the goal.

Now we've won the All-Ireland,
What else is there to do?
All other counties are envious,
Let's win the league too!

Feargal Campbell DO3

DOWN FANS - GET BEHIND ARMAGH

Every man in Ulster, I am sure, would love to see the Sam make its way over the border one more time and this year it's up to Armagh, and Joe Kernan's side will have to do a hell of a lot better against Kerry than they did with the Dubs.

But the point I want to get through to everyone in the Down district is to put the past behind us; our days have gone. It won't be for a least another generation until we are playing for an All-Ireland medal.

It's Armagh's turn. The best thing a Down fan can do is put on an orange shirt, sing "the boys from Co. Armagh" and cheer on the next All-Ireland champions.

The only way to dodge the slagging the Armagh ones will give after they win is to join the slaggers.

I myself, being a Down fan, will be searching for a Hogan Stand ticket to see Kieran McGeeney lift the Sam, the same one that Down have lifted on five occasions. Many Down fans will not be able to put the

history that Armagh and Down have behind them, but I know a lot of people who can, for example Liam Kehoe, the owner of Kehoe Cars will be cheering on the men in orange. He even has his own orange and white checked car which he will be raffling off.

But can you imagine sitting at home hoping Kerry absolutely "stuff" Armagh while all your friends are standing on Hill 16 cheering on Oisín McConville and his team mates. Do you want to sit at home missing out on a great day's "craic" which will probably follow through until Wednesday or Thursday depending on what happens after those vital seventy minutes?

So, instead of sitting at home with half your room filled with green and yellow, get out with the South Armagh brigade and enjoy Armagh lift the Sam Maguire for the first time ever.

Shane Lavery IV1
(A Down Fan behind Armagh)

ARMAGH V KERRY - MY REASON FOR NOT BEING THERE.

The reason I never saw the match was because... now let me think. I woke up in the morning with a jolt realising it was the big match. Armagh versus Kerry; the big day, the day battles were won and lost. I must say my heart was for Armagh but my brain was for Kerry. Well, I got into the car to travel to Belfast to meet my (dreaded) cousins and watch the match; mind you I was there for the food. I left the house at 11: 59 a.m Greenwich Mean Time on the 22nd September 2002. As I was travelling along I saw this cow floating in the air. I stopped the car and went to investigate. Suddenly, I felt as light as a feather. I was floating towards the beastly contraption I had just noticed. As I floated closer I couldn't help but think what was in this infernal machine. (This is the end of my sad and boring days writing out English essays).

Well, as I was saying, I really thought this was the end. But, when I was in this beautifully built spacecraft I had a pleasant surprise, the interior was like that of the Pentium Processor 4 advert on T.V. and the aliens like that on the Fanta advert. They also spoke fluent English, German, French, Spanish, and funnily enough Mongolian. We spoke for a while about our technology and then they kicked me off shouting, "Your technology sucks". I then got back in the car and went on to my final destination. By the time I got there the match was already over.

Actually the reason I didn't watch the match was because the computer interested me more!
Eoghan Bakker DO3

D-DAY

It was September the 22nd, a warm Sunday that would forever change our lives. It was 9:16 p.m. and the City of Dublin was gearing up for a barrage of Orange and White fanatics. One place in particular was truly geared up for the event: Quinn's pub that would have the majority of Armagh fans call in for a 'quicke'.

It was the All Ireland Final day and the mighty Armagh would put up a challenge like no other before. The challenge was for Sam! With my hand in my pocket I clutched onto my ticket, hoping I would not lose it amid the excitement of it all. 'Hill 16' is where I would be going and 'Hill 16' was where I would stay for 70 minutes. I arrived at the place they called Croke Park. A sea of orange and white filled my eyeballs. It was an amazing sight of joy to see so many people here to cheer on 'the Boys from the County Armagh.' 'Geezer' led the team out after the minor team of Derry had won the minor All-Ireland final, so at least one cup would cross the border.

Up in the RTE box was the most experienced commentator of Gaelic Football. "Today's referee John Bannon from Longford has a look at his watch. He throws

the ball up between a Collage of Armagh and Kerry midfielders". With McDonnell putting Armagh ahead and registering the first score of the game, the lads were playing as planned. Thirty five minutes later, at half time, Kerry were leading by four points. As I stood in 'Hill 16' there was a great sense of anticipation all around. What would go on in the changing room? It was beyond imagination but whatever it was would change our fate. As Bannon threw up the ball in the second half there was somewhat of a lack of effort on the Kerry side. On the other hand, Armagh were starting to get on top of their ball game. Oisín McConville was clearly down after putting a penalty into the hands of Decky O'Keefe in the 1st half, but then his moment came: a goal! bringing the sides within one point of each other. The pitch was starting to look like a battlefield. The orange side were clearly marching over their counterparts. The Armagh side fired out two unanswered points. Then, the whistle went. The pitch was invaded and Armagh fans watched as the main man, McGeeney, lifted big Sam!

There's one fair county in Ireland who has Sam, and he's so "glorious and grand!"
Connor Burns DO3

WHEN I WAS DAY DREAMING

I swear to God if I hear that Armagh la-de-da song one more time, I shall smite the inhabitants of the county in question with both hatred and hot lead!

Ok, now you know where I stand, let me explain why. When almost every Irish blooded human was watching a football match I was sitting less than three metres away from the television set doing...? Well not doing much really, but it's really quite hard to get on with doing nothing when your mother is lamenting over her son's lack of interest in the sport of "your native land"

Well I'm sorry but just what the heck? I was born in a hospital in the Bronx New-York, and if I were to take an interest in the sport of my native land I would run around my humble Rostrevor abode shouting "42! 43! Hut, hut, hut!" And just for the record, no I don't know what that means and I would be fully clothed wearing neither a superman costume nor a loin cloth.

On a somewhat different note I would like to thank both the creator of headphones and his good friend the creator of loud music an awful, awful lot.

OK !

Ok I'm not saying I don't like sports... Oh wait, "I don't like sports!"

Ahhh that's better. My reason for this is that my idea of physical exertion is moving from the couch to the kitchen to satisfy the call of one's munchies, but at the same time I can still respect the GAA for their patriotic and selfless devotion to the great game. (That should ensure no vicious beatings)

So seriously, no, I really cannot remember what the point of this essay was but I just spent fourteen years of devotion to literature and the fine arts to write an essay on a football match, so there wasn't going to be much of a point now was there?

Connor McKeown DO3



Abbey CBS, Newry congratulates Past Pupils.

Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry wishes the 10 Past Pupils involved with the Armagh Panel the best of luck in the All Ireland Final against Kerry.

Back Row:

(L-R) Kieran McGeeney (Captain), Tony McEntee, Justin McNulty, Joe Kernan (Manager), Dermot McGovern (Headmaster), Val Kane (Vice-Principal), Cathal O'Rourke

Front Row:

(L-R) Enda McNulty, Aidan O'Rourke, John McEntee, Oisín McConville and Barry Duffy.

"RUSH"

On the afternoon of Friday 4th October all 4th Year students at the Abbey Grammar School, Newry attended a play and workshop on drugs awareness entitled 'Rush'. This was organised as part of the students' Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum.

'Rush' is a multi-media play concentrating on the effects of drugs misuse on ordinary young lives. The play explores the issue of hard drugs, such as heroin, and the effect of drugs on aspirations and quality of life. This production was developed in consultation with the Health Promotion Agency and Dunlewey Substance Advice Centre and complies with Northern Ireland Drugs Policy.

'Rush' was produced by Class Acts Promotions Ireland Ltd. The play has been warmly received in schools, colleges and theatres throughout Ireland and teachers have commented positively on the impact that the performance has had on students.



Staff and 4th year Prefects who attended the work shops

PRESS RELEASE

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2002

On the afternoon of Friday 11th October all 1st Year students at the Abbey Grammar School, Newry, attended a play and workshop on bullying entitled 'The Silent Scream'. This was organised as part of the students' Personal Development curriculum to look at bullying.

The parents of 1st Year students were also invited to attend the performance through the Abbey Parent Teacher Association.

'Silent Scream' is a one-man hard-hitting and provocative play produced by Class Acts Promotions Ireland Ltd. The production concentrated on two main issues: what to do if you are being bullied and how to create a climate of non-tolerance towards bullying in the school. It aimed to make students themselves share responsibility towards keeping their community bully-free.

The performance was warmly received in the Abbey and teachers, pupils and parents alike commented positively on the impact of the performance.



THE CHALLENGE TEAM



volunteers who educate people about health and sexuality. The team started in 1993 and now has 170 members and speaks to tens of thousands of students every year in Canada and other countries.

This is the third year in a row that the 'Challenge Team' has visited the Abbey, educating the students about making the right choices regarding their sexuality. Once again they performed to a captive audience and had an overwhelmingly positive response from the Abbey students.



The 'Challenge Team' from Canada visited the Abbey on 10th October and spoke to 4th Year students about the positive aspects of practising chastity. Their drama presentation delivered the option of choosing chastity as a healthy and realistic lifestyle. The presentation was delivered as part of the Relationships and Sexuality Education programme in the school.

The 'Challenge Team' is a Canadian-based group of full and part-time youth volunteers who educate people about health and sexuality. The team started in 1993 and now has 170 members and speaks to tens of thousands of students every year in Canada and other countries.

Parents of first year pupils taking a keen interest in the workshop on "Bullying". The high attendance demonstrates the importance both staff and parents attach to this issue.

ZAMBIA

SOLIDARITY IN THE ABBEY

On Saturday April 5th seven senior students: Conor Rodgers, Joseph Murphy, Paul Campbell, Steven Malone, Barry McDonough, Christopher Cull, Richard Gordon and three teachers: Sr Anne Lyng, Mr. Connolly and Mr. Maguire visit Zambia for two weeks. The aim of the project is two-fold:

- To provide some immediate help and support for those who are much poorer than ourselves.
- To offer our students an opportunity to gain first hand experience of Zambia, its culture, problems and challenges.

The team will be based in Livingstone in the southern part of the country.



Group 1 Three students and one teacher will be working with Sr. Josephine Murphy (Presentation Sister) in a Youth Community Training Centre, teaching: basic Mathematics, English and Computers.

Group 2 Four students and two teachers will be working with Br. Mick Murphy (Irish) and Sr. Eammanuela (Polish), Holy Spirit Sister in an Orphanage and Centre for street children, teaching: Mathematics, English, games and gardening.



The Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern, expressed his delight that students and staff chose to develop such a venture, pointing out the long term investment for our students. There is no doubt that this experience will have a major impact on them. We would hope that even if one of these boys continues to assist the

developing world, by returning or raising awareness and funds in his own community in the future, then the people of Zambia will continue to reap the benefits for many years to come. To raise school awareness and involve the whole Abbey community, a **Zambian Solidarity Day** was organised on Thursday 5th December:

- During morning lessons staff focused on different aspects of Zambia: e.g., overall facts and context of the country, economic situation, AIDS, food, Geography, impact of the Christian Brothers etc.

- A Sponsored Silence was held from 2.10 – 3.20 p.m

Almost £8,000 was raised by the students which was absolutely

fantastic. We acknowledge the generosity of students, staff and the wider Abbey community so far but also welcome any donations which can be made directly to the Abbey Grammar School Zambia Project. This money will be donated directly to those groups which the team determine are most in need.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DEBATES



A number of lower and upper sixth students have been involved in the Amnesty International, The Rights Stuff Debates, 2002, along with Our Lady's Grammar School, Lagan College, Belfast, and Downpatrick High School. The aim of the competition is to enhance and develop young people's understanding and awareness of politics and human rights issues around the world.



In series one The Abbey were paired against Lagan College debating the motion: "This house believes George W Bush is a bigger threat to the world than Saddam Hussein". In a lively encounter, which was praised by visiting teachers for its high standards of organisation, enthusiasm and confident delivery by both teams, the Belfast school was the narrow winner.

The second debate witnessed The Abbey proposing the motion: "This house believes that diamonds are a girl's best friend: The international trade in diamonds does more harm than good". In this debate they were opposed by local rivals, Our Lady's, and despite partisan support the girls pipped the boys, perhaps having the edge in their knowledge of diamonds and also what constitutes a girl's best friend.

The third debate saw The Abbey travel to Belfast to compete against Downpatrick High School on the issue of the Death Penalty. In an excellent and, at times, emotive debate The Abbey lads opposing the motion, won the argument.

The competition affords the students the opportunity to develop public-speaking skills, enhance their debating prowess and also to meet and talk to students from other schools. The team will also be attending the final of the competition in Stormont Buildings, some time in March 2003.

The Abbey team comprises: Gareth Chambers; Christopher Gaskin; Daniel-Patrick Heatley; Ryan Lynch; Eamonn Donnelly; Joseph Murphy; Sean Finnegan and Gavin McCormick.



The Abbey Scoops Major Awards at the Esat BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition



The Abbey CBS Newry is naturally delighted at the success of their pupils at the recent ceremony in the RDS in Dublin. Christopher McParland, Shane Fegan and Jonathan McComiskey secured three awards for their 'Water for Life' project. They included:

- 1st place in the Technology senior group category.
- The Dublin Institute of Technology Award for the project which best demonstrates an appreciation of entrepreneurship or the potential of developing an enterprise.
- The INTEL Special Bursary, awarded to individuals who demonstrate innovation in the field of science or technology.

The pupils identified the problem of availability of hygienic drinking water in the Third World. The pupils developed a product that uses renewable energy to produce safe drinking water for use in Zambia.

Their technology teacher Mr T. Mooney (Head Of Technology) said "These pupils were great ambassadors for the school and they really enjoyed taking part and experiencing such a prestigious competition where friendships established shall remain with them for a long time."

Connor Jackson, Andrew Marshall and Ciaran Leonard also attained first place in the Technology Group Intermediate section as well as a special award from the Patents Office, an award given for a project that incorporates the most innovative use of technology, the potential industrial applicability and the potential for commercial exploitation. These pupils developed a product to assist the visually impaired to determine the volume of boiling water in any given container. Their technology teacher Mr G. Savage said "These pupils were very committed to this project giving up their Christmas holidays to work in the technology workshop."

Conor Murphy and Paul Rafferty attained 1st place in the Technology Junior Group category for their development of 'Dozy-Driver' a device that tackles the very real problem of a motorist falling asleep behind the wheel!

Their technology teacher Mr M. Rodgers said "This project generated a lot of interest at the competition and the boys are now investigating the possibility of a commercial use."

Peter McClain achieved 3rd place in the junior technology individual category by developing an electronic learning aid for



children with autism while David Toal secured a best display award for his project 'Life-Line' a device to increase safety at sailing schools.

Mark McCavitt was highly commended for developing a flashing warning indicator to assist drivers to see school children on dark evenings as they walk home from school. Fergal Garvey and Darren Treanor achieved third place in the intermediate group biological science section with their study of colonial behaviour in the beadlet anemone. The students investigated the seasonal spatial distribution of the beadlet anemone on the Greencastle Shore and also studied intraspecific aggression within the species. Their science teacher Mrs M. Lane (Head of Biology) said

"This is a deserved reward for all their hard work."

STRATFORD TRIP - A Student's Diary

SOLIDARITY IN THE ABBEY



On Wednesday, 25th September a group of English students from years 12 and 13 travelled to Stratford, England, to visit William Shakespeare's birthplace. We were accompanied by four teachers from the English department: Mr Lennon, Mr Morgan, Mr McMahon and Mr O'Rourke.

The journey began with a four-hour sea-crossing on "the second biggest ferry in the world," (Mr O'Rourke) which incidentally doesn't say much for our planet's sea-faring industry. We arrived in Holyhead around 1:30pm, and were immediately crammed back onto our coach for another (comfortless) four-hour journey to our hotel in Wolverhampton. Despite some very pessimistic expectations, the 'Connaught Hotel' turned out to be very welcoming. Each modest room had an en-suite, television and telephone for communicating with residents in other rooms (needless to say these were quite entertaining), and even a hair-dryer (it surprised me that numerous students found these invaluable).

A quick dinner satisfied appetites, but unfortunately made us arrive thirty minutes late for the 7:30pm showing of Shakespeare's 'King Lear' at the Swan Theatre in Stratford. The theatre was a reconstruction of the original 'Swan,' which was a prominent theatre in Shakespeare's day. The wooden beams were visually realistic and authentic, while the 'thrust' stage formed a T-shape, where most of the performance occurs on a platform reaching into the audience, involving us in the action. A certain 5th year (who shall remain nameless) showed his enthusiasm by flinching as King Lear was leaping around

the stage, merely inches from the audience. The performance itself was quite different from what I expected. After reading over the play for AS-Level English, I imagined the cast would be dressed in authentic medieval costumes. To my surprise, the male thespians were outfitted in evening-wear tuxedos, while the actresses wore plain (yet very elegant) evening dresses. Distinguishing features were basic but effective nonetheless: Lear wore a silk sash, the Earl of Kent (disguised as Caius) wore a black, curly wig, top-hat and glasses, and the Fool wore a dazzling, glittered magician's suit.



Overall, the play was incredible, but what else does one expect from the Royal Shakespeare Company? Most of the students seemed impressed, particularly with the finely-choreographed sword duel between Edgar and Edmund.

We awakened at the early time of 9am on Thursday morning (right about the time your inevitably enjoyable day at school was beginning), and returned to Stratford to visit the three in-town Shakespearean houses. These included: the house that Shakespeare was brought up in, another house beside

Shakespeare's adult residence, New Place, and the dwelling of a doctor who married a descendent of Shakespeare. I found the tour generally interesting, but most of our crowd was anxious to move on as quickly as possible. A boat tour in the afternoon was more relaxing and pleasant.

We left Stratford that afternoon and endured the two-hour journey back to the hotel for the last time (hallelujah..). We spent the evening in a local bowling alley in Wolverhampton, with a special offer of £8 for unlimited bowling for the night.

The third day was the most anticipated, and fortunately lived up to our expectations. We packed our belongings, said a quick 'thank you' to Hotel Management (aren't we polite?), and hopped on the coach to travel to the notorious Alton Towers (allow me to repeat that: ALTON TOWERS!).

We split up into groups and tackled as many rides as possible in our allocated five hours. The early time of arrival meant queues were minimal to begin with, so most of us rushed to Oblivion (the only free-fall roller coaster in the world), then Air (a new ride, which actually simulates flight), Nemesis, then numerous subsidiary rides. These included the river rapids, Submission (which basically rotated 360 degrees a few times – I couldn't feel my legs afterwards), and the ghost train (aside from the teachers, we appeared to be the only ones who were terrified).

Alton Towers was very well received by everyone, and we all were reluctant to leave. Indeed, the four-hour bus journey to the seaport did little to compensate. The journey home was enjoyable, and we arrived back in Newry at around 12:30am on Saturday morning.

Overall the trip to Stratford was extremely entertaining, and excellent value at only £165. Finally, we would like to thank the teachers involved for their planning, effort and accompaniment on the trip. Hopefully similar outings will be organised in forthcoming years.

Joseph Murphy 61A



TURAS AR ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN

Ar an Chéadaoin 23ú Deireadh Fómhair chuaigh buaiteoirí Chomórtas Polaitíochta na 2002 agus baill Chumann Polaitíochta na Mainistreach chuig Áras an Uachtaráin le buaileadh le Máire Bean Mhic Giolla Íosa, tuisceartach agus Uachtarán na hÉireann. Bhí sé mar phribhléid agam a bheith in éindí le Dr. Mc Cavitt agus na gasúir eile ar an lá speisialta sin.

D'fhág muid an scoil ar leath i ndiaidh a haon déag. Thóg sé thart fá dhá uair a chloig chun Baile Átha Cliath a shroicint ar an bhus mar bhí an trácht trom. Ghlac sé tamall fhada chun dul tríd an córas slándála, ach sa

deireadh thiar thall bhain muid an tÁras amach. Bhuail muid leis an Uachtarán agus thug baill an Chumann Polaitíochta leabhar a rinne siad féin di agus bhronn Dr Mc Cavitt cóip de leabhar nuafhoilsithe s'aigesean 'Flight of the Earls' uirthi freisin.

I ndiaidh sin, bhog muid ar aghaidh chuig seomra ina raibh cuid mhór sólaistí ann. Bhí mé féin agus na gasúir uile lán sásta mar bhí achan rud saor in aisce!

Rinne Máire Bean Mhic Giolla Íosa comhghairdeas le Dr. Mc Cavitt as a leabhar nua agus, ár gcuart thart, d'fhág sí slán

againn. Bhí sí cairdiúil fáilteach mar is dual di.

Ar ár mbealach abhaile stop muid i nDroichead Átha le greim gasta a fháil i Mc Donalds. Bhí na daltaí sásta mar bhí bolg lán againn agus bhí ár ndóthain den pholaitíochta againn fosta. Bhí seans agam mar dhalta na chéad bliana a bheith ag caint le buachaillí níos sine agus bhain mé sult as. B'ócáid ar leith í agus bhí lá againn nach ndéanfar dearmad air.

Cathal Mac Dhaibhéid IV1



DAY TRIP TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT MARY MCALEESE

On Thursday the 3rd of October, on the way to Mr. Wadsworth's room, I received the best news I could have ever heard... I was on my way to Dublin to meet Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland! After nearly a full week of excitement and preparation, on Wednesday the 9th of October, at 11:15a.m., I left for Dublin.

When we got to Dublin, after a long wait at the gates, and an annoying rendition of "Happy Song" (which I used to love when I was two) by some second year boys, we finally arrived at the imposing residence of

the President of Ireland, in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. We were the first group to be greeted by the president in her splendid house, which was ornately decorated with busts of former presidents, antique furniture and valuable paintings.

We were then brought out to her garden and were taken to the Visitors' Centre. There was lots of food and drink, but the hall soon filled up, as there were about ten groups, from all over Ireland, there! While we were enjoying the food, a girls' choir entertained us. When the President came to speak to

our group, I talked to her for about five minutes about my project on John Fitzgerald Kennedy and she told me how all American Presidents have libraries dedicated to them and how she would like to have a library dedicated to her. On the way home the juniors and the seniors had a debate, which in the end got a bit exasperating, but all the same, it beats having to listen to the lads singing their Happy Song! Phew... What a day! Loads of thanks Dr McCavitt for a memorable day!

Conal O'Hare IV1

LETTERS

**Asperger's and the playground –
My View**

As an Abbey pupil who has personal experience of Asperger's Syndrome I am very concerned about the lack of knowledge of this syndrome in the Abbey playground, and in fact most school playgrounds.

There are lots of problems that a child with Asperger's faces everyday in the playground. These pupils are even prone to bullying, social humiliation and being called names and lots more; but these problems should be confronted by all in the school and so resolved to the benefit of the Asperger's student. The other students must be taught to understand and to embrace them like any other student! After all they want to be fully part of the Abbey like everyone else.

This is made worse by the fact that school often has to take a way out by withdrawing these students from the playground. Asperger's students are left to face the playground problems themselves. These students should be helped to face the playground and learn to cope with it and ultimately enjoy it. It is their right!

Of course I also realise that Asperger's students themselves must play their part in learning about the playground and adapting their own behaviour in order to more easily fit in: it must be a mutual exercise.

Finally, it is my fondest wish to ensure that all parents, staff and pupils are aware and have a very good understanding of Asperger's Syndrome and the problems surrounding it by sending out a leaflet to all parents, pupils and staff.

Michael Williams BR2

A leaflet concerning Asperger's Syndrome has been enclosed with this issue and we would advise all pupils and parents to read this information carefully. Perhaps you would like to respond to Michael's letter via The Abbey Way.

**Dear Past Pupil,**

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in our new online Past Pupils website. We have already over 100 members on our site and we would like you to join.

The many benefits of the website include:

- Keeping in touch with old schoolmates with our pupils' directory and our online discussion forums;
- Finding out about School events, meetings, galas etc...
- Getting school football results and newsletters, direct by email;
- Taking part in online discussions.

If you have an email address and access to the Internet then you have all you need to register. Registration is free and simple. Just follow the instructions at the bottom of this letter.

We have also identified a number of commercial opportunities for the Abbey to raise funds using this service. We already have a number of companies advertising on the new site and we will also allow employers to advertise job vacancies.

We would like as many past pupils as possible to take advantage of this offer.

How to join: Log on to the Abbey website: www.abbeycbs.co.uk You will find on the bottom left hand side an option Past Students. Click on this and on the next page you will see the hyperlink Abbey Grammar Past Pupils' Association, Registration Form. Fill in the necessary details and await a response from your administrator.

If you are experiencing any difficulties or need any further information in regard to this issue do not hesitate in getting in contact with me.

Mark Grogan
Teacher in charge of Website &
E-Communications

Dear Mr O'Rourke

Thank you for your recent letter, kindly inviting me to attend the Joe Kernan "This Is Your Life Special" tribute on 14th January 2003.

Whilst I appreciate you taking the time and trouble in writing to invite me, you may not be aware that Celtic will be away on mid-winter training in Florida at this time and therefore I am unable to attend for what I am sure will be a very special evening for Joe.

May I take this opportunity in wishing everyone involved every success and trust you will all have a wonderful time. Please send my best regards to Joe.

Yours sincerely

Martin O'Neill
Football Manager

Dear Aidan

Many thanks for your invitation for the surprise tribute to Joe Kernan.

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend, but please wish Joe a great night from myself.

Best regards

Your sincerely
Kevin Moran

Message From President McAleese

I am delighted to send greetings to all those gathered in the Carrickdale Hotel to honour the achievements of Joe Kernan.

This evening's tribute is a fitting recognition of your devotion and service to Gaelic games and an opportunity to express appreciation for your efforts in keeping the spirit of Football alive.

I know that your commitment is greatly valued by all and I commend your hard work and dedication which has helped make both Crossmaglen and the Armagh Senior Football Team so successful.

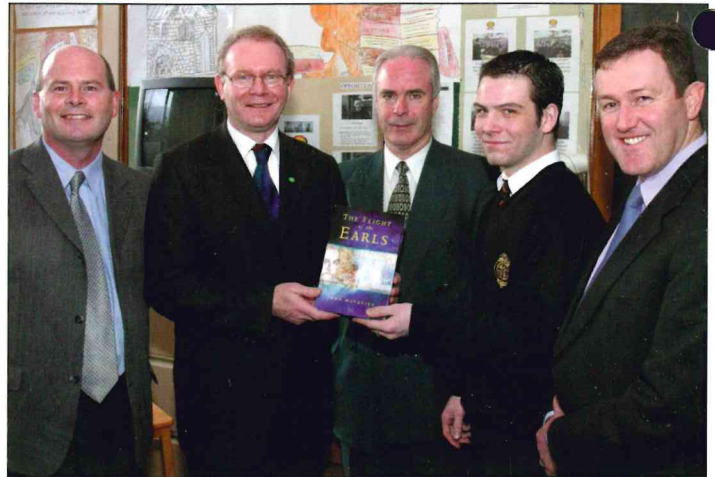
I wish you all a very enjoyable evening and continued success for the future.

Go n-éirí go geal libh.

Mary McAleese
President

Book Launch

Dr J McCavitt's "The Flight of the Earls" in 1607, when Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell boarded a ship on Lough Swilly bound for the continent never to return, is often considered a pivotal moment in Irish history, witnessing the demise of Gaelic Ireland, the onset of protestant ascendancy and penal days for Irish catholics. An event shrouded in controversy, the Flight is typically characterised as mysterious, enigmatic to the point of defying explanation. Even the term, 'the Flight of the Earls', conjuring up notions of a precipitate, tragic, perilous escapade, tinged with romance and despair, has been the subject of dispute, with some commentators questioning the historical accuracy of terming the departure of the northern earls from Ireland as a 'Flight' at all.



Mr Martin McGuinness is photographed being presented with a copy of John McCavitt's Flight of the Earls to mark the occasions of his address to the Abbey politics Department.

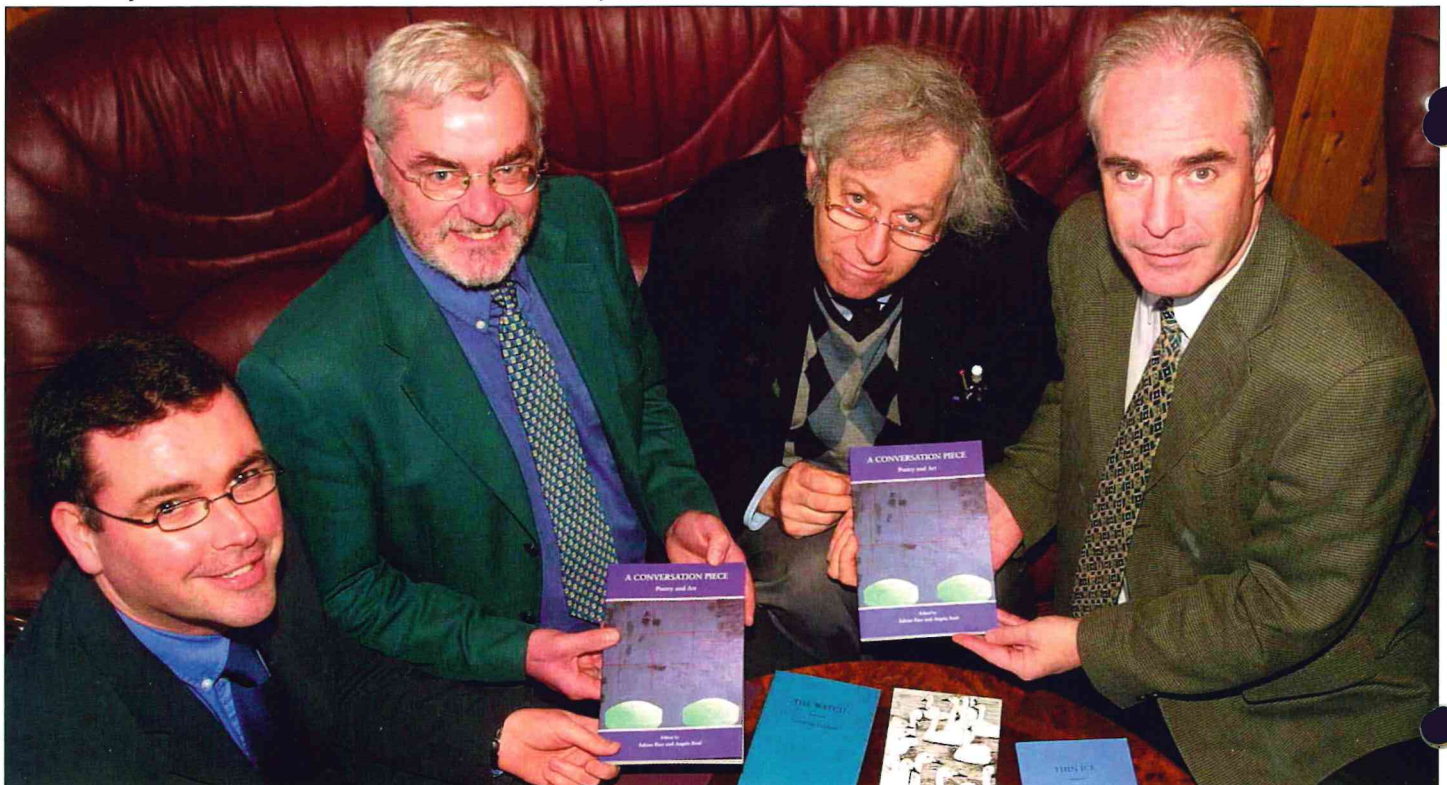
L-R: Dr John McCavitt (head of politics), Mr Martin McGuinness MP MLA, Mr Dermot McGovern (headmaster), Ryan Lynch (Vice Chairman, Abbey Politics Society), Mr Conor Murphy MLA.

The contentious nature of the Flight of the Earls proceeds in no small part from the disputed historical reputation of Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone. Ridiculed by Queen Elizabeth I as a 'base bush kern (soldier)', Tyrone, by contrast, had earned himself a reputation on continental Europe as 'the third soldier of his age' for the manner in which he regularly trounced Elizabethan royal armies. Tyrone's self depiction as champion of 'catholic' Ireland in the face of the advances of Protestantism is called into

question by those who would highlight his collaboration with the protestant English in suppressing the crusade launched by Munster catholics in the 1580s. One of the great icons in Irish nationalist tradition, Tyrone has been gleefully portrayed by his detractors as a violent wife-beating thug and an alcoholic to boot who spent his days in Italy after the Flight wallowing in drunken self-pity. And yet despite flaws in character, there is strong evidence that Irish catholics, facing unprecedented religious persecution,

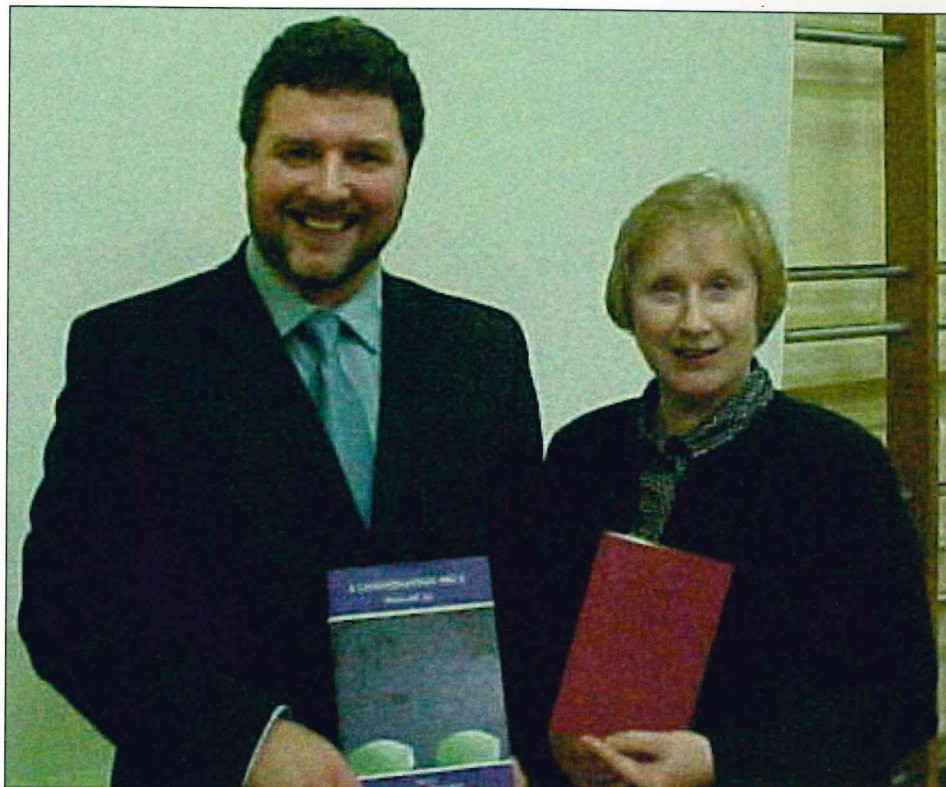
yearned for his return from Rome, casting him in the role of Moses, the Liberator. Following a 'great meeting' of Irish catholics in 1611, including senior catholic clergy, a prominent expatriate, William Meade, a Munsterman, was delegated to travel to Italy in a vain attempt to help co-ordinate Tyrone's return to Ireland as the military figurehead of a revolt against the protestant English. It was to be one of the great ironies of the situation that Tyrone was only to become recognised as the 'leader' of catholic Ireland in exile.

From L-R: Mr Mel McMahon, Mr Pat Crawley, Mr Pat Mooney (Head of English), Mr Dermot McGovern at The Abbey Press double book launch of "a conversation peice" and "The Last Poems".



Thursday 28th November saw the launch of two new books by the Abbey Press, Newry.

The Press, established in 1997 at the Abbey Grammar School, is a local enterprise that has now published fifteen titles to date. Co-founded by English teacher, Mel McMahon, and poet, Adrian Rice, the Abbey Press has emerged as one of the most successful small presses in Ireland. As Boyd Tonkin recently said in *The Independent* "... the Abbey Press is among the ambitious small publishers that have moved mountains for Irish Literature."



Although the Abbey Press has printed many books of poetry, essays, and books of social history, and is fortunate to have many established writers on its books. A *Conversation Piece*, a recent title, is undoubtedly its most ambitious project to date. This anthology, which consists of poetry and art, is a joint venture with the Ulster Museum, Belfast, and is the result of several years' hard work. Chairperson of MAGNI, Margaret Elliott, instrumental in securing funds for the project, approached local shipping company director, Walter Jenkins of Jenkins' Shipping, who was quick to see the value in promoting his company, and the arts, through the sponsorship of this worthwhile collaboration.

Once funding was secured, co-editors, Adrian Rice and Angela Reid then approached fifty well-known writers, including: Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, Whitbread Prize Winner, Michael Longley, Oxford Professor of Poetry, Paul Muldoon, Trinity Lecturer, Brendan Kennelly and ex-hostage, Brian Keenan, among others. These writers then set about writing poetry that explored, or complemented, artwork held in the Ulster Museum's collection. As a

result, a host of artists such as Jack Butler Yeats, Sir John Lavery, Louis Le Brocqy, Barrie Cooke and Colin Middleton are all to be found in this stunning new collection.

The book has received much acclaim from many sectors of the media. Brian McAvera in *Irish Arts Review* recently claimed that: "...this is an admirable volume, stuffed with much excellent new work and graced by very fine reproductions...[it] is exactly the kind of publication to be encouraged: stylishly produced, food for the eye and mind and cheap at the price."

A *Conversation Piece* was launched along with the last poems of Northern Irish poet, Roy McFadden. A man of great integrity and vision, McFadden's poems often possess a quiet rage aimed at the tolerance levels at which we often consent to live. A celebrant of family and friendship, he gained many admirers during the Troubles, including his editor, Dr Sarah Ferris of Newcastle University, who praised McFadden for resisting "...the seductive trend towards poetry as a circus act."

Anyone wishing to purchase a book, or anyone wanting to find out how they can become a patron of Abbey Press (to secure limited edition signed and numbered deluxe copies), should contact Mel McMahon at the Abbey Grammar School on 028 302 63142. Alternatively you can visit the Abbey Press website at www.geocities.com/abbeypress/ or you can send an email to Molly71Freeman@aol.com.

Many thanks,
Mel McMahon



INSPIRATIONS THE ABBEY AND THE WORLD OF PUBLISHING PHOTOS FROM JOHN Mc CAVITT'S BOOK LAUNCH

Who needs the Beckhams and the J. K. Rowlings of this world for our source of inspiration? Simply look at what your own staff have achieved recently. Dr McCavitt has just realized his lifetime ambition by having his latest book "*Flight of the Earls*" published to great literary acclaim. Such recognition is only achieved through years of dedication and sacrifice. Ask Mr McMahon how he felt when one of his projects was completed with the release of "*A Conversation Piece*". One of his poems (below) was included in this excellent work and students take note! the book was published, not by Gill & Macmillian or Penguin, but **by your Abbey Press.**

HUCK FINN

This could be heaven -
Standing at the water's edge
Enjoying the summer's appetite
For shadows, sunshine and peace -

But beneath you, small fish flicker
And your rod, unnoticed, bends
Under the weight of your reflection
Tugging for release.

Mr. Mel McMahon



ABBEY PROGRESS TO QUARTER-FINAL



Sean Carroll v St. Macartan's Monaghan.

ABBEY CBS NEWRY: THE BACK-BONE OF ARMAGH!

Abbey CBS, Newry had a special interest in September's All-Ireland final. The Newry school straddles the two counties of Armagh and Down and has long been associated with Down's All-Ireland victories: Sean O'Neill (1960, 1961 and 1968) and D.J. Kane (1994 Captain) were prominent past pupils. Today's Armagh team has even greater links with the Abbey. No less than 10 members of

today's squad received their education at the Newry school.



Michael McNamee v St. Pat's Armagh

1994 and the last member of this family Micheal, a current county minor, is still attending the school. Justin McNulty played in MacRory Cup semi-finals in 1992 and 1993 while his brother Enda played in 4 MacRory cup semi-finals 1992-1995. Throughout these four years the Abbey team also contained the twins, John and Tony

McEntee and Barry Duffy. All of these latter players including Aidan O'Rourke won Corn na nÓg medals with the school. Oisín McConville also won Dalton Cup and Corn na nÓg medals in the Abbey.

The present county captain, Kieran McGeeney, played MacRory Cup football for the school in 1988. The present Vice-Principal and Down All-Ireland medal winner Val Kane was manager of the school senior teams throughout this period and he has fond memories of all these players. "All these young boys made significant sacrifices to play football for the school. They were all from rural parishes and travelled daily on buses to the school. Playing and training for football meant returning home in the dark yet they never failed to attend training. Each of them had outstanding football ability but above that they were individuals of exemplary character. Their successes have been a just reward for their talents and dedication and the whole Abbey community were delighted to greet them when they brought Sam Maguire across the border on Monday night."

ABBEY TEAMS PROGRESS TO QUARTER-FINALS

Confidence is high in the Abbey camp as intense preparations continue for the MacRory and Corn na nÓg quarter-finals. The senior squad will compete against Patrician High School, Carrickmacross on Saturday 8th February. Let's hope our next issue will report on championship success for both teams.

Anyone interested in joining an Abbey Tennis Club please give your name to Mr Smyth.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ABBEY WAY

- MacRory and Corn na nÓg Progress
- Can our Basketball team emulate last year's All-Ireland success?
- Trip to London
- Sports Day
- Drama at the festivals
- Golf Society outings
- News of ESAT success at RDS Dublin
- Update on Debating Teams
- Report on Open Night
- Abbey Tribute Night for Joe Kernan
- Writing Club's forthcoming Anthology
- Images from the Zambia Trip



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