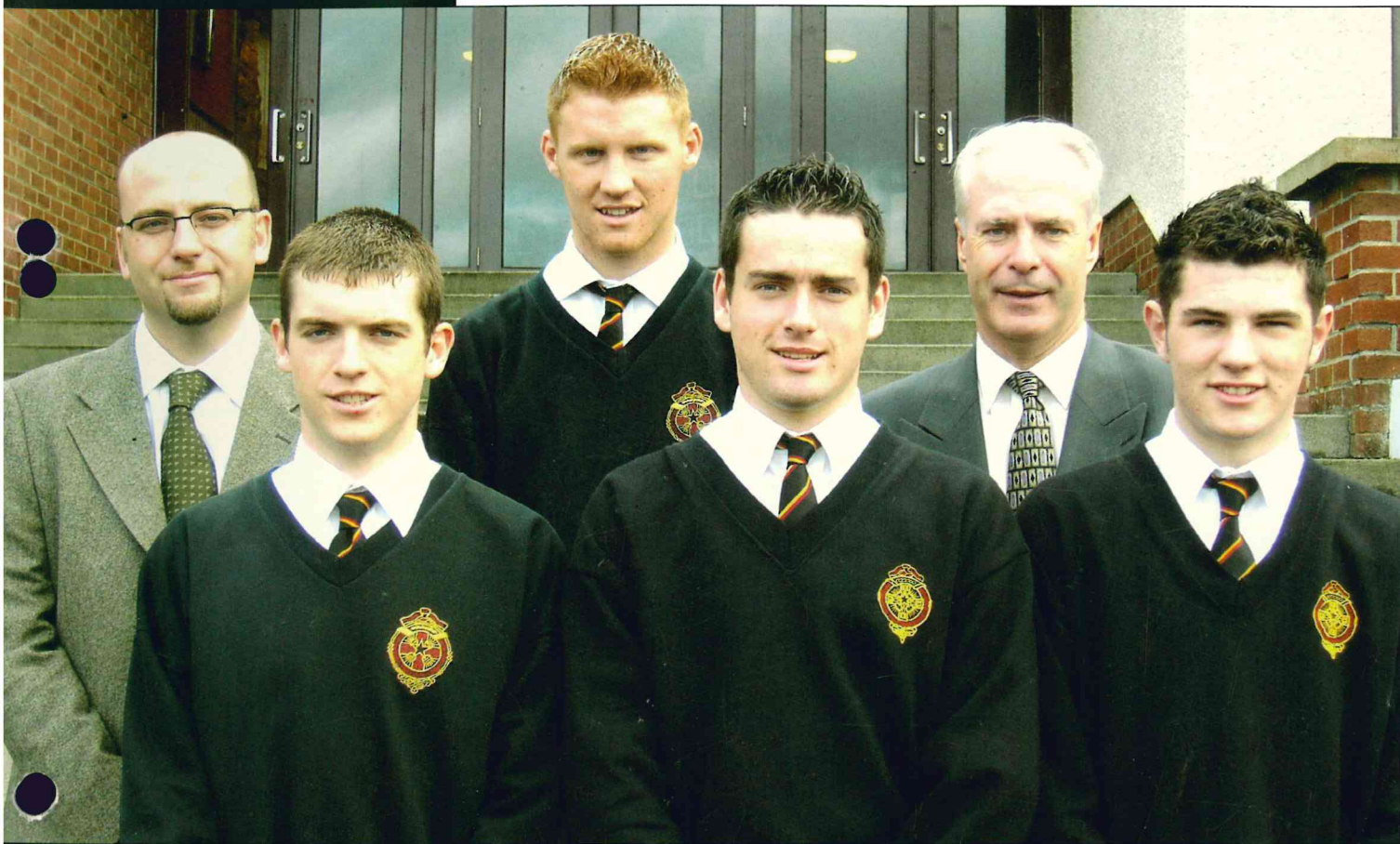




# THE ABBEY WAY

ABBAY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

## ABBAY PUPILS TO THE *FOUR* IN DOWN'S ALL IRELAND VICTORY

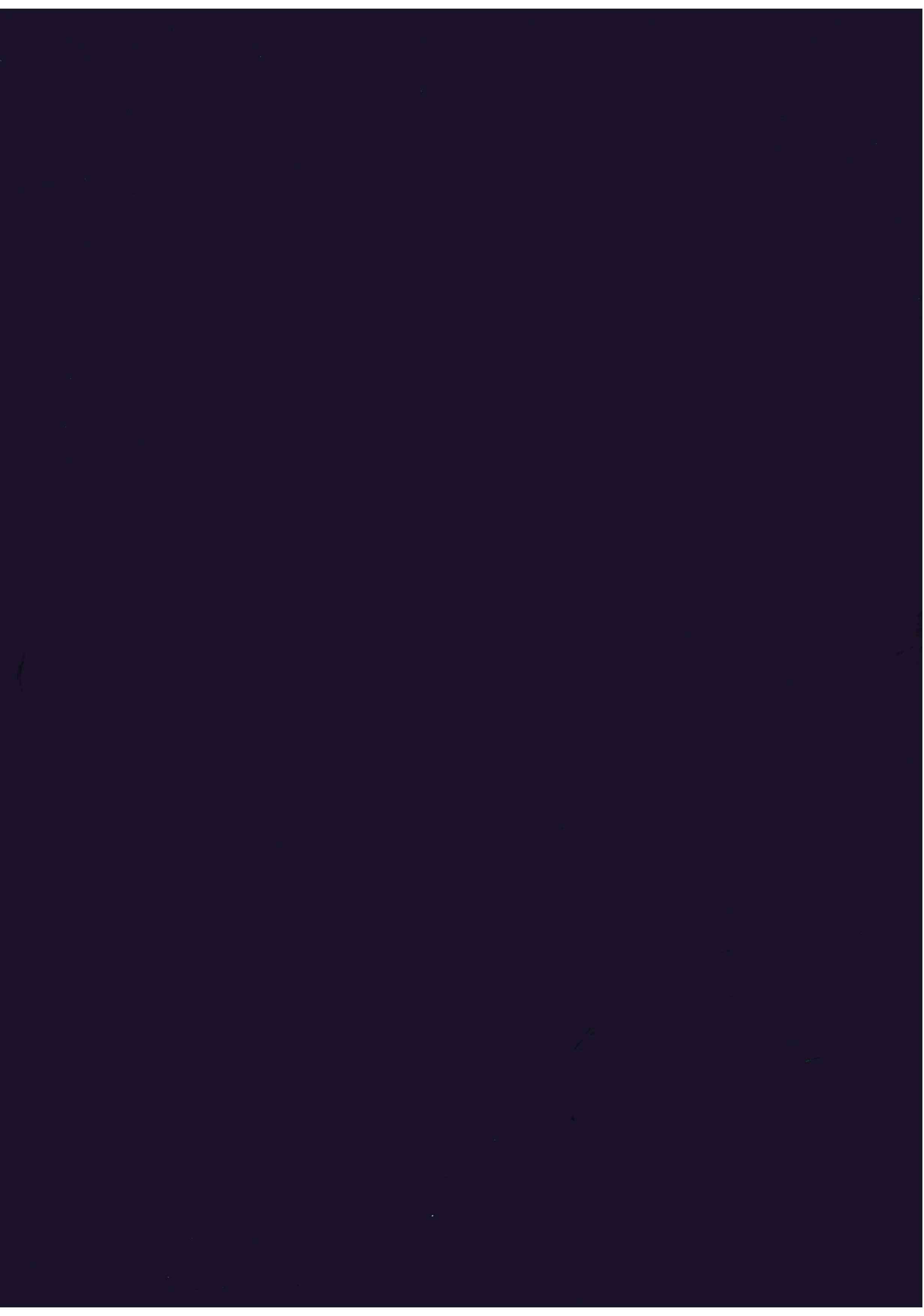


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• MacRORY CUP *and much more...*







# ABBAY PUPILS HELP THE TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT

At a time when many people are keen to point out the selfish elements taking root in society, it is always heartening to see genuine kindness, especially from young people, in response to tragedy.

Few of us will ever forget the awful images of the tsunami which took the lives of over 270,000 people and damaged those who survived in so many ways. This tragedy was all the more poignant, happening as it did on the day after Christmas, a traditional time for putting hope and family at the centre of our lives.

When local woman, Amanda Hughes, set up the Irish Sri Lanka Trust Fund, in an attempt to rehabilitate dispossessed fishermen, there was a huge response to her efforts, particularly in the Newry and Mourne area. The Abbey Grammar was the first school to respond to this appeal which, to date, has been able



*Images of the devastation caused by The Asian Tsunami last Christmas, inspired students at The Abbey Grammar School to raise a total of £4,200 towards the Sri Lankan relief effort.*

to purchase 825 boats. The Abbey has bought two of these boats, each of which is equipped with three types of fishing net and an outboard motor. These two boats will enable six fishermen to work again. The two boats were named by the current

Slemish Two group, who as a first year class last year, raised the most money out of the £4,200.00 collected. These boats are aptly named "Abbey Prosperity" and "Facere et Docere" after the school's motto.

## DISASTERS ON ICE

**Great, first school trip of the year and it was to Dundonald Ice Bowl. I couldn't wait. I knew it would be fantastic. I was really very excited but also nervous because I had no experience of ice skating. In fact I had no experience of skating at all.**

In the back of my mind I kept thinking about the "disasters on ice" people had told me about like breaking a bone or losing fingers painfully by an ice skate. I decided to



*First year pupils: Henry Mc Loughlin, Gavin Mc Ateer, Neil Mc Conville and Nathan Doyle, enjoy the first year trip to Dundonald Ice Bowl.*

leave it at the back of my mind and be optimistic- nothing would happen to me, I thought.

I was waiting anxiously all week for Friday and at last it had arrived. All the first years were called outside to be organised into our groups. While we were on the bus going to Dundonald we were all singing and shouting- it was great. On the other hand the bus trip was very long.

Once we had arrived at Dundonald Ice-Bowl we clambered off the bus and into the bowling alley. We were split up into sections of five and played a round of bowls.

Even though I came fourth in my group I thoroughly enjoyed playing.

After bowling we queued up outside the restaurant waiting patiently to get something to eat. I was starving. While we were eating we were allowed to sit in the balcony and watch the people falling and slipping on the ice. It gave me a great view

of what I was to expect. There was sympathy given to those who fell just laughing and cheering. There was one person, however, who stood out from the rest. He was breathtaking to watch. He could glide along the ice like a bird.

I then rushed down the stairs to get my ice skates. They were very uncomfortable and heavy. It felt as if you were walking around with weights attached to your feet. As soon as I set foot on that ice I lost my balance and fell flat on my face. I got up and started to laugh and realised this was going to be very very hard. After a lot of pain and practice I finally got the hang of it and was able to skate up and down without falling.

Altogether I had a brilliant day. I would thoroughly recommend it for a good family day out. I hope to return to Dundonald Ice Bowl and next time I hope to impress!

**Niall McCann**  
Breffni 1



# First impressions of life in the Abbey

**My name is Neil McConville and this is a short story about my experience at the Abbey Grammar.**

On my first day at the Abbey Grammar I was excited but a bit nervous. After talking to my friends I felt better. When Mr McGovern said which class I was in, I was glad to see that four other boys from my primary school, (The Abbey Primary School), were in my class. My class is called Breffni 1. My best friend from Primary 1,

Niall McCann, was in my class.

We met our form teacher, Mr. Gallagher who is very nice to us. He is also our Irish teacher. The subject I like the most is Technology, which I got a merit in on my first proper school day. I was very pleased and so was Niall because we worked together and got a merit each. The subject I also like a lot is Computer Studies. I like using Microsoft PowerPoint because I like making slideshows and making newspaper reports

on Microsoft Publisher.

In my primary school I was the best at computers. I like P. E. because I like playing Gaelic and I like running and swimming. I am looking forward to playing in the golf club in the Abbey. The first year yard is a bit smaller than my old school yard but I like this yard better. I am really looking forward to the rest of my first term.

**Ar an chéad seachtain sa scoil nua, bhí mé giota beag neirbhíseach ag teacht isteach liom féin agus cuid mhór daoine ag amharc orm. Ansin chuaigh mé go dtí an seomra ranga agus chonaic mé mo chairde uilig agus mo mhúinteoir. Bhí mé ceart go leor an lá uilig mar bhí mé le mo chairde.**

Ag am sosa bhí muid ag imirt peile agus ag caint lenár gcairde. Fuair mé mo chéad Ispín

taosráin agus bhí sé iontach blasta. Ag am dinnéir bhí muid inár suí ag an tábla céanna. Shíl muid ag an am sin go mbeimis iontach sásta i Scoil na Mainistreach.

I rith na seachtaine bhuail mé leis an chuid eile de mo mhúinteoirí agus thosaigh mé ar an obair uile. Bhí suim agam i ngach abhar ach bhí suim níos mó agam sa Ghaeilge cionn is go ndearna mé ar an

Bhunscoil í. Bhí mé sásta nach raibh ábhar ar bith agam nár thaitin liom.

Faoi láthair tá seachtain istigh agam, tá me ag baint sult as achan rud go fóill. Tá mé ríshásta gur tháinig mé chuig Scoil na Mainistreach.

**Tiarnan Jackson**

## MacRory Cup Medal from 1959 is finally presented



*Michael 'Scoop' Mc Ateer, who left the Abbey in 1960, is presented with the Mac Rory Cup medal that he won in 1959. Michael, who emigrated to Canada a few years after leaving the Abbey, was an outstanding athlete, who represented the Abbey at field athletics. Abbey Headmaster, Dermott McGovern, is seen here presenting the medal at a special ceremony in September.*



# OUTSTANDING A-LEVEL RESULTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2005



*Four pupils achieved the distinction of getting 4 'A' grades or more during last summer's A-level examinations. Pictured with Mr. Mc Govern, Headmaster of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School they are: Darren Treanor, Paul White, Fergal Garvey and Kevin Waddell.*



*Mr. Mc Govern, Headmaster, congratulates the group of pupils that received at least 3 or more 'A' grades during their A-level examinations.*

*Back row: James Rea, Steven Malone, Brian Sherry, Ronan Digney, Robert Ryan.*

*2nd row: Mr. Dermot Mc Govern, Headmaster, Niall Drain, Patrick Woods, Colm O'Grady, Stephen Hughes*

*3rd row: Seán Donnelly, Martin Carr, Macdara Ó Graham, Adain Morgan, Shane Mc Guinness and Caolan Mc Caffery.*

*Front row: Garrett Doran, Darren Treanor, Paul White, Fergal Garvey and Kevin Waddell.*



# GCSE PRIZEGIVING



## *Kevin's Exceptional Academic Achievement Celebrated.*

*Lower Sixth pupil, Kevin O'Reilly, from Bessbrook, is congratulated on his outstanding success in the June examinations by Mr. Barry Turley, Guest Speaker, and Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster at the Achievement Prizegiving Ceremony in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School. Kevin achieved 11 A\* grades at GCSE and even though he was only a fifth year pupil he also obtained a grade A in A-level Mathematics.*



*22 pupils from The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School got at least 9 or more A grades in their GCSE examinations. They are: Donal Adams, Michael Corcoran, Patrick Cunningham, Conor Daly, Sean Darling, Ruairi Digney, Sean Evans, Camillus Fitzpatrick, Christopher Hughes, Shane Lavery, Niall McAleenan, Derrick McCarthy, Aaron McCormack, Conor McCormick, Colum McGrath, Mark McNulty, Michael McNulty, Patrick McNulty, Jonathan O'Gorman, Kevin O'Reilly, Scott Rafferty, Patrick Tierney.*

*Missing from the photograph are: Mark McNulty, Michael McNulty and Jonathan O'Gorman.*



# CRAIC AGUS CEOL AT THE IRISH NIGHT

## - A junior's perspective

After all the hard practice, finally the night had arrived for us to show our talent. With the help of Brendan Monaghan we set about proving that we had some degree of talent. I'm not quite sure if we managed it but the audience seemed to enjoy it (nothing to do with the fact that they were all our long suffering parents).

First up were the junior traditional group. There were a good few people in it. Keith Mackey, Stephen Doherty (Me), Kevin Quinn, Sean McCaffrey, Michael Fearon and Gerard Watters playing the Bodhran; there was Conor O'Neil, James Morgan and Kilian Foy playing the Tin Whistle; Niall Fox, Christopher Quinn, Daniel McCormick, Robert Keeley, Christopher Fearon and David Richmond on Guitar; Michael McKay playing the Accordion; Eoghan O'Brien playing the fiddle, and finally with the help of Brendan Monaghan playing any instrument he could find!

With Keith Mackey's introduction on the Bodhran we were off! We began with the 'Star Of The County Down' and ran into the 'Spanish Lady'. After a shaky start we played on with Gentle Maiden and South Wind. As I am a member of the group I thought it was an encouraging start for what was to come.

Next up was Patrick Courtney singing Ride On with the help of Patrick Burns harmonising the chorus with him. And Patrick also sang She Moves Through The Fair. Because I am a member of the Sheila Nolan Irish Dancing performance I sadly never got to hear the singers on the night but I heard them in practice and it was beautiful.

After two inspiring songs, next were the senior traditional group with Gallagher's Jig and O' Callaghan's Jig. On fiddle were Anne Mullan and Darren Magee; Declan Magee on Accordion; on Flute was Sean McClory and the fantastic Brendan Monaghan played the Pipes. I didn't get to hear this performance either as I was still changing for the dancers but by all accounts it went down a treat.

Soon after were the dancers and I was back on stage. Some of the Abbey dancers were: Mark Kerrin, Christopher Kerrin, Dan Madden, Niall McCann and Stephen Doherty (Me again!) and we also had some help from a few girls. We had only two hours to practise this in the dance hall but I think we put on a good exhibition and the audience seemed to think so too.

Then I had to rush back in to play Sonny Brogan's and Shu The Donkey with the Junior Traditional group. But the real treat of the night came when Brendan Monaghan sang the compelling song Bellaue Wood. This was very fitting as it was Armistice Day and this song was about the Christmas Day truce between the Germans and the Americans during the First World War. He left us guessing who had written this beautiful song



*Members of the Music Department who performed at the Irish Night in November.*

but alas he forgot to tell us! It touched many hearts including my own. How futile war is!

Now came the poetry reading!! Three boys from the writing club recited their own compositions. These are three geniuses in the making, as I didn't understand a word of it and neither did many others in the audience (including my mother!) Mr. Pat Mooney took the podium to introduce some poetry by various Abbey Press Poets. He delivered the poems with great gusto. The injustice of it! He used the 'B' word to a packed audience!!! If I had attempted to say that to an audience I would be using the sweeping

brush with Pat and Willie on Friday!!

Along came my friend, Paddy Burroughs singing Cockles and Mussels. I have to say that the singers were of the highest quality and Paddy didn't disappoint with the help of the audience in the chorus.

Later came the senior Traditional group. They played a tune that about only 50 people in the world have heard because the stupendous Brendan Monaghan composed it and it was called 'Brendan's Air'. The tune was beautiful and if Brendan wrote more Irish tunes I'm sure he would be even more famous.

We finished off with a rousing rendition of 'Ryan's Polka' and 'Kevin Cunningham's Polka'.

I would like to thank Brendan Monaghan for teaching a normal bunch of children and transforming them into 'musicians'; Mr. Wadsworth and his 'technicians' who provided wonderful help made this night such a success and Miss Mullan who has been a great addition to our music in the school. Hope you enjoyed it: See you next year!

**By Stephen Doherty. (Second Year.)**

## ANOTHER BUSY TERM FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**This new academic year has seen many changes. Mr Karl Hughes has made a flying start as the new drum teacher, Mr Brendan Monaghan has presented his first full concert with the Abbey boys in an impressive Irish Night. Mr Michael Bradley has temporarily taken over whilst Mr Jarleth Mulholland tours Germany & Holland. Another change has been the new Head of Music, Miss Anne Mullan, who has taken over from Mr Dominic Wadsworth who moves to a new role.**

Miss Mullan hit the ground running and utilised her string expertise to prepare a group of young players for the GCSE Prizegiving, providing exciting Baroque music of great quality. Pachelbel's "Canon" and Telemann's "Violin Quarter" were played by Michael Corcoran, Niall O'Flaherty, Sean Rooney, Benjamin Reynolds, Miss Quinn and Miss Mullan. This was followed by the Jazz Band performing at the A level Prizegiving with some of their new Robbie Williams numbers, "Angels" & "Let Me Entertain You". The Jazz Band also took part in the annual Christmas charity fundraiser held at the Canal Court. This is always an

enjoyable and prestigious occasion, playing in the foyer to help create the festive atmosphere. The boys look forward to this event, partly because of the good feed we are given afterwards!

The Christmas Carol Services took place in Newry Cathedral at the end of term. The Music, Drama and Chaplaincy Departments all worked hard together to create a powerful presentation of music, drama and prayers around the theme of "welcoming the stranger". Carols were chosen from across Europe and hymns and prayers were delivered in many languages.

The enthusiasm and hard work of all the boys and staff continue to raise the standards and broaden the genres. After a break at Christmas it will be back to regular rehearsals for various events: Guitar Night, Spring Concert, the Jazz Band making their debut at the Waterfront, and not forgetting the Newry Féis.

Thanks, as always, to all involved: boys, staff, parents & supporters; it all helps to make the business of music making great fun.

DW



## Abbey Way contributor Seán Óg Mac Labhraí talks to the new Head of Music, Miss Mullan



**Miss Mullan is from Portglenone, on the Derry side of the border.**

First impressions of the Abbey? 'I really like the friendly atmosphere, and I'm particularly impressed with the thriving wealth of musical talent, particularly in my A Level class.'

First impressions of Newry? 'A lot different from my home town, but the people are very

friendly and I like the vibrant atmosphere in the city.'

Where did you receive your education? 'I attended St Patrick's in Maghera, before moving to Manchester, where I studied for my Honours Bachelor of Music degree in Manchester University. Apart from music, I also enjoy running, and am a keen reader, particularly in the legal genre.'

Miss Mullan plays both violin and piano, and has enjoyed a remarkably distinguished performing career, in both Irish traditional and classical idioms. She has been a member of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra, the Manchester Sinfonietta and the Ulster Youth Orchestra. Miss Mullan also toured Italy with a chamber orchestra where she represented Ireland. She has also represented Antrim for the All-Ireland Fleadh.

Favourite Composer? 'My favourite is undoubtedly the twentieth century Russian

composer, Dmitri Shostakovich. In particular I love his 8th Spring Quartet, dedicated to Jewish lives lost in a Russian massacre in 1941, and his 5th Symphony, perhaps his most renowned.'

Outside of classical music, Sufian Stevens, and Anthony & the Johnstons are my favourite musical artists.

Favourite Films? 'My favourite films include the Green Mile and the Shawshank Redemption.'

Role Model? 'I've long been an admirer of Nelson Mandela, and I especially have a high regard for his courage during his imprisoned years.'

What do you enjoy most about your job? 'I really enjoy the Abbey, particularly because of the wealth of talented students and staff alike. It's my greatest ambition that the music department achieves its greatest possible potential.'



### *All Ireland Cross Country Champions are Honoured*

*The Second Year team that won The All Ireland Edmund Rice Cross Country Championships in Dublin in May were congratulated by Mr. Barry Turley, Guest Speaker and Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster at the Achievement Prizegiving Ceremony in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School. Included are Niall McCartan, David Hudson, Ryan Hudson, Niall Daly and Andrew Fitzsimmons.*



# Chess in the Abbey

The chess team in the Abbey is one of the best in Newry and has proven itself in many competitions, at both senior and junior level. So far this season they have managed to fight off a strong St Malachy's side to fetch a draw and are more than prepared to face Methody on Thursday the 25th.

The senior team has been moulded from the best that 4th-7th year of the Abbey has to offer and although fairly young in comparison with other teams, they have managed to hold their own against the more renowned teams in large Belfast schools. The junior team also have shown great promise, and there are great hopes for their future already. Under the supervision of Mr

Cable, a brilliant instructor of the game, and members of staff Mr Gamble and Mr McMahon, the chess team of the Abbey has so far steamrollered all opposition in the city of Newry and looks set for another great year.

In other news, Chess will soon become an official sport! Chess may even become compulsory for P.E. in schools, as the government has supported a programme designed to help children cope with "mental exercise". If the children of tomorrow buy copious amounts of "Star Wars" DVDs, brace trousers and thick, square rimmed glasses, you'll know why-and you have been warned.

## Géarchúis Ticéidí

Tá lóistín nua ag Corn Shomhairle Mhic Uidhir i mbliana agus déanaimid uilig comhghairdeachas ó chroí le foireann peile agus le pobal iomlán Chontae Thír Eoghain. Is maith is cuimhin linn an chaint agus an chaibidil a rinneadh roimh an chluiche. Achan duine ar bís roimh an ócáid mhór. Agus ar ndóigh an cheist mhór – an bhfuair tú ticéad go fóill?

Tá sé i bhfad thar am ag an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael athbhreithniú iomlán a dhéanamh ar an chóras atá acu maidir le roinnt na dticéidí. Bíonn daoine ann a dhéanann freastal ar na cluichí uilig, cluichí sraithe agus cluichí craoibhe, déanann siad taisteal fada ar chostas ard, seasann siad amuigh faoin fhearthainn agus faoin fhuacht, samhradh agus geimhreadh, soineann agus doineann le tacaíocht a thabhairt don fhoireann is ansa leo.

Ach ar theacht an tsamhraidh agus tús an fhómhair tig na bodaigh móra amach agus faigheann siadsan na ticéidí atá tuillte ag an chosmhuintir dílis. Níl seo ceart cóir ná cothrom. Bíonn aithne ag na bodaigh móra ar na bainisteoirí sna comhlachtaí a dhéanann urraíocht ar na foirne – macasamhail Banc na hÉireann, Grúdlann Guinness, W.J. Dolan agus iad. Bíonn cara sa chúirt acu agus ní bhíonn moill orthu a sáith ticéidí a fháil. Ní mar sin a bhíonn an scéal ag an chosmhuintir bhocht a théann ar lorg ticéidí mar a rachadh bacach bocht ag iarraidh na déirce.

Tá seandúine san fhóchumann s'againne féin i gCorrach an Toir, agus níor chaill sé cluiche dár imir Ard Mhacha le breis agus

dhá scór bliain. Ar an ábhar nach bhfuil cara sa chúirt aige ní bhfuair sé ticéad. Dhá lá roimh an chluiche ceannais, ghlac bean trua dó agus thug sí a ticéad féin dó. Ach ticéad don Chnoc a bhí ann, agus b'eigean don chréatúr seasamh don dá chluiche – an cluiche mionúr agus an cluiche sinsear. Agus is iomaí sin duine a bhí sa chruachás chéanna.

Ba choir go bhfaigheadh na tacaíthe atá dílis don fhoireann tús áite nuair a bhíonn na ticéidí le tabhairt amach. Ba cheart córas a thabhairt isteach a thabharfadh cothrom féinne agus luach saothair don dram a lean an fhoireann go dúthrachtach tríd na cluichí sa gheimhreadh agus do na daoine a dhéanann an sclábhaíocht sna fochumann – na bainisteoirí a stiúran na foirne óga, na mná a n'íonn na geansaithe gach Luan, agus ar ndóigh na peileadóirí is na hiarpheileadóirí iad féin, idir óg agus aosta.

Dá mbeadh obair ar bith le déanamh faoin chlubtheach, ní bhead tasc ná tuairisc le fail ar na bodaigh móra. Dá mbeadh scaifte gasúr ag brath ar síob chuig cluiche áit ínteacht scór míle ar shiúl, níorbh fhiú ceist a chur ar na bodaigh móra. Da mbeadh an fear le baint ar pháirc na peile, nó táillí bliantiúla le cruinniú ní bheadh iomrá ar bith ar na bodaigh móra.

Seal Thír Eoghain I mbliana, seal Ciarraí anuraidh – is cuma cad é an contae atá I gceist, tá éagóir á dhéanamh ar na gnáthdhaoine agus sílim féin go bhfuil an t-am tagtha an fhadhb a réiteach.



## FIREMEN VISIT THE ABBEEY

All second year classes were involved in a three week Firestorm programme as part of their PHSE class. The lessons covered the areas of hoax calls and Arson and Safety in the Home. The module was covered in the weeks leading up to Halloween, traditionally a very busy time for fire-fighters. Personal safety and the dangers of hoax calls were emphasised to the students.

The module culminated in a visit from local fire-fighters to each class. In a very enjoyable and hectic session, students engaged the fire-fighters in a question and answers session during very lively interactive activities.



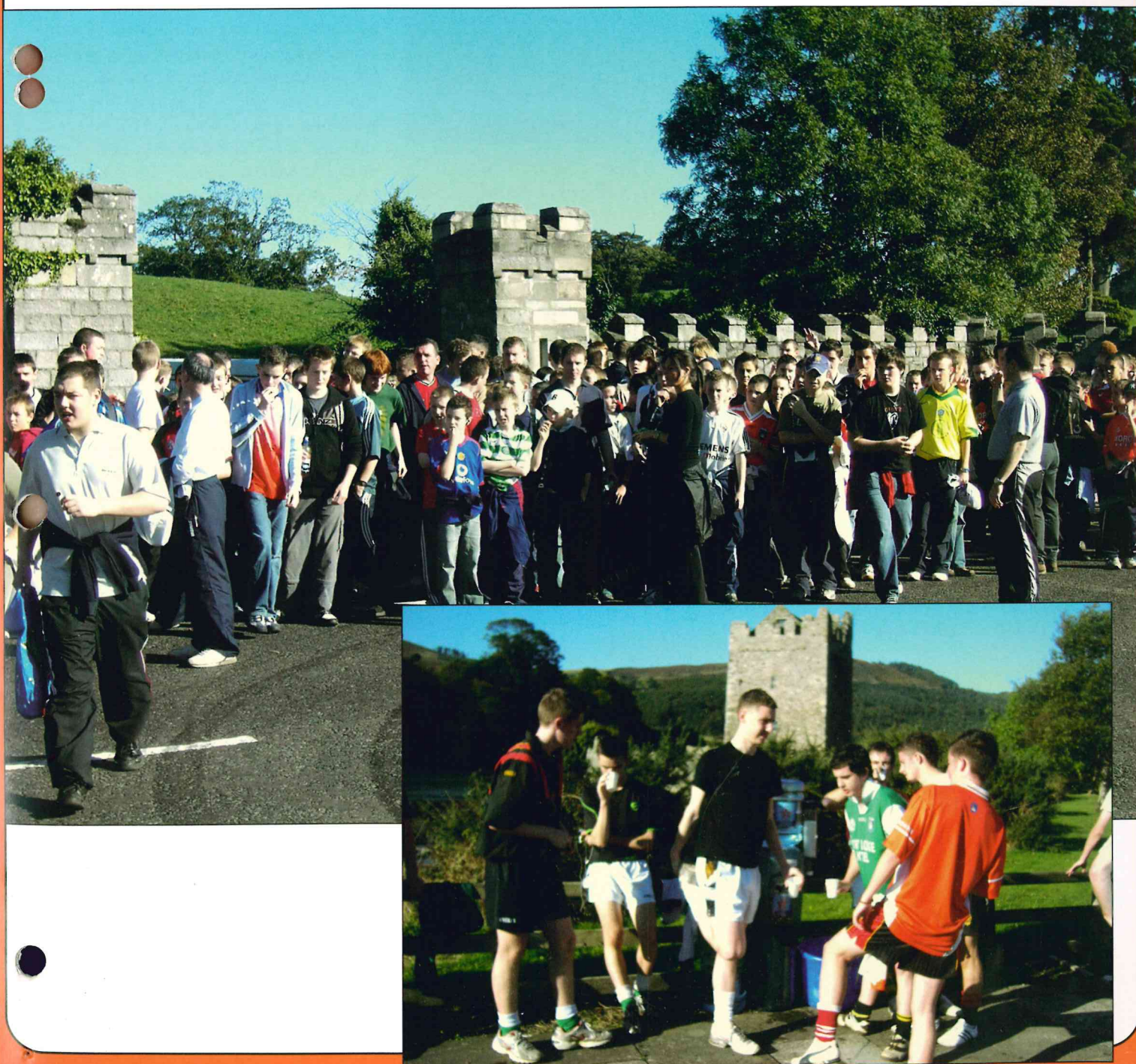
## Staff and Students walk to Narrow Water Castle

On Thursday 13th October the whole school body set out on a charity walk in aid of the Abbey Indian Fund. Students began the long walk from the Abbey to Narrow Water Castle at 10am. The weather helped the boys along and it was not long before they reached the half way stage at the entrance to Narrow Water Castle where refreshments were given out. The Headmaster led a group of particularly athletic staff and pupils who ran the 12 mile course.

The money raised, over £7,000, was brought to India by a delegation of Abbey Staff who were chosen to represent the Irish Christian Brothers Community, on a fact finding mission. Whilst in Calcutta, Abbey staff visited orphans in workhouses and compounds that were run by Mother Teresa's mission. It is hoped that the money raised will make a real difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

Picture below:

Junior school pupils get ready to head for home during the sponsored walk to Narrow Water Castle whilst a group of sixth year pupils take a well earned rest at Narrow Water Castle in advance of the second leg of their sponsored run.





# SPECIAL FEATURE

In the coming issues, The Abbey Way is preparing for the move to the new school building by looking back at some of the Christian Brothers who made an impact on The Abbey. In this issue former senior teacher, Maurice McKevitt, looks back at the contribution of **Brother Beausang**.

Brother Beausang, or Br. Beau as he was more affectionately known, arrived in Newry for the second time in 1981 and from this time until his untimely death in 2000 he toiled tirelessly in his own unique way for the cause of all things Irish.

Beau was as generous as he was inspirational and it was these characteristics which brought him into contact with so many groupings both inside and outside of educational circles.

It is his legacy that his name is still mentioned in reverential terms and he is among those legendary figure whose reputation lives long after their worldly demise.

In later times when education, like most other professions, had been straight-jacketed with bureaucracy and political correctness, Beau had an ability to cut through the red tape, paperwork and associated



gobbledygook and address the major issue with common sense and clarity, words which

seldom accompany each other nowadays.

It is a testament to Beau's popularity that despite his inability to drive he was in attendance at Drama festivals, meetings and functions the length and breath of the country and through his love for his native tongue he forged an unbreakable bond with the Donegal Gaeltacht and its people.

Beau successfully brought language to life for his pupils, young and old, and his helpfulness, approachability and easiness were major factors in his success.

With his pragmatic view of all matters administrative and educational Brother Beausang had an enormous impact on the life and ethos of the Abbey Grammar School. His easy way with all the pupils made him a special person and his influence, although sorely missed, has helped to sustain and promote the vibrant Irish community which pertains within the school to this day.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire air.

## Abbey Past Pupils Sports Association Presentation Dinner Dance in the Canal Court Hotel in September 2005



APPSA thanks last years Upper sixth MacRory Cup Footballers at the dinner dance



1982 MacRory Cup Winners present Mr. Val Kane, team manager, with a token of their appreciation.

## Past winners Honoured

The 1954 MacRory Cup Winning Team were honoured recently in the Carrickdale Hotel by the Abbey Past Pupils Sports Association.

Special guest Joe Kernan made the presentations. (Seated front row centre)





# Local Student Hits Write Note



## Crossings

Four hundred million years ago  
desperate gasping fish-lizard  
is heaving its aching body  
out of the boiling sea  
and dragging its sore-puckered bulk  
across the barren shingle.  
air and sun and dry land  
scorch and choke,  
but this frontier must be crossed,

like the barrier  
that melts as  
comprehension kindles  
in the freezing foragers  
who discover and transcend  
and stand transfixed  
by heat and otherness  
in the dancing flames  
and the wild firefly sparks,

like the distant boundary,  
gazed-at and fugitive,  
strung across  
st brendan's vision  
where blue planes blue,  
beyond which could be

anything,  
anything.

This academic year has proved to be a significant milestone in the life of 17 year old Abbey student, Philip Knox. Philip, a member of local band, the Jazzberries, who will be supporting Van Morrison in Newry Town Hall at the end of October, has also been the proud winner of two major poetry competitions in recent months. In September Philip discovered that he had won the Charlie Donnelly Poetry Competition for his age group and this month found that this achievement had been trumped when he was selected as a winner in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year 2005 competition. This competition, sponsored by the Poetry Society, attracted over six thousand entrants and Philip was one of only several winners to come from Ireland and Great Britain. Other winners came from locations as far flung as Singapore, New Zealand and the USA.

Having attended the Awards ceremony in London, Philip said, "I was amazed when I entered the auditorium to see my poem printed on a large banner with my photograph and biographical details beside it. It seemed somehow, unreal." Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, commended the prize-winners for their remarkable achievement. As part of his prize Philip will attend an all-expenses-paid writing course at the Arvon Centre, Lumb Bank in February next year. Here he will receive tuition from some of today's best known writers.

Philip is also a member of the Abbey's Creative Writing Group. In the last academic year almost eighty pupils in the school had their work published and short-listed for a variety of competitions and anthologies. Below is Philip's winning poem for the Foyle Young Poets Competition.

## Abbey HardSpeller Gets Runner-Up Spot

On Saturday, 15th October the BBC arrived in Stranmillis College, Belfast to hold the Northern Ireland heat of this year's Hardspell competition for Key Stage Three pupils. Over eighty pupils from across Northern Ireland, along with their families and friends, made the journey to cheer on potential candidates for this year's grand final in England.

After the first round only twenty two pupils remained. This number only slowly began to dwindle as the spellings got more difficult. Eventually, though, after hundreds of

spellings being asked, the competition went down to its last four competitors with the Abbey's Garbhan McKeivitt going head-to-head with a female opponent who proved herself to be a worthy competitor. Garbhan, unfortunately, lost out when he had to spell the French word sang-froid, one of the words taken from a bank of two thousand words each competitor had to learn. As first runner-up in the competition Garbhan will be invited to London on an all-expenses-paid trip as first reserve for the final.



Testing time for Garbhan



Garbhan with Abbey English teachers, Mr. Mel McMahon and Ms. Patricia McAleese



# English Department

On the cold morning of Wednesday 28th, the members of the Stratford trip boarded a bus bound for Dublin, from where we would fly to the East Midlands airport. It seems luck was on our side, as there were no delays and we arrived on time in England. From the airport, we were taken to our first port of call, Shakespeare's grave. After an hour of very useful analysis of the church, which revealed much of Shakespeare's family, the bus departed for the next stop-"Avon Boating Hire".

This was an experience in itself. The sight of an armada of reckless Irish teenagers, 4 to a boat, tearing (hardly rowing) up the Avon and attempting to use pirate dialect (e.g. "Gar", "A Hoy" and "Avast") was well worth observing, and in no time at all, a small audience had gathered at a nearby bridge for their own amusement. Being steadfast ambassadors for the school, we performed with flying colours.

After two hours, on we went, to the guided tour of Stratford. The guide, Roger, was very

able in his field, and we learned much about Shakespeare's birthplace that day, as well as the history of the surrounding area. Stratford has been immersed with the legacy of Shakespeare for two hundred years, but his family was also remembered as the main occupants of the town. That night, we slept soundly in the comfortable accommodation of the Coventry Hill Hotel, ready for the next day.

On Thursday, we visited Chester, a town rich in history which goes as far back as Roman times. When we had finished our trip, and lightened our wallets shopping, the bus drove on to Chester Zoo, where the main highlights were monkeys, penguins, an edgy Rhino with issues and a mother elephant with little or no parenting skills, which decided to express her anger by relentlessly head-butting her infant.

From here, we spent some hours bowling (and mingling with the locals), before we returned to sleep in the hotel.

Friday was the best Educational day, as we

visited "The 5 Shakespeare Houses", and attended a lecture on the Stratford theatre before viewing the play, "The Comedy of Errors", which was ridiculously funny and with a brilliant, albeit complex plot.

The greatest compliment that I can give to that performance was that people on the trip, bar the teachers, actually remembered the play, after what was for most the highlight of the trip-7 hours in Alton Towers. A favourite ride was "Rita-Queen of Speed", which went from 0-100 kilometres per hour in three seconds.

This was our last activity, and we returned home to Ireland, fairly exhausted but educationally enriched and highly entertained by the whole experience. All in all, it was a superb trip, and I for my part wish to congratulate and thank the organisers of this brilliant and worthwhile Trip, and the supervisors who made it possible: Mr O'Rourke, Mr McMahon, Mr Morgan and Ms Crilly.





# Visit Stratford

**The coach was due to depart the school at the exceptionally early, or else extremely late, time of two-thirty. For some people, this meant martyring themselves by going without a wink of sleep; for me this meant hours of sleep in my house, on the coach and on the plane, only to be prodded awake by a confused Ryanair flight attendant called Katzhryna. Those of the group that did stay the course met their match on Wednesday afternoon, as some bloke called Roger treated us to a guided tour of Stratford on our coach. I can understand that he may have been put off by the fact that at least 80% of the pupils and 50% of the teachers dozed off, and that Stratford isn't quite interesting enough to stretch to a one-hour tour, but even this doesn't completely forgive his pointing out of a rainbow, some horses in a field and at least one "To Let" sign. I was lucid enough to hear all of this, in case you were wondering, because I'd decided to have an extremely large cup of coffee in lieu of breakfast.**

What was described in the itinerary as "pleasure cruises in Stratford in a fleet of vintage boats" quickly descended into something more entertaining. When offered the choice of motorboat or one that required work, I thought I was being clever by taking the motorboat. I didn't foresee that oars can splash everyone within a mile, and motor can't even scare away any swans that choose to follow you. Everyone was thoroughly wet.

The Coach Driver introduced himself as Steve, adding that he didn't appreciate being called the Coach Driver. In the days that followed I took a mental note of what Steve looked like, quite positive that he would one day appear on the news, convicted of killing at least three people. He took cleanliness seriously, to say the least, and by Saturday had produced an amusing and unsettling sign, which read, "Your mother doesn't work here, clean up your own mess." The bane of Steve's life, it's worth mentioning, is the Michael Jackson-pitched alarm that tells everybody that Steve has to stop the coach and close the luggage compartment door properly. It's not a sound I could get used to.

We had dinner in the hotel that evening – if I could be negative for a moment, I'd inform you that I did want to regurgitate it just so I could eat it and forget what it tasted like the first time. It was so bad that I was

reduced to drinking cranberry juice. Coventry Hill Hotel, the hotel that quality forgot but West Midlands Floral Wallpaper Festival 1968 must have exalted, isn't anywhere near Coventry, and the closest we came was bowling one night. Bowling is a sport – well, actually, bowling doesn't remotely resemble a sport – in which winning is always a fluke and losing is always a sure sign of retardation, and I came second. I didn't see any alcohol being served, so I can only assume that the young lasses who took to some distinctly PG dancing on top of the counter, for no one's benefit but theirs and the Abbey delegation, were sober exhibitionists.

Upon arrival in Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare and one of the most important places in the history of English literature, we quickly located HMV. While we're in Stratford, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those who have made the world a better place. How many times must the Handmade Chocolate Fudge Store have been pipped at the post? Chester, which we visited on Thursday, bills itself as "The Gateway to Wales" – I feel we

were justified, then, in our total apathy toward the town, favouring instead the retail parks miles outside of it. I have a good mind to write to whatever poor soul is in charge of Chester's tourism marketing and tell him to change the slogan to "Chester: Wales' Emergency Exit."

If you listen to Mr Gallagher, and I appreciate that you probably don't, you'll be familiar with the school of thought that says this trip was solely for Alton Towers. Alton Towers didn't disappoint, but those photographs they sneakily take of you at the worst possible point in the ride did. Rita-Queen-of-Speed, which shoves you from nought-to-one-hundred in two seconds and promptly takes a photograph, induced an awesomely horrified reaction from me, and I would like to be able to show you the picture. However, after staggering off the ride I was more disposed to open fire on the shot of me with a mouth so wide open that my jaw was less prominent than my tonsils than pay a fiver for it. I missed out on Oblivion, but I instinctively know that the 90 degrees drop could not compare to the sinking feeling I had when the donut stall informed me that there were no donuts left.

## THE INDIAN WAY

**The Indians were natives to the U.S.A  
And lived their life an extraordinary way,  
They lived in tipis made of buffalo skin  
That was held by poles long and thin.**

**The Indians had a prey called buffalo  
And men hunted them in rain, hail or snow.  
This animal was precious, something they held dear  
A shortage of buffalo was something to fear.**

**It provided food, shelter and weapons galore,  
Buckets and clothes and so much more.  
They made axes, blankets and a necklace for a friend  
Some glue and some soap the list would never end.**

**But happiness would not last in the native life  
New beings would come, weapons stronger than a knife.  
So who'd be this disturbing and violent new clan?  
It was without doubt the dreaded Whiteman.**

**By Dan Madden Donard 2.**



# Ar theacht an tSamhraidh achan bhláin....

Every year **Abbey Grammar School** send over 120 pupils to the Donegal Gaeltachts for weeks of fun and Gaeilge.

Two first year pupils share their experiences in Dún Lúiche last year.

## The Gaeltacht

On the 27th of June I went on the bus to the Gaeltacht in Donegal. The bus trip was about five or six hours long which was a very long trip on a bus, but we had great craic because not only were the Abbey boys there the St. Colman's boys were there too. When we got there it was about seven or eight o'clock and we had to get our bags and go to our houses. My house was called Teach Máire Cholm and there were other houses such as Teach Maggie and Teach Nancy. In the house I was staying in there were twelve boys, two of which were Abbey boys and the rest were St. Colman's boys. So when we went into the house we met the Bean an Tí and she told us all the rules and showed us our rooms for the next ten days.

The next morning we got up, got dressed,

had breakfast and then got the bus down to the college. When we got to the college we met everyone there (girls as well) and then we were sorted into classes with teachers and began the classes. Then after the classes we went back for lunch at our houses and after that we went down to the college to sing songs and play games like football, chess, badminton and table tennis etc. After that we went to our house for dinner and then got dressed to go down and either to learn dances for a céilí or have a céilí. Then we would go to our houses and go to bed.

Next day our class went to the Lakeside Centre where you could have great fun by going on the rodeo bull, go karting or go on a boat trip around the lake. Then after that you could either go and see the animals or buy presents and gifts for your family so we spent the whole day there and then went back to our houses. Of course we had more

than just one trip. We also went to Bundoran Water World and had great craic by going down all the long slides with lights in them and going in the pool where big waves were made by a wave machine. Another one of our trips was to Letterkenny where we went to shops to buy things and mess about. Of course these were only a few of our trips.

On some nights in the college we had a céilí where got to dance Irish dances and dance with girls. This went on for an hour and a half or two hours. Then sometimes we had a special céilí where you got to wear your favourite jersey (like an Armagh jersey) and wear it all night.

So as you can see we had a great time at the Gaeltacht and I highly recommend that anyone who didn't go should go this year.

**Ryan Walsh-Slemish 2**

## The Gaeltacht

Visiting the Gaeltacht in July last year was an experience I won't forget for a while. We went to the college in Dunlewey, which is at the bottom of Mount Errigal in Donegal. Before I went I simply didn't know what to expect.

On the bus trip to Dunlewey I was talking to some of my friends that I hadn't seen since primary school. The journey took about three hours but we stopped for refreshments when we were about half way there. After we had arrived and unloaded our luggage we went to see some of the people we would be living with for the next ten days. The house I was living in was right on the bottom of Mount Errigal. I was in a room with three of my friends.

On the first day we just sat about talking and telling stories. We were allowed to go down to the shop to buy some food and drinks. On the second day we had to get used to the plan that we followed and also do a bit of singing. In the afternoon we had to go back to the college to learn how to Irish dance. It was good fun but it was also a bit tricky. In the morning we would learn Irish, in the afternoon we would learn songs and at night we would do Irish dancing.

When we went to our house for tea and dinner we played football. The same thing happened every day except on Friday when we had a break from learning Irish and played games. On the following Monday some of us went to a park and gift shop where we bought presents for our families and played on go-carts and boats. There was also a bucking bronco that we could go on. After we had been in the gift shop we went for a boat trip around the village and learnt

some history about the village.

On the last day we played lots of competitions like chess, badminton and table tennis.

I really enjoyed the Gaeltacht. We learnt a lot of Irish and it was great fun. I would recommend it to anyone and I would definitely go back if I got the chance!

**Cállum Mcloughlin**





# ABBAY PUPILS EXCEL IN THE SPORTING WORLD

Since the summer Abbey pupils have been excelling on the local sports scene, on pitches, on courts, on tracks and on ramps. Here is a run down on the busy activities our pupils have been a part of in recent months.

## QUAD BIKING:

5th Year student, David Kearney, got first in Northern Ireland in the 21cc class at quad biking. He got first place also at the 2005 Irish Championship. In a busy year David also competed in the European Quad Championship in Holland and finished a very creditable fifth against opposition from all over Europe. The adventure doesn't stop here for David as he has been selected to race in America in July and the Abbey Way wishes him the best of luck.

## TENNIS:

6th Year student Jonathan Philpott has been selected to represent Ulster in the U-18 Tennis Championship this year. Jonathan has been in excellent form this year and his selection to the Ulster squad is just reward for his efforts.

## KICK-BOXING:

Three students: Ryan Walsh and Gavin Donnelly from Slemish Two, and 4th Year, Sean Donnelly, have had a tremendous year on the kick boxing front. Ryan won first place in two categories at the North East Championships in November of this year. Those victories brought an end to a fine season that saw Ryan finishing first in the Irish Championships leading to his selection to represent Ireland U-13 at the European Championships held in

England in October. Ryan's classmate, Gavin, made it a double success for the Abbey boys at the Irish Championships when he was awarded first place in the U-12 Irish Championship.

But pride of place must go to 4th Year Student Sean Donnelly who won the Irish U-17 Championship 2005. This outstanding achievement was followed up with a second place finish at the U-17 European Championship.

The Abbey wishes the boys continued success in the future and we hope to keep you up to date with their progress in the next few editions. Meanwhile if you are part of a club, or have achieved an honour that you are proud of, The Abbey Way would love to hear from you. E-mail us at [info@abbeycbs.co.uk](mailto:info@abbeycbs.co.uk) and begin your message with ABBEYWAY.



*Iveagh win the Annual First Year 5 a side. Presentations were made to two teams, both from last year's Iveagh 1 group, for their success in the annual 5 a Side competition. The event was organised by Mr. P O'Neill and Mr. R Mc Mahon. Pictured are the winners and runners up: Conor Shields, Mark Mc Alinden, Conor O'Neill, Caolan Smyth, Antony Powell, Jack Bradley and Danny Mullan. Sabhy Millar, Conor Savage, Dermot Hillen, Diarmuid Mc Conville, Paul Mc Nulty, James Martin, James Keenan.*







# GOOD START TO THE MAC RORY AND CORN NA N-ÓG CAMPAIGNS

Abbey CBS, Newry 3-8 St. Patrick's, Maghera 0-8

05 Nov 2005, 11:30

Abbey Christian Brothers' Crammar School, Newry, sent a clear message to the rest of the schools participating in the Bank of Ireland MacRory Cup this year, that they are strong contenders for silverware after defeating St. Patrick's College, Maghera, by nine points at sunny Derrytresk on Saturday morning. However, when St. Patrick's look back on this match they shall regret the numerous goal chances in the first half that they missed, including a penalty after 15 minutes. The course of the match could have taken a different path if even one of these chances had been taken. But credit must go to the Abbey defence that broke down attacks regularly throughout the game.

Maghera got off the mark first when James Kielt put Seamus Gillan through for a point. Abbey's Niall Devlin from Saval got the first of his two goals after ten minutes when he showed determination by winning possession, losing it in a strong tackle, gathering again and rounding defenders before dispatching to the net. Attacking wing back, Ciaran Coffey, added to the Abbey total two minutes later, with a point after good work by tall full forward, Cathal Magee. Sam Dodds drove forward from centre half back and was unlucky when his shot hit the post. When Maghera's full forward and playmaker, Kevin O'Neill, punched a ball to Paddy Henry, who was grounded in the Abbey square, the Derry supporters felt that this was their turning point when Martin Devlin, referee, awarded a penalty. But it was not to be as Cathal Murdock made a great save from O'Neill. Minutes later Niall Devlin made no mistake when he latched onto an 'over the top' ball that caught his marker out. He found himself one-on-one with Emmett McKay the Maghera net minder, and grabbed his second goal with a 'soccer style' attempt.

A fist pass out of the Abbey defence was intercepted and this resulted in a free that was converted by O'Neill. Sam Dodds tried hard to get his school back into the game



when he put Tomas McCann through for a goal – but he drove it wide. The Abbey forwards were finding each other and playing some attractive football. Magee and Clarke scored points each before O'Neill pulled one back with a free for the Derry school after Gillan was grounded. This gave Maghera a lift and they pushed for a goal before halftime. They were unlucky on two occasions, the first in a goalmouth scramble that looked like the ball was stuck in the muck and the second when McCann hit the post yet again after a quick flick from Henry. McLarnon pointed the the rebound on the halftime whistle to leave five points between the schools.

**Half Time Score: Abbey CBS, Newry 2-3 V. St. Patrick's, Maghera 0-4**

The Abbey started the second half stronger when Coffey drove forward and scored a point from an awkward angle. This dominance continued with Kevin Dyas, Ruairi Digney and Kevin McKernan winning a lot of ball in the middle, but frees won were not converted and an opportunity to extend the lead was missed. Maghera's first break resulted in a point for Gillan. When Magee pointed a free to leave a six point gap, Maghera's coach Paul Hughes took influential player, Kevin O'Neill, out to midfield and this had an impact as straight away he began to win ball. Midway through this half there was another

significant twist. Abbey's full back, Darren Fegan, flicked what looked like a certain goal away as he stood on the goal-line. This was cleared up the field with a well worked move, ending with Devlin scoring a point. Substitute, Ruairi Cunningham, put eight points between the sides when he scored a point following strong work by Magee. With ten minutes left Kielt pointed from the sideline and his team mate O'Neill tagged a point as well from a free. Maghera sub. Seamus McFlynn, scored an impressive point from an 'overhead kick' but this was all the Derry school could muster as a revival. Cunningham responded with a splendid goal in the last minute when he was put through by Richard Gilmore. Magee pointed as the final whistle sounded. This was an impressive display by a physically stronger and more determined Abbey side.

**Abbey CBS, Newry, team lineout and scorers:** Cathal Murdock, Mark Digney, Darren Fegan, Rory Grant, Darren Rowland, Kevin McKernan (captain), Ciaran Coffey 0-2, Kevin Dyas, Ruairi Digney, Colm Murney, Seamus Grant, Daniel Clarke 0-1, Niall Devlin 2-1, Cathal Magee 0-3, Conall McGovern. Substitutes used: Ruairi Cunningham 1-1 and Richard Gilmore.

**St. Patrick's, Maghera team lineout and scorers:** Emmett McKay, Chris McKaigue, Oran Dillon (captain), Ciaran McCann, John Darragh, Sam Dodds, Michael McWilliams, James Kielt 0-1, Michael McShane, Connor McLarnon 0-1, Tomas McCann, Daniel Heaney, Paddy Henry, Kevin O'Neill 0-3, Seamus Gillan 0-2. Subs used: Seamus McFlynn 0-1.

**Referee: Martin Devlin (Tyronne)**

November was a good month for the members of the Corn na nÓg and Mac Rory Cup squads. The Corn na nÓg team opened their campaign with a four point win over St. Patrick's, Maghera, with Patrick Quinn and Niall Cunningham contributing a goal and three points each. They followed that victory up with the demolition of a weak St. Michael's, Enniskillen, winning on a scoreline of 6-16 to 2-5. Quinn and Cunningham were again the Abbey's top scores but it was the industry of James Morgan and

Mayobridge's Eamonn Murphy that ensured that the Abbey got maximum points. St. Pius X, Magherafelt proved a much trickier test for the Newry boys but a goal and two points in the last five minutes from midfielder Steve Fearon, gave Abbey a hard earned victory. Despite a heavy defeat to competition favourites, Omagh CBS, Abbey's early form has earned them an automatic 1/4 final place.

Meanwhile following their opening day victory over Maghera, the Mac Rory Cup team, cemented their place in the 1/4 finals

with an impressive victory over St. Michael's Enniskillen. A first half blitz saw the Abbey lead 2-10 to 0-3 at half time, Enniskillen tried to their credit to rally but super-sub Ruairi Cunningham, killed of all hopes of a comeback when he rattled the Enniskillen net for a third time. These two victories were followed up by two single point defeats to Kilkeel and Omagh but other results mean that Jody Gormley and his management team could plan for the 1/4 finals. The Abbey Way will chart both teams' progress in the next issue.